Series preface

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The Key Themes in Policing series aims to provide relevant and useful books to support the growing number of policing modules on both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The series also aims to support all those interested in policing; from criminology, law and policing students to policing professionals to those who wish to join policing services. It also seeks to respond to the call for evidence-based policing led by organisations such as the College of Policing in England and Wales. By producing a range of high-quality, research-informed texts on important areas in policing, contributions to the series support and inform both professional and academic policing curriculums.

Towards Ethical Policing by Dominic A. Wood is the eighth publication in the series. The book offers a rich insight and appreciation of how ethical policing can be understood within and through police practices. Despite the inherently contested nature of police work, policing is not normally discussed in such terms. In this way, the book challenges traditional approaches to understandings of ethics and policing and argues that if we are to take the idea of ethical policing seriously, then we need to recognise the importance of seeing police officers as moral agents with a considerable degree of moral responsibility attached to their role as public officials. For Wood, ethical policing is not found within policies or legislation, or even within a code of police ethics, but rather, ethical policing is located and realised through police interactions with other human beings. The book requires readers to be reflective in engaging with key concepts and ideas within moral philosophy, but the book is not about moral philosophy per se: it is first and foremost about policing. Ethical policing is not established in the abstract, but rather in the real-life contexts within which it is practised. This book makes a significant contribution to police scholarship and provides a challenging read for students of policing and criminal justice.

Dominic Wood is Head of the School of Law, Criminal Justice and Policing at Canterbury Christ Church University. He has published extensively on different political aspects of policing and is particularly interested in the shifting philosophical underpinnings of policing from liberal to democratic principles. He has been a policing scholar for
over 25 years and has been leading contributions in the development of police curriculums in higher education and debates concerning police professionalisation.