

## Community Safety and Resilience Conference Report

The Community Safety and Resilience Conference began as an idea from the Unity consortium meeting in West Yorkshire in November 2017. The partners decided that a conference added to the end of the final consortium meeting, would be a fantastic opportunity to disseminate Unity's outcomes at the end of the project. The conference project was then delegated to the coordinator's team at West Yorkshire Police to organise in collaboration with Serco.

It was decided in early 2018 that the conference would be hosted in a Serco venue in North Yorkshire, The Emergency Planning College at the Hawkhills. The conference partnership with Serco as a Unity consortium partner, meant that there was a reduction in costs for the project and a boost in promotional networks to publicise the event.

The concept was developed with the intention of creating a stimulating day of discussion, networking and knowledge building on the topic of Community Policing. Since the conference was a Unity Project the core concept was the six pillars of community policing developed by the academic research. The speakers were selected from both Unity's network and partners depending on their expertise related to an individual pillar, this provided a diverse range of speakers and an even number of male and female speakers which was recognised by several delegates on the day.

When considering publication of the event it was decided with the nature of the conference, public and social media dissemination would not be appropriate. Instead the networks of speakers, organisers and Unity partners were utilised to bring in an audience of 65 delegates from a widely varied range of organisations across the UK and Europe, including; Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, The Swedish Contingency Agency, The Jewish Community Security Trust and Police Scotland. Prior to the event it was over-subscribed with an upper limit of 80 delegates a number no shows had to be accounted for on the day. The reason for the upper limit on the number of delegates was the costing of the event at £25/ head for a full day delegate rate this was covered by the Unity project and subsidised by Serco which meant that for delegates the event was free of charge.

Delegate's feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive on a whole. All delegates believed that there was a cohesive message delivered throughout the day and that it fulfilled their reasons for attending. Majority of delegates attended to learn about different perspectives of community policing and to gain an insight into how they can support their organisations to bring some new ideas on board, many commented also that the event was useful for networking with peers from different organisations involved with community policing.

All delegates opted in to developing a network from the conference, sharing their details with everyone in attendance and receiving copies of the presentations. This has been shared via email and can stay in use when publicising future relevant events.

When asked to rate the conference on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) the average score for the conference was 8, the organisers are pleased with this average and have evaluated any points for improvement in future events.

Some quotes from the feedback forms were as follows;

'Really good range of groups in the audience and speakers!'

'Positive, both female and male speakers! So interesting to see how similar the UK and Sweden are.'

'Excellent debate in the panel sessions'

'The conference was well structured and delivered at the correct level. The facilities were well presented and accommodating.'

'A really worthwhile day and good to meet new colleagues, Thank you'