

MAY 2022

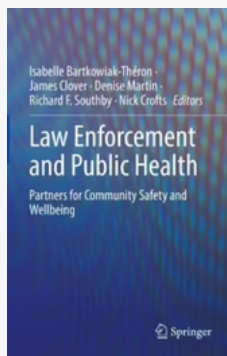
# NEWS & UPDATES



## GLEPHA NEURODISABILITY SIG

Welcome to our May Newsletter! At our next meeting on 25th May we look forward to a presentation from Prof. Leigh Schrieff will be presenting in collaboration with two post-graduate students Nina and Winnie about their work in Cape Town, SA.

### **New Book! Law Enforcement & Public Health: Partners for Community Safety and Wellbeing.**



'This is the first comprehensive collection on law enforcement and public health (LEPH) by world leading authors. It incorporates real-life examples from practitioners and experts in LEPH.'

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-83913-0>

### **Call for submissions: Forensic Science International**

Our group convenors - Nathan, Huw, and Stan, are editing a special issue of Forensic Science International: Mind and Law with the topic of 'Recognising and responding to neurodisability and neurodiversity in criminal justice systems'.

Submissions are open until **31st July 2022**

Submissions are welcome, both in the form of original research articles and submissions from justice professionals including short discussion pieces.

Any questions about submission please contact Nathan Hughes:

[Nathan.Hughes@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:Nathan.Hughes@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **ABI Call for Evidence Open in the UK**

The Call for Evidence in the Government's recently agreed Acquired Brain Injury national strategy was launched on 14th March. It will remain open until **6th June**.

To have your say in the Call for Evidence go to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/acquired-brain-injury-call-for-evidence> and complete the survey. If you require further information, contact

[ABICallforevidence@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ABICallforevidence@dhsc.gov.uk)

# SIG MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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## MAY'S SIG MEMBER SPOTLIGHT IS: DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT SUSANNAH CLARKE

### **Where are you currently working, and what is your role?**

I am a Detective Chief Superintendent with Lancashire Police. My current role is the Director of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network. The VRN is in its third year of development and focussing on working on multi-agency systems change to tackle the social determinants which contribute to the root causes of violence.



### **What motivates your work in Neurodisability/Law Enforcement?**

It saddens me that young people are labelled as disruptive and 'difficult' due to a lack of awareness of medical conditions which often go undiagnosed. The sheer scale of this in the adult prison population was a massive revelation to me as someone who has been in the police for 30+ years.

### **What project are you working on at the moment?**

There are now 20 Violence Reduction Units in the country which were established in 2019 after Home Office investment. The general ethos of a VRU is that they work across the multi-agency system to look at tackling the root causes of violence by identifying social determinants. The connection between violence and crime in deprived areas of the country is well made out. However, VRU's are here to understand the subtle nuanced factors which make up those root causes of violence.

Lancashire VRN focusses a large part of its work on driving the trauma informed developments in service delivery across Lancashire. We work with agencies delivering services across the whole life course. Our work streams in education and prisons have particular synergy with the work of the Neurodisability SiG.

### **Where would you like to see this field in 10 years' time?**

I would love to see routine screening being developed more widely. I am also very interested in the prevalence of ND in criminal justice settings.

### **Most interesting or thought-provoking research you read recently?**

I am very interested in the work of Dr Amanda Kirkby specifically focussing on schools and how neuro diversity is identified. Dr Kirkby's work has stimulated some participation in the Do IT Profiler research in Pupil Referral Units in Lancashire.

### **Tell us about your hobbies?**

I enjoy keeping fit and also going to watch musical theatre productions. I would be a season ticket holder for Les Miserables 😊. I also love going to the beach.

# SIG RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

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May's Research Spotlight is about autism training for custody staff, authored by SiG members Chloe Holloway and Kleio Cossburn

## **A pilot study of co-produced autism training for police custody staff: evaluating the impact on perceived knowledge change and behaviour intentions.**

Chloe Holloway, Nell Munro, Kleio Cossburn, Danielle Ropar

### **Abstract**

Autistic people have reported particularly negative experiences in police custody, which can lead to significant long-term personal and legal consequences. Research has suggested providing autism training to police forces would help improve the support of autistic people, but there is a distinct lack of appropriate autism training available. An evidence-based autism training package specifically tailored to the roles of custody staff was co-produced by autistic people, academics and police staff to address this. A pilot study was conducted to further understand its value in terms of perceived changes in knowledge and future behaviour intentions.

A total of 18 sessions were held across five police forces in England attended by police staff working in custody (n = 142). The sessions were delivered in person using a presentation and video replicating the experiences of autistic people during the custody process. Attendees completed a survey rating their perceived changes in knowledge of autism after the session and described changes they planned to make in their practice to support autistic people.

The majority of police custody officers rated the training highly on its content, delivery and informativeness about autism. Participants also reported a change in perceived knowledge about autism, with those who reported having the least amount of knowledge prior to training indicating the greatest change. Responses about intended changes to future behaviour and practice showed a clear indication of specific understanding about autism and strategies to support autistic individuals in custody.

This is the first study to outline, assess and evaluate the impact of the first evidence-based and co-produced autism training package specifically designed for custody staff on perceived knowledge and intended behaviour.

Full paper can be found at: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/PIJPSM-11-2021-0159/full/html>

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Have any news for the next SIG newsletter? Conferences to promote?  
Collaborative research opportunities? New papers published? Want to be the  
next spotlight member?

Please email Hope: [hmk201@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:hmk201@exeter.ac.uk)