

Investigative Interview Coaching in the UK

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Landmark Cases

- R v HERON 1992 (House of Lords)
- R v PARIS, MILLER & ABDULLAHI 1992 (Court of Appeal) “The Cardiff Three”
- Lawrence Enquiry
- Victoria Climbia



*“Those who do not remember the past are
condemned to repeat it.”*

George Santayana (1905) *Reason in Common Sense*, volume 1 of *The Life of Reason*.

Identified Problems (Witnesses)

- Poor Questioning
(Milne & Bull, 1999)
- Focused on statement taking
(Shepherd & Milne 2006)
- “Efficacy of contemporaneous handwritten statements”
(Poyser & Milne 2011, Milne & Shaw, 1999; Westera et al., 2011)
- Lack detail (Rock 2001)
- Riddled with inaccuracies (McLean 1995)
- Flawed Process?

The Baldwin Report 1992

- **“The main weaknesses [in interviewing suspects] that were identified were: -**
- **A lack of preparation**
- **A general ineptitude**
- **Poor technique**
- **An assumption of guilt**
- **Unduly repetitive, persistent or laboured questioning**
- **A failure to establish the relevant facts and the exertion of too much pressure”**

What is an Interview ?

“A conversation with a purpose”

Shepherd & Kite(1988)

“The intersection between consciously applied conversational processes and cognitive processes, emerging as a consciously monitored stream of decision-making, prior to, within and after the interview”

Milne & Bull (1999)

“Investigative interviewers need to obtain information from witnesses, victims and suspects about their past experiences. It is therefore necessary that they know how memory works, how fragile memory is, and how they, as interviewers, can influence what interviewees tell them”

The PEACE model

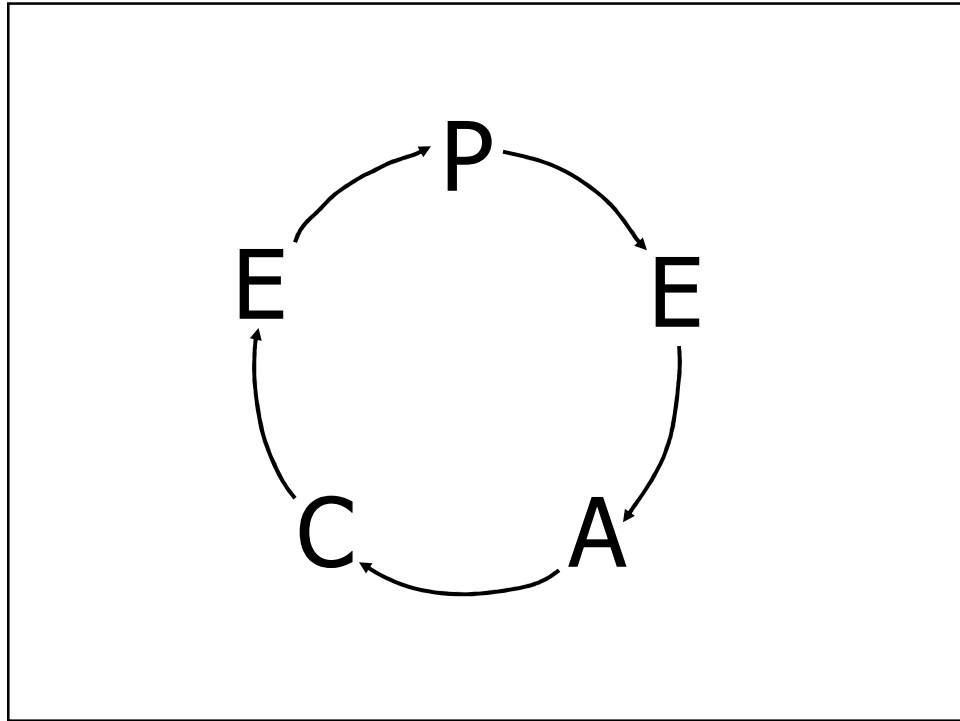
Planning & Preparation Pre-Interview

Engage & Explain Within Interview

Account, Clarify & Challenge (Anomaly Review)

Closure

Evaluation Post-Interview



Conversation Management Model

G Greeting

E Explanation

MA Mutual Activity

C Close

(Shepherd. E, 2007)

Mutual Activity

- Two principal methods
 - Conversation Management
 - Enhanced Cognitive Interview

Role of Interview Coach

- Act as role model to Officer
 - Modelling behaviour
 - Effective working practice
 - Transference of training to work place
- Workplace development of Officer
 - Formative assessment of Officer
 - Real time feedback
 - Act a 2nd Interviewer (if required)
 - Formulation of action plans.

Role of Interview Coach

- Summative assessment of Officer
 - Assessment to National standards
 - Production of portfolios of evidence
 - Quality assurance process for accreditation.
- Act as Interview advisor to station / division / department
 - Manage and co-ordinate interviews for serious, complex or major investigations
 - Provide strategic advice on interview processes
 - Co-ordinate interview processes
 - Monitor interview processes
 - Evaluate interview processes

Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP)

Interviews that are professionally undertaken and quality assured can realise several business benefits. In particular, they can:

- Direct an investigation, which in turn can lead to a prosecution or early release of an innocent person;
- Support the prosecution case, thereby saving time, money and resources;
- Increase public confidence in the Police Service, particularly with witnesses and victims of crimes who come into direct contact with the police

Conversely, failure to professionally undertake and quality assure interviews can have adverse consequences in terms of failure to adhere to legislation, loss of critical material, unsolved crime, lack of credibility and loss of confidence.

(ACPO,2009)

PIP Levels

- PIP 1
 - Investigation of Volume & Priority Crime
- PIP 2
 - Investigation of Serious & Complex Crime
 - PIP 2 (Specialist)
 - Investigation of Serious & Complex Crime within a specialist domain
- PIP 3
 - Management of Crime Investigation

National Occupational Standards

- PIP 1
 - Interview Witnesses and Victims
 - Interview Suspects
- PIP 2
 - Interview Witnesses and Victims
 - Interview Suspects
- PIP 2(Specialist)
 - Interview Witnesses and Victims
 - Interview Suspects

Benefits

- Consistent standard
- Flexibility of deployment
- Quality assured process
- Portfolios of evidence
- Creates mind-set for continuing professional development

