

WEBINAR BRIEFING SHEET

WHAT IS IT?

Deferred prosecution is an alternative to traditional criminal justice processes where prosecution is delayed, typically dependent on the offender meeting specific conditions or completing an intervention program. If conditions are met successfully, prosecution is dropped.

Key Features:

- Aimed at addressing the **root causes** of offending (e.g., substance abuse, mental health issues, or socioeconomic factors).
- Focuses on **rehabilitative** rather than punitive approaches.
- Primarily applied to low-level, non-violent offences or first-time offenders.

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

Less Reoffending. Evaluations indicate that most of the time, deferred prosecutions lead to less reoffending, particularly among children.

Lower Cost. Prosecutions are typically more expensive than diversions.

Better Outcomes. Programs targeting specific issues, such as drug misuse, have shown tentative evidence of reducing drug use and improving psychological functioning among participants

HOW STRONG IS THE EVIDENCE?

Limited but Promising. Evidence on children and young people is stronger but mostly from US based studies. Experiments in Durham and Devon & Cornwall show reductions in reoffending. Experiments in Birmingham and London have yet to fully report findings but indicate promise.

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

It's tricky. By most accounts, these schemes are difficult to implement. Thought needs to go into:

- Speed of referrals - the quicker the better
- Multi-agency involvement - it can't be the police acting alone.
- Getting tracking information right - so you can follow up on progress.
- Culture shift is needed to get the most out of these schemes

LEARN MORE

A summary of evidence on pre-court diversion for young people at the **Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit**

All about the Durham experiment '**Checkpoint**'

All about the Devon and Cornwall **scheme**

A full **evidence review** by the consultancy Cordis Bright

A **discussion** on 25 years of diversion development

*This briefing sheet is prepared for attendees at the **Easier Said Than Done** Webinar on **Deferred Prosecution** which takes place on 10th January 2025, online.*

Attendance is free to all. Visit www.sebp.police.uk to book or to view the Webinar replay

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*Membership is **FREE**. Sign up [here](#)*



EASIER SAID THAN DONE

Implementing Evidence Based Ideas

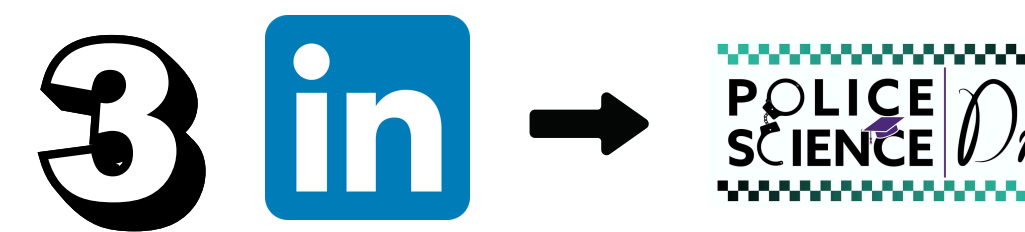
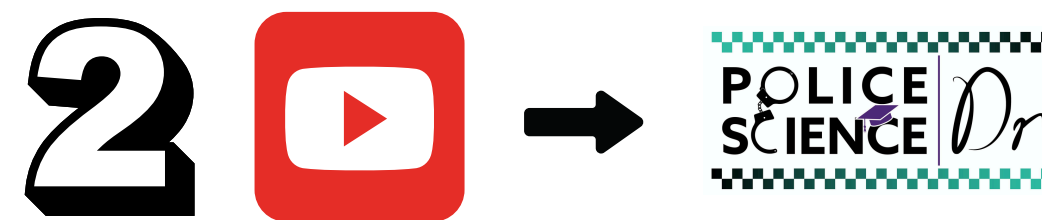
DEFERRED PROSECUTION



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HOW TO ACCESS

We will be live on three channels:



Click on the logos to access the links.

If you cannot access these links because of your firewall, head to www.sebp.police.uk the week after the event to watch on catch up

HOSTS

Dr Matt Bland

Matt works for SEBP as Chief Operating Officer and as an Associate Professor of Evidence Based Policing at Cambridge University. He worked in policing from 2002-2018 and was the independent lead of the Police Funding Formula review from 2022-2024.

Dr Susanne Knabe-Nicol

Susanne worked in UK police forces for over 10 years. Susanne set up Police Science Dr to enable law enforcement professionals to access research findings and fine-tune their practice. She is a Lecturer at Middlesex University.

THE PANEL

Anna Baker

Anna has been the Lead for the North Wales Police Diversion Programme since 2019. She has a background in community justice and drug interventions.

Sarah Carlsen-Browne

Sarah is Senior Manager for Reducing Reoffending for Devon and Cornwall Police. She manages integrated offender management, youth justice and adult diversion

Emily Spragg

Emily is responsible for Devon and Cornwall's operations-side out of court resolutions. She has a background in social and youth work.

Katie Harber

Katie is a Detective Superintendent for the Metropolitan Police Service. She is leading on the London Turning Point project, which is also the focus of her PhD studies.

Ailsa Quinlan

As a Detective Inspector, Ailsa ran Surrey police's first deferred prosecution scheme in 2011. She is now the Out of Court Resolution Lead for Surrey Police.