What is i-nsi?

‘i-nsi’ stands for intelligence based Neighbourhood Security Interview. The i-nsi process has been developed after 5 years intensive academic fieldwork initially conducted as part of the National Reassurance Policing Programme. It is a computerised data capture and analysis package that allows police and their partner agencies to identify and target the crime and disorder incidents that have a disproportionate impact upon neighbourhood security. It thereby provides a mechanism for improving the effectiveness of the police and other agencies in responding to community concerns.

What makes i-nsi different?

Three key innovations distinguish i-nsi from other surveys:

1. In identifying signal crimes, signal disorders and control signals, it systematically focuses police resources upon those events that shape collective perceptions of risk. Significantly, the academic research demonstrates that this includes antisocial behaviour and incivility alongside more major crimes.

2. Traditional survey methods have focused upon obtaining a random survey of public attitudes. The methodology underpinning i-nsi uses a purposive sample of ‘neighbourhood sentinels’, individuals with high knowledge of local neighbourhoods. This makes it both more effective and efficient to operate.

3. Because it is an intelligence tool, it is operated by police staff, rather than outsourcing the data capture work to a market research agency. As a result, the process also meets demands for increased police-community engagement.

Based upon a highly targeted low source volume architecture, as a community intelligence process i-nsi provides a diagnostic of how in ‘high information environments’ people attend to some information whilst cognitively ‘screening out’ other data in the formation of perceptions, opinions and attitudes.
In the policing sector i-nsi is coherent with and directly relevant to a number of current initiatives and programmes. Most notably:

- Police service’s national roll-out of Neighbourhood Policing.
- Government focus on antisocial behaviour.
- Developing neighbourhood management agenda.

**Development to Date**

A paper version of the tool was tested and validated by 3 police forces with superior results to other methods. An automated version of the data collection package was tested and validated and has now been used successfully by twenty force/local authority partnerships around the country. A fully automated software based data analysis package is also now available, bringing significant reductions in the time required to process data. In most projects to date, clients have preferred to work with staff from UPSI to manage the data capture and analysis process. However, training programmes to train client analysts and a ‘train-the-trainer package’ to enable in-house training of interviewers have also been successfully run.

**What Are the Benefits of i-nsi?**

On the basis of the clients who have used i-nsi to date, a number of benefits of the process can be identified:

- Identifies the signal crimes and disorders that really matter to local communities thereby giving Neighbourhood Policing interventions enhanced impact;
- Identifies areas where local partner services should be targeted (e.g. council environmental services; traffic enforcement; fire prevention etc.);
- Establishes a community intelligence feed for force intelligence systems;
- Builds trust and confidence amongst key members of the public;
- Tests the integrity and robustness of Neighbourhood Policing processes from a citizen perspective;
- Introduces a new data stream of evaluative data on how local publics are judging the quality of police and partner services;
- Improves community engagement skills of front-line officers;

**Want To Know More?**

More information is available from the Universities’ Police Science Institute at ups@cardiff.ac.uk or from the author of the Signal Crimes Perspective, Prof. Martin Innes, at innesm@cardiff.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can visit our website at www.upsi.org.uk