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POLICE & CHURCH PARTNERSHIP WORKING REDUCES CRIME

New research from Cinnamon Network, endorsed by the National Police Chiefs' Council and College of Policing, shows that church-led social action projects help police reduce crime and demand and meet community needs.

The report, [*Police and Church Partnership Working*](#), draws on a field study conducted by Cinnamon in Sussex assessing the effectiveness of police and church partnerships. The study found evidence that partnerships are key in identifying and meeting the needs in the communities they work in.

For example, Sussex Police report that when **Chichester City Angels** are on patrol:

- anti-social behaviour is reduced by up to 79 per cent,
- violent crime is reduced by up to 67 per cent, and
- violent crime leading to injury is reduced by up to 82 per cent.

PC Upton from Sussex Police says, “The police haven’t got time to babysit people and it’s really useful if the City Angels are there.”

Drawing on these findings, *Police and Church Partnership Working* provides recommendations to help police and churches to work together to meet social need in the community.

The widespread support from police across the country for this report gives further evidence that church partnerships are welcomed:

“The Church and other faith groups have a key role to play in supporting the police. Police and faith communities are an essential partnership that can have a huge positive impact on our communities.” - **Paul Netherton, Assistant Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall**

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“In this new age of policing we face many challenges and this report demonstrates the potential for police services to develop partnerships with churches and faith groups that together help reduce crime and disorder.” - **Chief Superintendent Stephen Cargin, Head of Justice, Police Service of Northern Ireland**

Commenting on the report, Matt Bird, founder of Cinnamon Network, said:

“Church-led social action is making a positive difference in the community and partnerships are the best way to deliver projects and get results. I sincerely hope this report will open the door to increased partnerships between local churches and police.”

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Notes to editors:

- The Cinnamon Network research was carried out in Brighton, Chichester and Crawley in November and December 2015.
- Cinnamon Network helps those people most urgently at need in communities. This is achieved by championing replicable church-based social action, building partnerships between churches and civic groups, and producing local actionable.
- The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit launched by Archbishop Justin Welby in May 2015 provided evidence that the value of faith based social action in the UK is worth more than £3 billion per year.
- Full report available at: <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cfar/>

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