Building Community Resilience – Responding to Criminal Networks in Dublin South Central

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ACJRD 23rd July 2020

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Research Co-Design with Communities

Building community resilience – responding to criminal networks in Dublin South Central

"The archetypal model of academic knowledge production can be described as follows: Lone researchers identify issues or problems, they carry out research to address them, then reveal this new knowledge to society, where it is ultimately adopted... In recent years the deficiencies of this model in addressing all manner of contemporary issues, as well as sustainability problems, such as; water scarcity, food security, biodiversity loss, (crime) have become all too clear. Plagued by social and political uncertainty and involving multiple actors with different knowledge, needs and interests, ... research has increasingly turned to co-production as a means to produce 'useful' knowledge."

Dr Albert Norström, Dr Chris Cvitanovic, Dr Marie F. Löf, Dr Simon West *and* Dr Carina Wyborn London School of Economics January 2020

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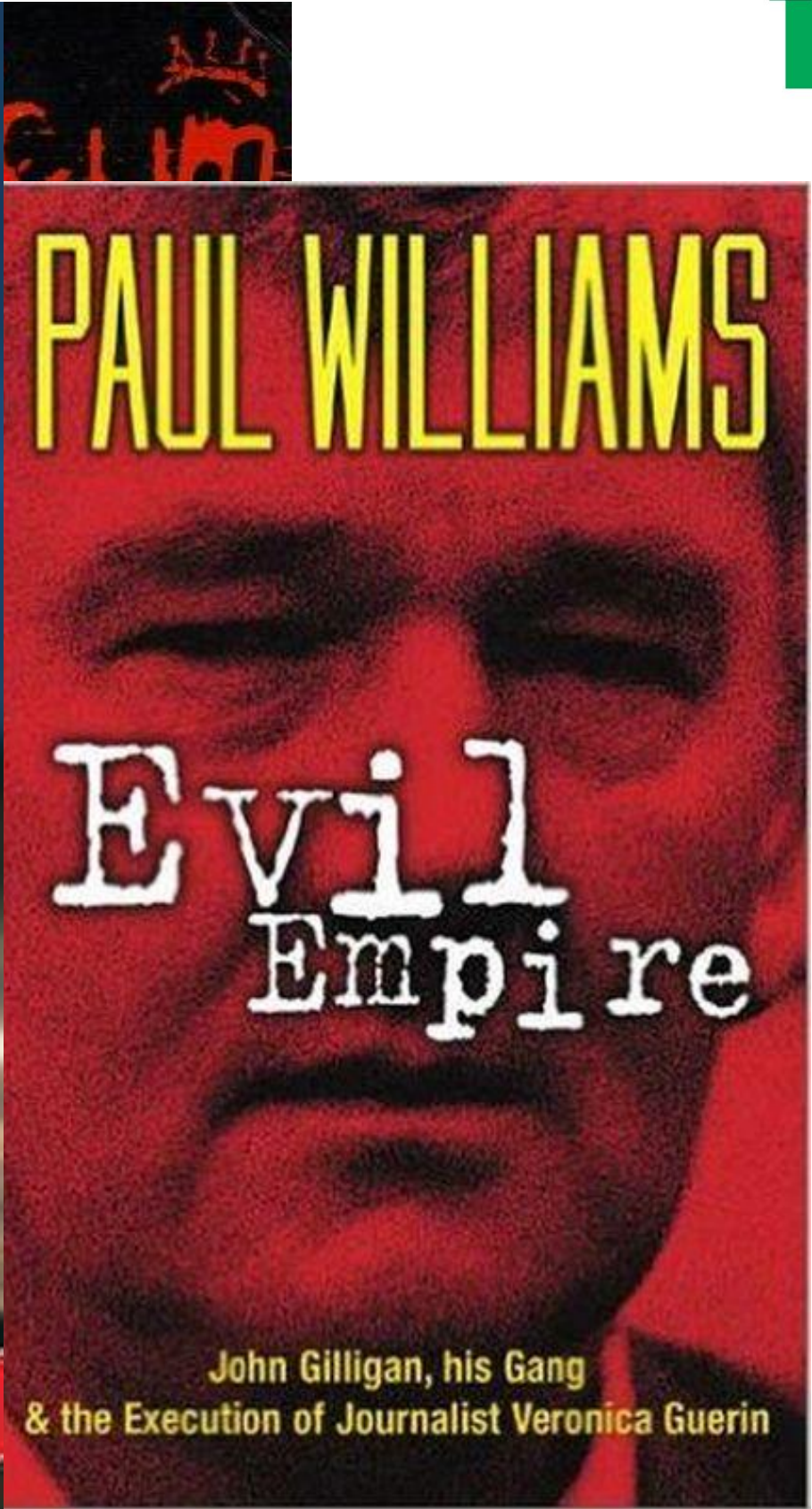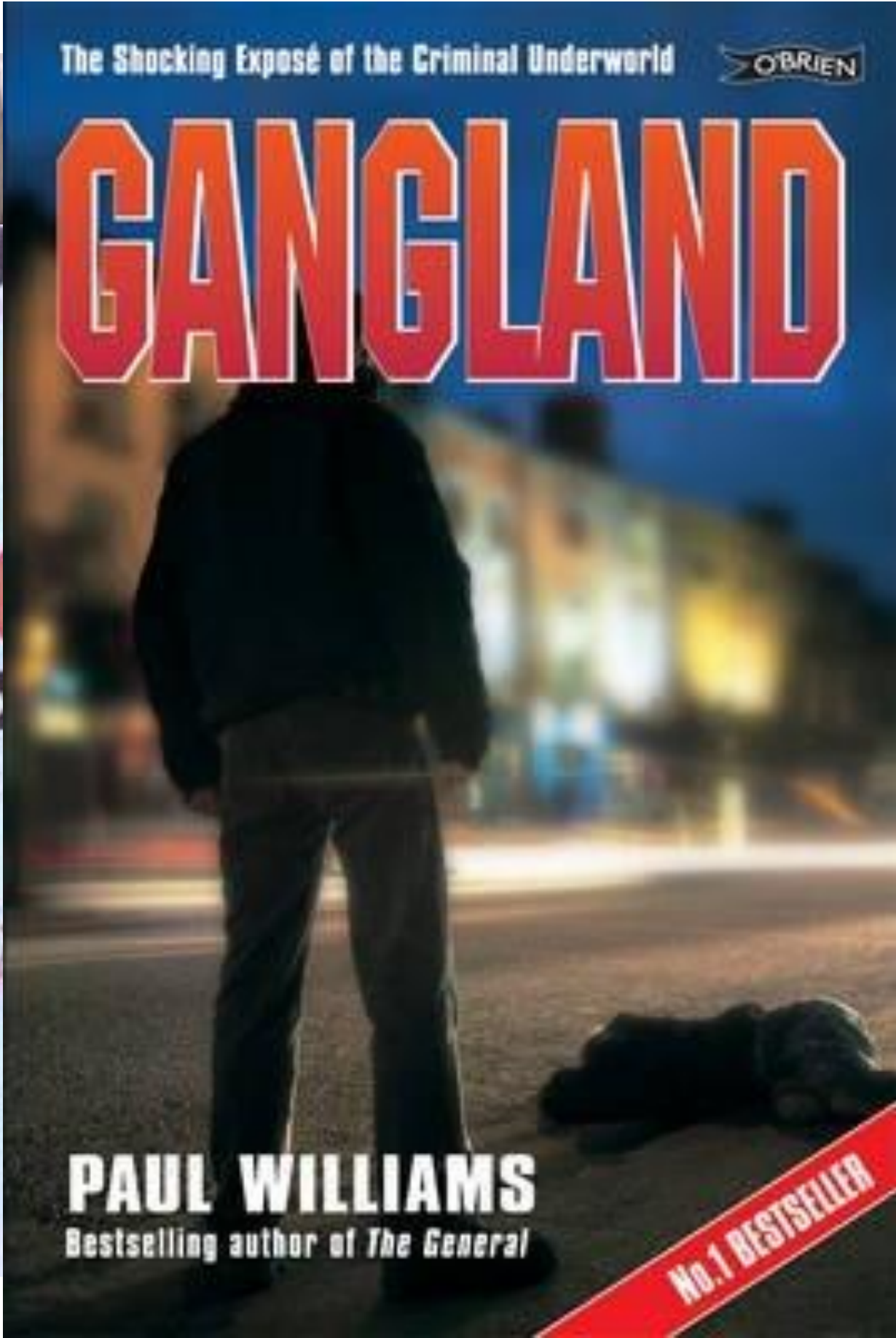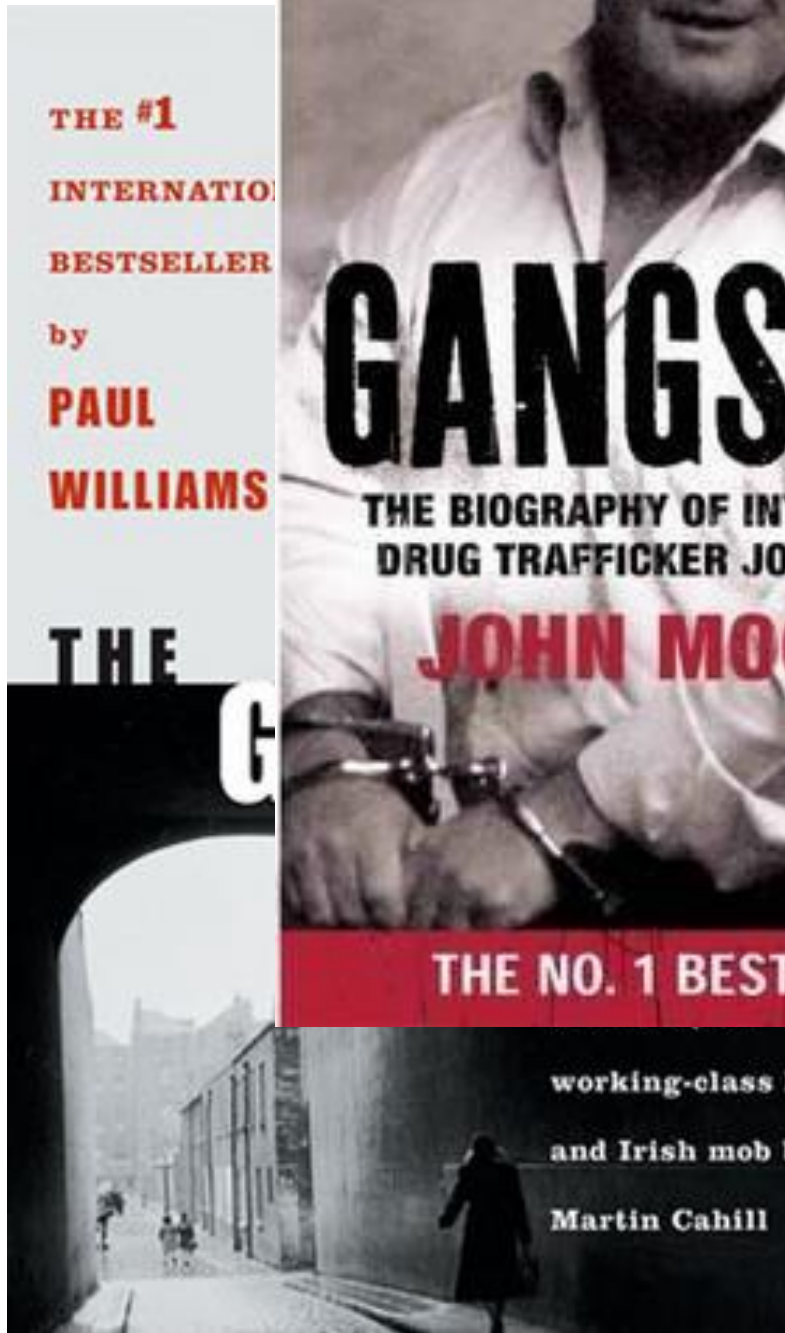
Understanding drug markets

A common theme that runs throughout much of the literature on drug markets, drug- related crime and also drug law enforcement is how limited our understanding of them is. The relationship between the supply and demand of illicit drugs and enforcement activities remains 'poorly conceptualised, under-researched and little understood' Tiggey May and Mike Hough,

'Drug markets and distribution systems' (2004) 12(6,)

Addiction Research and Theory, 549-563.

'It is hard … to say what good policy would look like, because one consequence of politicians' treating drug control as a moral crusade has been an absolute disinterest, bordering on gross negligence, in assessing the consequences, good or bad, of the emphasis on punishment … there is no credible basis for describing a policy that would reduce, in any important dimension, the extent of (drug problems)'

Peter Reuter RAND

06.11.19

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THE #1
INTERNATIONAL
BESTSELLER
by
PAUL
WILLIAMS

THE G

maverick
house

GANGS

THE BIOGRAPHY OF INT
DRUG TRAFFICKER JO

JOHN MOO

THE NO. 1 BEST

working-class
and Irish mob
Martin Cahill

The Shocking Exposé of the Criminal Underworld   O'BRIEN

GANGLAND

PAUL WILLIAMS
Bestselling author of *The General*

No.1 BESTSELLER

PAUL WILLIAMS

Evil
Empire

John Gilligan, his Gang
& the Execution of Journalist Veronica Guerin

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1996 Watershed 1996
The parallel universe of Irish drug policy
Veronica Guerin - Moral Panic – The Rabitte Report

A Community Drugs Study:
Developing Community Indicators
For Problem Drug Use

overview

Drugs and crime in Irel

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The illicit drug ma

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Johnny Connolly, Health I
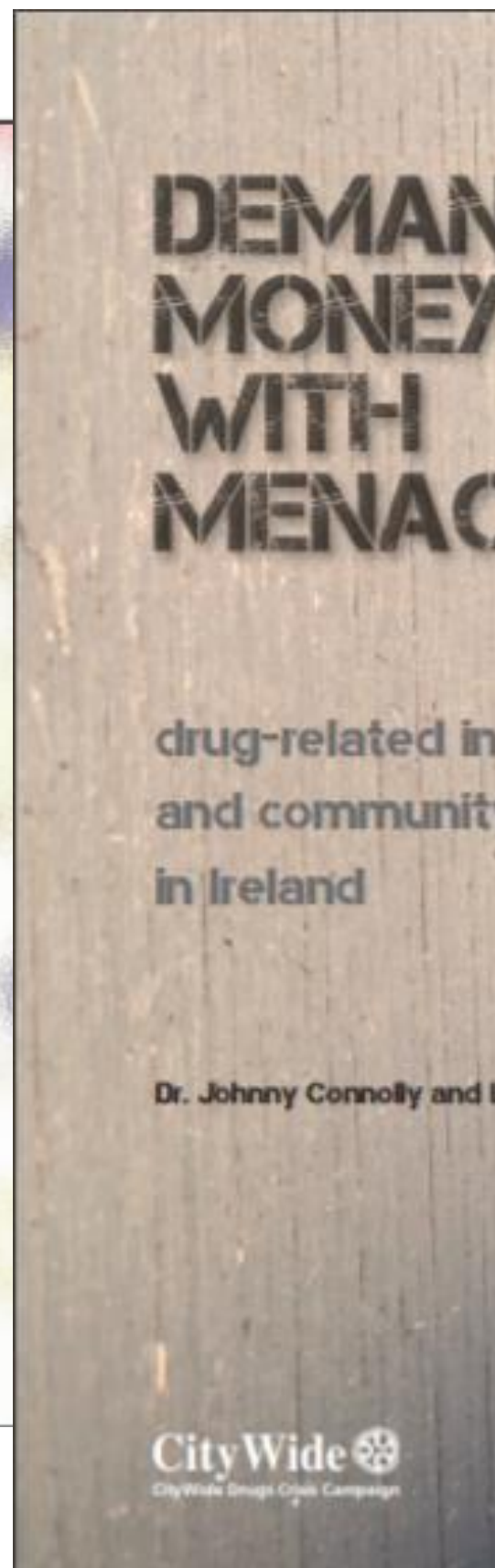
Health Research Bo

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Understanding Limerick Niamh Hourican 2011

'You know what they really want is for you to be down on yourself so that you don't believe you can have any other life. They want you to keep your head down and just put up with it, even if there are gunshots comin' in your window and you're lyin' on the floor with your kids . . . What they want is for you to keep your head down and just shut the fuck up and accept that that's your life, full stop'

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drug-related int
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Dr. Johnny Connolly and L

CityWide
CityWide Drugs Crisis Campaign

Liftin

Why we s
networks

HRB drug
and alcohol
evidence reviews

Drug-related intimidation —
The Irish situation and international responses: an evidence review

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Methodology

- **Garda Síochána Analysis Service network map – crime records and intelligence**
- **Interviews with Garda members using innovative *Twinsight* methodology**
- **Socio-economic analysis Pobal Deprivation Index**
- **Crime/ASB 'Hotspots using heat map based on Public Order/Criminal Damage type offences**
- **Focus groups with community activists**
- **Review of community safety meeting minutes and attendance at meetings.**
- **Outline of strategic action plan.**

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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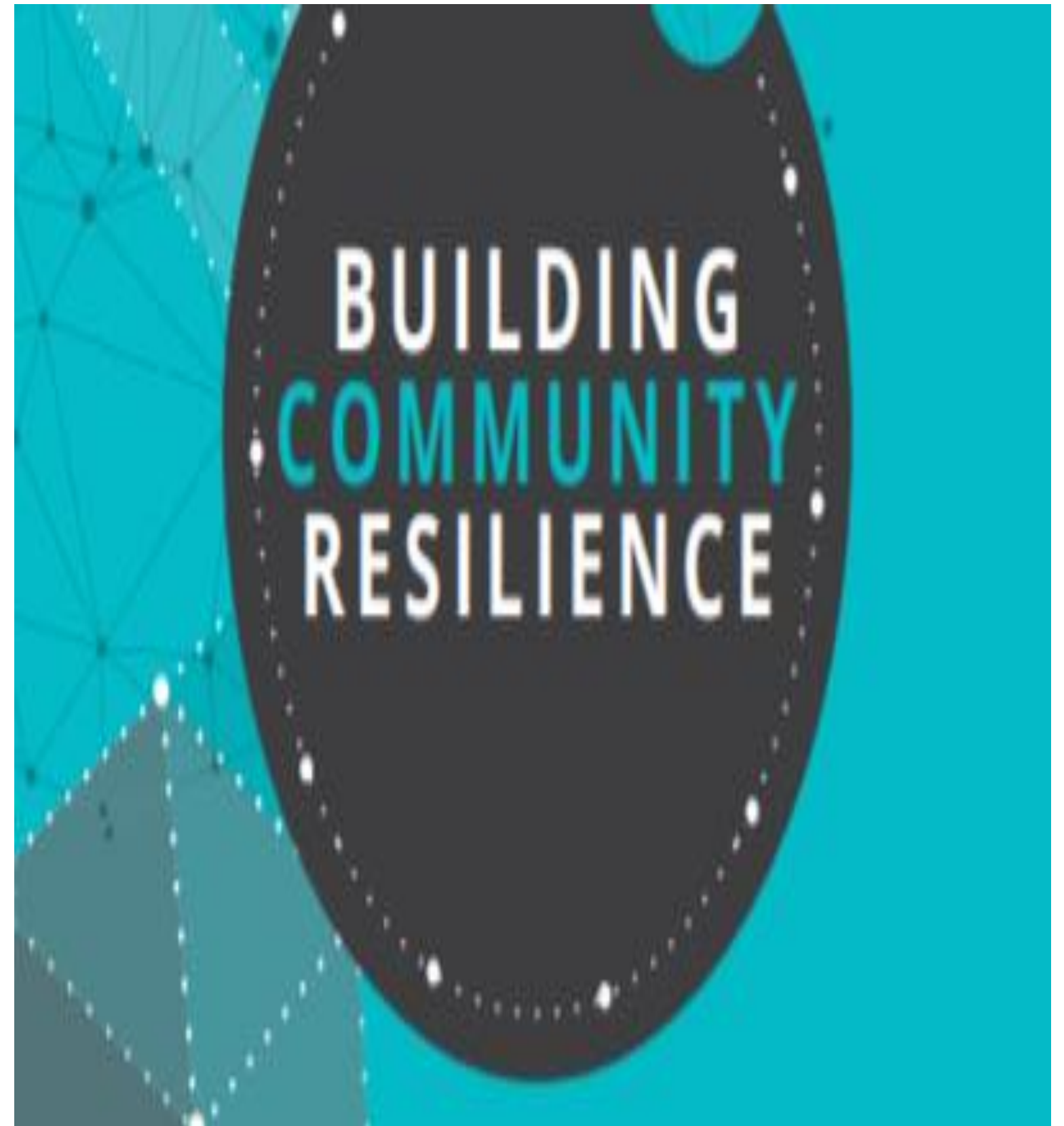
The nature and reach of the key criminal/ASB networks within South Central
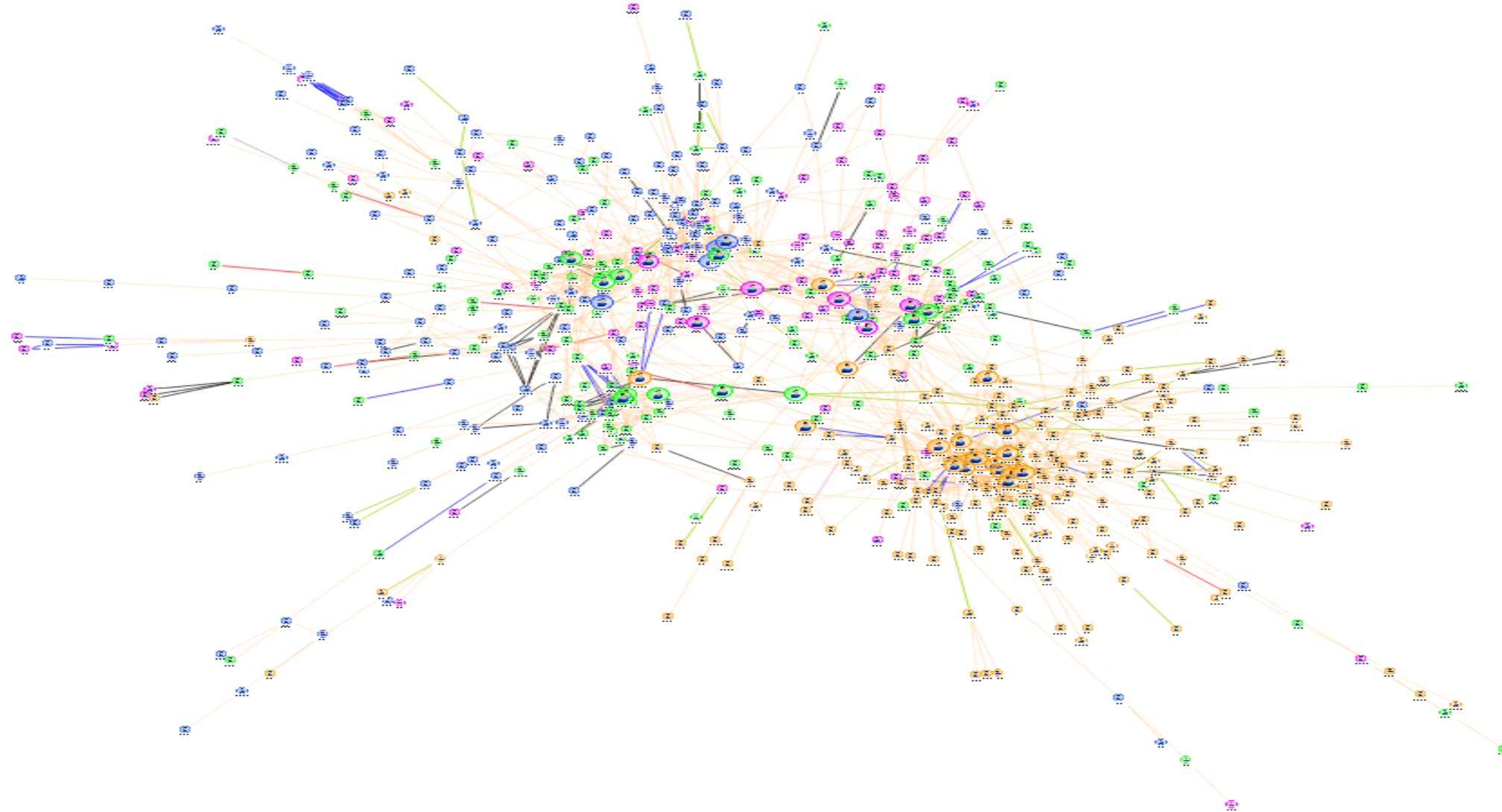
Understanding networks
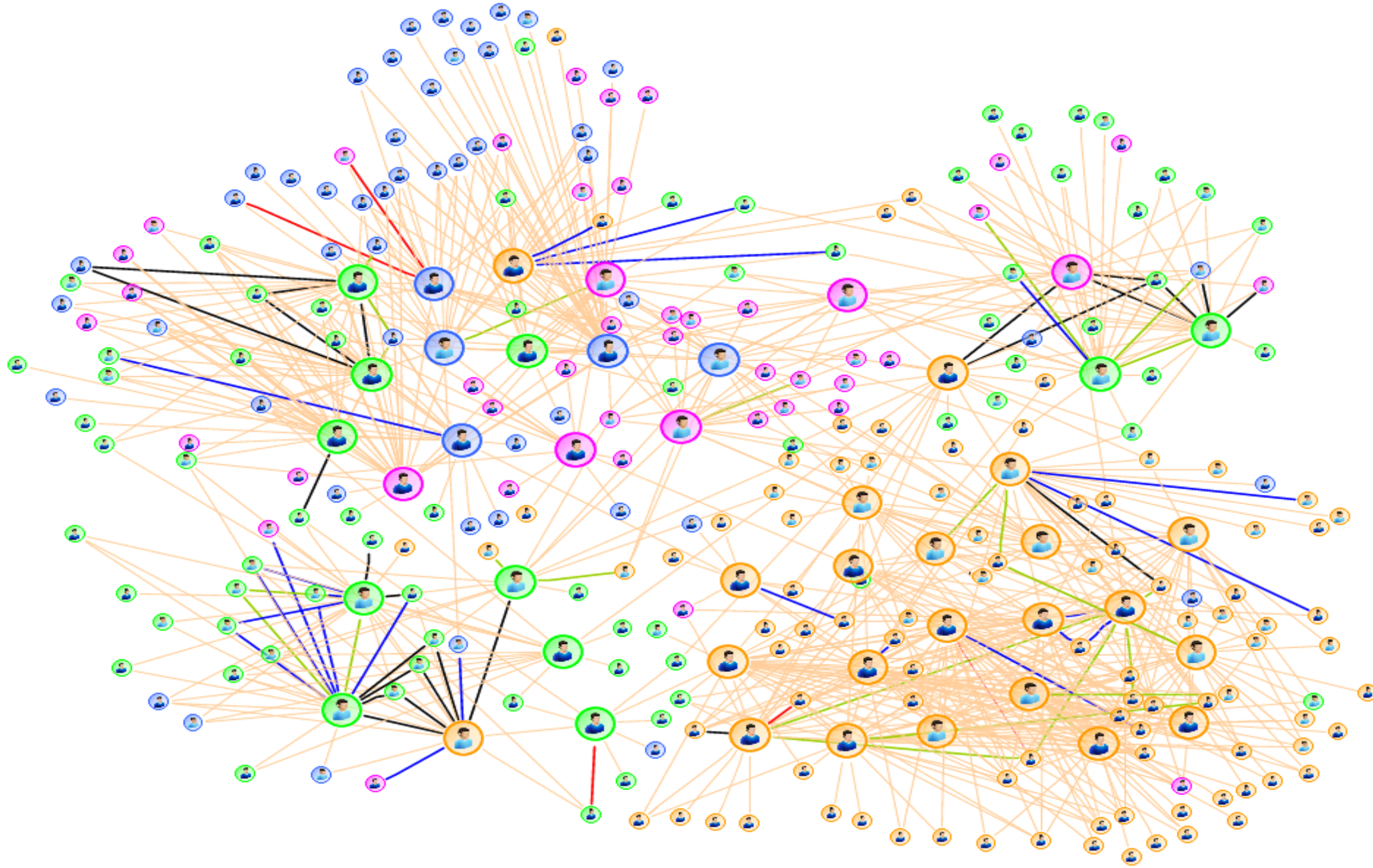
About the network

- Slightly larger icons are 'well-connected' individuals – many links to others, links between clusters of individuals – not necessarily the most prolific -> *most prolific doesn't necessarily mean most important to the network*

- Layout purely co-incidental, makes network 'readable' but blind to streets/estates where people are from – colours (people from the same area) maybe clustered, but the network has not got a geography basis in terms of locations on a map…

- Offences of Drugs Sale/Supply often involve just one offender per offence, therefore appear less often than might be expected in the network – *at least two people need to be involved before they and the link between them appears in the network.*

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The South Central Network

- Network consists of individuals who've offended at least once in 2015-2016.

- Broken down by area and population this makes up 1.2% of the population aged from 12 to 40 years of age – 92% of offenders from this age bracket.

- 28% of networked individuals have offended once in the 2 years.

- 16% have offended 2 times over the 2 years.

- 21% have offended 10 or more times over the 2 years – this is 0.2% of the population 12-40 years of age.

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About the network

Sub-Districts	Population (2017 est.)	Population 12-39 years*	% population 12-40yrs in network
Kevin Street	29,722	16,814	1.0%
Ballyfermot	28,203	11,522	1.9%
Kilmainham	26,416	13,438	1.1%
Sundrive Road	26,140	10,615	0.9%
Overall	**110,480**	**52,389**	**1.2%**

*92% of offenders in the network 12-39 years of age

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Key players Network One

Key Players – network two
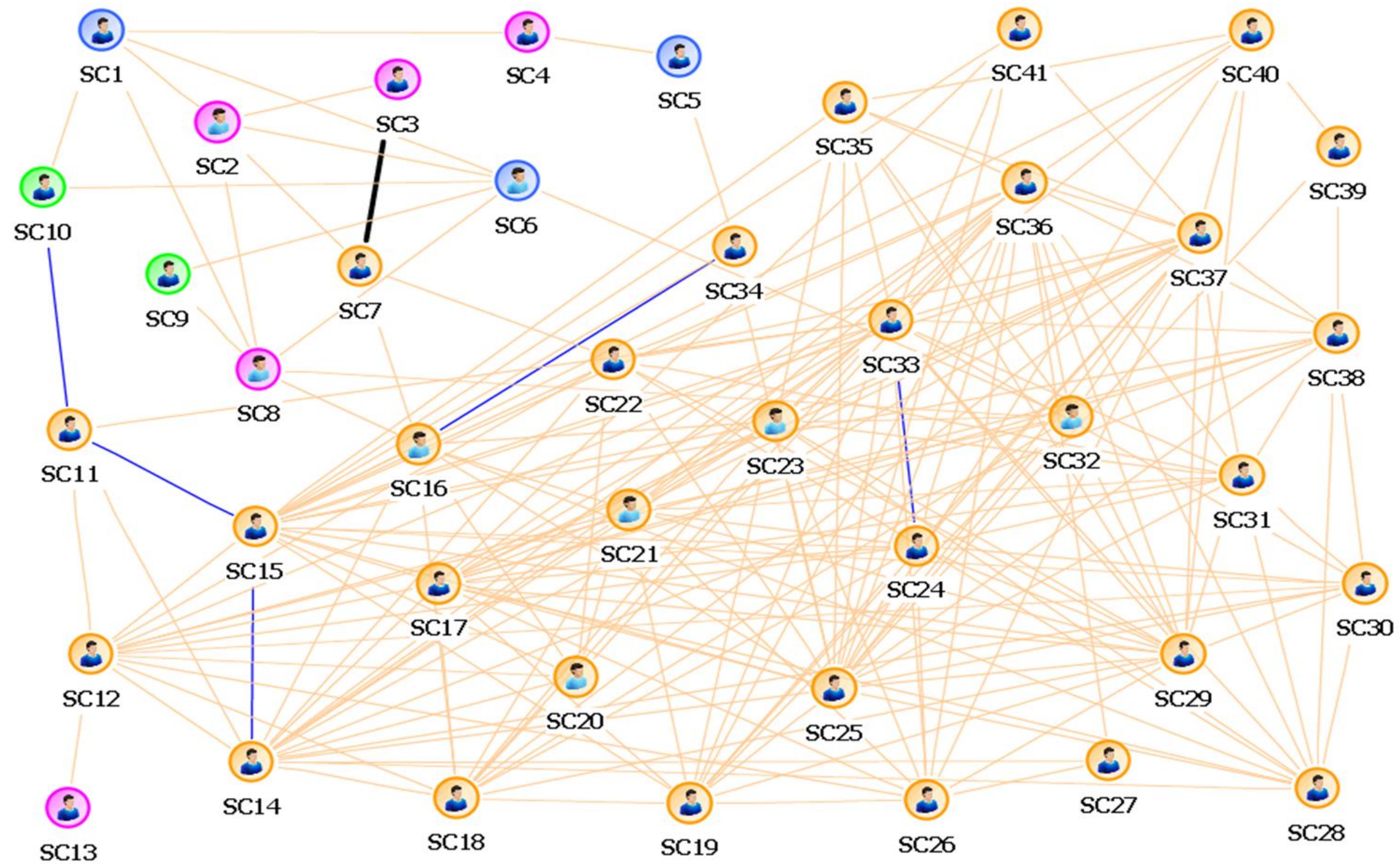
Residents of key individuals & links between networks
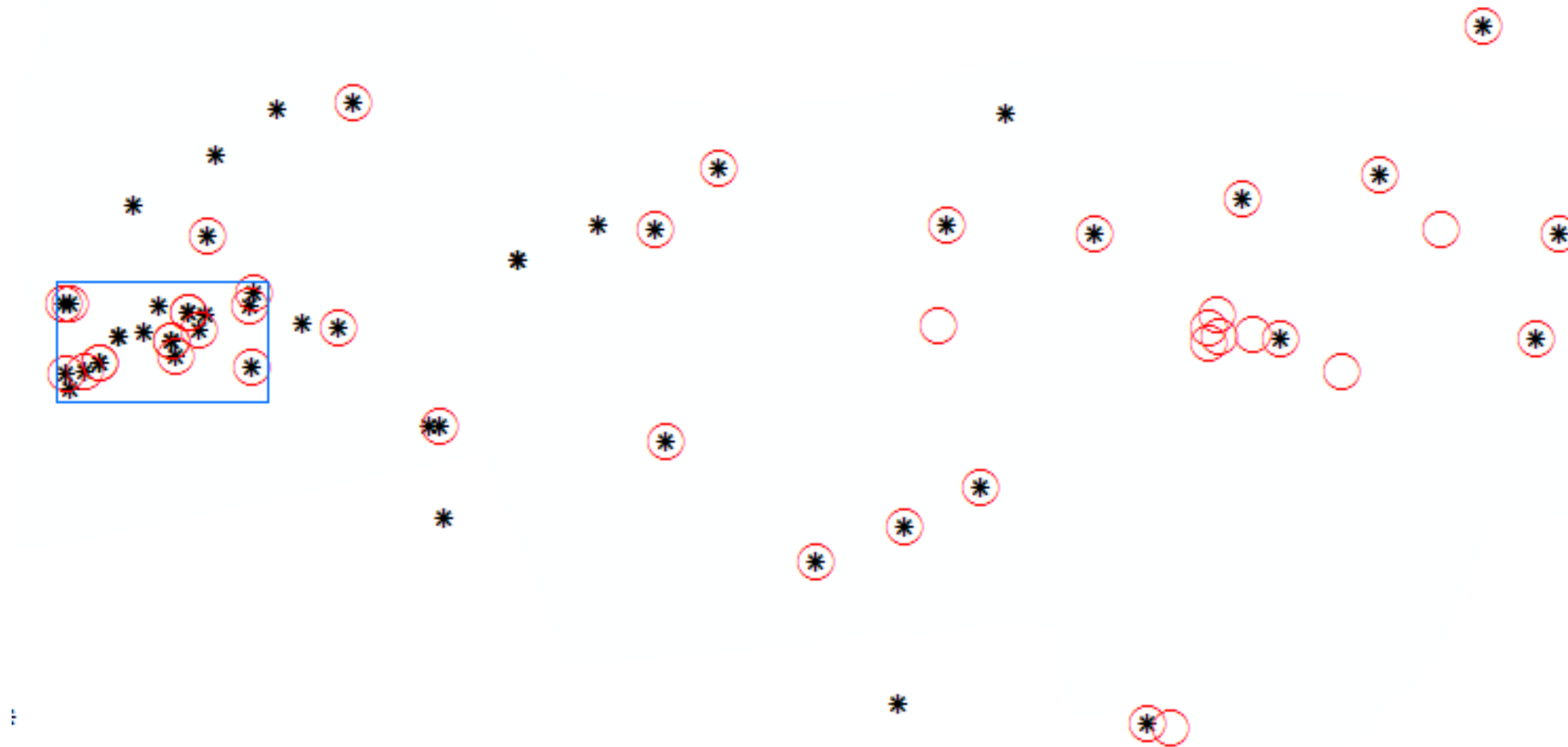
To investigate the relationship between key socio-economic indicators and the operation and impact of such networks, including the factors that facilitate resilience in these communities

A	very affluent
B	affluent
C	marginally above average
D	marginally below average
E	disadvantaged
F	very disadvantaged

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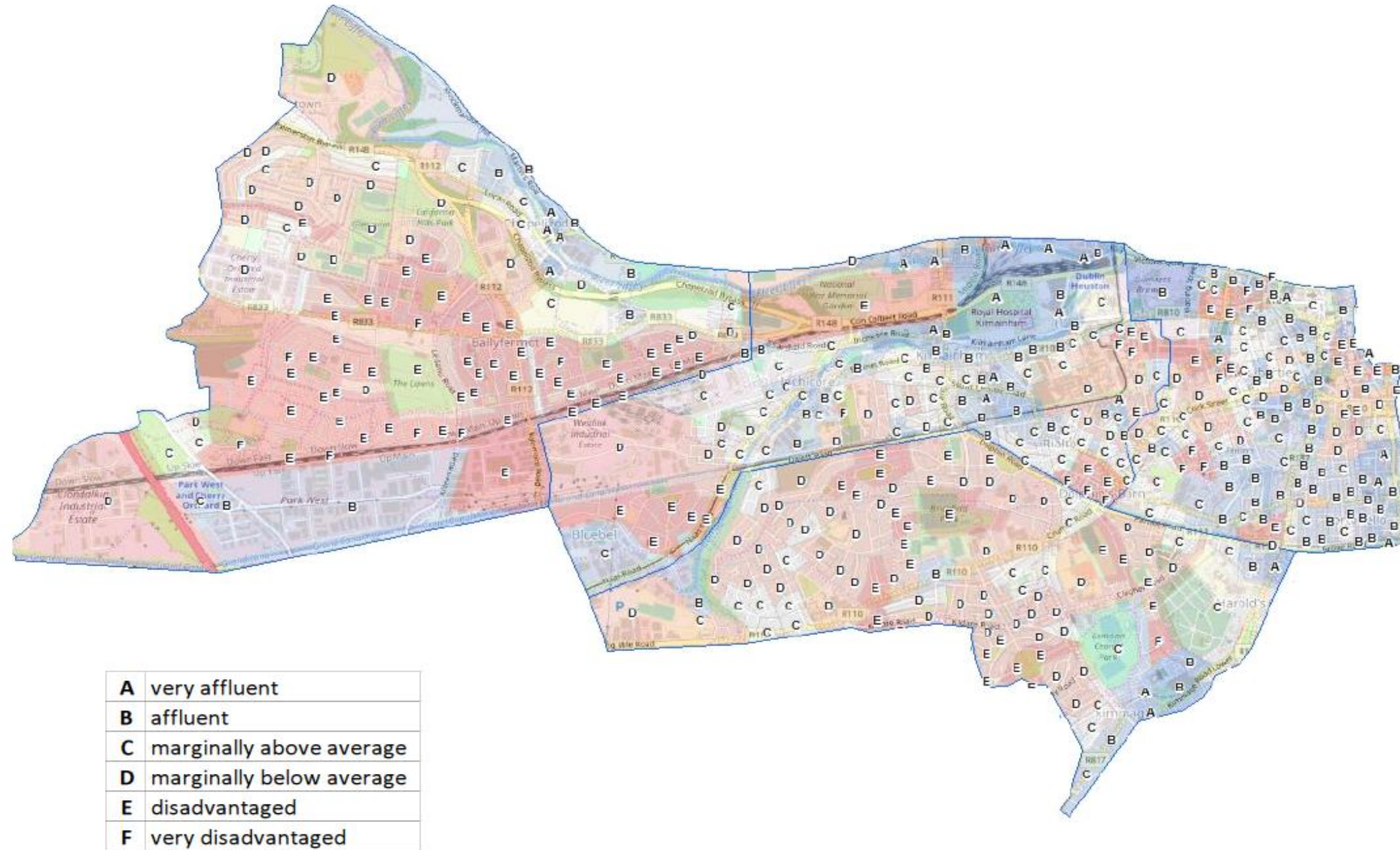
Socio-economic indicators & Criminal Network

Pobal Deprivation Index

- A Very Affluent
- B Affluent
- C Marginally above average
- D Marginally below average
- E Disadvantaged
- F Very Disadvantaged

Map Area	Deprivation Index	SCN 1	SCN 2
B	20 -> 10	2	1
C	10 -> 0	4	5
D	0 -> -10	13	7
E	-10 -> -20	19	32
F	-20 ->	6	7
Total		44	52

To investigate and describe the impact of these networks on people living in the area most connected to and most affected by these networks

Impacts - Hotspots *Public Order, Criminal Damage, Assaults*

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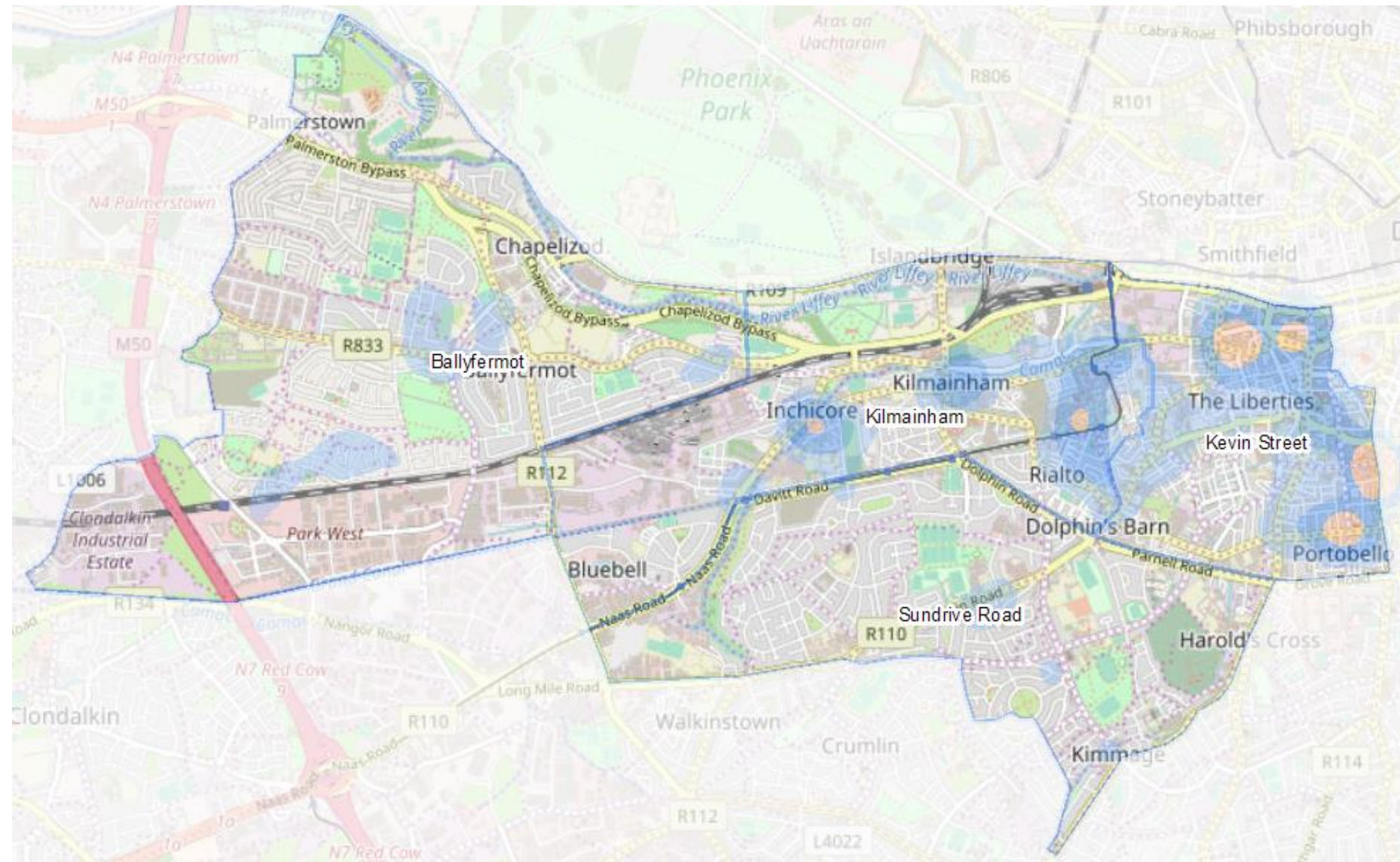
Prolific Offenders

- There are 1,457 offenders offending in area in 2015-16, or 2.8% of the population aged 12 to 39 – 97.2% of this cohort have not offended over this time period.

- 664 of these offenders are linked by the network – 46% are linked to some other offender either through co-offending or intel.

- 67% of offenders are 1-time offenders, 8% have offender 5 or more times.

- 25 offenders are linked to 10 or more offences, 7 of these were U18 in 2016.

Offences	Offenders	% Offenders
1	970	67%
2	230	16%
3	99	7%
4	47	3%
5	33	2%
6	18	1%
7	14	1%
8	11	1%
9	10	1%
10+	25	2%
	1,457	100%

Central network Offenders

- Greentown has found that key offenders are not necessarily prolific (they don't get caught and have others work for them), so in terms of targeting offenders need to understand:

- 1) crime landscape,

- 2) crime networks and

- 3) offending rates.

Offences	Offenders	% Offenders
1	4	10%
2	4	10%
3	7	17%
4	5	12%
5	7	17%
6	2	5%
7	5	12%
8	1	2%
9	4	10%
10+	3	7%
	42	**100%**

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Garda Interviews Key themes

- Loose connections across SC

- Historical familial/ school

- Loyalty to the local

- Two networks

- Older kids draw in younger more vulnerable kids – exposes family to exploitation

- Hotspots not linked to networks in central

- Certain problems not evident – because people don't report to AGS

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Issues raised at meetings

Issues	SWIC	Canal	D 12	Ballyfermot/Chapelizod
Road Traffic/parking	*	*	**	*
Dumping/littering			**	***
Issues relating to animals			*	*** (horses)
Criminal damage/arson	*	*	**	
Offences against property	*	**	**	***
ASB/public order	***	***	***	***
Drugs, including intimidation	***	***	***	***
Problems relating to particular events (Halloween, St Patrick's Day, concerts)	*		**	
Violent crime/gang- related feuding		***	***	
Racism		**	*	
Housing	***		**	
Policing presence & effectiveness	***		***	***

Discussion Points from Fora/JPC review

- Garda Numbers
- Visibility
- Failure to respond
- Hotspots around public parks
  - Behaviour wouldn't be tolerated in Dublin 4 = Unequal policing
  - ASB taking over and becoming normalised
  - Lack of garda presence

- People not reporting due to fear/failure of AGS response
- ➢ **Lack of a coherence between local fora and JPC's and absence of a coherent approach grounded in an evidence-led approach**

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Co-DESIGNING RESPONSES

To consider what is required to sustainably address the impact of these networks and their causes, including the enhancement of existing initiatives and/or the development of new initiatives.

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Next steps in a changing context of Policing and Community Safety

Commission on the Future of Policing

New AGS divisional community policing model

Policing & Community Safety Act

Commission on the
Future of Policing in Ireland

GARDA

An Coimisiún ar an Todhchaí na Póilíneachta in Éirinn
Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland

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Developed in collaboration with affected communities

There has been little discussion of the communications plan for the new Divisional Model of policing, internally within the Garda Síochána organisation but also for the communities affected and how this might allay fears. This will be very important in framing the model positively and setting out the real potential benefits in service delivery for communities. *Policing Authority, 6th Report. p22*
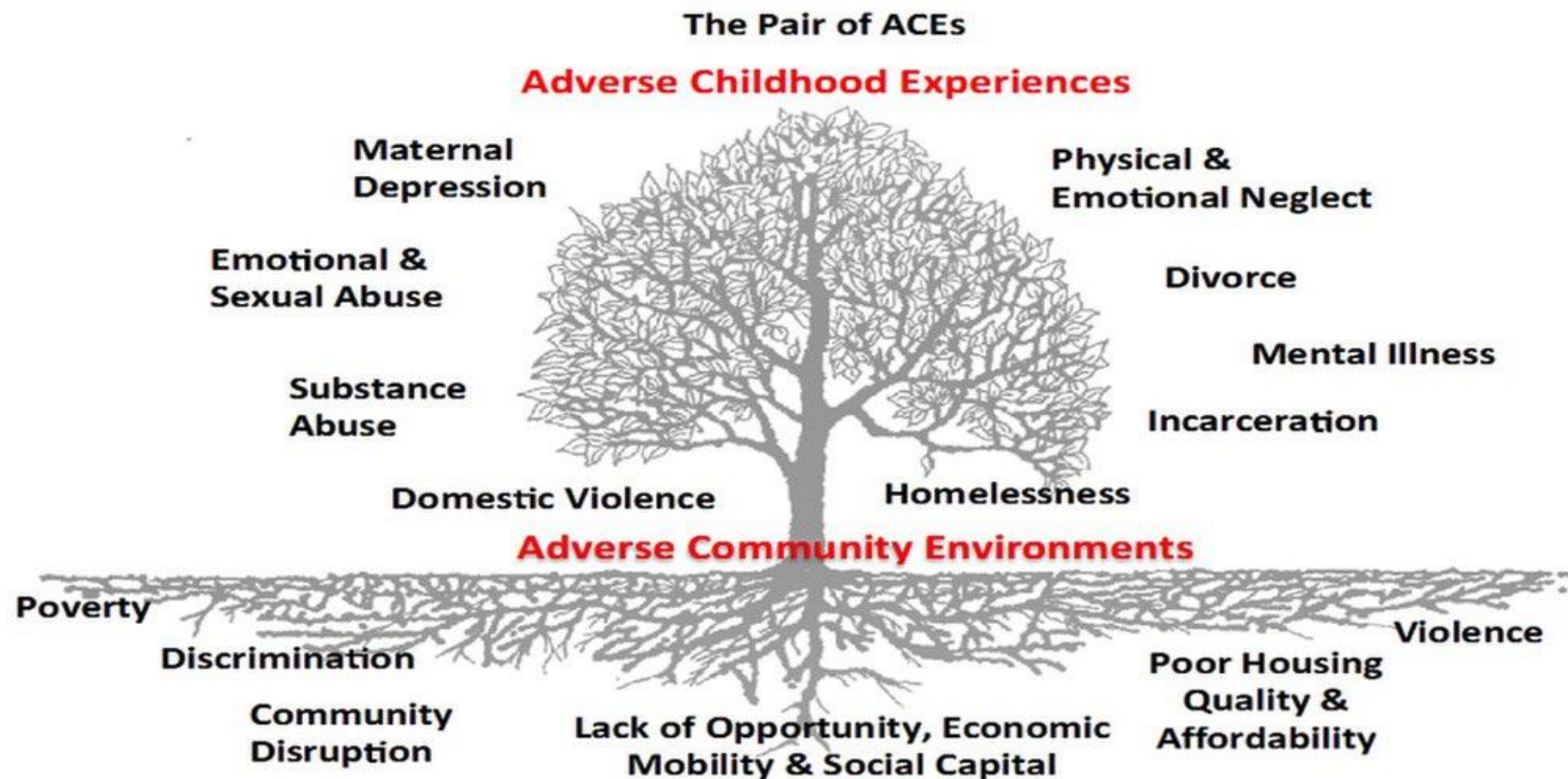

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'[M]uch concern about crime and insecurity is firmly rooted in the characteristics of local areas. For similar reasons, sources of legitimacy and trust of policing bodies are also fundamentally local. The development of vibrant democratic fora that can provide a positive input into local policy decisions regarding policing and security provision must be a key objective of any reform in the current system of police governance'

Trevor Jones 'The accountability of policing' in Tim Newburn (ed), *Handbook of Policing* (Willan
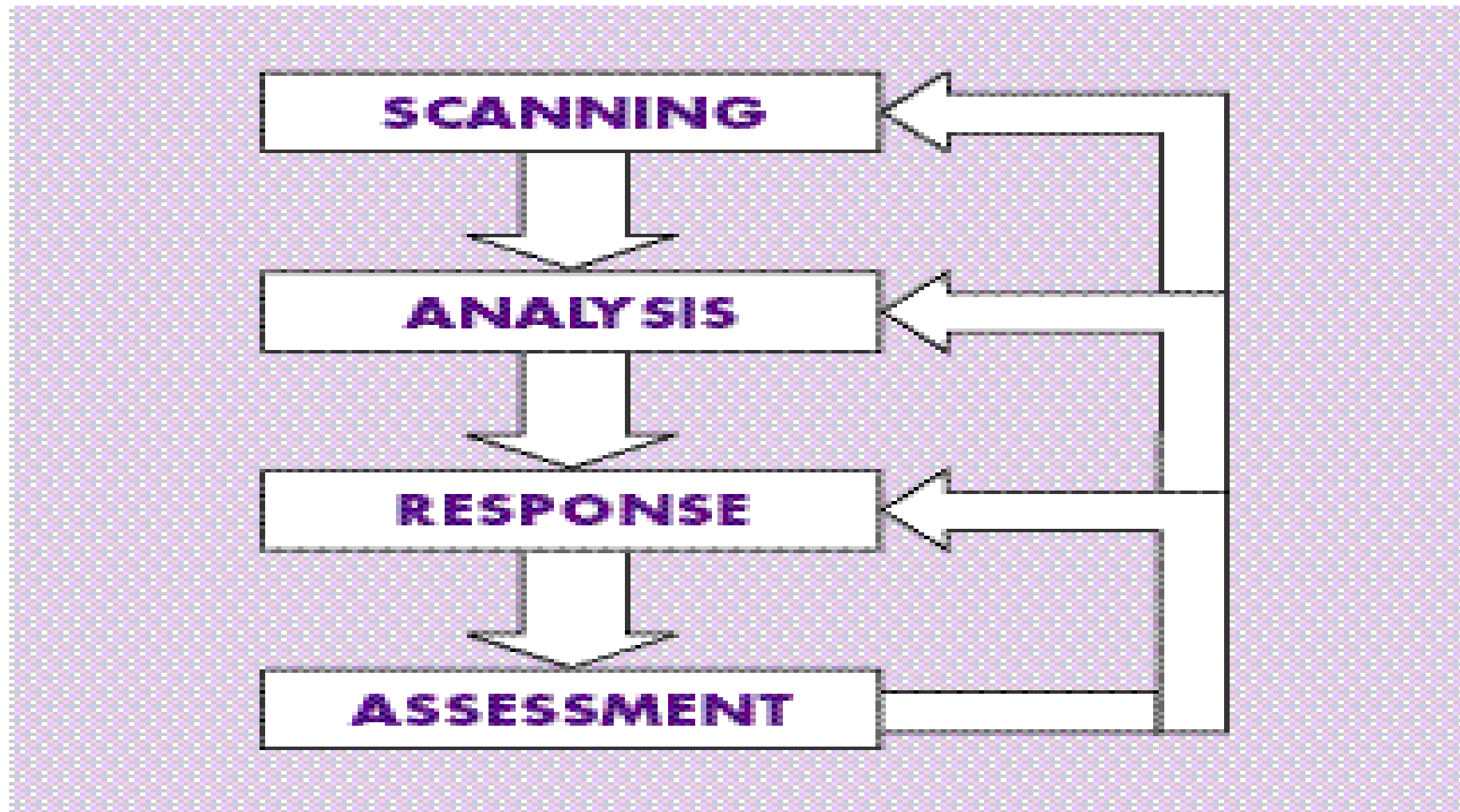
Publishing 2003) 623.

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Responses should be trauma informed and restorative – combining care and control

The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Maternal Depression

Physical & Emotional Neglect

Emotional & Sexual Abuse

Divorce

Mental Illness

Substance Abuse

Incarceration

Domestic Violence

Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

Poverty

Violence

Discrimination

Poor Housing Quality & Affordability

Community Disruption

Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital

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# Responses should be evidence-based and Problem oriented
the *SARA* model

Responses should adopt a balanced Human Rights approach from the ground up

'Front line police must always act in accordance with human rights law, taking a balanced perspective on the rights of arrested or detained persons, those of the wider public, and the rights of victims. These are issues mentioned in several submissions and oral comments made to this Commission' CFPI 2018

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS DUTY

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Greentown: Towards a comprehensive or whole-system approach
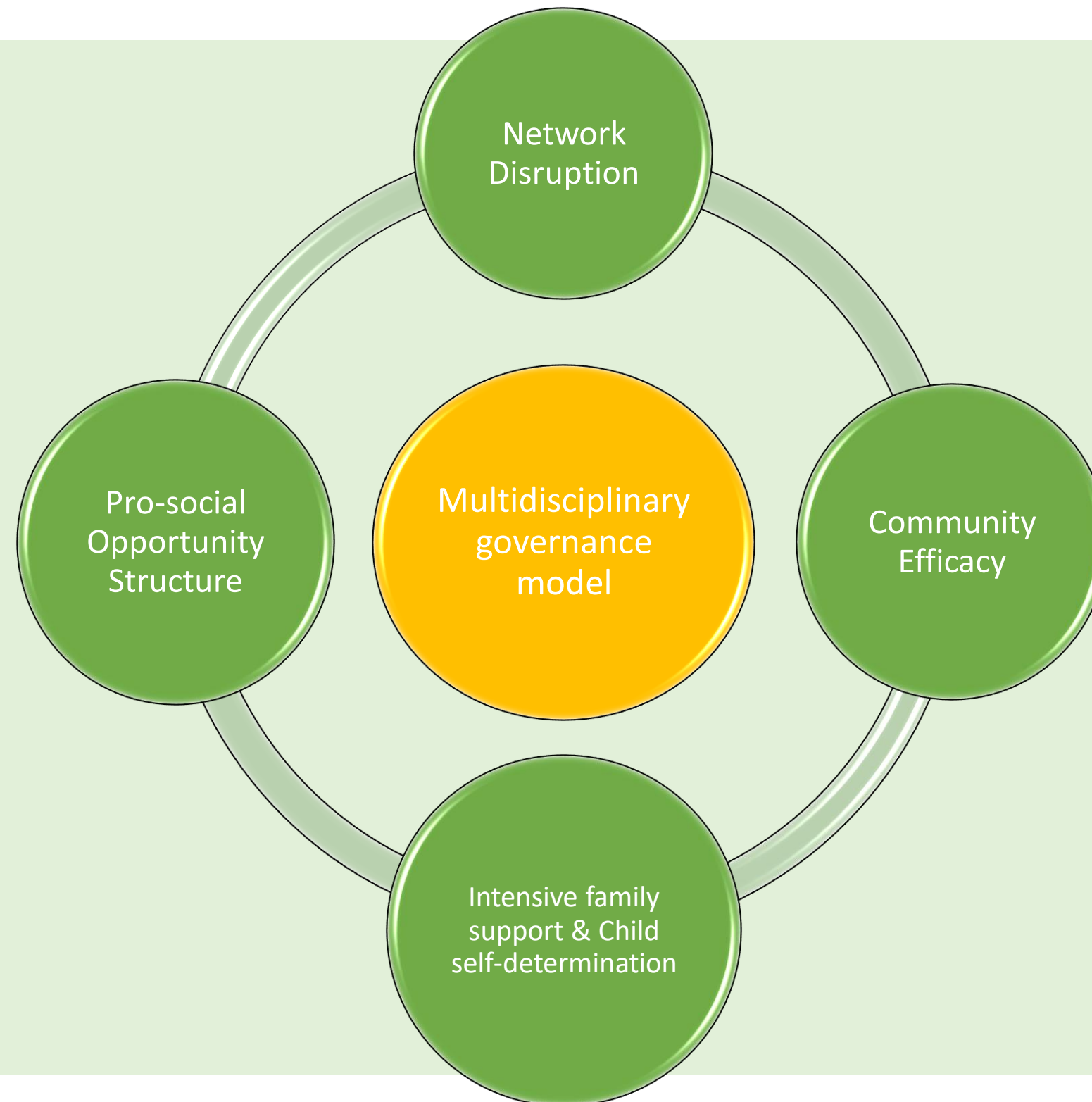
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Thank you Johnny.Connolly@ul.ie
Photos by Ronnie Close