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Critically evaluate the role of the police in one of the following areas:

- **Community policing (strategies and incentives)**

The role of community policing evidently has a positive effect on policing as a whole, however there are also several negative factors associated with community policing and its role within society. The strategies and incentives associated with community policing help tackle criminal activity and support positive relationships amongst members of the public and the police. The development of community policing commenced throughout the 1960s as a result of the civil rights movement which exposed weaknesses of the traditional policing model, therefore it was believed that community based policing would act as a positive reinforcement to help lower crime rates. The role of community policing has many strategies and incentives all of which are extremely important in relation to positively reinforcing law and order. Brewster (2018) proposes that it is important for police officers and members of the community to promote and share a positive relationship between one another as he suggests that progressive relationships are essential between communities and the police; these relationships are deemed to strive successfully through the acceptance of the police within communities, therefore positive engagement is essential. The opinion, judgement and belief in which the public view police officers can somewhat have both a negative and positive effect on members of the public, the way in which the public choose to view officers will determine how the public choose to act; therefore community policing attempts to address problems by building constructive, strong relationships in hope to prevent negativity. I will be focusing on several factors associated with community policing such as; the aims and goals in which community policing wish to achieve, the strategies and incentives relating to community policing, the police and criminal evidence act, the police code of ethics and South Wales' policing principles all of which contribute to the role of community policing.

The term 'community policing' can be defined in various ways; community policing is the system of allocating numerous police officers to alternative areas within a specific police force so that the officers can be dispatched resulting in the officers becoming familiar with their areas, allowing the officers to communicate with members of the public face to face on a

personal, individual basis. Larrabee (2007) describes community policing as, "... police is community and community is police" suggesting that police officers are also normal persons who themselves are members of a community. Community policing refers to officer and public engagement through the importance of officers being visibly seen, heard and appreciated by members of the public to gain trust, positive relationships and understanding, "a law enforcement philosophy that allows officers to continuously operate in the same area in order to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and working in that area" (Lortz, 2016). Fessler (1976) noted that sociologists refer to a community as a specific area in which persons who live in the area share a common interest and/or a common culture. Flynn (1988) states that in order for community policing to be a success, police forces and their officers must understand the requirements of each individual community in order for their police work to be effective, therefore it is important for officers to integrate with members of the community and engage in physical conversation so that problems can be identified, addressed and possibly prevented. Officers must engage with members of the public to determine what underlying problems are causing disturbances within the community; lack of communication results in officers not knowing or understanding what changes are required.

During the civil rights movement in the 1960s, the police were highly criticised in terms of community policing in relation to possible racial discrimination and improper behaviour which led to members of the community resorting to protests and riots which caused negative attitudes towards the police. Due to the reduced levels of confidence between communities and the police this led to a poorer community and officer engagement level and hostility, hatred and animosity became present towards police forces. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice (1967) decided that the police force required change and made numerous suggestions in hope to better policing as a whole. In particular it was decided that the police force were to develop a friendly and understanding attitude to fulfil the requirements and necessities of their communities through adapting to an approach of 'community led' policing which involved a high quality of community engagement. Due to the outburst of riots and the lack of trust between forces and communities, numerous members of the public had no respect for the police which made policing communities somewhat difficult, therefore it was important for police forces to improve their relationships with members of the community. Initially the original and main aim of community policing was to reduce and deter crime. The role of community policing in the 1960s was to respond to criminal incidents. However due to the poor reputation of the police amongst society, the relationship between

police officers and the public was of a bad reputation. A vast majority of communities did not put any trust in the police force. Numerous police departments decided that the police would benefit from liaising with those within the community to encourage positive community engagement which led to the booming of community policing. In relation to this idea, the police started to develop an increased local community presence in hope to increase public engagement with the police amongst members of the public through both mobile and foot patrols which were conducted by both police officers and community support officers.

Rosenbaum (1994) stated that foot and mobile patrols played a significant role in terms of a strategy used to conduct community engagement and positive public perception. The main purpose for the increase in community policing was to allow police officers to become further involved in local communities through communication and visibility. Turley et al (2012) suggested that community policing required a local approach in which would be accessible to members of the public, stating that community policing must be visible and accessible, with police officers frequenting communities on a regular basis. It is believed that officers who conduct foot patrol are more likely to stop and speak with members of the public compared to other forms of policing. Impact security (2019) state that the conducting of mobile patrols by police officers can act as a crime deterrent/security measure, as members of the public are less likely to engage in criminal activity in the presence of police officers. Police 1 (2016) believe that officers who regularly walk 'the beat' are able to gain information and intelligence from communicating with members of the public to which they would not have gathered if they did not conduct foot/mobile patrols and actively engage with members of the public.

According to Law Enforcement (2021) Sir Robert Peel was known as "The Father of Policing" as he established the first London Metropolitan Police Force in which he recognised nine essential principles that he believed were required for effective policing. Matthews (2021) relates to the policing principles which were written by Sir Robert Peel. The seventh principle of Sir Roberts Peel's policing principles addresses the importance of community policing and positive relationships between the public and the police in order for the police service to provide a successful, effective service, "To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence" (Home Office. 2012). The Home Office (2012) state that Sir Robert Peel 1829

defined what is meant by 'policing by consent'. Taking into consideration Sir Roberts Peele's policing principle, it is significantly important that officers delegate their time wisely and pay attention to members of the public.

Higgins (2018) states that the National Reassurance Policing Programme (NRPP) was utilised throughout England and Wales in relation to the modern history of neighbourhood policing which occurred throughout the years 2003 and 2005. The NRPP was operated particularly to address the 'reassurance gap' which focused on the incongruity of the percentage of crime rates increasing compared to the public perception on crime. The NRPP focused on 'signal crimes', to ensure that officers understood the worries and queries that were apparent amongst communities; by recognising and targeting said crimes which were of worry within communities, officers aimed to reduce fear, build trust and relationships. There were three principles in which the NRPP was fundamentally built upon; the first principle related to the police providing a visible and accessible policing presence, secondly the NRPP requested that communities become involved in identifying problems by identifying what changes are required to ensure crimes are being tackled and resolved within communities and lastly the NRPP focused on the liaison with alternative agencies and organisations to look at various problem solving approaches that could be applied to assist in the role of community policing.

Furthermore there are several theories that community policing take into consideration in terms of strategies and incentives that pay particular attention to crime prevention methods. Purpura (2013) has stated that theorists Cohen and Felson (1979) argued a theory in which they labelled as 'The Routine activity theory' (RAT). This specific theory is of extreme importance as the theory suggests that a crime will be committed by any person who is in a situation where there is an opportunity for a crime to be committed. The first element of the RAT states that a motivated offender must be present in order for a crime to occur meaning that if a person is not motivated then a crime will not occur. The second part of the RAT has identified that an accessible target must be present in order for the crime to occur. A suitable target can be anything in terms of people, money or objects all of which can be victim of crime. The third factor of the theory suggests that a crime will be committed if there is no appropriate/capable guardian present. Theorists state that if one of the three elements are missing then a crime cannot and will not be committed. Community policing plays a significant role in terms of the RAT theory as measures are put in place via community policing to prevent crimes from occurring through the effective use of partnership working where various organisations work

together to determine problem solving ideas to create long term solutions, for example the effective use of officers conducting foot patrols of a community can act as a 'capable guardian' to which based on this specific theory suggests that a crime will not be committed if a capable guardian is present. Therefore the increase in foot patrols and the presence of officers throughout communities will act as a positive reinforcement which plays an important part in crime disruption. Evidence states that it is a beneficial process for police officers to engage with members of the community as police are better informed and empowered to solve public safety problems. Nottinghamshire Police (2016) suggest that if a strong relationship is gained between the police and the community it is more likely that the community will respect the law and be more willing to confide in the police with information and data that may be of evidential use.

Community based policing combined with partnership work contributes hugely to the role of community policing in society. Inevitably the more persons who are determined to prevent crime and work together, the higher the chance of prevention methods effectively working. Community policing focuses on working in partnership with various organisations. The North Wales Police Crime Commissioner (NWPPCC) (2021), suggests that working in partnership has a positive effect on communities whereby the police service are not alone when trying to prevent crime and reduce harm. NWPPCC recommends that partnership working is an effective, constructive strategy in which members of the public are able to receive several services from all parties involved who share a common goal. There are numerous organisations involved in partnership working such as; the council, social services, housing, schools and the probation service all of which work together and strive to have a constructive effect on communities. According to Turley et al (2012) community policing linked with working in partnership identifies several benefits such as: empowering local residents and the lowering of anti-social behavior issues that occur amongst communities. A shared vision and goal is another important factor in terms of working in partnership, in regards to anti-social behaviour as police forces are able to engage and team up with the local council and schools to educate persons on criminal activity.

The role of community policing focuses on several strategies in which seek to address and reduce criminal activity within a community which involve engaging with communities on a one to one basis. Effective engagement and commitment from officers toward members of the

community evidently act as a positive factor and build on public trust towards police officers and police forces in general. Proactive community engagement has endless positive outcomes; proactive policing within a community involves the use of strategic foot and mobile patrols to enforce the presence and visibility of officers within an area as previously disclosed. Conducting mobile and foot patrols within a community environment evidently provides formal and informal contact with members of a community so that society can become familiar with faces and the voices of the local officers. It is beneficial for members of the community to recognise familiar faces of officers so that trust and a bond can be built between members of the public and police officers which strengthens trust, confidence and respect. The outcome of regular contact between officers and members of a community suggests that high engagement within a community allows officers to get to know the local people, shopkeepers, pub owners, residents, dog walkers and the youths who live within the area. Identifying regular persons within the community allows officers to get to know the community on a personal, friendly basis which again contributes to building a strong, positive report. Bradley (1988) analysed a study which suggested that face to face contact evidently acts as a positive reinforcement in terms of acting as a crime deterrent where Sherman and Eck (2002) believe that visible patrols conducted by officers contribute to the reduction in crime rates. Strong communication skills shown by officers who listen, empathise, and ask questions and summarise all points show understanding and provide reassurance will leave a positive effect.

The role of community policing also relies on problem solving factors that are beneficial strategies in regards to community policing. Proactive prevention regarding problem oriented policing and the 'OSARA' approach model can both be taken into consideration when analysing the strategies taken into consideration regarding the role of community policing. Problem-oriented policing (POP) was developed by Herman Goldstein in 1979 and is a term used to determine what problems are occurring within communities ensuring that the police should focus on addressing clusters of related incidents. The College of Policing (2020) define problem-oriented policing (POP) as an approach which is used to tackle crime and disorder which involves identifying problems within communities whereby preventative measures are enforced to stop the problem from reoccurring. There is a specific model used in community policing which is known as the 'OSARA' model. OSARA stands for the following, 'Objectivity, Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment'. In terms of community policing the objective of OSARA refers to reducing criminal activity within the community and the model aims to tackle repeat victimisation.

The 'scanning' aspect of the model involves the identification of a criminal incident in a community. Officers use the scanning aspect of the model to examine the problem to find out more information in relation to the problem, this could be through the use of speaking with members of the public to gather information and intelligence regarding criminal activity. If issues are identified, the police and communities are able to engage with one another to establish preventative measures that can be put in place to prevent criminal activity from reoccurring with the help of partnering agencies such as the council and the youth offending team. The 'scanning' element is effectively the gathering of information and intelligence whereby it is useful for officers to collect data so that problems can be identified first hand from witnesses and victims in the community; it is important to prioritise problems that are evidently occurring and it is important to determine the frequency of the problems to identify how long they had been taking place.

OSARA also involves analysing. The analysis aspect of the model focuses on the analysis of the problem in hope to identify the reasons as to why problems are occurring, so that a decision can be made to determine how/what an officer can do in order to respond to the apparent issue. Furthermore, the response aspect of the model concentrates on the development and action required to prevent the problems from happening in the future. The last aspect of the model pays attention to the 'assessment', the assessment focuses on the measurement of the impact of the response element required to see if that element has been successful. Lum (2012) a director for center for evidence-based crime policy has stated that the OSARA model enables the police force and various other agencies with information relating to crime and crime prevention which allows professional bodies to make decisions on how they are going to implement measures to reduce offending via problem solving approaches. A further theorist being Goldstein believed that the police force required the help and support from communities and therefore believed that community policing would be beneficial in terms of reducing criminal activity and behavior. Turley et al (2012) suggests that problem solving approaches act as an important role associated with community policing in how community policing is delivered which is believed to reduce crime significantly.

Furthermore community policing's role within the police force also focuses on community-orientated policing (COP) which focuses on the prevention of crime and disorder amongst communities which concentrate on a strategic approach where members of the community,

police forces and various other organisations liaise together to provide effective long term-goals and preventative measures to reduce criminal activity. Community policing is a working relationship. If officers manage to engage positively with members of the community, officers are able to build trust and relationships with members to which members will be more likely to wilfully inform officers of information relating to offenders and occurring crimes. Lortz (2016) suggests that COP is a strategy used in community policing which allows both the police and communities to engage with one another to solve criminal activity, by implementing ideas and philosophies as a team to determine how problems can be improved.

The role of community policing can be further analysed through another strategy that is known as ‘targeting activity’ which is used in terms of community policing; targeting activity involves the ‘OSARA’ process as previously discussed. Targeting activity is a vital part of community policing that is considered when police officers identify and prioritise people, groups and places who are in need. This strategy focuses on the engagement with various other organisations such as housing associations, the council, youth workers and police community support officers to share information and intelligence amongst one another regarding persons and places in hope to implement crime prevention measures to reduce offending. Targeting activity has several benefits which include: early intervention; early intervention allows officers to take control of situations and allows officers to gather first-hand information from victims and witnesses of crime. The information collected by officers can be documented appropriately and shared lawfully amongst officers and neighbouring organisations so that decisions can be made in relation to problem solving techniques regarding the implementation of prevention strategies to prevent crimes from occurring. Targeting activity also allows officers of a higher rank resource officers appropriately to communities where crime rates are at their highest, whilst taking a step back from communities where crime is relatively low.

Promoting the right culture is a further strategy used in community policing. The College of Policing (2018) suggests that chief officers have a duty to promote an organisational culture that encourages the public to participate in neighbourhood policing. Chief Officers have a duty to serve the public along with all police officers and staff, therefore it is important for police officers to acknowledge the importance of connecting with members of the public and partner agencies in order to build trust and confidence. Mazerolle et al (2013) states that public trust can be improved if police interventions adopt elements of procedural justice. It is also believed that members of the public are more likely to confide in police officers and show trust and

respect if they believe that the police are law abiding, fair, respectful people. Therefore it is extremely important that officers promote the right culture as even a small gesture or act of kindness given by a police officer to a member of the public can leave members of the public having a positive experience with officers and the same applies if members of the public have a negative experience. The South Wales Police policing principles play a significant part in promoting the right culture all of which can be used and deemed as positive reinforcing strategies that are beneficial in terms of outlining the role of community policing. The Code of Ethics 1984 was put in place to provide officers with a code of behaviour; principles/standards of behaviour to rein store faith in the police.

The Code of Ethics is used so that officers have an understanding of how they should carry out their duties. There are several standards of professional behaviour all of which combined together promote professionalism within the police service and are strategies used by community policing and other forms of policing that officer must abide by when conducting their job role. Maintaining professional standards of behaviour significantly involve focusing on the police code of ethics that promote the standards of professional behaviour which all police constables should adhere to in order to be professional, competent officers whilst working on and off duty. Maintaining professional standards contributes to professionalism as there are nine policing principles which are set out in the code of ethics that are a guide to an officer's behaviour and demeanour. Gov (2014) outline the College of Policing's code of ethics in which, police officers must act with honesty and integrity, authority, respect and courtesy, fairness, equality and diversity, integrity, use of force used must be justified, proportionate, lawful and ethical, leadership skills, duties and responsibilities must be complied with in a professional manner, openness; which refers to remaining impartial, confidentiality; acknowledging a person's private life and complying with data protection standards, respect, fitness for work, selflessness, challenging improper behaviour and conduct. All of the standards of professional behaviour refer to a series of professional behaviours in which a police constables must adhere to and if broken, officers may be subject to a professional standards investigation. Glomseth (2011) states, "Ethics refers to a system of moral principles and a branch of philosophy that defines what is good for individuals as well as the society, (Glomseth, Gott & Petter, 2011, p. 112). College of Policing (2014) promote that the policing principles are deemed as encouraging the right culture whereby the guide of behaviour shapes the policing culture proving that officers are role models and perform to the best of their ability all of which comprise to promoting the right culture. Quinton and Morris (2008) suggest that members of

the public are less likely to trust the police if they believe that officers are not acting in a fair manner, therefore this emphasises the importance of following the policing principles and professional standards of behavior governed by the code of ethics.

Building analytical capability acts as a strategy in terms of community policing and plays a significant role within community policing. College of Policing (2021) suggest that thinking analytically, using and sharing data and analysis to improve problem solving is a positive aspect associated with community policing. This strategy refers to the usage of data and tactical options available to officers. Therefore building analytical capability pays particular attention to the other strategies previously mentioned regarding problem solving ideas. This strategy focuses on the importance of good understanding and knowledge, partnership resources and communication all of which are useful when making decisions.

Training for officers and staff evidently has a positive impact on a person's knowledge, attitude and behaviour. A selection process is deemed most appropriate when addressing who would be best suited to communicate regularly with members of the public. Developing officers and staff is a specific strategy which focuses on the training desired to allow officers and staff to fulfil their job role substantially. However it is also believed that officers must consider their own knowledge regarding specific areas and skill so that their own personal views can be implemented in regards to community policing. Furthermore it is believed that if officers are shown recognition for their hard work and commitment this will strengthen officer and staff commitment to community policing. The College of Policing (2021) state that following chief officer guidelines all members of staff should be provided with the correct training and professional development to help with progression, therefore the role of community policing is affected through the use of training and the development of officers, staff and volunteers through various factors such as community engagement, partnership working, prevention and problem solving.

The role of community policing has numerous advantages and positive factors that encourage and motivate officers to fulfil their job role. Miller (2016) suggests that community policing and effective partnership policing effectively brings the community together which creates positivity amongst members of the public and the police. In addition the role of community policing acts as a deterrent as the presence of police suggests that offenders are less likely to commit crimes. Strehlaw (2021) suggests that direct contact between the public and the police

act as a positive encounter where police are more effective in preventing crime due to the information in which they receive by members of the public.

Furthermore the role of community policing also has disadvantages attached. Miller (2016) suggests that some persons in the community become involved for all of the wrong reasons to which they can provide police with lies and invalid information. It is also suggested that the role of community policing does not contribute to society in anyway, suggesting that crime statistics are not lowered, therefore some persons ask why community policing is apparent and essential if crime rates are not lowering. However Strelaw (2021) suggests that community policing allows officers to engage on a one to one basis with members of the public whereby any issues or negative encounters can be addressed and investigated if needed. Grant (2021) explains how community policing will only achieve goals pending on a relationship between members of the public and the police.

Overall it is evident that the role of community policing has a positive effect on policing as a whole. Community policing is governed by members of the public and it is the utmost priority of the police to help and support members of the community to the best of their ability through various strategies and incentives that provide officers with encouragement and support when they are conducting their job role. The role of community policing focuses on developing relationships with members of the public through the use of both foot and mobile patrols. Community policing promotes strategies and problem solving theories in which contribute to community policing. Community policing has numerous aims in which are set out to address public safety issues in hope to resolve crime, social disorder and community policing hope to reduce the fear of crime. Community policing is effective; research suggests that attitudes towards the police tend to improve when officers engage positively with the public, therefore it is important to pay attention to communication skills involving the relationship between the public and the police. Even though community policing has numerous positive factors, community policing is extremely costly due to the widespread amount of officers utilised to patrol the communities both on foot and mobile patrols. Despite community policing having a positive effect on the majority of members within a community, there are some members of the community who refuse to engage with officers and will not provide officers with information, however this is inevitable.

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