



## **National Evaluation of the Mini Police Programme**

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**National Volunteer Police Cadets Office &  
Durham Constabulary**



## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Mini Police programme is presently rolling out across eight police force areas, with several more forces looking to commence programs over coming months. The Mini Police is an innovative approach and represents the largest-scale primary school ‘youth association’ delivery model ever led by UK policing.

This project aims to undertake a national evaluation of the Mini Police.

## 2. KEY DELIVERABLES

The national evaluation work will:

- Support the national Mini Police project through developing a clear academic and policy rationale, based upon the evidence-base underpinning the Mini Police model;
- Identify learning from initial rollout of the programmes across forces, through a ‘process evaluation’;
- Undertake an output/outcomes multi-site evaluation of the Mini Police programme.

## 3. PROJECT RESOURCING/TEAM/COSTINGS

Project Manager: The project will be managed by Ed Sherry, National VPC Office, and Detective Superintendent Mick Bird, Durham Constabulary

There is an £8,000 budget allocated for the evaluation work. The Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice will undertake the evaluation work, supported by the National VPC Office and Durham Constabulary analytical resources.

## 4. TIMELINE

January – February 2018 – Desk top research to develop academic and policy rationale in respect of the Mini Police

January – March 2018 – Undertake ‘process evaluation’, representing a rapid review methodology to identify key implementation learning from the existing Mini Police programmes across the eight forces.

January – March 2018 – Complete Durham ‘test’ analysis, and review instruments and outputs. Agree the methodology for the national output/outcomes evaluation work.

March 2018 – Produce ‘Implementation Review’ Findings Report

April 2018 – January 2019 – Complete first phase of output/evaluation fieldwork and analysis

February 2019 – Produce First Phase Evaluation Report

March 2019 onwards – ongoing evaluation phases (beyond PTF-funded project)

## 5. EVALUATION PLAN

The evaluation model will engage young people, parents, teachers and those delivering the programme.

The evaluation will explore a range of core research questions in relation to:

- The impact of the Mini Police programme on attitudes, values, character, and behaviours;
- The impact of the programme on crime prevention, and reducing risk and vulnerability;
- The impact of the Mini Police programme on community trust and engagement;
- The 'social action' impact of the Mini Police;
- Best practice in respect of implementation;
- The experience of those engaged with the programme, and how this could be further enhanced;
- Business Case, costs and resourcing, benefits.

## 6. PRODUCT

The project will produce three key products:

- Academic and Policy Rationale
- Implementation Review Report
- First Phase Evaluation Report

The National VPC Office is working to develop a nationally consistent model of Mini Police, and to further expand the reach of the programme. This evaluation project will shape future practice in terms of rolling out and developing the Mini Police programme nationally.