



Craft Verses Science the importance of experience in protecting Vulnerable Populations

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A drive towards Evidence-Based Policing

- ▶ Evidence-based policing is not new and has been around for a number of years but the need to apply EBP has become more dominant
- ▶ Increasing demand for service, with falling resources means seeking most effective and efficient ways to meet expectations
- ▶ Also shift towards professionalization suggest need to adopt similar epistemologies and patterns of practice to achieve a higher occupational status
- ▶ Sherman (1998, pp.3-4), *'Evidence-Based Policing is the best available research on the outcomes of police work to implement guidelines and evaluate agencies, units and officers. Put more simply ...It uses the best evidence to shape the Best Practice'*.

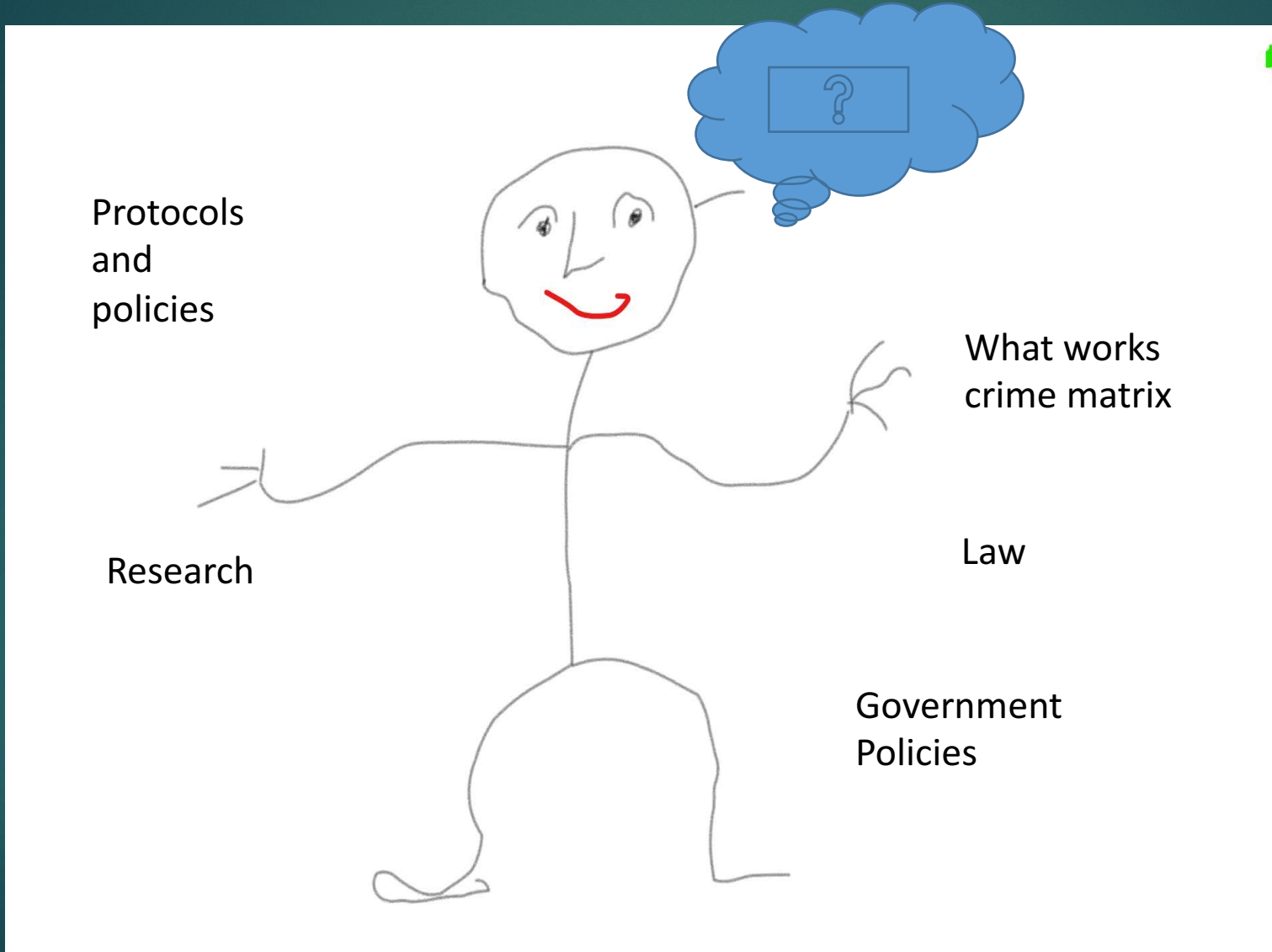
Losing the policing craft

- ▶ A core issue with evidence based policing is the way it has been framed has meant its dominant focus being on Crime and what works
- ▶ The Gold standard-RCT and systematic review
- ▶ We know from substantial evidence that is not mainly what the police deal with
- ▶ So what about what doesn't work
- ▶ Can everything particularly social interactions be analysed through RCT's
- ▶ So what do the police deal with what are the who's, whys, hows and how do we know what individual decision make a difference particularly with vulnerable communities

A little to narrow- maybe more realistic

- ▶ Willis and Mastrofski (2014) argue the diversity and demands placed on officers and any reform attempts linked to this need to go beyond purely science.
- ▶ Also we need seek out best craft has to offer-look for opportunities to harness learning opportunities and use experience of success
- ▶ *From the perspective of Technical Rationality, professional practice is a problem of problem solving Problems of choice or decision are solved through the selection, from available means , of one of the best suited to established ends. But with this emphasis on problem solving, we ignore problem setting, the decision to be made, the ends to be achieved, the means to be chosen*

What benefit experience



Example 1-Child Abuse Investigations

- ▶ Based on review of literature as part of a evaluation of a National Child abuse investigation unit in Scotland
- ▶ Found that despite a range of protocols/policies police officers using investigative interviewing still not always having effective interviews that harness appropriate evidence
- ▶ Despite high profile cases in UK, Victoria Climbe, Baby P, Daniel Pelka and criticisms on collective failures, are continually repeated.
- ▶ So what can we do to ensure the protection of vulnerable children

Learning process from case studies as Child death Conference, also wealth of experience and knowing the signs

Meaningful collaboration- knowing that prosecutions determined by quality of evidence fostering good relations between procurator fiscal and investigating officers.

Example 2 Emergency Service Collaboration

- ▶ Emergency Service Collaboration being encouraged mainly as cost effective but also because it can enable different skills sets to work together, balance demand and create resilience
- ▶ However what our research suggested was that there were both barriers and enablers of effective collaboration
- ▶ Positives included shared visions, trust, agreements in relation to resources, timelines, government support and buy in
- ▶ Barriers –organisational differences, legislation which acted as a barrier to knowledge sharing, budgets, perceived and actual difference goals.
- ▶ But through joint working can establish effective Communities of Practice (Charman 2013) relationships between ambulance and police reflected characteristics of communities of practice, where situated learning took place between agencies, not formal but happens when organisations have to deal with common situations and issues.

Creating space for individual and collective critical reflection

Christopher (2015)

- ▶ Suggest that in order for police to learn from their experience they need to be conscious of or adopt more critically reflective practices.
- ▶ Nature of their role-complex demands
- ▶ Awareness of their interactions with the public
- ▶ Critically reflective embraces necessary characteristics- empathy, honesty, integrity.

Collaboration

- ▶ Joint spaces for critical reflection
- ▶ Placed in close proximity- shared location –but not just about co-location encouraged space to work together/discuss cases/individuals
- ▶ Helped to break down professional and cultural barriers
- ▶ Space and opportunity for knowledge exchange

Two roads DIVERGED IN A WOOD,
AND I, I TOOK THE *one*
LESS TRAVELED BY.
And that HAS MADE *all the difference.*

R O B E R T F R O S T