# **Q** methods study of vulnerability

Understanding how the police, health services, education providers, social care and other agencies providing core public services in Bradford respond to and deal with people's vulnerabilities.

## **Key details**

Lead institution	Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre
Principal researcher(s)	Professor Adam Crawford  adam.crawford@york.ac.uk
Police region	Yorkshire
Collaboration and partnership	<ul><li>University of Leeds</li><li>Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council</li></ul>
Level of research	Professional/work based
Project start date	May 2022
Date due for completion	April 2024

### Research context

Vulnerability is a well-used concept among public services in the UK. However, what this means in practice for public services, the police and non-governmental organisations is underexplored.

The meaning of vulnerability is subjective and the concept is used in various ways across different settings, with different outcomes.

#### **Aim**

The project aims to shed light on how vulnerability is interpreted and how it is used to frame public service delivery.

It will look at the effect of vulnerability-based interventions in cities such as Bradford and Leeds.

The project will provide a better understanding of the diverse perceptions of the role of the police in safeguarding vulnerable populations.

### Research methodology

The project uses Q methodology to explore divergent and convergent opinions about vulnerability and structure them in a way that can be studied.

Q methodology combines qualitative approaches and statistical analysis to examine patterns in human subjectivity. It does so by:

- presenting participants with a structured set of opinion statements about a topic
- asking them to rank responses
- clustering these into shared views for statistical analysis

In addition to the data collected via statement rankings, rich qualitative data will be collected from in-depth interviews. During these interviews, respondents will explain why they agreed or disagreed with certain statements and values.

#### **Tags**

• Vulnerable people