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).
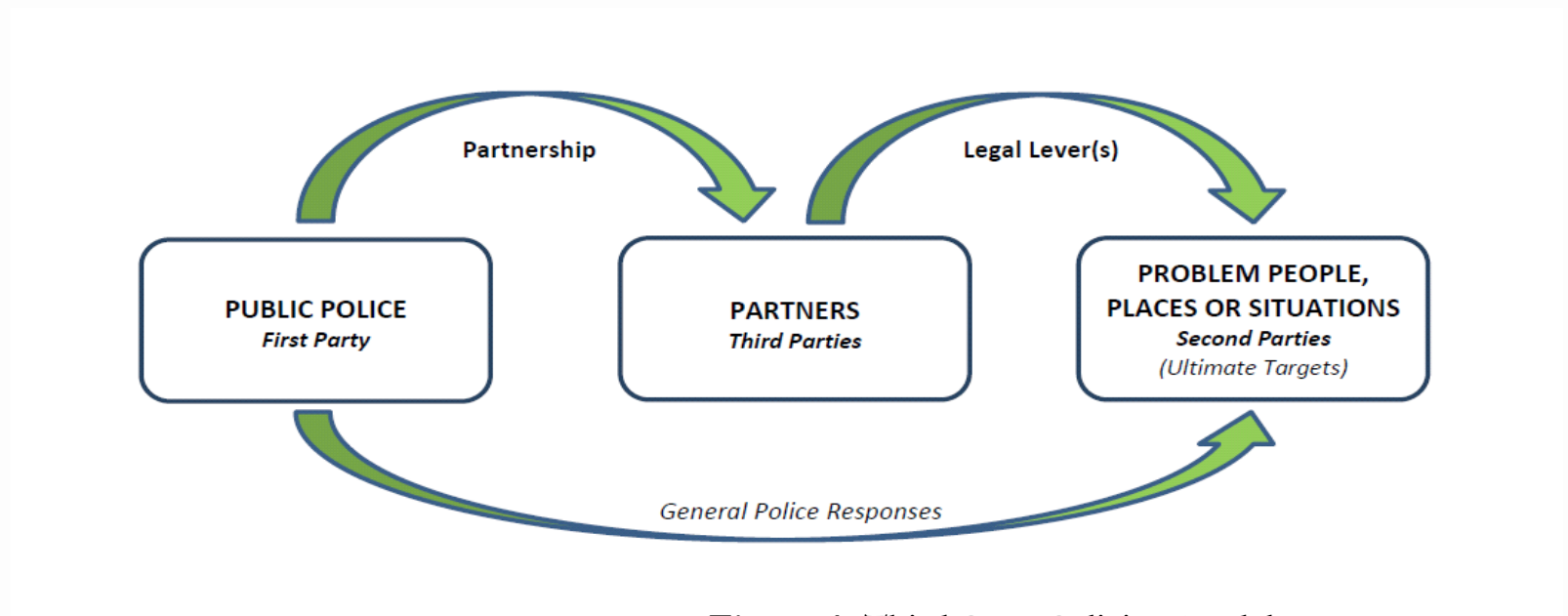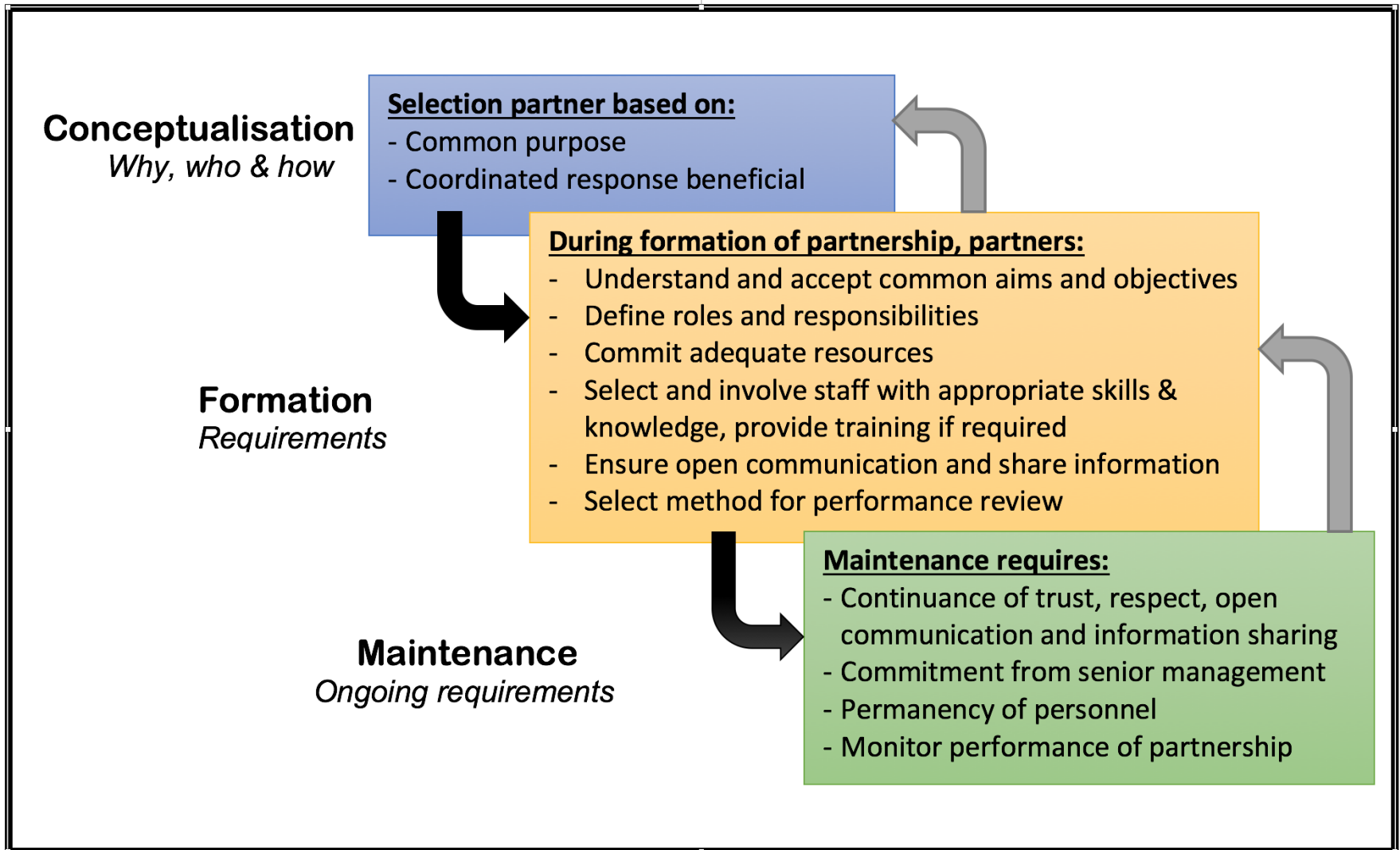

Figure 1. Third Party Policing Model (Mazerolle et al., 2016)

Conceptual model (in progress)

Conceptualisation
Why, who & how

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

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

Formation
Requirements

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

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
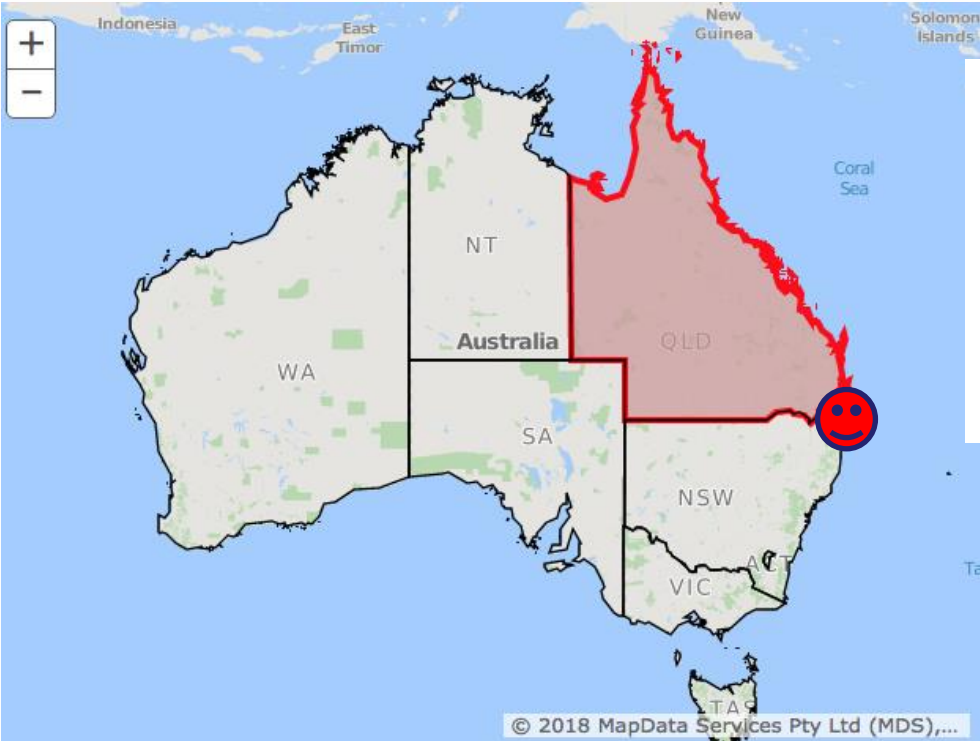   iii) maintenance phase

Methodology

Comparative case study research of four case studies of policing partnerships that address a crime problem or community problem.

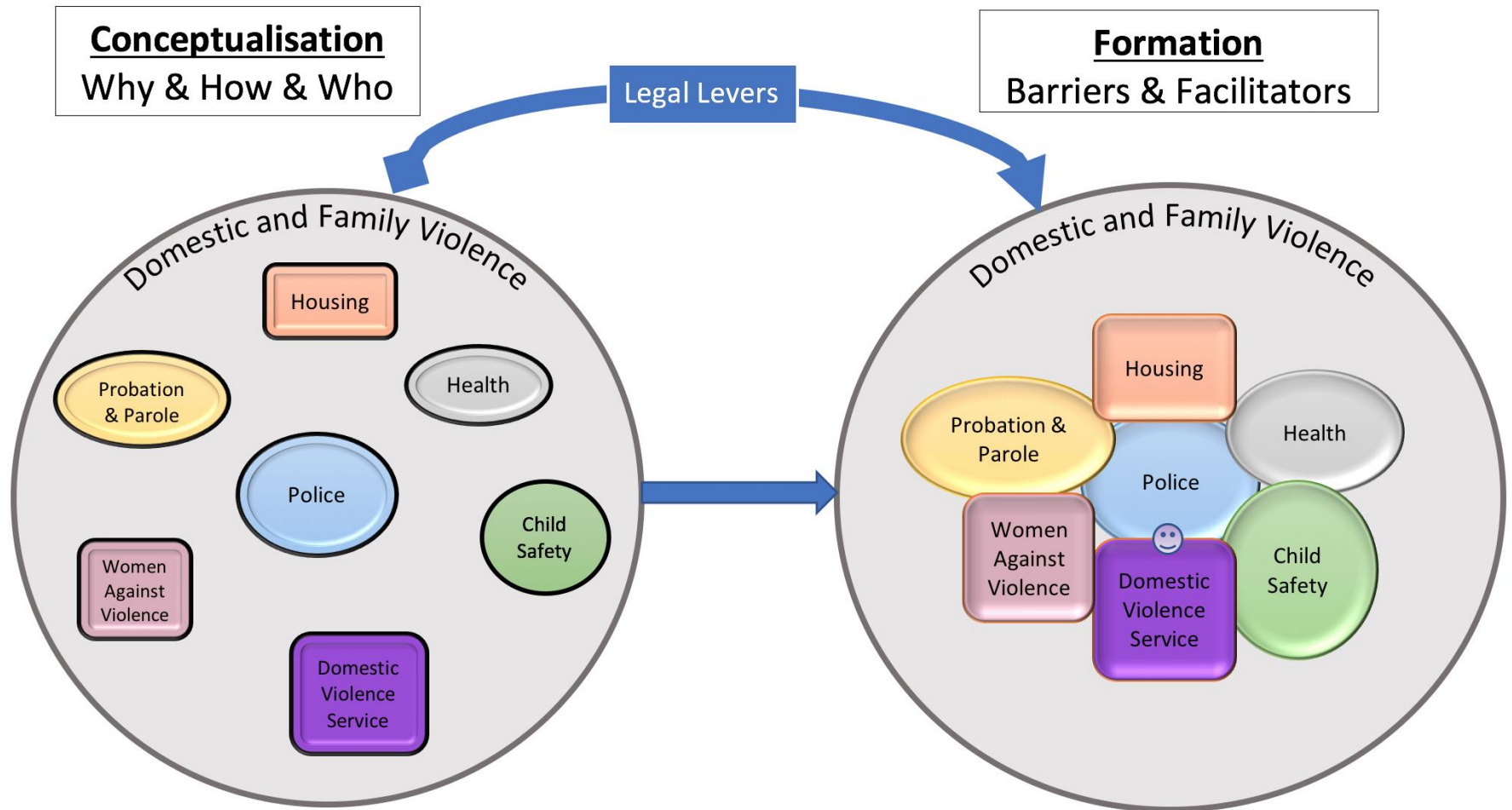# Case Study - South Brisbane Vulnerable Persons Unit

<u>In this presentation:</u>

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

Results - Conceptualisation

Why? To ensure that: *"…. some agency was connected in with that family and had all eyes on that family"* (V13).
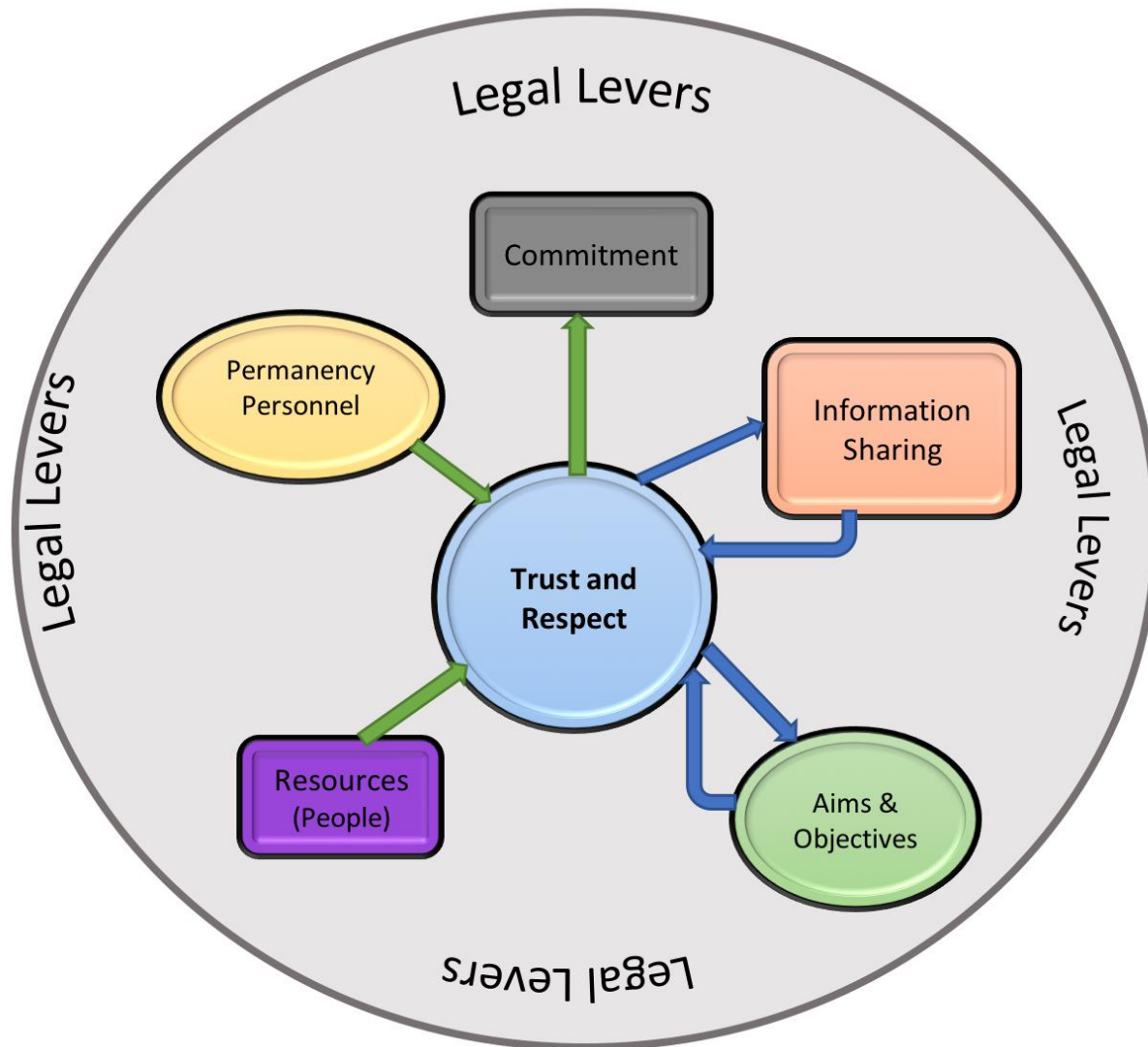
How: *"I think the fact the way police just jumped in and did it, brought everyone on board, and drove it really helped"* (V12)

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).

Results - Formation

Formation: <u>Legal levers</u>

- 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).*
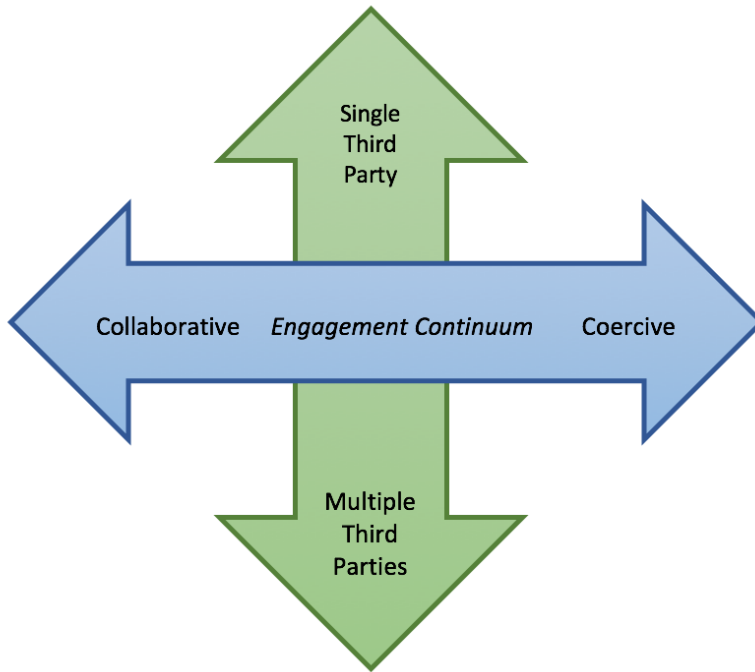
The case study – conclusion

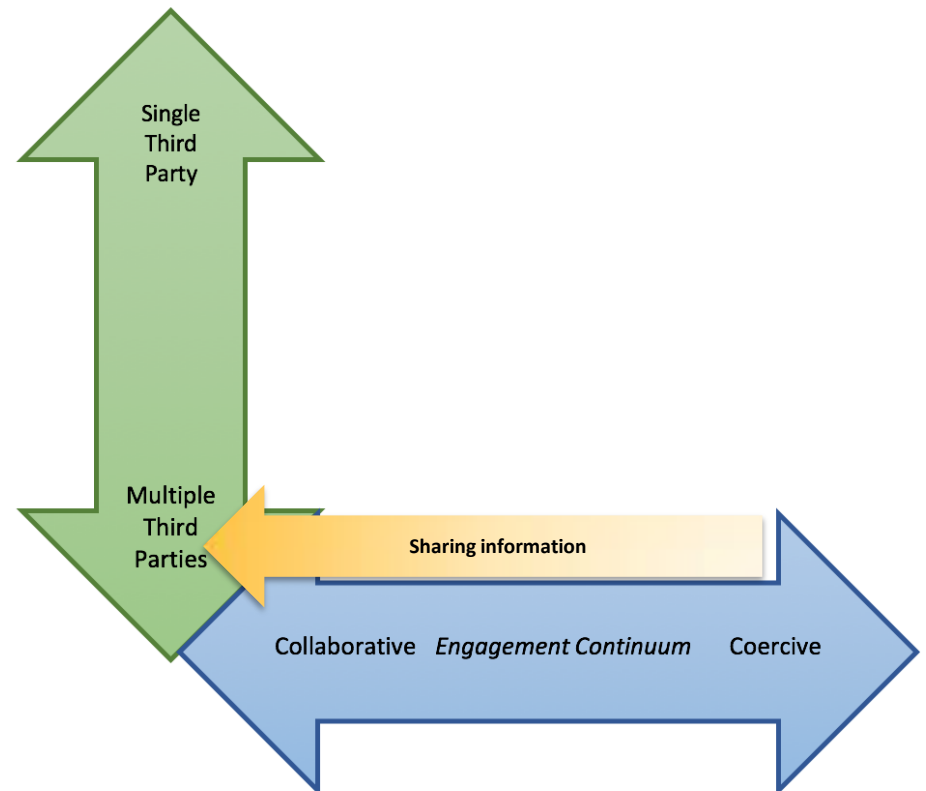**Figure A.** Third Party Policing Model
(Mazerolle et al., 2016)

Figure B. Vulnerable Persons Unit

Thank you for listening

Questions?

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