



Would you like to take part in an innovative project, which aims to improve cooperation and communication between the Police and the communities they serve?

‘Unity’ is a 3 year Community Policing project which aims to help community police officers and other partners of the police keep your community a safe place to live.

The project aims to improve co-operation and communication between the citizens, partners and police, especially within communities who for various reasons, often find it difficult to engage with the police and other support networks. Unity will also provide new training to police officers to help them deal with your concerns and issues.

The objective is to build on and improve the 6 pillars of Community Policing, which were defined by the research undertaken in the project as:-

- Trust and confidence building
- Information sharing and communication
- Accountability
- Addressing local needs
- Collaboration
- Crime Prevention

The Unity Project is made up of different organisations from 15 different European Union countries, one of which is our team, West Yorkshire for Innovation (WyFi) who are part of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Our partners are from universities, businesses and other local police forces from around Europe, who have joined together to help improve community policing through the project.



Unity is designed to empower communities by improving communication and cooperation through an online forum, accessed through an Internet web based platform or via an App on a smart-phone.

The Unity forum is a safe zone for you to voice your concerns or ideas and you can also contact other people through the forum who can help; this may be a police officer or a professional within the community. There is also an events page which will tell you what events are happening in your community which you might be interested in getting involved with, whilst a news page will keep you updated with any local news in your area.

Unity is **not** an alternative means of reporting a crime or incident to the police; it will however, help the Police and other organisations to build up a picture of what is happening in the local area and enable them to take appropriate action.

The Unity technology has been developed in stages and by the time the project finishes, it will have been put to test in 8 different European countries. The final testing takes place in the UK in West Yorkshire, between September and November 2017, involving 3 different scenarios.

We are looking for volunteers from the LGBTQ community and key organisations that support the community, to take part ad-hoc in one of the scenarios; also to provide feedback for evaluation purposes, on whether it would help them in their everyday lives in communicating with other members of their community and the police and whether in their view, Unity would make a positive impact on the 6 pillars of Community Policing. We would like volunteers to carry on assisting with Unity for a few months beyond November 2017, to be able to provide additional testing and evaluation opportunities. Unfortunately during the testing phase, volunteers have to be aged 18 years or over.

The scenario involving the LGBTQ community is based on the shooting which took place in June 2016 at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. This act of hate crime resulted in 49 people being killed and 53 wounded. As a result of this attack, members of the LGBTQ community within West Yorkshire not only felt vulnerable, but targeted, afraid and hated. The month of June was the build-up to the annual Pride events in West Yorkshire. News reports of the events being to filter through to each LGBTQ community via the local news throughout the world causing the community to become concerned for their safety and



fearful of a similar attack happening within their own local community. On seeing these comments on Facebook, a LGBTQ Champion in the Leeds area contacts the police to inform the Principal Community Engagement Officer of the recent concerns voiced by community members via social media.

In the first instance, messages were put out via the WYP- LGBT Twitter and Facebook pages to community members, for reassurance and to gauge any particular tensions or threats. This however, was simply not enough and people still felt targeted and in fear of their lives, because of their sexual orientation and or gender identity. In response to these fears and concerns, the 'Safe In Safe Out' Event was arranged.

The Unity technology will be introduced into the scenario, to provide a virtual communication platform, that will assist members of the LGBTQ community to communicate and discuss their fears and concerns. It will also facilitate the organisation and publicising of LGBTQ partnership events and community group meetings, provide updates regarding these events and be used to provide reassurance during times of concern or fear. The police and other support organisations involved with the LGBTQ community can also evaluate Unity and use it as a means of deploying resources that meet the concerns of the community.

The scenario will be tested virtually rather than physically, through the use of the Unity technology, which will enable participants to take part on an ad-hoc basis throughout the testing period and beyond.

Volunteers taking part will be given guidance as to how to use the system and prompted as to what type of task needs to be undertaken in the Unity platform, to get the best out of testing the scenario and how Unity can contribute to effective Community Policing.

Before taking part, any Volunteers would be asked to sign to give their consent to take part in the project and to the terms and conditions of using Unity.

If you are interested in taking part in the project or want to learn more about what unity can offer you, please email; unity@westyorkshirepolice.pnn.police.uk

Or visit our social media pages at:

Twitter: @unityproject



Facebook: www.facebook.com/unityeuproject/

Linked in: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8603343>



This project has received funding from European Union Horizon 2020 Programme under grant agreement n° 653729. No part of this document may be used, reproduced and/or disclosed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the Unity project partners.