



STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY CRIME & SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

**CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH IMPROVING SOCIETY AND
REDUCING CRIME BY CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND CULTIVATING A RESEARCH COMMUNITY**

Staffordshire University Crime and Society Research Group draws upon a variety of options for delivering research and evaluations in the field of Criminology and Sociology that are bespoke for organisations and partnerships. Our research provides recommendations for reducing crime and offers helpful insights into meeting the changing needs of society. We combine academic staff specialist subject knowledge and research expertise with teaching and learning opportunities, to address the research and evaluation needs of our customers. We are based within the School of Journalism, Humanities and Social Sciences at Staffordshire University. We aim to develop research competence and capability within organisations and our student population so that knowledge and skill transfers occur and the research community in our locality is strengthened.

Types of Research / Evaluations that we can support you with:-

You might consider partnering with and commissioning the services of The Crime & Society Research Group if you are requiring:-

- The opinions from a specified community or the wider community
- Understanding of peoples' experiences
- A mapping/scoping exercise
- A needs analysis
- A project/service/system evaluation
- Recommendations for project/service/societal improvements

Why use an external research/evaluation team from Staffordshire University?

There are many benefits in getting Staffordshire University to conduct a piece of research or an evaluation:-

- Our academic staff have specialist subject knowledge and research expertise that can be leveraged and transferred to your workforce
- We have solid research expertise and all of our research projects undergo rigorous ethical processes to ensure high quality research standards
- External research increases credibility and validity of findings
- There is added value in using academic evaluation/ research findings when applying to Funding bodies and Commissioners of Services
- We design research projects and evaluations that produce knowledge, learning and recommendations for your organisation, the community and the wider field
- We offer a supportive process that enhances learning and change
- We provide a cost effective service through our commitment to learning and teaching within research and evaluation projects that we undertake

Types of Service Delivery Models that we can offer:

There are a number of research/evaluation model options that you can consider when partnering and commissioning a piece of research from The Crime and Society Research Group. The model you select will influence the depth and breadth achievable, the timeframe of the research, the quality of the findings and the cost of the research.

The Staff Training Model: provides an organisation or partnership staff base with training on research ethics, design and delivery from a specialist academic staff member from the University. The knowledge and skills transfer of how to conduct research is tailored to a specified piece of research/evaluative piece of work and research support/supervision is available throughout the research process.

The Student Learning Model: provides an organisation or partnership with a basic piece of research conducted by a classroom of students as part of their research methods learning, teaching and assessment within their Undergraduate courses in Sociology and Criminology at Staffordshire University.

The Student Researcher Placement Model: provides an organisation or partnership with a more experienced undergraduate student(s) gaining work experience in conducting a small piece of research within the context of being placed within the organisation for a short time period. Students are supported and managed by the organisation and partnership as well as the University.

The Academic Collaborative Team Model: provides an organisation with a collaborative team of researchers including academic staff, students and staff from the commissioning organisation in order to design and conduct a piece of research. The project is led by an academic staff member and a lead from the commissioning organisation/partnership.

Expert Academic Consultant Model: provides a subject specialist academic staff member(s) to lead, develop and deliver on a piece of research.

Each model has flexibility to adapt to the needs and requirements of the organisation or partnership and the piece of research that they want to commission. The Student Learning and Placement Models have timescales that relate to the academic calendar and set study periods.

Examples of Subject Specialisms that we can provide research/evaluations for:

The Sociology and Criminology team at Staffordshire University cover a range of Crime and Society subject topics and can provide subject specialist knowledge within the research as well as research skills expertise. Subject areas that are common within Crime and Society are:

- Reasons for Offending/Deviant Behaviour
- Reducing Offending Behaviour & Victimisation
- Working with Offenders & Victims
- The Criminal Justice System & Community Safety
- Categories of Crime
- Social Harms & Contemporary Social Problems
- Social Policy
- Tackling Health & Social Inequalities

- Vulnerable & Marginalised Groups in Society
- People Groups & Culture
- The Life Course from Early Years through to Old Age, Death & Dying
- Diversity & Divisions in Society
- Gender & Sexuality
- Analysis of Society Systems, Institutions & Interactions
- Global Issues & Global Markets

The Possible Delivery & Impact from Research Findings:

Research findings are considered more credible when an academic institution is involved with the data collection and interpretation of findings. There are different ways that findings can be shared with commissioning organisations and partnerships from written reports and oral presentations to artistic, dramatic, filmed or photographed interpretations of the data that can stimulate discussion and provoke positive changes. One of the many benefits of working with academic staff from the Sociology and Criminology staffing team based within the School of Journalism, Humanities and Social Sciences is that we are well positioned to collaborate with creative experts within our faculty (The Faculty of Arts and Creative Technologies) in order to generate innovative and creative research alongside offering more traditional and well regarded research methods.

Academic researchers have an interest in sharing learning from research in teaching and connections with the wider academic field through conference papers and publications. The approach and scope of the dissemination of findings are discussed at the design stage of the piece of research and throughout the research project to ensure that we explicitly agree the kind of approach you wish us to take regarding confidentiality and anonymity of the findings.

For More Information and/or to Discuss Research/Evaluation ideas and/or costings, please Contact:

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