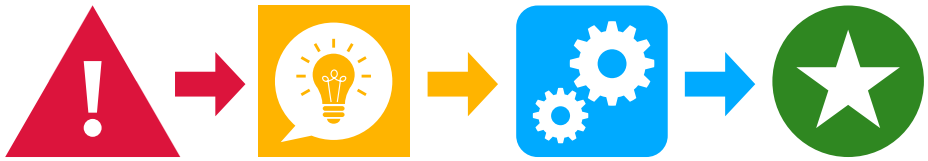
College of Policing

Introduction to logic models

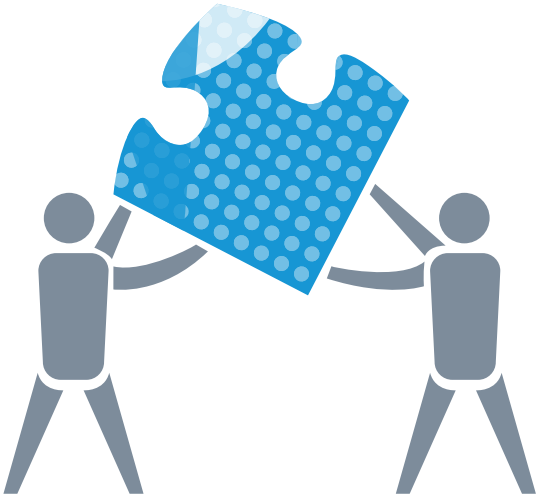


What is a logic model?

A logic model is a tool that helps you plan the implementation and evaluation of an intervention.

Any activity can be an intervention – often these are new projects, policies or tactics introduced to solve a particular problem.

By mapping the logical relationship between your problem, your response (the intervention), and the outcome you hope to achieve, you can show how and why your intervention might work.



Why should you use a logic model?

It will:

- form the basis of your evaluation – evaluation is essentially testing your logic model
- clarify the problem you are trying to solve and help identify relevant data to collect
- help you think critically about whether your intervention addresses your problem
- identify the key ingredients required to make your intervention a success
- identify what changes you expect as a result of your intervention
- demonstrate the rationale for your intervention to others, for example, funders, partner agencies or delivery teams

Who can develop a logic model?

Anyone involved in a project can develop a logic model. Ideally logic models are developed collaboratively by practitioners, evaluators and key stakeholders. Involving different groups can help identify things you may have missed or not considered. For example, a frontline practitioner may highlight operational risks those in more strategic roles might miss.

A logic model can also help you and your stakeholders agree the core objectives and resources for the project, helping to plan your intervention.

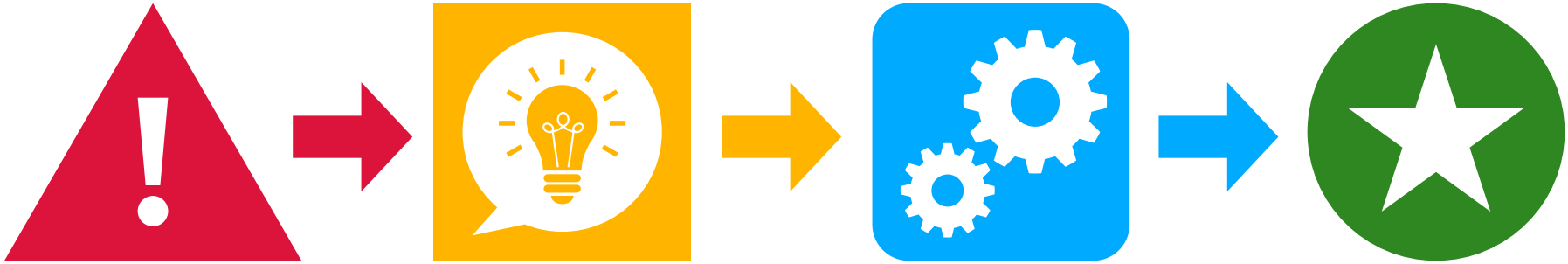
When should logic models be used?

Logic models should be developed when planning your new intervention. Your logic model will help you think about how to best implement and evaluate your intervention. Effective evaluation nearly always relies on the collection of data before, and during, implementation.

Logic models developed later in your project are still valuable. You might still be able to evaluate, but the evaluation will be limited. Logic models can also help monitor implementation, acting as a useful project health check. You should review your logic model during implementation and update it as new information becomes available.

The logic model

This is a logic model. It consists of four connected parts.



Problem

First describe your problem. What do you know from existing data sources?

Response

Now describe your response. Be clear how you think this will address your problem.

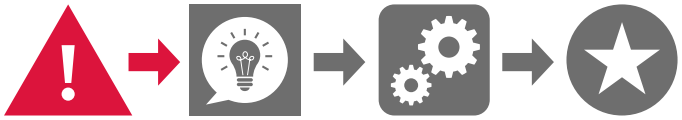
Outputs

Describe what you expect to be produced as a result of your response.

Outcomes

Describe the changes you expect as a result of your response in the short, medium and long term.

Problem



First, describe your problem. The description of your problem should be based on analysis of data and relevant information (for example, recorded crimes, case files, staff survey data, data from partner agencies). Your evaluation should then measure changes in this data.

When analysing your problem, it is helpful to think about:

- Likely causes
- Characteristics of the individuals involved
- Peak times and places
- Qualitative data – for example, public/staff perceptions
- Key stakeholders
- Prevalence of the problem (is it long term/widespread?)
- Other consequences of the problem

This is not a definitive list. You should consider each issue on a case-by-case basis.

Logic check

Do you understand the real cause of the problem? Do you need to collect more information to improve your understanding?

Body worn video example

This is a simple example. Yours will probably be more detailed.

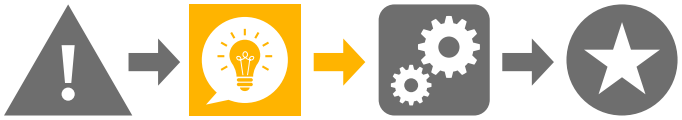
The force is achieving poor criminal justice outcomes for violent crime, specifically for domestic abuse (DA).

A significant proportion of crimes are not progressed to prosecution because of a lack of evidence. Victim statements are often the only available evidence and these are often withdrawn. Many officers suggest victim statements do not reflect the scenes they attend or demeanor of victims/offenders.

Logic check

It may also help to talk to response officers and victims to gain a better understanding of the problem.

Response



Now describe your planned intervention. Consider what you will need to deliver your intervention, for example:

- Finances
- Resources/staff
- Time
- Technology
- Materials
- Skills and knowledge

Problems often require more than one intervention and interventions sometimes aim to address more than one problem. You may need to develop more than one logic model for a programme of work.

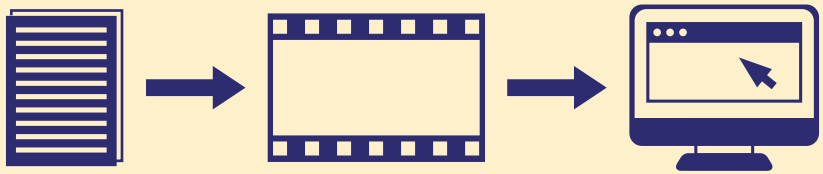
Logic check

How and why will your intervention address the problem? What are the causal links between your intervention and the root cause of your problem?

Body worn video example

This is a simple example. Yours will probably be more detailed.

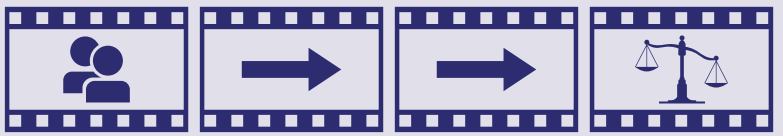
Response officers given body worn video cameras (BWV) to record DA incidents.



Policy

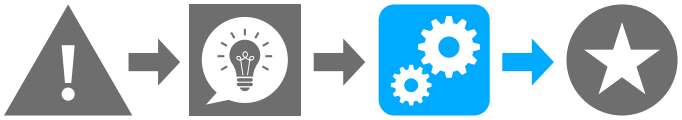
Development of policy and training for BWV use. Implementation of system and training for video storage and sharing for response officers and investigators.

Logic check



Film taken at the scene will improve criminal justice outcomes by increasing the quantity and quality of evidence, supporting victims and witnesses.

Outputs



Describe what you expect to be produced as a result of your response. Outputs shouldn't be used to evaluate success of an intervention.

Outputs are measurable and can describe the amount of activity expected or delivered. For example – if your response is a training course, an output would be number of people trained.

Outputs can be used to monitor the progress of your project.

Your outputs must be clearly linked to the outcomes you expect from your response.

Your response is likely to require specific outputs to support successful implementation. For example if you are developing a new tactic or approach to vehicle crime, any new policies or documentation explaining the approach are outputs from the project.

Logic check

What must be in place for your response to work as intended (for example, training, new technology, sufficient resources)? What might go wrong?

Body worn video example

This is a simple example. Yours will probably be more detailed.

Number of cameras distributed.

Number of videos recorded.

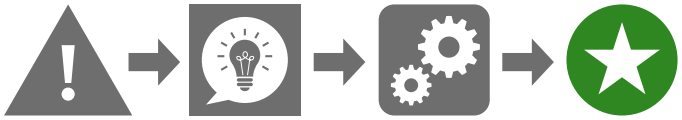
Number of videos shared with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Number of videos shared with investigators.

Logic check

- Can officers be abstracted for training?
- Will cameras be worn and used as intended?
- Can footage be incorporated into evidence packs with facility to share and store high volumes of HD video?

Outcomes



Describe the changes you expect as a result of your response in the short, medium and long term.

Remember, outcomes are different to outputs! Outcomes measure the impact of an intervention.

You need to identify your outcome data at the start of planning a project. It's often the same data used to understand the problem.

SMART Outcomes should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic, Time-based).

How will you measure your outcomes reliably?

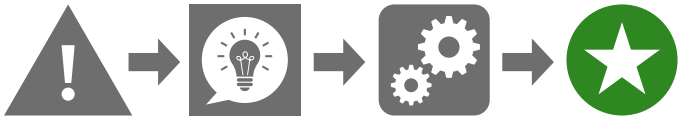
- What data/information do you need?
- Can you access it?
- Is the data detailed enough? (For example, can it be linked to individuals or teams?)
- Can outcomes be linked your response and outputs?

Logic check

How are your outcomes linked to your response?

How will you know it is your response that has led to the outcomes measured? Could it be other things impacting outcomes?

Can you generalise your results? Would you expect the same outcomes in other circumstances?



Body worn video example

This is a simple example. Yours will probably be more detailed.

Short term

- Increased charges for DA crimes attended by BWV operators (source: police system data).

Medium term

- Increased prosecutions for DA crimes attended by BWV operators (source: court data).

Long term

- Increased victim satisfaction for DA incidents attended by BWV operators.
- Increased victim confidence in likelihood of positive outcome.

Logic check

- Footage provides independent evidence enabling police to charge.
- Footage provides more compelling evidence in court.
- Better outcomes can improve victim satisfaction (but this may be affected more by CJ processes than outcomes).
- Courts must have facilities to share and present digital footage.
- Evaluators need access to courts data that can be linked to BWV for reliable evaluation.

Burglaries Here is another simple example, with all the parts of the model together.

Problem

There was an increase in burglaries last summer in a small area of a housing estate.

Analysis shows the M.O. was entry through insecure windows and the peak time was weekend afternoons.

All houses on the street are designed the same and the windows do not have safety latches.

Logic check

Providing home security advice to residents will raise awareness of the risk of burglary and improving home security will deter opportunistic offending.

Response

PCSOs to conduct home visits in hotspot to offer free home security upgrades and crime prevention advice.

Provide specialist crime prevention training to PCSOs.

Production of home security advice leaflets.

Third party supplier installs security upgrades, including window latches.

Logic check

- Can residents gain permission from their landlords to upgrade their home security?
- Are there enough PCSOs to visit all the homes required?
- Will residents be at home during the time of the visit and will they engage with the police positively?
- Is there sufficient funding to install the upgrades required?
- Do offenders live in the target area? They may be informed about the scheme.

Outputs

PCSO

Number of PCSOs trained.

Number of interactions with residents.

Crime prevention

Number of leaflets distributed.

Number of security upgrades installed.

Logic check

Short term

The reason homes were targeted is purely down to security vulnerabilities.

Medium term

Criminological evidence shows reduction in crime in a hotspot often results in reductions in surrounding areas and similar crime.

Long term

- Trust and confidence in the police leads to increased reporting and co-operation with the police.
- Residents retain the advice provided and continue to use locks – this may not be the case in certain communities (for example, areas with high turnover of residents such as student areas).

Outcomes

Short term

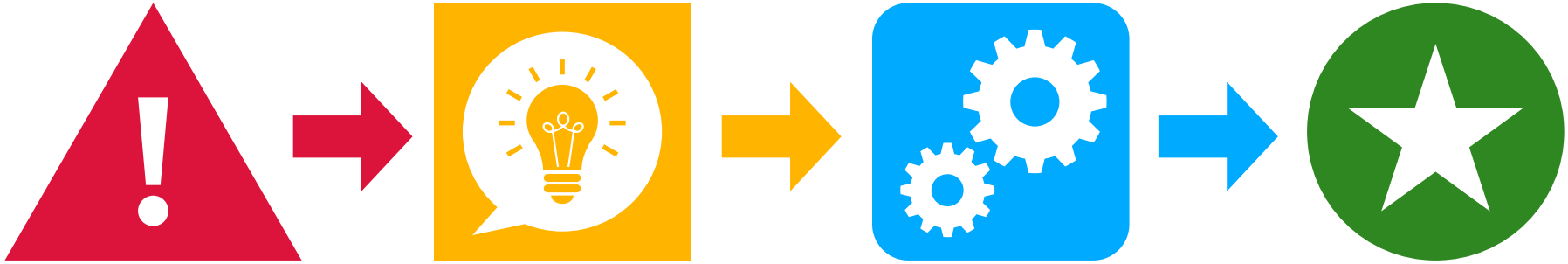
- Reduction in burglary in target area compared with similar areas and the previous year.
- Increased public confidence in the target area (source: recorded crime/public attitudes survey).

Medium term

- Reduction in other acquisitive crime in target and surrounding areas (source: recorded crime).

Long term

- Increase in reporting of crime from residents.
- Increase in intelligence gathered from residents.
- The reduction in burglary in the area sustained (source: recorded crime/force systems).



Download a blank logic model and start completing your own

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