Improving the uptake of multi-agency and third-party policing partnerships; What are the organisational facilitators and barriers?

A case study of the Vulnerable Persons Unit (South Brisbane, Queensland)

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Overview

- Multi-agency OR third-party policing partnerships?
  - Role of Legal Levers
  - Barriers and facilitators in partnership engagement
- Research Questions and Methodology
- The case study: Queensland Police Vulnerable Persons Unit
  - Context
  - Findings
  - Conclusion and Implications
Third-Party Policing partnerships

TPP defining feature: the **use** of the existing formal and informal *legal levers* of third-parties to perform a crime control or prevention role, either collaboratively or coercively (Mazerolle & Ransley, 2005; Ransley, 2016).

**Figure 1.** Third Party Policing Model (Mazerolle et al., 2016)
Conceptual model (in progress)

**Conceptualisation**
*Why, who & how*

- **Selection partner based on:**
  - Common purpose
  - Coordinated response beneficial

**Formation**
*Requirements*

- **During formation of partnership, partners:**
  - Understand and accept common aims and objectives
  - Define roles and responsibilities
  - Commit adequate resources
  - Select and involve staff with appropriate skills & knowledge, provide training if required
  - Ensure open communication and share information
  - Select method for performance review

**Maintenance**
*Ongoing requirements*

- **Maintenance requires:**
  - Continuance of trust, respect, open communication and information sharing
  - Commitment from senior management
  - Permanency of personnel
  - Monitor performance of partnership
Research Questions and Methodology

**Research Questions**

1) How do multi-agency crime control policing partnerships within a regulatory framework use available legal levers?

2) How do they influence the partnership at the:
   - i) conceptualisation,
   - ii) formation, and
   - iii) maintenance phase

**Methodology**

Comparative case study research of four case studies of policing partnerships that address a crime problem or community problem.
Case Study - South Brisbane Vulnerable Persons Unit

In this presentation:
Preliminary results - case study involving a third-party multi-agency policing partnership to address domestic and family violence:

Population
Australia: 24.7M
Queensland: 4.9M
Brisbane: 2.2M
The case study – Vulnerable Persons Unit

Conceptualisation
Why & How & Who

Formation
Barriers & Facilitators

Domestic and Family Violence

- Housing
- Health
- Police
- Child Safety
- Domestic Violence Service

Probation & Parole
Women Against Violence

Domestic Violence Service

Legal Levers
Results - Conceptualisation

Why? To ensure that: “…. some agency was connected in with that family and had all eyes on that family” (V13).

How: “I think the fact the way police just jumped in and did it, brought everyone on board, and drove it really helped” (V12)

Who: “What I didn’t want was too many people around the table. So what I tried to do was get agencies that could provide some buy-in and could provide some expertise and would be interested in doing what I wanted to do in terms of information sharing” (V6)

Role of Legal Levers (police participants):
Not a consideration when “choosing” agencies. The only exception: Probation and Parole: “they had something to value add both in powers and information sharing” (V8).
Formation: **Legal levers**

- Limited understanding of each others regulatory framework
- Police did not feel they influenced the use legal levers.
- Partner agencies did not feel police expected them to use their levers
- Partnership is about what action not whether action will be taken.
- Information assisted in decision making process - “activated legal lever” by the respective agency

**In short:** Information sharing allowed for powers to be used because of becoming aware of facts that were previously not known. “It’s more about, okay, now that we have this information, how can we work collaboratively” (V14), or: “Well, we can now (do something), that we are armed with that information (V4), or: ‘We can allow for that notification to happen and P&P can trigger that type of event (V11).”
The case study – conclusion

**Figure A.** Third Party Policing Model
(Mazerolle et al., 2016)

**Figure B.** Vulnerable Persons Unit

(Mazerolle et al., 2016)
Thank you for listening

Questions?

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