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LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT

Local Leadership on Crime and Justice

Amelia Cookson

Head of Centre for Service Transformation

25 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

46% agreed with the following statement:

The police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area.

Lincolnshire 38%

Cleveland 54%

Local authority performance 51%

Home Office, CLG, User satisfaction surveys 2008

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Confidence - National

People who think crime is increasing in the country as a whole are more likely to:

- Be older
- Read tabloid newspapers
- Have low qualifications
- Have low confidence that the Criminal Justice System is effective at reducing crime
- Be worried about being attacked by a stranger

Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime, Cabinet Office

Confidence - local

People who think crime is increasing in the country as a whole are more likely to:

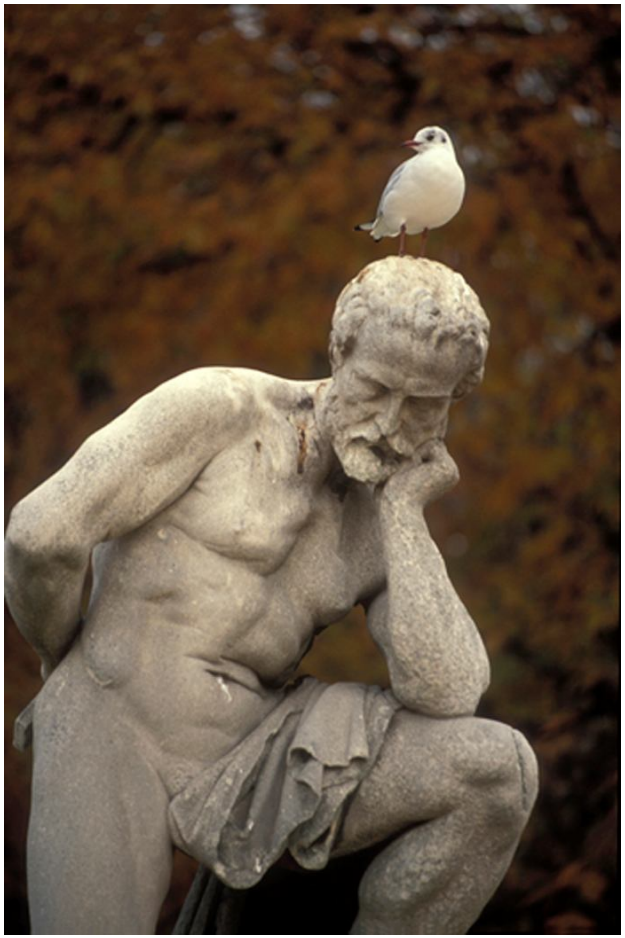
- Have been a victim in the last twelve months
- Live in a deprived area
- Have low qualifications
- Live in London
- Perceive high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area
- Have low confidence that the Criminal Justice System is effective at reducing crime

Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime, Cabinet Office

First idea…

Late modernity

Our lives are more chaotic and uncertain, and this makes us disproportionately aware of risk.



Second idea…

Signal crimes

Low-level crime and disorder that people witness and high profile crimes in the media "signal" to people (rightly or wrongly) that they are at risk.

Third idea…

Criminal justice

Confidence is far lower than for councils or policing, and is closely related to lack of confidence that crime is falling.

So what do we need from local leaders?

1) More action to bring communities together around crime
2) Action on crime that responds to the concerns of the public and answers when concerns are not met
3) Stronger role in the criminal justice system

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Scrutiny of CDRPs

- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Regulations to come into effect on 30 April
- Guidance launched on 12 May

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The potential of scrutiny…

- Suffolk – Independent Community Members
- Cambridgeshire – Joint Scrutiny Committee
- Bedford – police invitation to review leading to joint working throughout
- Haringey – invitation to contribute to review of CCTV, contribution of ASB strategy development

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When it works…

- An independent voice
- Able to produce genuinely constructive and developmental recommendations
- Wider scope than Police Community Consultative Committees
- Not party political

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Police accountability

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Dimensions of accountability

- Responsiveness: the behaviour of the police, which should be driven by priorities and need
- Answerability: the process through which the police are required to explain and justify their actions
- Structural accountability: the formal structures that drive responsiveness and answerability

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Police accountability

- Flanagan review
- Louise Casey review
- Policing Green Paper

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- Blunkett review
- Ongoing Conservative proposals on elected police commissioners

Doing a good job…

Police	51%
Magistrates	29%
Crown Prosecution Service	28%
Judges	27%
Prisons	23%
Probation	20%
Youth Courts	15%

Criminal justice system

- Select Committee review of Justice Reinvestment
- APPG / LGiU Inquiry into Justice in Communities
- Commission on English Prisons Today
- Live debate about localising the costs of custody for youth justice

Contribute to the debate

APPG / LGiU Inquiry accepting written evidence until 1 May

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How do we shift attitudes so communities start taking responsibility for breaking the cycle of crime in their area?

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