



University of Brighton

What now? Policing Violence Against Women and Girls

CCPR Annual Conference: Problems and Solutions in UK Policing
Dr Chris Magill & Professor Peter Squires

C.A.Magill@brighton.ac.uk
[@MagillDr](https://twitter.com/MagillDr)

P.A.Squires@brighton.ac.uk
[@PSqCriminology](https://twitter.com/PSqCriminology)

Context and Development

'an epidemic of sexual violence'

Rape case attrition: *de facto decriminalisation?*

HMICFRS Inspection Reports

Sarah Everard, March 2021, *'watershed moment'*

New strategy *'Huge Strides'* in tackling VAWG (HM Govt: 2021)

Louise Casey Report & Police Misogyny

Thames Valley Police: Project Vigilant

- Proactive initiative
- Prevent sexual violence in Night-Time Economy
- Police deployments: uniformed officers and non-uniformed officers
- Perpetrator focussed
- Behavioural Awareness Training

- Successful evaluation (Sept 21 to Mar 22)

- By mid 2022, fifteen other Police Forces had plans for rolling out Vigilant (or similar). Now over twenty forces across the country.

- Cabinet Office/College of Policing – Evidence Acceleration Fund (Dec 22 to June 23)

PROJECT VIGILANT

Awarded Nearly

£300K 

as part of the Safety of Women at Night (SWAN) fund

THIS INCLUDES:



More Project Vigilant
deployments across
the force



Enhanced training for
officers to identify
predatory behaviour



Training to empower
partners and venues to
challenge behaviour



New behaviour
intervention progr
with Circles South



College of Policing Development Work

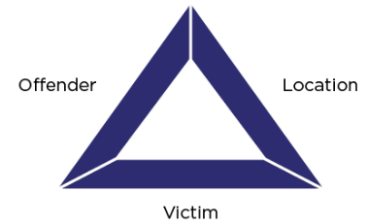
- Two-stage evaluation development
- Assessment On-Line
- Changing goal-posts (only 3 projects, not 5)
- Government Research & Priorities
- Feedback: outcome a 'reflection of the nature of the intervention' and a focus on finer detail (e.g., statistical difference between 'control' and 'treatment' group; clarity around ToC; survey: too many questions etc)

We have been rethinking the problem/analysis triangle in the light of insights from our VAWG work.

The P.A.T. was an attempt to capture the elements necessary for a crime to occur.

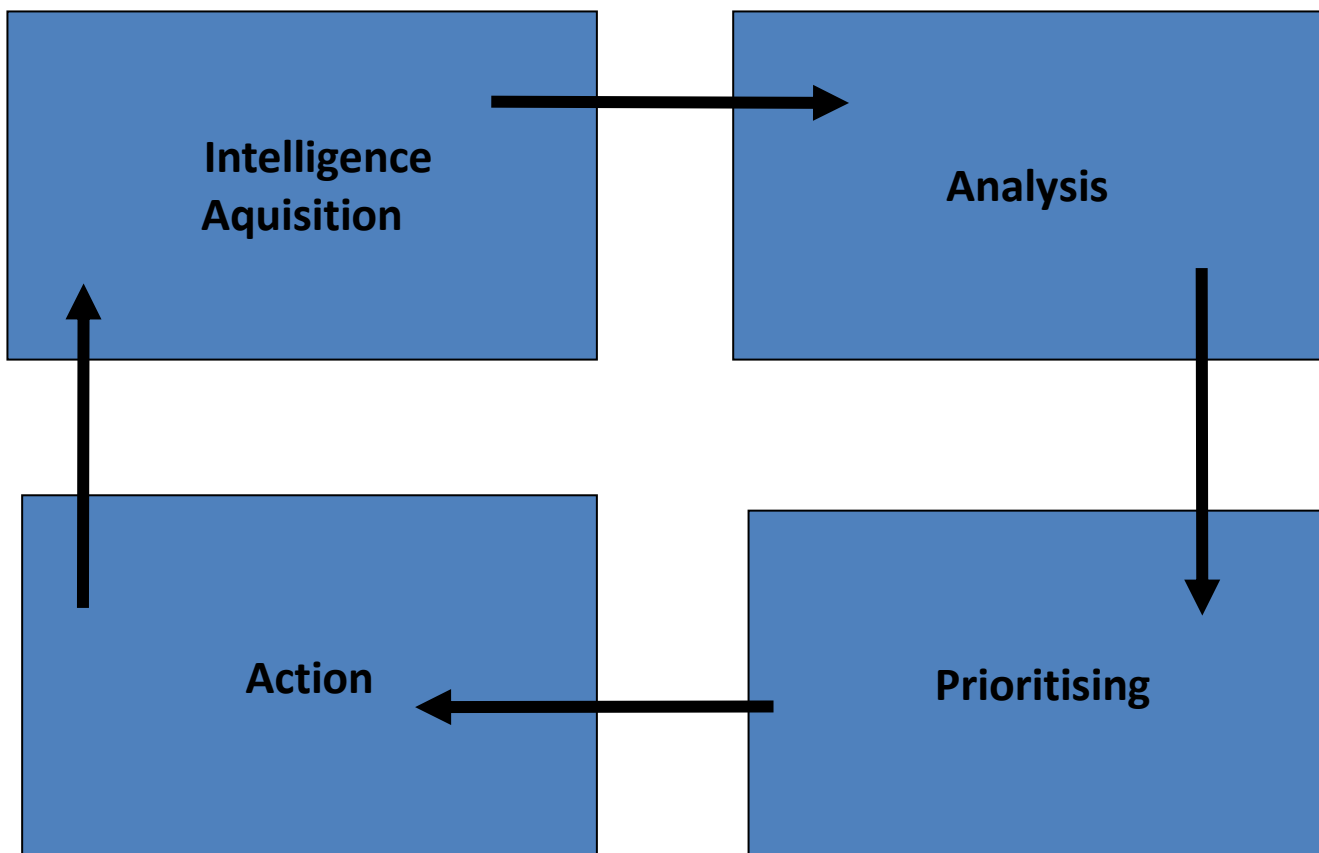
Our focus is upon **‘Policing Darkness’**: the contextual features inhibiting crime reduction and police effectiveness in tackling VAWG.

Diagram - problem analysis triangle

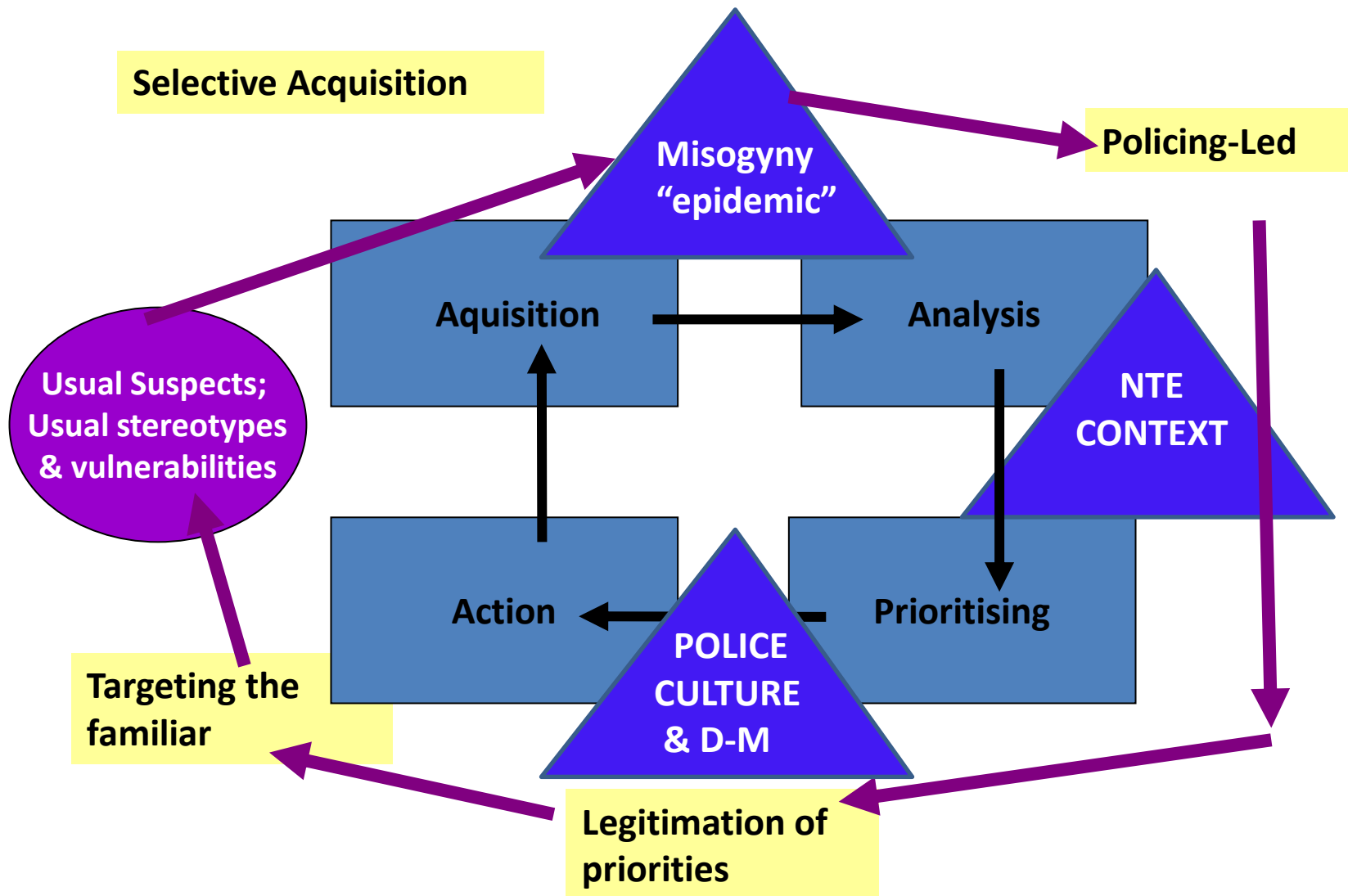


A culture of misogyny: ‘Hostile environment’
an ‘epidemic of violence against women and girls’
(HMICFRS, 2021a, 2021b)

A simple model of the intelligence-Led Policing framework



Intelligence-Led Policing in the 'Real & Dark World' of Policing VAWG



Theory of Change: Model

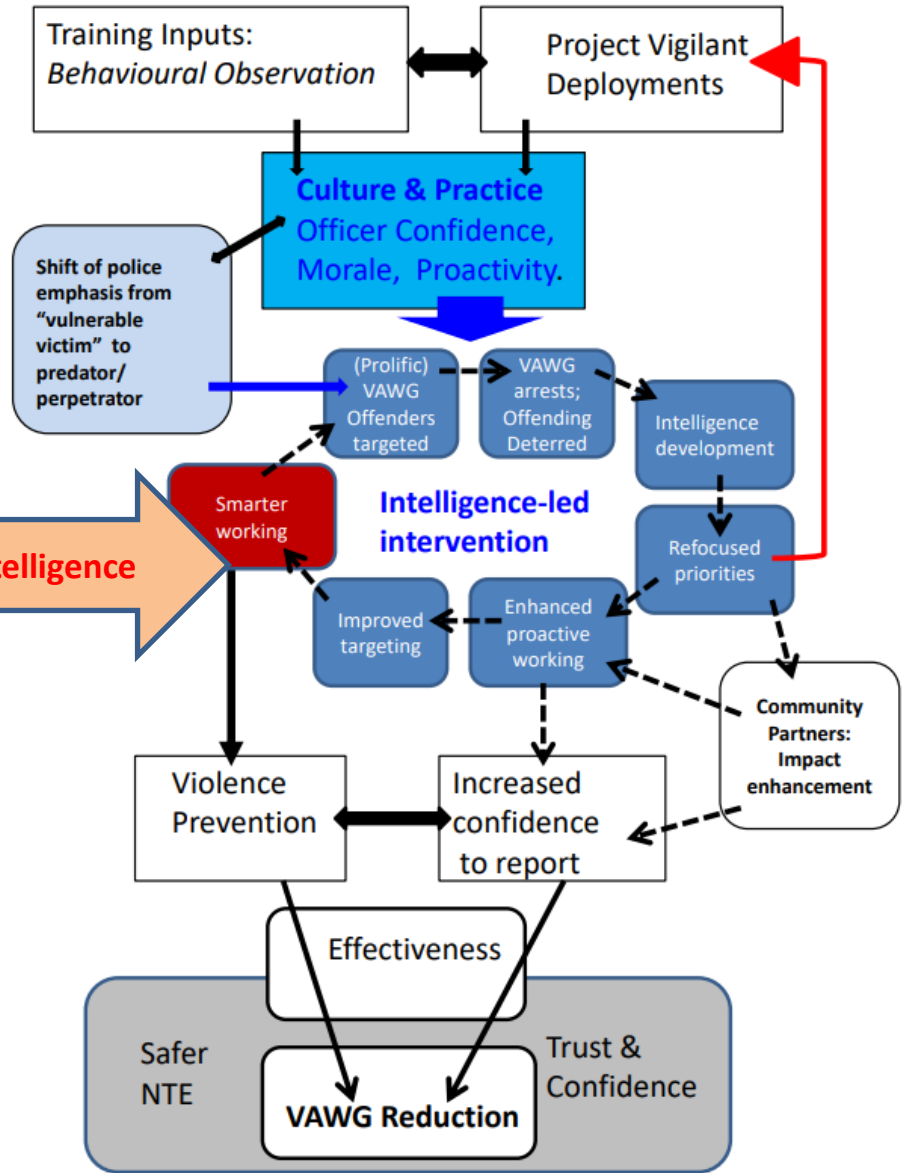
Policing darkness:
The Night-time
Economy



Darkness
within

A culture of misogyny: 'Hostile environment'
an 'epidemic of violence against women and girls'
(HMICFRS, 2021a, 2021b)

Policing led Intelligence



Police as a learning organisation;

- We can't arrest our way out of an epidemic of sexual violence;
- Can policing (alone) 'reclaim the night';
- Toxic, alcohol-driven NTE's;
- Police recruitment, training & discipline

Project Vigilant as an Agent of Change

- Zero Tolerance; cultural change;
- Collaborative styles of policing; street pastors; womens organisations; private sector
- Wider, Preventive regulation and licensing;
- New priorities: vulnerability awareness; safeguarding; PPO targeting.