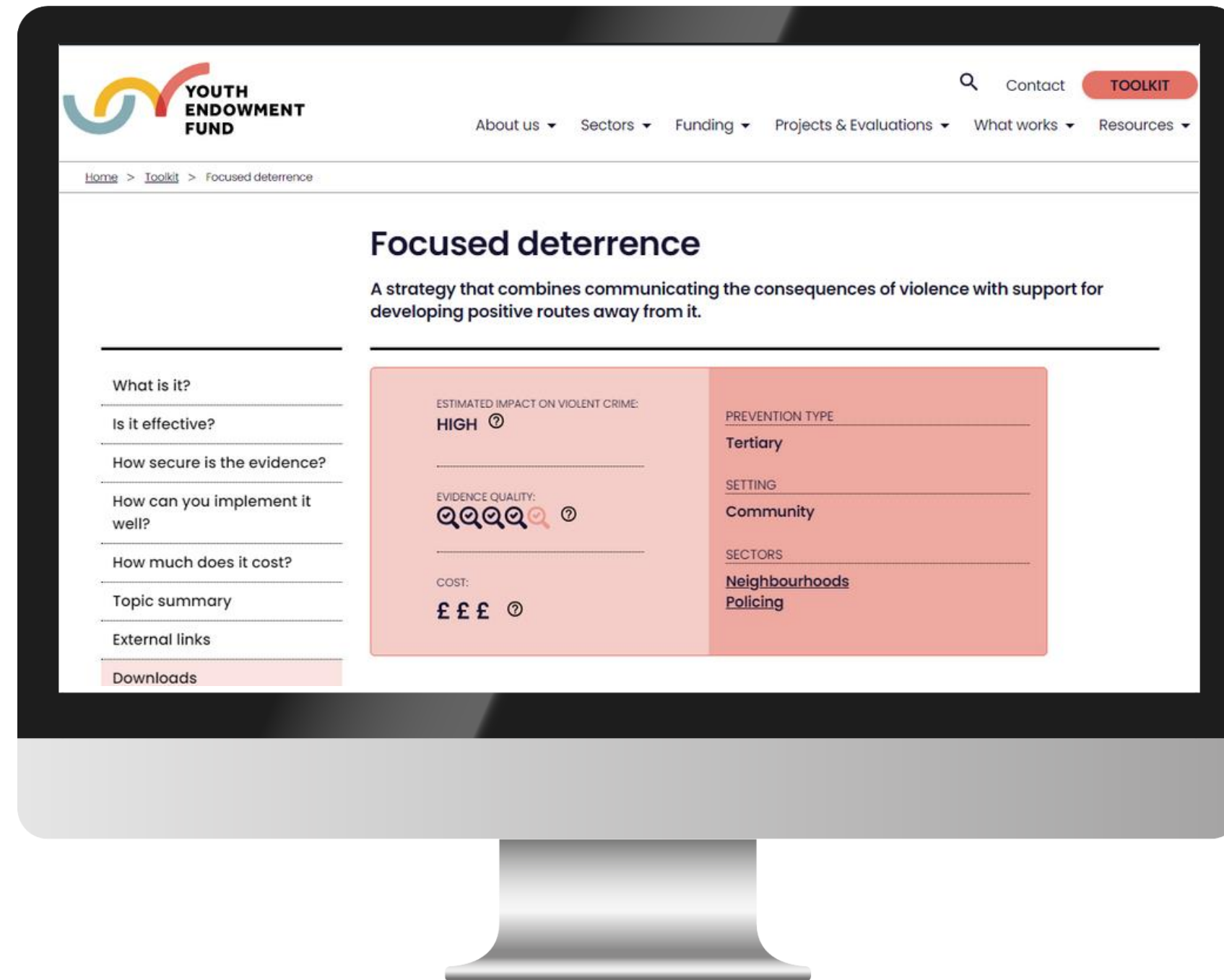


Implementing Focused Deterrence: Barriers and Opportunities

What is Focused Deterrence?

A strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.



Our **Toolkit** strand provides a summary of the research evidence, including race equity considerations.

Focused Deterrence Framework

There are six core elements of Focused Deterrence; some steps are essential, others are flexible depending on the environment.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Identify crime involving groups	Find group-level participants	Design a multi-agency approach	Collect and analyse intelligence data	Communicate openly and directly	Ensure swift & certain enforcement
	Identify specific crime which is group driven in the local area	Identify a group frequently involved with this crime	Create a multi-agency working group to support effective agency collaboration	Use structured data analysis to identify relevant group, and evaluate success of programme	Openly communicate the programme's purpose and parameters directly to participants throughout	Discourage criminal behaviour by communicating its consequences
YEF Essential Steps	The target crime must involve a clear group dynamic	Programme participants must be connected to the groups involved in the target crime	Build a working group with members from different agencies e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police force • Social services • Community groups 	High-quality, structured intelligence gathering and analysis	Frequent, direct and honest communication with target groups	Special enforcement operation guaranteeing swift and certain consequences
YEF Flexible Features	The target crime itself is flexible	Programme participants can be any age	Type of support services deployed Extent of community involvement	No flexibility	Communication strategy can be flexible The use of call-ins	Method of enforcement and the types of consequences are flexible

Implementation of Focused Deterrence across the UK

We commissioned OC&C Strategy to help us:

- Understand how Focused Deterrence is adopted across the UK and, when it is adopted, how closely it follows our guidelines on best practice.
- Identify the main barriers to the adoption of best practice Focused Deterrence.
- Consider what we could do to help local areas overcome these barriers.

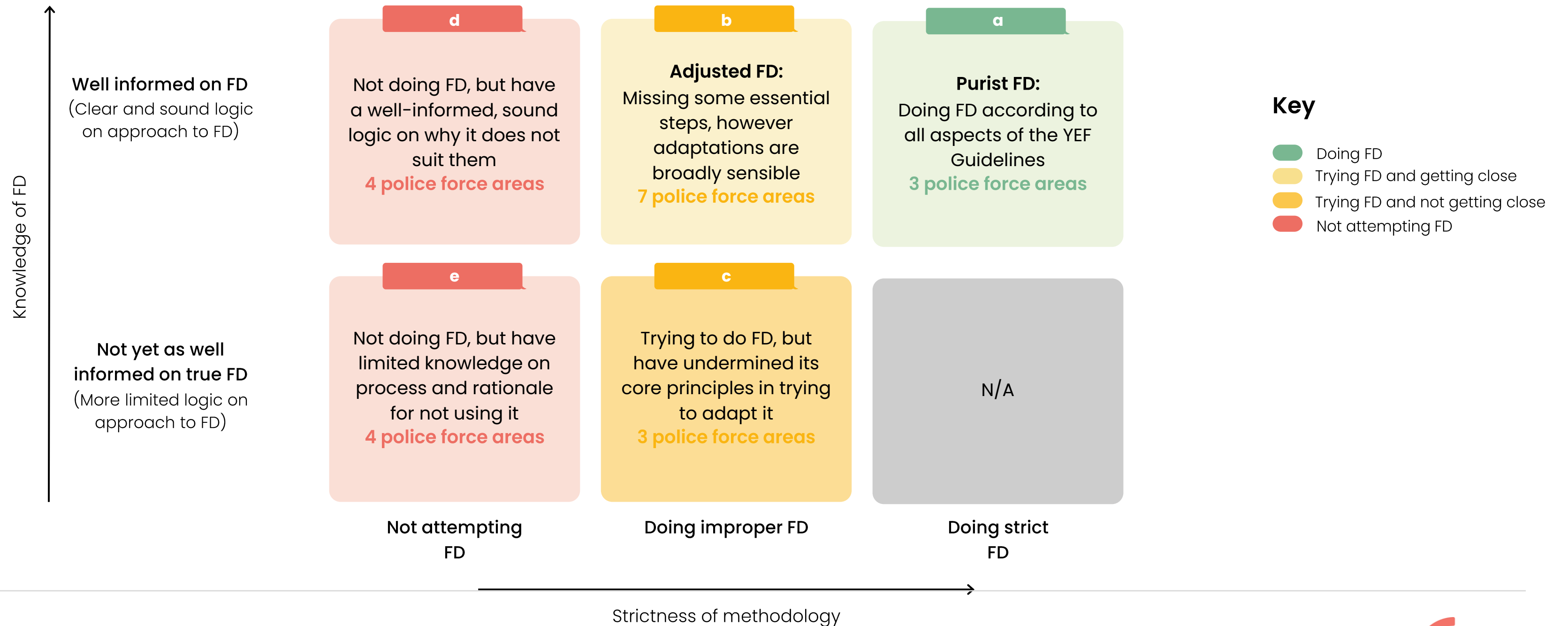
This piece of work was part of OC&C Strategy's ongoing commitment to YEF as a pro bono partner since 2020.



21 police force areas across the UK shared their views on and experiences of focused deterrence.

Adherence to the Framework

Using our framework, 5 archetypes were identified. Police force areas were mapped according to their methodological strictness and knowledge of focused deterrence.



Archetypes differ in how strictly they follow the FD framework. Data analysis and group-level participation are the steps most commonly adapted.

Focused Deterrence framework by archetype

Doing according to FD Method

Doing, but not according FD method

Not doing

	Crime involves groups	Group-Level Participants	Multi-Agency Working Group	Data Collection and Analysis	Direct and Ongoing Comms	Swift / Certain Enforcement
#1 Doing FD Well-Informed	Target crime always involves a group element	Participants are part of a distinct group with established links	Police, Support Services and Community Involvement	Rigorous analysis of group and crime problem in set up and implementation	Direct, continuous and honest communication with target group	Structured points of potential police intervention during program
#2 Attempting FD Well-Informed	Same as #1	Group association is common but not a necessary criteria for selection	Same as #1	Often less detail on inter-group dynamics, sometimes rely on anecdotal evidence	Same as #1	Communication on consequences but no structured points of intervention
#3 Attempting FD Not yet as well informed	Have multiple target crimes – some of which have group elements	Programs are not cohort-based – often run on referrals or sign up	Not all agencies involved, typically only social services and police	Cohort identification not data driven, no inter-group or personal intelligence	Often do not explain FD's purpose to participants or why they are selected	Communication on consequences but no structured points of intervention
#4 Not doing FD Not yet as well informed	Are not aware if they have a crime problem suitable for FD	Do not know if problematic groups in the area warrant FD intervention	Typically, do not grasp the coordination/integration needed in a multi-agency approach	Do not know the process or importance of strict intelligence gathering for FD	Do not carry out FD communication as don't have an FD program	Do not carry out FD style enforcement as don't have an FD program
#5 Not doing FD Well-Informed	Usually have a crime problem suited to FD, but believe it is better to use alternatives	Some do not have much group-crime; others do but use alternative methods	Familiar with multi-agency approaches and the benefits – use them outside of FD	Some don't have data competencies; others do but use it for alternative methods	Do not carry out FD communication as do not have a program	Don't carry out FD style enforcement as don't have an FD program

There are a range of barriers that lead local areas not to adopt Focused Deterrence or to modify it. Each archetype faces different barriers.

Key barriers to Focused Deterrence by archetype

Barrier commonly felt Barrier occasionally felt

	Crime involves groups	Group-Level Participants	Multi-Agency Working Group	Data Collection and Analysis	Direct and Ongoing Comms	Swift / Certain Enforcement
#1 Doing FD Well informed	No Barrier	No Barrier	No Barrier	No Barrier	No Barrier	No Barrier
#2 Attempting FD Well informed	No Barrier	Barrier commonly felt <i>No clear groups in police area or lack the analytical ability to identify them</i>	No Barrier	Barrier commonly felt <i>Don't have intelligence or analytical skills and lack necessary budget to acquire them</i>	No Barrier	Barrier commonly felt <i>Ideologically opposed to enforcement element of FD; think it should be deprioritised</i>
#3 Attempting FD Not yet as well informed	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Want to allow participation for individuals involved in a range of crimes</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Do not understand the importance of the group as the point of intervention in FD</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Do not see equal value in all three core agencies - typically community is omitted</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>As above, but some areas also don't view rich intelligence as high-priority</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Selection criteria not data driven, so hard to explain justification for inclusion</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Ideologically opposed to enforcement element of FD; think it should be deprioritised</i>
#4 Not doing FD Not yet as well informed	Barrier commonly felt <i>Lack knowledge to effectively identify crimes suitable for an FD intervention</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Lack knowledge to effectively identify groups suitable for an FD intervention</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Have not investigated the feasibility of an FD program, so don't understand if a barrier</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Have not investigated the feasibility of an FD program, so don't understand if a barrier</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Have not investigated the feasibility of an FD program, so don't understand if a barrier</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Have not investigated the feasibility of an FD program, so don't understand if a barrier</i>
#5 Not doing FD Well informed	No Barrier	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Some areas lack sufficiently problematic crime groups to warrant FD</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Breakdown of community trust or significant resistance from social services</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Some areas don't have access to sufficient intelligence or analytics</i>	Barrier occasionally felt <i>Some areas have little police trust so effective comms. with participants is difficult</i>	Barrier commonly felt <i>Ideologically opposed to enforcement element of FD; think it should be deprioritised</i>

Next steps

- 1 Share Learnings**
Sharing learning from our [multi-site trial](#) of Focused Deterrence through reports and virtual learning events.
- 2 Practice Guidance**
Publishing Practice Guidance to provide actionable and evidence-based guidance on how to deliver Focused Deterrence.
- 3 Implementation tools**
Creating implementation tools to support local areas with particular elements of Focused Deterrence, such as data analysis and race equity.





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