

## Report on Global City Policing Conference 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Context:

As part of a joint commitment from academics and police forces to 'praxis', the sharing and interaction of practical and academic knowledge, the themes of this conference emerged from a survey of serving police officers. Academics at the [Department for Security and Crime Science](#) (led by Professor Ben Bradford, Director of the Centre for Global City Policing, and Dr Chris Dyke, Research Fellow) honed these themes into three key sessions for the conference, held at UCL.

The [ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre](#) were instrumental in funding the event, providing two of the speakers and helping with organisation. The Centre's Co-Director, Adam Crawford, expertly wove the sessions together in his role emceeing the event.

The conference was timely, coming just weeks after the release of [Baroness Casey's review](#) into the Metropolitan Police attracted worldwide attention and led to even greater introspection as police forces across the country considered how to improve organisational culture to tackle crime in a modern society.

Survey respondents highlighted the need to prioritise crimes against women and girls; the impact on police of non-crime callouts; and prevention and diversion from crime.

### Sessions

The first session was titled

the importance of not relying on standalone discrete training days – a cultural change around thinking about victims requires something more fundamental.

The second session looked at ‘[vulnerability](#)’ and how alternative ways to tackle vulnerabilities in society could both better address those vulnerabilities and reduce non-crime demands on police time. Again, this proved a timely session, as just days afterwards the Metropolitan Police [announced](#) that, from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, they will no longer respond to mental health calls where this is no imminent risk to life. The conference was treated to two fascinating presentations by members of the ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre Professor Martin Webber and Dr Dan Birks.

Professor Webber drew on a career in social work to consider the different approaches to addressing mental illness. He recognised the empirical ambiguity about how much police time is taken up by mental health non-crime calls – the varying definitions used, the different figures in different forces (ranging from 1-10%, though some leaders have estimated

