

## Practice note: Guidance notes (400-600 words)



The aim of this article is for practitioners to describe an initiative/intervention or change to practice which they have developed in response to a policing problem. The practice can cover any activity which has been implemented (we are also interested in ideas that have not yet been implemented but for another section of the publication). Articles are not restricted to practice which has been evaluated but, where possible, contributors should make reference to the impact of their initiative i.e. the result or consequences. This might include any changes observed during or following implementation or any measured

outcomes. It is expected that the contributor will have had some direct involvement in designing, implementing or measuring the practice described.

You may have your own ideas for content but areas you could consider including are:

- Brief information about your role/how you got involved in developing this practice.
- The problem you set out to address/what you were trying to change and who the practice was aimed/ targeted at?
- What you did/details of the initiative/new practice? This should be the focus of the article and include details of any practical steps and approaches taken.
- What you found out? For example if your practice reduced graffiti or increased intelligence. Or if your practice had some negative impacts or unforeseen issues, include these too as they would be helpful for others considering a similar approach.

## General writing hints and tips

Write in your own style. We want articles to be written in your 'voice'.

- 1) Use plain English and avoid jargon and local or force specific acronyms. If you do use a well- established, nationally recognised acronym, put it in full when you first use it with the shortened version in brackets afterwards. From that point on use the acronym.
- 2) Be clear about the problem or policing area you are describing. This might be well understood in your area of policing but might be unknown by other officers and staff who are not familiar with your role or geographic region.
- 3) Be specific about what you would like to do to address the problem. Include practical details rather than high level priorities or business requirements.
- 4) Avoid any information which could identify incidents or cases.
- 5) If you refer to research or statistics, try to state your source (briefly). You could also add a link in the text or add a reference at the end of your article.
- 6) Articles should normally identify you and your police force/agency as the contributor unless there is an operational issue or a personal requirement to the contrary.