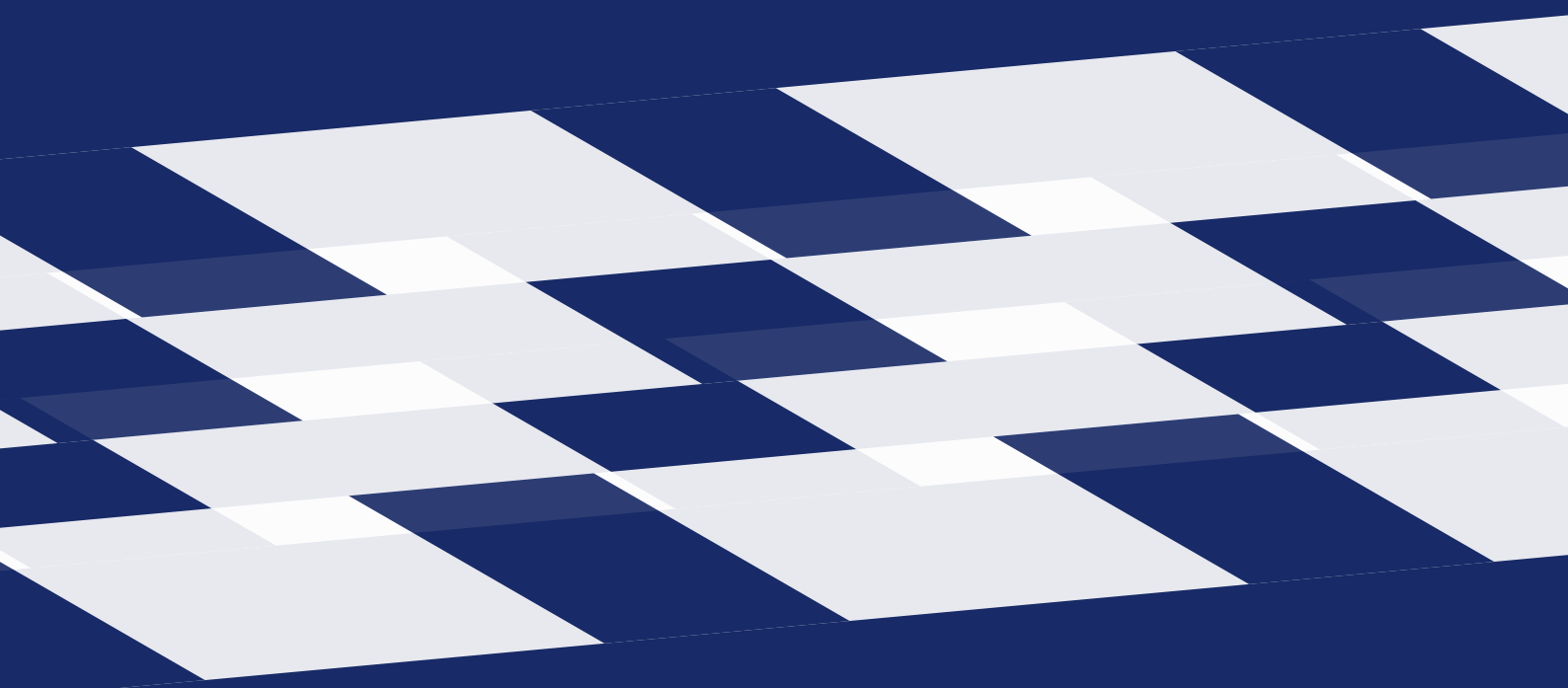




Home Office

Modern Crime Prevention Pamphlet

March 2016

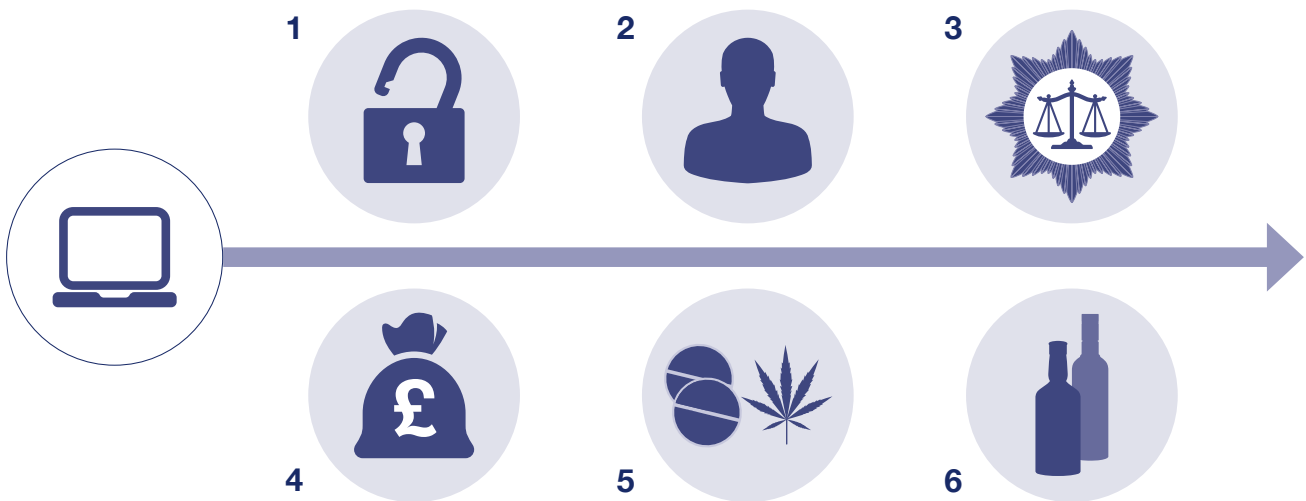


The Government's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy was published in March 2016. This pamphlet provides a brief summary of the action we are taking to prevent crime, and the research it is based on. The full strategy is available at gov.uk.

Crime has fallen rapidly over the last twenty years, in spite of economic shocks, changes in levels of employment, and evolving behaviours around drug and alcohol use, technology and social norms. As it has fallen, crime has changed: while traditional high volume crimes like burglary and street violence have more than halved, previously 'hidden' crimes like child sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence have all become more visible, if not more frequent, and there is growing evidence of the scale of online fraud and cyber crime.

There are a variety of reasons for this sustained fall, but the reduction can be attributed in large part to better preventative action to stop crimes from happening in the first place. Where Government, law enforcement, businesses and the public work together on prevention we can deliver significant and sustained cuts in certain crimes. That is good news for victims and communities and it makes clear economic sense too.

Our new approach to crime prevention is based on targeting what the evidence suggests are the **six key drivers of crime**:



1. Opportunity – Removing or designing out opportunities for criminals to offend, offline and online;

2. Character – Intervening early with those exposed to factors that might lead to a high propensity to commit crime;

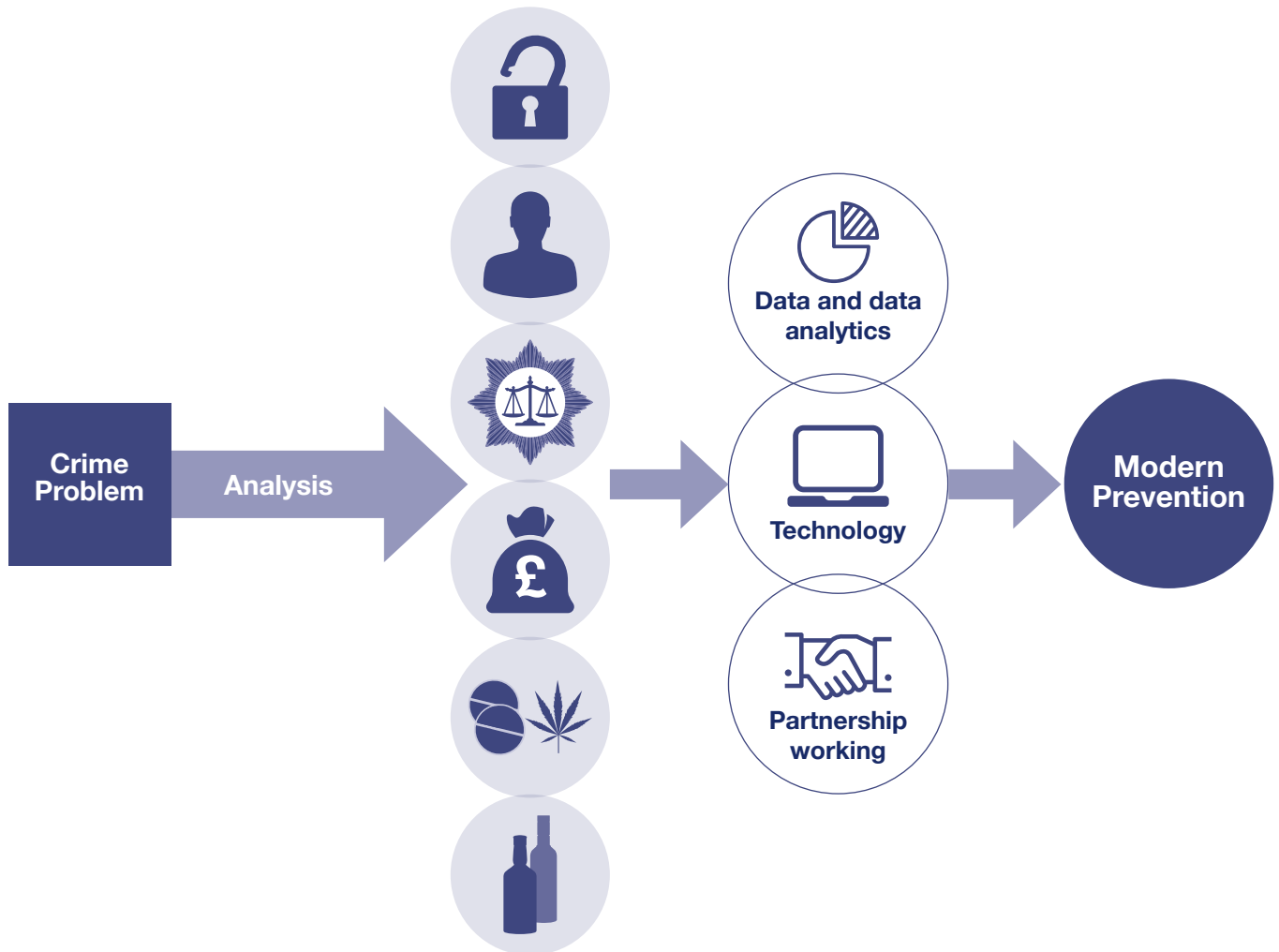
3. Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) - Ensuring that the CJS acts as a powerful deterrent to would-be offenders;

4. Profit - Making it harder for criminals, particularly organised criminals, to benefit financially from their crimes;

5. Drugs - Publish a new drug strategy, which builds on the approach published in 2010 to restrict the supply of drugs and tackle the organised crime behind the drugs trade, prevent drug misuse in our communities, help people resist getting involved in drugs, and support people dependent on drugs through treatment and recovery; and

6. Alcohol - Making the night time economy safe so that people can consume alcohol safely without fear of becoming a victim of alcohol-related crime or disorder, enabling local economies to grow.

Many crime problems will involve more than one driver, so a sophisticated, modern approach will require coordinated action on a number of fronts, as shown below:



Opportunity as a Driver of Crime



Evidence shows that crime increases when there are more opportunities to offend, and falls when the number of opportunities is reduced. This does not mean everyone will commit crime if they believe they can get away with it. Some people will never commit certain crimes, regardless of the situation. But for some people and some crimes, studies show that the degree of opportunity can make a big difference to the number of offences committed.

That means crime can be prevented by removing the opportunity to commit it. Research has shown that this can be achieved by making the surrounding environment less conducive to crime; target hardening; and restricting access to tools and illegal material.

We will continue to find innovative ways to reduce the opportunities to commit crime, including:

- Working with private sector partners and the public to reduce opportunities to commit crime online. For example by removing opportunities to upload, find and share child sexual abuse material online.
- Removing opportunities for criminals to commit child sexual abuse and violence against women and girls by, for example, promoting the work of a wide range of agencies including housing providers, banks and employers in challenging and preventing domestic abuse.
- Working with private sector partners to encourage consumers to take security into account when buying products and services. For example, we are publishing transparent information about the various anti-theft security features provided by a number of mobile phone manufacturers that will allow the public to draw their own conclusions about what is on offer and make better informed consumer decisions.
- We will also continue to use opportunity-based approaches to drive down crimes that have already fallen markedly. For example by continuing to work with the police and industry to ensure there are effective controls on the sale of knives and other offensive weapons, both online and offline.
- We will work with international partners to stop illegal entry into the UK, and to remove foreign national offenders. We have established the Foreign Criminality Programme to coordinate efforts to remove foreign national offenders.

Character as a Driver of Crime



A small minority of people commit the majority of crimes. 'Opportunity' plays its part: given a tempting target and little chance of being caught, some individuals will commit a crime, and some will do so over and over again. But for most types of crime, most of us simply would not consider breaking the law to be an option, however clear the opportunity.

Evidence increasingly suggests that certain character traits in individuals are related to their propensity to commit crime. Studies following people from a young age have demonstrated that those characteristics – particularly a person's willingness to break social norms, and their levels of empathy and self-control – are strong predictors of whether they offend or not. In fact, researchers at Cambridge University have recently shown that these traits are around three times better at predicting whether a young person will offend than factors associated with their immediate environment, such as hanging around in crime hot-spots, or in the company of delinquent peers.

This is a growing area of research, but we are learning more about the development of these character traits. There are, for example, some aspects of an individual's upbringing which can be very damaging, such as witnessing or being a victim of domestic abuse, or experiencing social deprivation or neglect. However, the evidence also makes it clear there is nothing inevitable about criminality. The kind of positive character traits which will protect young people from involvement in crime can be learned – someone with low levels of self-control can be helped to improve their decision-making, making them less likely to commit crime – with parents and teachers playing a hugely important role.

In looking at 'Character' as a driver, the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy focuses on measures which will prevent crime by building positive character traits and increasing the ability of young people to make good decisions and achieve positive life outcomes. But it will also set out what we can do to help those who are at more immediate risk of becoming involved in crime, and those who have become habitual offenders.

- We will work with a range of partners to build positive characteristics and resilience generally in children and young people and equip them to challenge discrimination and intolerance, for example, through work to teach school pupils to recognise and challenge unhealthy and exploitative relationships.
- We will continue to help build character and resilience in young people who are at significant risk of or from more serious offending. For example by supporting interventions in Accident & Emergency to prevent youth violence.
- We will also work to build positive character traits and resilience in older offenders. For example through Integrated Offender Management.

Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System as a Driver of Crime



Evidence suggests the Criminal Justice System – the police, the courts, prisons and probation services – can prevent crime through four principal mechanisms:

- **Deterrence** – The theory that people refrain from committing criminal acts as a result of the fear of sanctions or punishment, and so any Criminal Justice System action which increases the costs or reduces the benefits should act as a deterrent. One way of increasing the costs is by increasing the perceived likelihood of being caught and punished;
- **Legitimacy** – Theories of procedural justice suggest that by engaging positively with people and treating them fairly, those working in the Criminal Justice System can increase the system’s legitimacy in the eyes of the public and foster greater compliance with the law;
- **Incapacitation** – Studies have shown that preventing offenders from committing further offences by imprisoning them can reduce crime overall, particularly if the most prolific offenders are targeted and incapacitated in this way;
- **Rehabilitation** – There is evidence that some rehabilitation programmes delivered through the Criminal Justice System can be effective in reducing crime and reoffending, particularly where they aim to address the causes of offending – such as treatment for drug addiction and programmes improving offenders’ cognitive skills, or anger-management programmes.

While the Government is implementing a wide-ranging program of justice reforms, this strategy focuses specifically on measures that will make the Criminal Justice System a more effective deterrent to would-be offenders.

- We will encourage more effective hot-spot policing, including through greater sharing of Accident and Emergency data. Including supporting the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence initiative which facilitates the collection of data on knife injuries and ensuring it is shared with police and community safety partnerships across the country.
- We intend to work with those already in the system to prevent further offending. For example the Ministry of Justice is investing £1.3billion to reform and modernise the prison estate to make it more efficient, safer and focused on supporting prisoner rehabilitation.
- We will support law enforcement in building capabilities to tackle new and emerging crimes. For example, by encouraging a national approach to developing Digital Investigation and Intelligence (DII) capabilities.
- We will give the police and courts the tools they need to keep the public safe. Including maximising the benefit of the Child Abuse Image Database.
- We will speed up and streamline the criminal justice process. Including work to digitise the Criminal Justice System.

Profit as a Driver of Crime



Evidence shows that most acquisitive crime is financially motivated. However, considering ‘profit’ – that is, making money and accumulating wealth over and above immediate need – as a driver of crime is intended to describe the way money drives the behaviour of more organised criminals in particular.

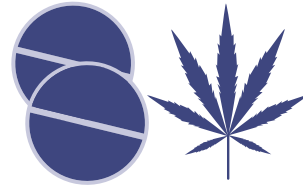
Research on the way profit drives criminal activity in the UK is relatively limited, but the estimated market size or revenue earned by organised criminals per year from drugs supply is £3.7 billion, organised fraud £8.9 billion and organised immigration crime £240 million, all causing substantial harm.

In October 2015 the Government published the National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. It showed that the proceeds of crime are laundered through a variety of mechanisms. Criminals who realise the proceeds of their crimes in the form of cash (notably the sale of illicit commodities such as drugs and counterfeit tobacco) will often use cash-rich businesses to conceal the origin of their funds and move them into the financial system. They also use money service businesses and cash collection networks to transfer their proceeds overseas. Crimes such as serious frauds and overseas corruption (the proceeds of which are realised in non-cash form), are often held in bank accounts, real estate and other investments, and the associated money laundering is often facilitated, wittingly or unwittingly, by ‘professional enablers’ in the legal, accountancy and financial sectors.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 has strengthened our ability recover the proceeds of crime by closing loopholes used by criminals to get around confiscation orders. Since 2010, more assets have been recovered from criminals than ever before. Between April 2010 and March 2015 £945 million has been taken off criminals, and £116 million has been returned to victims. Many hundreds of millions more have been frozen to put it beyond the reach of criminals. But the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy sets out what more we will do, working with partners, to prevent criminals from profiting from their crimes, and thus to remove the incentive to offend.

- We will work with partners to prevent profitable crimes. Including investing £1.9 billion over five years to protect Britain from cyber attack.
- We will target the methods organised criminals use to process their criminal profits. Including implementing a new Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Action Plan.
- We will work with businesses to prevent modern slavery in their global supply chains by requiring certain businesses to publish a slavery and human trafficking statement every year.

Drugs as a Driver of Crime



Drugs drive crime in several ways: the economic motivation to obtain money to fund drug use; the psychopharmacological effects of psychoactive drugs; and the actions of organised crime groups supplying the market. And, in addition, drug possession and supply are in themselves offences.

Drug use among adults and young people is lower than ten years ago, while over the last decade there has been a long term upward trend in numbers recovering from dependence. The social and economic cost of drug use and supply remain high, and is estimated to be around £10.7bn per year, of which £6bn is attributed to drug-related crime.

There is a particularly strong association between drugs and acquisitive crime. An estimated 45% of acquisitive offences (excluding fraud) are committed by regular heroin/crack cocaine users, which equates to more than 2 million Crime Survey offences.

Evidence on drug-related crime prevention focuses on three areas: treatment; diversion; and enforcement:

- Treatment – getting users into treatment is key, as being in treatment itself reduces their levels of offending – and the Criminal Justice System offers a number of routes in. Full recovery from dependence should be the aim of treatment and evidence suggests that recovery is more likely to be achieved and sustained if users are given support to improve their ‘recovery capital’ – particularly around housing and meaningful employment. For a small cohort of entrenched, long-term opiate users who have not achieved recovery through optimised oral substitution treatment, there is evidence that heroin assisted treatment (supervised injectable heroin) reduces crime.

- Prevention – stopping people from starting drug use in the first place, or stopping use escalating, is clearly preferable to treatment in preventing crime. There is growing evidence that good quality Personal, Social and Health Education and school-based interventions designed to improve behaviour generally can have a preventative impact on drug use. For those in the early stages of drug use, brief interventions (including motivational interviewing techniques) at early contact points with health, criminal justice and social care services can help prevent escalation.
- Enforcement – there is some evidence that drug-law enforcement action can have some localised impact though benefits can be short-lived and disappear once an intervention ceases. Geographically targeted problem-oriented policing interventions aimed at drug hotspots and which involve partnerships between the police and wider community groups are likely to be more effective at reducing drug-related problems (such as street-level dealing, crime and other forms of anti-social behaviour) than conventional law enforcement-only approaches. Enforcement may also be effective at suppressing emerging markets of dependence-inducing drugs before they become well established.

We are refreshing our cross-Government Drug Strategy and will continue to build on the 2010 Drug Strategy to take a balanced approach to drugs – to reduce demand, restrict supply and build recovery – and tackle drugs as a key driver of crime.

Alcohol as a Driver of Crime



Over the last decade, in around half of all violent incidents the victim believed the offender(s) was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence, a proportion that increases in incidents between strangers, in the evening and night, at weekends, and in public places.

Alcohol misuse places a strain on our emergency services and a significant cost burden on society; latest estimates show that the cost of alcohol-related crime is £11bn.

Alcohol also has a wider impact on communities; 18% of adults perceive people being drunk or rowdy as a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

Given the association between alcohol use and violence, reducing consumption is likely to be beneficial in crime prevention. The actions outlined in the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy are based on evidence that reducing the availability of alcohol, providing targeted treatment and brief advice and prevention approaches that build life skills and resilience can be effective in reducing alcohol harm. In addition, good partnership working has been found to underpin the successful implementation of interventions, and sharing data on acute harms across health, criminal justice and local authority platforms can also inform crime prevention activity.

Preventing alcohol-related crime and disorder requires a three-pronged approach:

- Improving local intelligence so that decisions taken about the sale of alcohol and the management of the evening and night time economy are based on reliable data and the latest evidence. For example by publishing information about where alcohol-related crime and disorder is occurring on [police.uk](https://www.police.uk).
- Establishing effective local partnerships where all those involved in the operation and management of the evening and night time economy work, so that people can enjoy a safe night out without fear of becoming a victim of alcohol-related crime or disorder, enabling local economies to grow. Including by providing support to local authorities, the police and health partners to create safe spaces.
- Equipping the police and local authorities with the right powers so they can take swift and decisive action after problems have occurred and to prevent their repeat. For example we will future-proof changes to the police workforce by giving civilian staff powers of entry to enter and inspect licensed premises.

Everyone needs to play a part in crime prevention

The Home Office has an important enabling role in encouraging modern crime prevention to become second nature at national, regional and local level. But others – including law enforcement, industry and members of the public themselves – will also play a key part in ensuring that we can all respond to the crime prevention challenge ahead. The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy includes a number of things that we can all, as individuals, do to prevent crime.

Ensure that you are properly protected online:

Experts claim that up to 80% of cyber crime can be prevented if members of the public and businesses take simple precautions, equivalent to locking our front doors. Cyber Streetwise focuses on three simple steps everyone can take that will prevent crime:

- Using strong passwords made up of three random words (for example fur-dis-bat)
- Installing security software on all devices; and
- Downloading software updates when prompted, which often correct bugs or vulnerabilities that hackers and cyber criminals can exploit.

Members of the public can also choose technology and products which have appropriate security features. To help people to make informed choices, the Home Office is working with manufacturers to publish security standards for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Recognise and speak out against abuse:

The Government is helping schools to teach pupils to recognise and challenge unhealthy and exploitative relationships, to prevent them from being abused or from engaging in abuse themselves. The Department for Education and the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Association are introducing a professional development programme to give teachers the skills, confidence and knowledge to teach core concepts of consent and healthy relationships. Parents also have a vital role to play in building character in young people.

The Home Office will support this work with the recently launched new teenage relationship abuse campaign, 'Disrespect NoBody', targeted at a core audience of 12-18 year olds, with the aim of preventing them from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships. The campaign encourages young people to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within relationships, thereby helping to change attitudes which can underpin violence against women and girls. More information can be found at: www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

Report criminal activity when you suspect it:

The public have an important responsibility to help prevent crime by reporting it to the police. Voluntary sector organisations, like Crimestoppers, are giving particularly vulnerable people and 'at risk' groups a way of reporting crime anonymously and early, including through online channels. Crimestoppers' Fearless service, for example, ensures that young people and their parents have a way of reporting violence and knife crime anonymously, and can get expert advice when they need it.

We are also working with the professional sector to deter solicitors and accountants from becoming involved in money laundering. This builds on previous activity aimed at the legal sector, which drove a 20% increase in

Suspicious Activity Reports according to data from the National Crime Agency. It aims to increase understanding of the consequences of becoming involved in money-laundering, and of the role professions can play in preventing it.

Get involved with volunteering:

Motivation to achieve goals, and the abilities to deal positively with set backs and to make good decisions can all be developed by young people through programmes such as the **National Citizen Service (NCS)**. The NCS helps to both develop positive character traits, and to build a sense of community belonging. The Government is extending funding to the NCS by more than a billion pounds so that 60% of 16 and 17 year olds will be able to take part.

Initiatives like the **Volunteer Police Cadets** can help with developing positive interactions between the police and young people.

People can also get involved in the fight against crime directly – police forces and the National Crime Agency are recruiting **special constables** with specialist skills, particularly ICT skills and experience of working with the private sector.

Find more information on how you can report crime, or help in preventing crime:

The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (NHWN) is the charity and umbrella body which represents Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch members across England and Wales. Through their website and links with the police and national partners, they aim to provide local communities with the resources they need to contact each other, share information and increase community safety and social cohesion. NHWN will give its 4 million members clear, easy-to-follow crime prevention advice which they can then share with others, either in their local area or an online community of interest. To find out more visit <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that allows members of the public to pass information to the police anonymously (for example on crimes, or the whereabouts of fugitives). The charity provides an anonymous 24/7 hotline, as well as various digital routes for passing on information. For more information please visit: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Victim Support is the independent charity for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales. Victim Support also provide the Homicide Service, supporting people bereaved through murder and manslaughter, and runs more than 100 local projects which tackle domestic violence, antisocial behaviour and hate crime, help children and young people and deliver restorative justice. For more information, please visit <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

For practical advice on how to protect yourself, your computers and mobiles device against **fraud, identity theft and viruses** visit <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> or to report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime please visit <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

More information on a range of crime prevention issues can also be found on **police force and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)** websites. To find your local force and PCC websites, and for further crime prevention advice please visit <https://www.police.uk/>

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ISBN: 978-1-78655-108-5

DESIGN02

This publication was produced by DESIGN102.
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