

Getting to grips with the terminology and acronyms can be confusing – especially when they are used in meetings or discussions by professionals on a daily basis. But how can we, as voluntary and community sector organisations join in the conversation if we don't know what they're talking about?

Whilst we will continue to strongly urge statutory services to use plain English and straight forward terminology, it remains the case that verbal and written shorthand for common terms, activities and phrases is still widely used by professionals.

To help groups better engage in these areas, Sobus have put together a series of helpful jargon buster for local organisations.

Initials	Full name	Brief Description
ABC	Activity based costing	A widely used costing system that seeks to place an accurate cost on what an organisation produces. In policing the ABC model has been developed to calculate the costs of policing authorities thus enabling managers to continuously improve policing services
ACC	Assistant Chief Constable	
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers	An independent, professionally led strategic body which leads and co-ordinates the direction and development of the Police Service in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition	System which enables number plate numbers to be linked to data that identifies information about a vehicle i.e. tax, insurance and MOT
APA	Association of Police Authorities	Represents police authorities in England, Wales & N Ireland at a national level. It influences policy on policing & supports local police authorities
APACS	Assessments of Policing and Community Safety	A performance management framework for policing and community safety which streamlines and align the way performance is measured and assessed across policing, crime and drugs
APACE	Association of Police Authority Chief Executives	
ASBO	Anti-social Behaviour Order	A court order which prohibits the perpetrator from specific anti-social behaviours. ASBO's are issued for a minimum of two years. The aim is to protect the public from the behaviour, rather than to punish the perpetrator
BAWP	British Association of Women in Policing	The Association was formed in 1987 in order to fill a gap within the police service, with its main objectives to enhance the role and

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		understanding of the specific needs of the women who are employed within the service.
BCS	British Crime Survey	Regular survey undertaken by the Home Office providing a key source of information about levels of crime & public attitudes to crime.
BCU	Basic Command Unit	Management structure of many police forces through which a designated geographical area is policed.
BTP	British Transport Police	BTP police Britain's railways, the London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Croydon Tramlink,
CATO	Co-ordinating and Tasking Office	Co-ordinates operational activity across the force and ensures the effective and efficient use of resources through recognised tasking procedures.
C&C	Command and Control	
CC	Chief Constable	
CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	An arrangement in each District that combines the force with other public bodies and groups which collaborate to address the needs of the local community.
CFF	Crime Fighting Fund	The CFF was established to boost recruitment, allowing Chief Constables to appoint additional officers over and above their existing recruitment plans.
Ch. Supt.	Chief Superintendent	
CI	Chief Inspector	
CID	Criminal Investigation Department	Part of force which investigates crime including serious violence, gun crime & robbery plus more complex fraud investigations, surveillance, hi-tech crime, financial crime/fraud & the targeting of key criminals.
CJS	Criminal Justice System	Responsible for the delivery of justice for all, by convicting & punishing the guilty & helping them to stop offending, while protecting the innocent. Responsible for bringing offenders to justice & carrying out the orders of the court such as collecting fines & supervising community & custodial punishment.

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CJSSS	Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary	Process to improve the way cases are managed & dealt with, focusing on the methods that make the justice system work.
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service	Principal prosecuting authority for criminal cases in England & Wales.
CPU	Child Protection Unit	Dedicated unit which ensures that there is a consistent, professional service to all reports of child abuse & the need to safeguard children.
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	The aim of the Bureau is to help organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable to work with children or other vulnerable members of society.
CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review	Report that sets out the Government's plans for sustainable growth & prosperity in order to improve people's standard of living, fairness & equality for all, stronger communities & better quality of life.
CTO	Central Ticket Office	Processing office which deals with fixed penalty tickets issued by police officers & traffic wardens.
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Representatives from the police & other bodies work together to deliver the Government's drug & alcohol strategies at a local level.
DAU	Domestic Abuse Unit	Unit with an expertise in dealing with the victims of domestic abuse.
DC	Detective Constable	
DCC	Deputy Chief Constable	
DCI	Detective Chief Inspector	
DI	Detective Inspector	
DIP	Drug Interventions Programme	Key part of the Government's strategy for tackling drugs & reducing crime.
DIU	District Intelligence Unit	Provides Intelligence & Tasking Officers, aligned to a central hub, working at district level in support of local priorities.
DS	Detective Sergeant	
FID	Force Intelligence Department	Department operating at local (District/Force) & regional (Cross-border) levels. Function is to define threats, manage risks & identifying

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		opportunities to facilitate preventative & enforcement activity.
FIO	Field Intelligence Officer	An officer who manages & assesses intelligence against threat, risk & opportunity.
FLO	Family Liaison Officer	
FSU	Force Surveillance Unit	Team that provides a specialised & mobilised surveillance capacity.
HAIG	Harms Analysis Intelligence Group	Team whose function is to undertake dynamic risk assessment of incident, crime response & Investigation & which is instrumental in delivering intelligence led policing.
HMCPSI	Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	Independent Inspectorate for the Crown Prosecution Service.
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary	A body appointed by the Crown whose role is to examine & improve the efficiency of the Police Service in England & Wales
HO	Home Office	Government department responsible for leading the national effort to protect the public from terrorism, crime and anti-social behaviour
HOLMES	Home Office Large Major Enquiry System	System used in all major incidents including serial murders, multi-million pound fraud cases & major disasters.
HSE	Health and Safety Executive	The HSE has merged with the Health and Safety Commission to become a single national regulatory body responsible for promoting the cause of better health and safety at work.
IAG	Independent Advisory Group	Lay advisors who give a citizen's perspective on policies & functions.
IDEA	Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government	IDEA works for local government improvement helping local councils serve their communities better.
INSP	Inspector	
IPCC	Independent Police Complaints Commission	This is a Non-Departmental Public Body funded by the Home Office, but by law entirely independent of the police. They have a legal duty to oversee the whole of the police complaints system.

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IPLDP	Initial Police Learning and Development Programme	IPLDP is a national training programme for student police officers, designed to be tailored and delivered locally to accommodate the characteristics and specific needs of every force.
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board	A combination of agencies that work together to deliver an efficient, effective criminal justice system.
LG	Local Government Association	Promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities
LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement	Designed as voluntary agreements between upper-tier local authorities and government. The overall aims of LPSA's is to improve the delivery of local public services by focusing on targeted outcomes with support from government.
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	LSP's provide a single co-ordinating framework to work with local authorities to prepare and implement a Community Strategy with aim of improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area.
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements	Supports the assessment & management of the most serious sexual & violent offenders.
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences	A forum for sharing information & taking action to reduce harm to very high risk victims and their children.
MIT	Major Incident Team	A core team that come together to manage & co-ordinate all activities relating to major incidents.
MIU	Major Investigation Unit	A team that manages major investigations.
NCRS	National Crime Recording Standard	Aim is to promote greater consistency between Forces in classifying and recording reported crimes and to take a more victim-oriented approach to the crime recording process.
NP	Neighbourhood Policing	
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch	Volunteer organisation aimed at protecting property and local communities.
NIM	National Intelligence Model	A model for policing that ensures that information is fully researched, developed &

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		analysed to provide intelligence that senior managers can use to provide strategic direction, make tactical resourcing decisions about operational policing & manage risk.
NOMS	National Offender Management Service	Ministry of Justice service which aims to reduce offending, punish & rehabilitate offenders & ensure victims feel that justice has been done.
NPIA	National Police Improvement Agency	The Agency is intended to assist in improving public safety by driving improvement and delivering and developing critical essential services and infrastructure to support day to day policing.
NSIR	National Standards for Incident Recording	The principal aim of NSIR is to ensure that all incidents, whether crime or non-crime, are recorded by police in a consistent and accurate manner, so as to allow resulting data to be used at a local and national level to meet the management and performance information needs of all stakeholders.
OCG	Organised Crime Groups	Manifests itself most graphically in drug addiction sexual exploitation & gun crime. These groups operate across global frontiers in tight-knit gangs, display in-depth knowledge of law enforcement methods & exploit sophisticated technologies to conceal their activities from the authorities.
OCJR	Office of Criminal Justice Reform	Cross-departmental team that supports all criminal justice agencies in working together to provide an improved service to the public. It reports to Ministry of Justice, the Home Office & the Office of the Attorney General.
OIC	Officer in Charge	
OTF	Operational Taskforce	A team of 100 officers who will undertake the policing of the Strategic Road Network, including motorways, respond to all firearms incidents & provide a daily flexible & task able resource to support targeted policing activities.
PABEW	Police Advisory Board for England and Wales	Statutory body set up to advise the Home Secretary on general questions affecting the police in England and Wales and to consider draft regulations which the Home Secretary

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		proposed to make under section 50 or 52 of the Police Act 1996 - except
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act	Combined with the PACE codes of practice provides the core framework of police powers & safeguards around stop & search, arrest, detention, investigation, identification & interviewing detainees.
PACT	Partners and Communities Together Panels	A combination of local people, police & other interested parties who highlight the important local issues & identify solutions.
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner	Replaces Police Authorities in November 2012. Will be responsible for the hiring/firing of Chief Constable and setting of Police budget
PCP	Police and Crime Panel	Local body made up of 12 or more people to scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCPlan	Police and Crime Plan	A five year strategy for policing and crime reduction activity within a policing area set by the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSD	Police and Crime Standards Directorate	The Directorate aims to maintain standards of excellence in policing and in initiatives that aim to ensure community safety.
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer	Officer who works in designated local areas whose role is to tackle anti-social behaviour, gather intelligence, dealing with quality of life issues & providing public reassurance.
PDR	Professional Development Review	Process designed to enhance the contribution that individuals can make to an organisation and to improving the performance of that organisation.
PNB	Police Negotiating Board	The PNB exists to negotiate agreements which it recommends to the Home Secretary relating to the pay and terms of conditions of all UK police officers.
PNC	Police National Computer	National information system available to the police, criminal justice agencies & a variety of other non-policing organisations.
PPAF	Police Performance Assessment Framework	PPAF is intended as an effective framework for comparing performance in policing in a way that provides a firm basis for effective performance

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		management at Force, Authority and Central Government level.
PPO	Prolific and Other Priority Offender Programme	A cross-government crime reduction strategy that aims to catch & convict offenders, rehabilitate & resettle offenders, & to undertake preventative action.
PSB	Public Service Board	The Board aims to make a real and lasting improvement to the wellbeing of people in the country by joining together to improve public services across Warwickshire. It brings together key partner agencies within Warwickshire to collectively take decisions within applicable legal parameters which make a positive difference to Warwickshire residents.
PPSU	Police and Partnership Support Unit	A new unit in the Home Office created after the Police Standards Unit and the Partnership Performance Support Unit merged. The unit seeks to influence and review delivery of the community safety agenda at regional government level whilst retaining the capability to engage with underperforming police forces where necessary.
PPU	Public Protection Unit	A specialist unit responsible for the management & investigation of crimes involving adult abuse, child abuse, domestic abuse, sex & dangerous offenders & vulnerable & intimidated witnesses.
PSA	Public Service Agreement	Identifies the Government's highest priorities from the Comprehensive Spending Review & sets out the key priority outcomes the Government wants to achieve.
PSC	Police Staff Council	Negotiates national agreements on pay and conditions of service for police staff (including PCSOs) in England and Wales, excluding the Metropolitan Police.
PURE	Police Use of Resources	PURE involves auditors assessing whether police authorities and forces are achieving value for money, effective financial management and good standards of governance and accountability.
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People	The combined responsibilities of the Domestic Abuse Unit, Child Protection Unit & Public Protection Unit.

Initials	Full name	Brief Description
PYO	Persistent Young Offenders	A young person aged 10 to 17 years who has been sentenced by any criminal court in the UK on 3 or more separate occasions for 1 or more recordable offence.
RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	The Act legislates for using methods of surveillance and information gathering to help the prevention of crime, including terrorism.
RTC	Road Traffic Collision	
SB	Special Branch	Deals with any matters which may involve any form of subversive activity, such as terrorism which may affect life or property, acquiring intelligence in relation to national security & domestic extremism.
SIO	Senior Investigating officer	The primary manager responsible for leading an investigation.
SNT	Safety Neighbourhood Teams	A combined team of Police Officers, PCSOs & Special Constables who undertake high profile policing in local communities to tackle anti-social behaviour & issues of local concern
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency	SOCA is an intelligence-led agency with law enforcement powers and harm reduction responsibilities.
SOCO	Scene of Crime Officer	Civilian personnel employed by Police Authorities to investigate crime scenes in order to recover evidence by use of fingerprints, photographic & forensic techniques.
SPR	Strategic Policing Requirement	The shadow strategic policing requirement is a statement of the collective capabilities that police forces across England and Wales will be expected to have in place in order to protect the public from cross-boundary threats such as terrorism, civil emergencies, public disorder and organised crime.
SSP	Safer School Partnership	Representatives from the Police & other bodies who aim to protect children & young people from harm, reduce youth crime & anti-social behaviour, prevent children & young from becoming victims, support a safer school environment, ensuring that participating bodies have suitably trained staff in place

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SSU	Scientific Support Unit	Provides technical expertise & equipment to support criminal investigations using fingerprint, photographic & forensic science technology.
VIP	Victim and Witness Information Partnership	A multi-agency partnership that seeks to ensure that victims & witnesses are treated sensitively, are kept informed of developments within their case & have information & advice at all stages in the process.
WAVES	Witness and Victim Experience Survey	A Government survey designed to help to determine victim & witness satisfaction with the criminal justice system.
YOT/S	Youth Offending Team or Service	Representatives from the Police & other bodies that focus on preventing offending of young people aged between 10 and 17 who have offended or are likely to offend.

Hierarchy of Metropolitan Police Rank

Rank	Abbreviation
Commissioner	
Deputy Commissioner	DC
Assistant Commissioner	AC
Deputy Assistant Commissioner	DAC
Commander	
Chief Superintendent	Ch Supt
Superintendent	Supt
Chief Inspector	CI
Inspector	Insp
Sergeant	Sgt
Constable	PC

Jargon buster – Crime and policing

