

Graduate Diploma Professional Police Practice

LEVEL 6 - 40 Credits

**Workbook title: Competency Based
Workbook 6 (PCDA) - BMPP 6006D**

12 Elements 10,000 words

**(SOUTH WALES POLICE, GWENT POLICE AND
UWTSD)**

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Learner's University Registration Number: 1910631

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMME

Module title: Policing in the Workplace 3 (PCDA) - BMPP6006D

Workbook Guidance

Please read these notes carefully. They provide essential information. The documents you will use in developing your workbook are on the following pages.

What is the workbook for?

The purpose of this workbook is to enable learners to demonstrate and provide evidence of how they meet the learning outcomes set by the College of Policing, for the BSc programme. Essentially, you are being asked to outline your experiential learning based upon your theoretical understanding in a range of operational situations.

This workbook differs from those that you have already completed in that Task 3 -it has an options section giving you the opportunity to answer on an 'advanced learning' area.

Complete the question relevant to the area that has been agreed with the force to study in year 3.

You are expected to answer only **1 of the 5** options below:

1. Response Policing.
2. Policing Communities.
3. Road Policing.
4. Information and Intelligence.
5. Conducting Investigations.

You may wish to use the same incidents as you've outlined in the Occupational Competence Portfolio. Wherever possible we are looking for you to reflect on your personal experience. However, if for any reason there are areas that you feel that you can only answer from a 'hypothetical' perspective, then make this clear within your answer.

How should the workbook be presented?

Blank electronic copies can be found on Moodle of this workbook. You must submit this document electronically therefore it is important that you save your work regularly and upload the final typed version through Turnitin on Moodle.

Word count policy can be found in chapter 7 of the Academic Quality under section 7.7 (this applies to presenting work above and under the specified word count).

(https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/media/uwtsd-website/content-assets/documents/academic-office/agh-chapters/chapters---en/Chapter_07_Assessment-Taught_Programmes_Pages_72-79-UPDATED-05-11-2019.pdf)

Reflective practice is a core aspect for your workbooks and although there is a variety of useful resources on Moodle, there is one particular book, that is specifically based on reflective practice in policing, here is a link to one chapter from Selina Copley's Reflective Practice for Policing Students:

https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/298870/mod_resource/content/1/Reflective%20Practice%20for%20Policing%20Students%20-%20Selina%20Copley%20Chapter5.pdf

How is the workbook assessed?

Advice and support about the completion of this workbook will be provided by university staff as part of your initial training day. Your tutor constable and in-force training staff will not be involved in assessing or marking your workbook after it has been submitted.

Dates of workbook submission will be made available during the initial training day and posted on Moodle.

Once submitted your workbook will be assessed and marked independently.

Confidentiality

It is important that no individual can be identified either directly or indirectly from the information in the workbook. However, you must:

- adhere to guidance in the Candidate Handbook about confidentiality;
- not identify individuals including witnesses, victims or offenders by name;
- not write information that enables any individual to be identified indirectly through the description you provide. This includes references to names, colleagues, places (including hospitals, schools, town, villages, streets) specific incidents which were high profile and could be identified due to past publicity, other professionals or any other personal information including medical or other conditions;
- take personal responsibility for adhering to confidentiality rules.
- not include any dates of any incidents or anything that specifically identifies an actual incident.

Please be aware that any content that is deemed to be inappropriate, disrespectful, or abusive will not be tolerated. Following review of any content of this nature the information will be shared with the employer of the student responsible.

Should any health and wellbeing concerns be raised because of disclosures made by the student within this workbook, the employer of the student will be informed.

NOTE

Your workbook will be submitted electronically via Turnitin on Moodle. Guidance on this is in the Candidate Handbook.

Remember that the workbook is YOUR responsibility you must not rely on the assessor or anyone else to pick up any confidentiality breaches, as this is your work and you must accept full responsibility for confidentiality. Meeting all the confidentiality requirements is very important.

Dyslexia and other special circumstances

If you have any condition that you feel may affect your ability to deal with any part of the programme, please see the Candidate Handbook for further guidance. The University has a Student Services Unit that may be able to help but ***it is the learner's individual responsibility to contact them.***

Competency Based Workbook 6 - Learner Workbook

Guidance:

- Your workbook must contain tasks 1 - 4 below (in the order given);
- You should use the pro-forma to insert your text within each section;
- **Note that this module has 4 compulsory tasks with Task three being a choice of 'advanced learning area' relevant to the area that has been agreed with the force to study in year 3.. Choose only 1 of the 5 options; as only one of these options will be considered for marking.**
- You should upload your completed document as a saved pdf file of this workbook; if this is not possible then a Word Doc file is acceptable. Do not send a scanned file from a photocopier, an apple.dot file, or a Microsoft publisher file as Turnitin will not be able to assess them, despite you being able to upload them.

Contents

	Area of Professional Practice	Word count
TASK 1	Learning Plan / Personal Development Plan	2000 equivalent
TASK 2	Occupational Competency Portfolio (OCP)	2000 equivalent
TASK 3 OPTIONS SECTION	CHOOSE ONLY 1 OF THESE 'ADVANCED LEARNING AREA' OPTIONS. IT SHOULD BE ONE THAT HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE FORCE TO STUDY IN YEAR 3.	All options are 6000 words
Option 1	Response Policing	
Option 2	Policing Communities	
Option 3	Road Policing	
Option 4	Information and Intelligence	
Option 5	Conducting Investigations	
TASK 4	Bibliography	

Task 1

Personal Study programme / Individual Learning Plan

One of the learning outcomes identified in the accompanying module descriptor (BMPP 6006D) asks that you formulate and implement a personal study programme to further enhance the development of your professional police practice. A template has been added for an 'Individual Learning Plan' that you can use for this task.

This task builds upon the last personal study programme/Individual learning plan completed in a previous workbook. Again this learning plan allows you to assess what level you believe you are in key knowledge, skills and experience against where you believe you (and the force) consider you should be – now and in the coming 6 to 12 months. Some elements within it will be the same or similar to those identified before, however the ratings and your development needs would have changed.

2000 words equivalent. Please note that this is not the actual number of words used in completing the table, the count reflects the thought and research behind it.

ANSWER - please complete the template on the next page:

Knowledge, Skills and Experience Assessment

	REQUIRED			RATING			DEVELOPMENT NEED
KNOWLEDGE			High 8-10		Med 5-7 (6)		Despite my knowledge base being of a good standard it is clear that there is always room for improvement and the statement “you learn something new every day” is very true within the police. To be effective within my role it is imperative my knowledge base continually improved to a high standard, at this point I believe there are elements that I need to improve on. To ensure my knowledge base improves over the coming months I will continue to utilise the resources around me such as supervisors and experienced officers.

						I will continue to liaise with officers from specialist departments to gather knowledge from their expertise to allow me to improve. Lastly I will continue to develop my knowledge by continuing the research through various means such as PNLD, force polices and Blackstones. All which are a great source of knowledge which will enable to my constantly improve mine. At this moment in time I believe I am a 6 on the attached scale and realise there is always room to improve.
SKILLS			High 8-10		Med 5-7 (7)	With regards to skills from an organisational point I hope to further enhance my professional skills in the next 12 months by applying for as many courses as possible to increase my

						skill set. By doing so I will be able to possess a wider skill set which will allow me to become an asset to my team and those around me. In learning new skills I am also increasing my knowledge base. After recently completing my Taser course I now hold a greater understanding of the NDM which is crucial in policing. Whilst it is important that I broaden my skill set and obtain new ones it is vital that I remain focused and well versed on the current skills I do possess such as Tier 2 interviewing and response driving. To enable me to keep up to date on my current skills I aim to utilise them as often as possible and when the opportunity presents itself do not shy away from being the one
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						to act. At this point I believe I am a 7/10 on the attached scale.
EXPERIENCE			High 8-10		Med 5-7 (7)	Since beginning this process I feel I have experienced a great deal and as such have vastly developed my skill set. Over the past 12 months I have been heavily involved in numerous operations and pro active patrols which I have been able to be part of a team and gain valuable experience. Now I am in my third year of policing I now find myself as a point of contact for new officers who ask for my feedback and knowledge, a position I found myself in a year ago. In comparison to my experience levels from 12 months ago it is clear to see that within the short

						space of time I have been able to grow both personally and professionally into a competent officer. To ensure my development and to enhance my experience I have requested several attachments with specialist units to further my skills and knowledge base to allow me to become a more experienced officer. At this moment in time I believe I am a 7/10 on the attached scale.
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TASK 2

Recognition and confirmation of progress on the Occupational Competency Portfolio (OCP).

By signing the section below, you are acknowledging your continuing progress on O.C.P.

This is recognised by the university as work that is fully supporting this module BMPP 6006D; Policing in the Workplace 3 and in signing it will be equivalent to 2000 words towards the 10000 words total.

Confirmation of the progress on the Occupational Competency Portfolio (OCP).

I confirm that I am progressing with the Occupational Competency Portfolio (OCP) in accordance with the regulations.

Signed: Michael Alyn Price. (Learner – electronic signature accepted,
or type name in.)

Date: 9th June 2022.

TASK 3

This is a reminder that this TASK 3 section is an opportunity for you to answer a question on an 'advanced learning' area - RELEVANT TO THE AREA THAT HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE FORCE TO STUDY IN YEAR 3.

You are expected to answer only 1 of these 5 options:

**Response Policing.
Policing Communities.
Road Policing.
Information and Intelligence.
Conducting Investigations.**

You may wish to use the same incidents as you've outlined in the Occupational Competence Portfolio.

Wherever possible we are looking for you to reflect on your personal experience. However, if for any reason there are areas of your essay that you feel that you can only answer from a 'hypothetical' perspective, then make this clear within your answer.

In your answer to this task, you may also wish to consider how this links into your final year 3 project.

Were there any practical solutions that you were able to derive from an incident, an investigation, or a case that you attended in year 2/3?

Did this play any part in your choice of the topic area you have agreed and intend to study in your final year 3 project?

There will undoubtedly be areas of common research and learning opportunities that you can utilise for this task and for your final year 3 project.

Whatever option you study for your task 3 it is will be beneficial for you to use a recognised reflective model.

Within your answer you should consider 'what went well', 'what not so well' and 'what you would do differently next time'; consider both your performance and the performance of others around you.

TASK 3 Option 1

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Response Policing

You should choose **a policing incident from year 2/3 that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role in providing a response.

Critically analyse the social/political/strategic drivers that impact upon the response to this incident.

You could consider the strategic priorities of your Force; for example, victim led crime, harassment, racially motivated crime, or domestic violence.

Consider how strategies are evolved for those involved in response policing can remain effective in an increasingly challenging environment.

6000 words (+/- 10%: *include your actual word count at the end of each section*)

ANSWER:

TASK 3 Option 2

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Policing Communities

You should choose **a policing problem relating to policing communities from year 2/3 that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role in providing a response.

Critically analyse the key emerging issues and potential challenges faced to 'problem solve' a solution.

Consider how this could then help to reduce community tension and promote community cohesion.

Consider the competing priorities, any cost/financial constraints and availability of resources. Also consider community expectations against the capability of your force to respond

6000 words (+/- 10%: *include your actual word count at the end of each section*)

ANSWER:

Over the course of this entry my objective will be to critically analyse what the key emerging issues are and to identify the potential challenges that are faced to problem solve a solution. In addition to this I will also be documenting how this solution may offer insight to be able to effectively reduce community tension and promote community cohesion for the better. Lastly, I will highlight the issues that will be faced such as community expectations, financial restraints, the lack of available resources and the ability of Gwent police to respond to the matters. To document my decision making and strengthen my argument I will be utilising the CARL framework of reflection to do so, The university of Edinburgh (2018).

Community policing is a vital part of modern-day policing and is imperative if the police are to rectify past failings, this is achieved by actively engaging with communities to restore faith in the police and by implementing problem solving solutions to reduce crime in a targeted area.

By working closely with residents of the community this will enable the police to provide long term solutions to the issues that are identified thereby reducing community tension.

Centre for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (No Date) claim *“Because community policing is focused on close collaboration with the community and addressing community problems, it has often been seen as an effective way to increase citizen satisfaction and enhance the legitimacy of the police”*.

One of the key aspects of community policing is engagement and being present within the community. This method is mutually beneficial for both the police and the public as it allows the public to engage with officers to gather information and intelligence, it is also able to provide reassurance to the members of the community that there is a strong police presence in the area which increases public image.

Blackstones (2020). P154 states *“Community-orientated approaches to policing provide a crucial opportunity to engage with the public, proactively combat crime and address community safety and quality of life issues. This engagement is important to community problem solving, developing public confidence in the police and providing a visual presence”*. This in turn will enable a mutual trust which allows the police to build a rapport and open lines of communication with the members of the community that would not be achievable if the trust was not present to reach a common goal, Blackstones (2020). P155 will say *“A key feature of the community policing approach is an emphasis on communication and problem-solving activities between the police and the community”*.

When completed effectively, community policing can help to repair the public's distrust in the police. This leads to a reduction in crime due to an increased engagement from the public allowing better intelligence to be gathered and more crimes reported from the public, this is due to increased faith that the police will take action and want to serve the community.

College of Policing (2013) have said *“Research suggests that the way in which officers behave when engaging with the public helps to reduce crime by encouraging respect for the law and fostering social responsibility, making people more likely to help the police and not break the law. As the effects on crime are largely preventive and rely on voluntary public cooperation, improved public engagement and encounters can help the police avoid the*

financial costs associated with enforcing the law, detecting crime and processing offenders”.

This is reflective of the Peelian principles which have been a staple of British policing since its implementation in the 1800’s. Despite the fact that these principles were devised over two hundred years ago, many of Sir Robert Peels principles still form the foundation of modern-day policing and as such play a pivotal role in the success of community policing.

Stephens (No Date) has said *“The defining features of neighbourhood policing can be traced back to the Peelian principles. The clear emphasis on prevention, the recognition that the police are part of the community and that their power depends on public approval, are as important today as they were at the inception of the police service. There have been different approaches to neighbourhood policing and, on occasion, different names, however, a connection to the original foundations has remained throughout”.*

Despite Community policing being a tried and tested method for crime reduction and enabling the police to safeguard the public, there are however some challenges that are faced. Ultimately the success of community policing relies on the relationship between the police and the public. Without mutual trust and communication, the model will not be successful which is reflective to Peel’s ideology policing by consent. This is in keeping with another of Peels principles that by being able to maintain a good relationship with the public. This in turn will increase the standards of the community as the public and the police share the responsibilities of safeguarding their communities, Home office (2012).

As previously touched upon, community policing only works when both the public and the police work harmoniously to achieve a shared goal. A key example of the importance of community policing is that of areas where there is a strong presence of members from the BAME community, Sharkey (2021) has said *“Black, Asian, and minority ethnic, also known as “BAME,” is an umbrella term, common in the United Kingdom, used to describe non-white ethnicities”.*

Unfortunately, due to previous failings which have been heavily documenting and scrutinised by the public media, especially incidents involving members of the BAME

community it is now more important than ever that positive outreach and engagement is utilised to bridge the gap and restore faith towards the police. Incidents such as that of the Brixton riots in 1981 and Stephen Lawrence which occurred in 1993 still heavily influence the willingness and engagement of the BAME community towards police due to the conception that the police are inherently racist. Brenton (2010) claims *“The Brixton Riots of April 10-12, 1981, described as the first serious riots of the 20th century in England, were the first large scale racial confrontations between black British youth and white British police. The rioting was sparked by antagonism between black youths and the police”*.

Due to the numerous public failings of the incident, an inquiry was ordered by the home secretary to establish the cause of the riots. The report was heavily critical of the way the police handled the situation and highlighted several failures of the police and their disproportionate use of powers.

Brenton (2010) goes on to state *“Following the riots, the British government announced an inquiry into the disturbances led by Lord Leslie George Scarman. Lord Scarman’s report, issued on November 25, 1981, placed the Brixton riots into the context of racial disadvantage faced by young blacks. It also blamed the police for escalating the tensions and called on law enforcement agencies to in the future consult and cooperate with the Brixton community”*.

Although these incidents occurred over thirty years ago, the repercussions of the failings by the police and the discovery that officers were acting in a racist manner towards ethnic minorities is still firmly in the memory of the public and provides an element of unconscious bias towards the police.

Reiners (2022) states *“Unconscious biases, or implicit biases, are attitudes that are held subconsciously and affect the way individuals feel and think about others around them. Subconscious attitudes aren’t necessarily as well-formed as coherent thoughts, but they can be very ingrained. Many people have unconscious biases that have been with them since childhood, which they absorb by observing their social, familial and institutional environments. Unconscious biases can color the emotional and rational responses of individuals in everyday situations and affect their behavior”*.

Despite taking steps to improve public perception and implement guidelines to ensure incidents such as this are eradicated, the issue has yet to be resolved and is still a serious cause for concern not just within the United Kingdom but worldwide. Instances such as that

of George Floyd highlights that even though the police have taken positive steps in the right direction to improve their engagement and most importantly their image towards BAME communities some aspects of mistrust may never be repaired.

Muir (2020) claims *“Every single encounter between a police officer and a citizen leaves a trace. A single bad encounter can leave behind feelings of humiliation and unfairness that last a lifetime. Police legitimacy has to be renewed constantly, every hour of every day, in the practice of police officers and in the way they relate to members of the public. The times are dark. People are hurting. Securing justice and repairing broken relationships will take time”*.

The issue of mistrust between the police and BAME communities sadly is not an isolated incident and one that has been present for many years. This is in part to both parties seeing each other not as a resource but as an inconvenience, if this situation is ever to improve to a point whereby both parties achieve community cohesion effective community policing is crucial.

When both parties are able to work in unison this will enable lines of communication which will allow for reassurance, support and ensures that the police are viewed as trusted members of the communities they serve. Bratton (1996) has previously said *“The police are the most effective when they work in partnership with the community and when they are of the community, not apart from it. Police officers are the most effective when they are responding to citizens' needs and working with citizens on determining priorities, as well as when they are working as part of government”*.

This only emphasises the critical importance of effective engagement within these demographics to ensure that they do not feel victimised or isolated leading to further mistrust towards the police, which in turn will lead to more crime within the area due to the unwillingness to engage and countless crimes going unreported. It is important to remember that the police are public servants and exist to safeguard communities and provide order, when the communities they are designated to serve no longer have faith in the police then ultimately the police have failed in their duties. Smithson (2011) has said *“Police are a group of officers who represent the civil authority of government and are responsible for maintaining order and peace in society. Police enforce the law and prevent and investigate criminal activities. They are a major part of society. Police are entrusted with the duty to maintain a peaceful environment”*.

Within my limited time within the police, I have played witness to numerous on-going issues that have affected the local communities of which I police, such matters as the unrepresented impact of Covid-19 and the global fallout of the George Floyd incident have made policing complex and diverse communities even more difficult than days gone. However, from my own personal experience neither have been more detrimental to a local area and its inhabitants than that of the ongoing drug issue that is plaguing these communities and its occupants.

It is not just this community that is suffering from the fallout of drug and alcohol addiction but the country as a whole. Substance abuse has become far more prevalent in recent years and has shown a dramatic rise. Gov.UK (2021) claims *“The overall prevalence of drug use reported in the UK has remained relatively stable throughout the last decade. However, the most recent surveys covering England and Wales, and Scotland reported the highest prevalence of drug use in the past 10 years”*. *The most commonly used drugs have not changed over time. Cannabis is the most prevalent, followed by powder cocaine, MDMA, ketamine and amphetamine”*.

There are many factors for this such as drugs and alcohol being used as a coping mechanism to deal with the ever-increasing issue of mental health or the fact that drugs are far more readily available of that in recent years which ensures ease of access for users. Inevitably with the sharp increase of drug users there has also been an increase in the number of drug related deaths. Selby (2021) claimed *“A report released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that 4,561 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in 2020 – the highest number since records began in 1993 and a 3.8 per cent increase on 2019. Over the last 10 years, rates of drug-related deaths have risen by 60.9 per cent, from 49.4 deaths per million people in 2010 to 79.5 deaths per million in 2020”*.

As previously stated without the trust and support of the community there will be limited engagement with the police which allows crime to flourish. Within my time serving as a police constable for Gwent Police I have been able to witness the issues present when a community is reluctant to engage with police which leads to increased levels of criminality.

An example of this is Pillgwnlly (Pill) in Newport which has been affectionately named “The front line” by locals due to the high levels of violence, drugs, exploitation and disorder that occurs on a daily basis. Criminality has always been present within Pill and has been a cause of concern for both the police and local council for countless years both desperately attempting to devise a working strategy to no avail. Murray (2019) claimed *“Newport City Council said in a statement they were “aware of a range of issues in Pillgwenlly and we are actively working with our public sector partners, including law enforcers Gwent Police, to tackle them”.*

The area is such well known for its violent reputation so much so it has gained media appeal dubbed “Sex workers, drug dealers, petty thieves: A visit to the country's most VIOLENT street”, the article does a tremendous job of documenting the disorder. Murray (2019) goes on to say *“In this part of Newport, Pillgwenlly or Pill for short, life has become toxic and illustrates the concerns of out-going Victims’ Commissioner for England and Wales, Baroness Newlove in her last annual report. Sex workers, drug dealers, petty thieves and violent thugs are proliferating, driving the decent, hard-working majority to despair”.*

Pill is made up by several ethnic minorities from BAME background, historically the rapport between residents and the police has been fractious to say the least.

Whilst on an attachment with the local neighbourhood policing team I was tasked with implementing a strategy to reduce crime and violent offending in the area. Upon examination I was able to see first-hand the impact of an area which polices itself due to their lack of engagement with the police.

I was aware that the most important aspect in reducing criminality would stem from implementing measures to control the distribution of drugs within the area, although not all crimes directly involve drugs it is clear to see that drugs do play an integral part of all instances. From speaking with the neighbourhood sergeant, I was able to ascertain the key issues within the community related to drugs, theft, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and prostitution.

It was evident to see that all three were intrinsically linked in one form or another. Drugwise (2021) stated *“Some research studies have found that a lot of acquisitive crime (stealing) is committed by dependent users of heroin and crack cocaine trying to pay for their drugs. Some show a high proportion of people arrested for a range of offences testing positive for drug use. It has been suggested that one third to over a half of all acquisitive crime is related to illegal drug use”*. Although I was able to identify a problem in the area, providing a solution was no easy task.

Research clearly indicates that the presence of drugs within a community often has drastic consequences on the residents and the area itself. Drugwise (2021) also say *“The fact that acquisitive crime is focused on poorer, inner city areas makes for a lot of stress and difficulty for people who live there”*.

This is evident in the Pill and surrounding area and has been for many years. Due to the hold drugs have on the vast majority of its residents Pill has become a hotspot for criminality and violent offending.

Casa Palmera (2019) will say *“The impact is wide-ranging and staggering. For instance, a greater amount of substance abuse-related crimes means a community has to fund more police officers, and jails have to increase personnel staffing because of an increase in the number of inmates. Courts can become overburdened with too many drug cases, and the victims (for instance, a business that was robbed or burglarized) may also incur costs. If a community experiences a rash of drug-related crimes, it could gain a reputation for its “bad” neighborhoods and experience a loss of property values and sales tax revenue as people move out or avoid visiting or living there”*.

This is in part due to drug users resorting to crime to be able to feed their drug habit, due to the hold that drugs can have upon a person in many instances they resort to criminality to fund their addiction which as a result lead to repeat offending. Drug use and criminality is intrinsically linked and often users will use crime as a means to fund and support their habits. This is referred to as economic related crime whereby individuals commit crimes to receive money to fuel their addictions. Stroleny Law (No Date) will say *“Economic-Related Crimes: Whenever an individual commits an illegal act to fund a drug habit. The most common types of economic-related crime include prostitution, robbery, and theft”*.

This is particularly relevant within the area of Pill where offences such as theft and prostitution are commonplace. Blackstones (2020). P382 states “*The strong association between street prostitution and drug dependence, and between off-street prostitution and organised crime was recognised by ACPO in its 2011 strategy & supporting operational guidance for policing prostitution and sexual exploitation*”.

As I had been able to successfully identify the key emerging issues within my target area, I then set to implement a working strategy. It was my objective to provide a solution to the problem at hand and by doing so identified the issues that were present in the community and aimed to provide solutions to these.

I was aware that by doing so I would be able to provide a solution which in turn would result in a positive impact for the residents and community as a whole and in turn and provide much needed community cohesion that has been non-existent within the area for many years. With this in mind I organised a station surgery meeting where members of the community could come to discuss their concerns and have an opportunity to express what factors were affecting them personally or the community as a whole. By conducting this meeting I was able to uncover invaluable feedback from members of the public that would not have been possible without taking the time to hear their concerns. Unsurprisingly the concerns raised by participants related to the use of drugs and alcohol within the community and the repercussions that come as a result.

Participants stated that they fear becoming a victim of crime as a result of a drug user targeting them as a form of income. Many stated that due to the on going drug issue they feel unsafe in their own homes and fear leaving for work as they are unsure if their home will remain safe in their absence. In addition to this they described incidents involving drug induced crime is also increasing such as assaults and robbery whereby individuals are so consumed by the drug that they have taken it causes them to lose all inhibitions and act antisocially. Stroleny Law (No Date) says “*Use-Related Crimes: Anything that happens as an effect of drugs being consumed by an individual, including violent acts, reckless driving, manslaughter, etc*”.

Participants also voiced their opinions on the police and some points were raised. Factors such as they believed little is done to control the drug use in the area or safeguard the community, the lack of available police units within the area and the streets were no longer a safe place for children or families was stated by the participants.

One business owner stated that as a result of the crime within the area she felt she had no option but to close the business. This was due to several factors such as being a repeat victim of burglary and the fact that due to the violent reputation that Pill has some customers simply refuse to visit the location. This participant went on to state that she no longer placed any trust or faith within the police as on each occasion she felt she was not taken seriously, that not enough was done by the attending officers and due to the current drug policies within the UK being too lenient there is no deterrent for offenders to be deterred.

This was a common theme from the participants who mirrored the concern that the police were not adequate enough in their duties to effectively safeguard and police the community.

Nsubuga (2021) claims *“The proportion of people who do not have “very much confidence” in the force rose from 31% on 1 March to 34% on 29 March, while those with a “fair amount of confidence” fell from 46% to 43%. People with “no confidence at all” in officers rose from 7% to 9% and those with “a lot of confidence” fell from 7% to 6%. In the past month, the proportion of people who think the police are doing a good job in general has fallen from 67% to 64%, while those who think they’re doing a bad job has risen from 23% to 28%”.*

On conclusion of the meeting it was refreshing to see that the community did not wish for any unrealistic expectations from the police and simply wanted to feel safer in the community, which was of course a shared goal of them and for I. At first however it was clear that the participants expected this change to happen immediately which would not be achievable from a policing perspective. I wanted the participants to understand that although it was my intention to impact change in the community that this would be a lengthy process with incremental changes, I explained to the participants that I would be conducting the operation utilising the SMART model so that all actions were in an approved timescale. The Brilliance (2019) has said *“SMART model is a tool that helps you optimize your goals based on five essential criteria. Specific, Measurable, Attractive, Realistic and Timed”.*

To the credit of the community once I explained the issues that I could potentially face such as the ability of Gwent police to respond to the matter at hand and the cost implications they only raised one concern on how they would be able to see the results of the operation. To overcome this I proposed that all updates that are achieved as a result of the operation will be published via social media for all to see. This has a dual benefit as it shows not just the community that the police are operating within the area but the offenders also which will in turn potentially deter them from the area due to risk of prosecution.

Upon completion of the meeting it was evident that the police and the community shared the same concerns and aimed to achieve a shared goal, to reduce the negative impact drugs have within our communities to allow them to flourish. However it was clear that the community placed little to no trust within the police to solve the problems at hand. I knew that if I was going to remedy the concerns raised and rebuild faith in the community, I would have to effect change that was measurable so trust could be obtained and restored.

I was able to identify that the first step in this would be to reach out to partnership services to gain valuable insight and to utilise their expertise, in undertaken as ambitious as this partnership working is critical for success.

Farrell (2022) will say *“No organisation can tackle the complex problems and also meet the significant community safety challenges each Police Force faces. The police service cannot deal with every incident on their own. They rely on partners to help and guide them by using their specialism and skills to solve problems. Ensuring the safety of the public, protecting local communities, and focusing on local issues underpins all that the police service wishes to achieve. By utilising partnership working this will hopefully be achieved”*.

As the key issues I had identified all related to the use of drugs in some form or another, I contacted Gwent Drug Alcohol Service (GDAS) to discuss what protocols were already in place to support drug and alcohol users who seek support from their services and to identify any potential gaps to ensure those who use the service are given the best support possible. When speaking with staff at the GDAS it was clear that despite their best efforts much like the police they were dealing with the same individuals on a regular basis for a variety of reasons. Staff at GDAS explained that the majority of their users are reliant on heroin, crack cocaine and alcohol which as a result of this are frequently involved in criminality and are well known to the police. GDAS aim to support drug users within the area by providing a

support mechanism to ensure those who seek help have a positive environment. Ultimately despite the work GDAS do, the service is voluntary and those who are referred by the police heed little warning to the conditions placed upon them.

Through conducting proactive patrol in an unmarked vehicle I was able to gather valuable information which would aid me in causing disruption to the drug use in isolated areas. From these patrols I was aware that drug users often congregated in a disused carpark which had become a drug hotspot due to the area being in complete darkness as the lights had been damaged by youths. From speaking with the community, they informed that when the lights were operational that the carpark did not have the issue and it was only when the lights were damaged did this occur.

It became clear the importance of partnership working so I engaged with the local council to establish what measures could be applied, initially the local council were very reluctant to repair the lights due to the cost implications in fear that they would once again become damaged. This was an ongoing issue and the first obstacle I had encountered regarding financial implications.

After speaking with the local community, conducting covert proactive patrols and reading the briefing packages that get disseminated by the Crime And Disorder Reduction Officer (CADRO) who works closely with partner services I felt I had gathered enough intelligence and identified drugs as the root of the problem.

As such I was able to successfully apply a policing model in the form of Problem-orientated policing (POP), College of Policing (2020) have said “*Problem-oriented policing (POP) – also known as problem-solving policing – is an approach to tackling crime and disorder that involves identification of a specific problem, thorough analysis to understand the problem, development of a tailored response and assessment of the effects of the response. POP is an approach to develop targeted interventions, rather than an intervention itself. POP approach can therefore be applied to any crime and disorder problem. It should not be viewed as an alternative to interventions in the crime reduction toolkit, but used in conjunction with them*”.

By adding this model, I would be able to address the root cause of the problem being the drugs and alcohol and instead of reacting to issues once they have been reported be able to focus on the issue before it had the opportunity to progress. By utilising POP I deduced that by removing the key factors present within the community which were drugs this would address the majority of the concerns raised by the community which in turn would improve community cohesion and trust towards the police. As suggested within the name POP can only be successful when working in partnership with the community and the local agencies, without effective teamwork and clear communication the model will ultimately fail and the root cause of the problem will be left unaddressed. Blackstones (2020). P158 will say *“Only through the support and willingness of practitioners to engage with new approaches will the intended objectives be met”*.

Another crucial part of the success of POP is that the community are able to have an involvement which make them feel part of the solution and provides an increased confidence towards the police as they are able to see the efforts that are carried out to achieve the goal.

To further ensure that I had gathered enough intelligence to be able to successfully address the issue at hand I also used the problem analysis triangle (PAT) to support my decision as I knew that if I was going to be able to successfully achieve my objective of disrupting the drug use within Pill I would need the suitable resources to do so which would be met with financial constrictions.

By implementing the PAT it was my intention that by addressing the underlying issues of drug related offenders within Pill this would be able to provide a further means of issuing a problem solving theory to safeguard the community thus increasing the chances of the operations success. Blackstones (2020). P157 states *“The Problem Analysis Triangle (PAT) provide an officer with a basis to begin to analyse a particular problem. It considers three main points of analysis (victim, location, and offender). Solutions are then found through identifying practical measures to address one or more of these points”*.

To ensure my plan was suitable and relevant to the area I arranged a meeting with the local inspector who would be able to authorise the resources available and ultimately allow myself to conduct the operation. Although POP and the problem analysis triangle are valuable tools in disrupting criminality and effecting a change within the community, they are both not without risk and would come under scrutiny if not done correctly as there are those who feel that by

removing crime and drugs from one area, inevitably those offenders will find another place to commit crime and continue their drug use.

Guerette (2009) has said *“At worst, displacement can lead to more harmful consequences. This occurs when there is a shift to more serious offenses or to similar offenses that have more serious consequences. Referred to as "malign" displacement, it involves any situation where the relocation of crime makes matters worse. This could be an increase in the volume of crime at the relocated area, a shift to more serious crime types, the concentration of crime to a smaller group of victims, the relocation of crime to places where it has greater impact on the community, or the relocation of crime to more vulnerable groups of the population”*.

As such I ensured that my plan would address these issues and was ready to take it to the inspector for approval.

Upon meeting with the inspector, I was able to present my findings and discuss what measures I wanted in place to combat the problems raised from the community and those identified from the POP plan that was compiled. I was aware that the most important aspect of this operation would be the resources to operate it, as I had identified the key factors that were negatively affecting community cohesion, I was now in a position to provide a solution.

Despite the inspector sharing my concerns and agreeing that action needed to be taken drastically to control the criminality within Pill to regain the trust of the community and effectively safeguard them, the overall response from Gwent police would be determined by how much money the budget would allow. In light of this I was able to present the issues that I had collated from research and community engagement and provide solutions to each. Now that I had approval for the operation to go ahead, I had to act upon the concerns raised by the community and provide a response.

The first issue I wished to address was the concern raised by community within the surgery that they feel there is no longer a strong police presence within the area. At the time I advised the participants that due to Covid-19 these were unprecedented times and it was not just the public that were dealing with the fallout of the pandemic but the police also. Due to this there was a high rate of sickness within Gwent police which resulted in less officers patrolling the area as the resources were not available, alongside this issue the number of available officers across the force has dramatically decreased in recent years. A loss that all forces within the

United Kingdom are suffering, Unison (No Date) have said *“Between March 2012 and March 2016, police officer numbers dropped from 134,101 to 124,006, a reduction of over 10,000. In 2010 there were 79,500 police staff working for forces in England and Wales. By March 2016, this number had dropped to 61,668”*.

To address this issue, I requested that police community support officers (PCSO) from areas that were not as affected by sickness levels to patrol the area of Pill to ensure a police presence is noted by both the residents and the offenders.

In addition to this I requested as many police constables as possible to conduct both overt and covert patrols allowing the means for proactive patrols to take place, this would enable the officers to target the known hotspots for offending and utilise police powers such as section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to deter the users of drugs within the area. Blackstones (2020). P172 will say *“Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA1971) provides and officer with the power to search any person, place or vehicle for drugs”*.

To fully capitalise on a strong authoritative presence in the community I again reached out to the local council to request community safety wardens to patrol the area alongside police to show a zero-tolerance approach on drugs. Blackstones (2020). P159 say’s *“It become known as zero-tolerance policing because it responded vigorously to all acts of low-level criminally, and to incivility and behaviours that detracted from the quality of life for ordinary citizens”*.

Although both CSO and CSW have limited powers they are a vital source of intelligence and when used efficiently can provide a wealth of data to allow officers to act upon and disrupt criminality on various levels, in addition to this they both provide a visible presence in the community and by doing so provides faith to the residents that the police are committed to providing a safer environment for them to live. Most importantly it is not just the residents that are aware of the presence but the offenders also. Blackstones (2020). P156 states *“PCSOs have become an effective means of providing community engagement, enabling interaction with the public, acquiring local knowledge, addressing problems and gathering intelligence”*.

With the information gathered from the participants of the surgery and from conducting proactive patrols it was evident due to the continuous drug and alcohol abuse anti-social

behaviour was extremely prevalent in the area. Again, to combat this I was able to liaise with the local council to issue a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on the local area with the objective to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in the public. Blackstones (2020). P306 states *“A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is issued by a council and is designed to manage a specific problem which is caused by individuals or groups in a particular public space, and is injurious to the local community.*

Supplementary to this with the aid of CSO's I met up with local shopkeepers to propose certain limitations and use their discretion in relation to sales of alcohol with the aim that by stemming the distribution of alcohol within the area this would reduce the inevitable anti-social behaviour that followed. Unfortunately, this tactic was not implemented due to the reluctance of the shopkeepers as it would affect their daily takings due to the fact that the sale of alcohol from the repeat offenders is their main source of income.

From local knowledge and information from CSO and CSW I was able to gather intelligence on the most prolific ASB offenders, it was evident that although they had been arrested for countless public order offences this was not enough of a deterrent for them. To remedy this and to prohibit their anti-social behaviour I made applications to the courts for the implementation of Criminal Behaviour Orders to be presented before the courts in the hope that these conditions would carry more weight and allow the community to be rid of persistent ASB offenders. Blackstones (2020). P302 will say *“Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) can be used to deal with the most persistently anti-social individuals who engage in criminal activity. CBOs are issued by a criminal court on conviction for any criminal offence”.*

I also went to speak with the Roads Policing and Specialist Operations departments (RSPO) as I was aware that countless vehicles enter the area of Pill in relation to drug supply. The supply generally emanates from out of area by larger organised crime gangs (OCG). As I was aware that I would not be in a position to deal with this matter myself and the available budget of the operation was rapidly decreasing the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) would be vital to track and disrupt the supply of drugs into the area as it can be used passively and is extremely cost effective. College of Policing (2013) claim *“ANPR should always be considered where it is known or believed that a vehicle is involved in an investigation or incident”.*

With the aid of RSPO I was able to conduct proactive stops of vehicles issued with markers on the police national computer (PNC) for drug makers and was able to make several arrests of offender in relation to possession with intent to supply drugs.

Laver (No Date) claims *“The PNC is a national database of information available to all police forces, law enforcement agencies and other specified bodies throughout UK. It is used for facilitating investigations and sharing information of both national and local significance. The system provides intelligence to police and other criminal justice or law enforcement agencies by holding extensive information on people, vehicles, crimes and property”*.

As it is well documented criminals utilise the road to travel and the aid of RSPO was integral in the success of causing disruption of the supply of drugs into the area.

A further challenge faced was the issue of theft and burglary in the area. From the meeting participants stated that this was having a detrimental effect on their livelihood, in light of this I spoke with the We Don't Buy Crime Department who were able to provide Smart Water packs to local businesses and provide safety plan advice to safeguard the establishment to reduce the chances of them becoming repeat offenders.

McCallum (2022) has said *“For years, SmartWater has been used to protect property and deter thieves by being applied to high value items. When dry the liquid is invisible to the naked eye, but it glows fluorescent yellow under ultra violet lamps and torches which are used by police. SmartWater is made up of a combination of rare elements that would never be found naturally anywhere else in the world. Every bottle has a different amount of those particles within it and each batch is unique, meaning we can tell categorically which batch of liquid is found”*.

Upon my meeting with the inspector to gain approval for the operation and secure the budget, I was cautious in my approach of what I requested as I was fully aware that I was acting on behalf of the community and attempting to alleviate their concerns by proving a police response that had to be proportionate to the problem. As such I was aware that any failings to address the concerns raised by the community would only widen the gap of mistrust between the public and the police and would harm any future engagement between both parties.

Through extensive research and community outreach I felt I was successful in hearing the concerns of the community and providing a proportionate response to each concern raised to ensure the community was safeguarded and trust was earned towards the police.

As previously agreed upon with the participants of the surgery all updates would be posted via the forces official social media to promote the work being carried out which would increase the communities trust. Initially this was met with some complications from the force as due to there being strict policies in place regarding the use of social media. To resolve this, I spoke with members of the corporate communications department to explain the importance of my access to the social media platforms.

Eventually it was agreed that I would solely be responsible for the social media involving the operation and would have to always adhere to the forces social media policy. Although the force has their own policy for use of social media it is vital to remember the 10 standards of policing and to remember that I was acting as a representative of Gwent police and as such my actions would be accountable for the force as a whole. Blackstones (2020). P156 will say *“The use of social media is now firmly embedded in all police force communication strategies throughout England and Wales, backed up with robust guidelines to ensure it is used in a positive way, requiring the same standards of behaviour that would be expected offline”*.

Upon commencement of this operation I was aware that there would be complications when implementing an operation with such a difficult task due to the forces other competing priorities. Fortunately, through speaking with my local inspector we were able to establish an agreed upon timescale and strategy to ensure the forces time was used wisely and managed efficiently. As previously discussed finances would be an important factor in the success or demise of this operation. To ensure the agreed upon budget was not over stretched I heavily relied on partnership agencies such as the local council to share the workload, responsibilities and most crucially the costs. This enabled me to achieve the goals set out to improve community cohesion and safeguard the community as a whole.

Blackstones (2020). P160 states *“A defining feature of neighbourhood policing is working in partnership and engaging with communities. The police are required and encouraged to collaborate with a number of agencies in investigating crime, and on issues concerning public protection. Reducing crime and disorder: the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the obligation for the police and other agencies to work together to counter and reduce anti-social behaviour and other types of crime and disorder in their localities”*.

As previously discussed, substance abuse and the criminal aspects linked to this was the forefront of the operation, although the area of Pill is a cause of concern for both Gwent Police and the local council, sadly it is not the only area within Gwent whereby criminality is a daily occurrence. Due to this it was inevitable that the force would have competing priorities that also needed the resources and money and that the operation within Pill was not the only one that was on going, due to this I ensured that once approval was gained for the operation that I would utilise every asset at my disposal to ensure that the pre-determined goal was completed.

Another issue face was that of available resources, despite being given approval for a budget to allow for overtime and extra officers to be utilised, the amount simply was not enough when measured up the task at hand. I was able to remedy this issue by reaching out to specials to assist with warrants and proactive patrols. By doing this I was able to greatly bolster the number of available officers without impacting the budget. Blackstones (2020). P21 states *“Special constables (Specials) are volunteers, who are sworn officers with full powers. Specials are subject to the same Code Of Ethics as other police officers”*.

In summation, throughout this entry I have been able to recount an incident where I played an integral role in relation to solving a community related issue. When first being tasked with the monumental task of reducing crime within the area of Pill it left me with a sense of dread and anxiety. My first and only thought was how would I be able to implement a change where countless others have tried and failed before and all within the limited timescale of my month-long attachment.

I quickly began to realise that if I was going to have any success then I needed to speak with those who are directly affected by the issue and by conducting a station surgery I uncovered some valuable first-hand feedback. Once I had identified the core issues at hand my next goal was to find a solution to each concern that was raised to achieve the objective. Despite there being many challenges faced along the way, through effective communication, partnership working and teamwork the operation overall was a success.

The goal upon the outset of this operation was to improve community cohesion and reduce crime in the area to regain the trust of the community by addressing the issues raised by the public. Realistically the trust of the community and the eradication of criminality is not going to happen overnight, and despite some positive achievements within the space of the operation criminality is still very much a part of everyday life in Pill.

However, an important factor to remember is the community was able to see that positive steps have been taken which provides a sense of hope and restores trust within the police and as a result both the police and the community can continue to work in harmony to achieve a mutual goal to provide a safe and inclusive community for all. By being present with the community, offenders are now able to see that the police are taking preventive measures to ensure that criminality is being tackled and dealt with more harshly than in days gone.

By effectively policing the community it sends the message to offenders that the police are taking a zero-tolerance stance on offending which will bring order within the community to achieve cohesion. Police forces within the UK are well aware that this is an issue that needs constant improvement and are striving to address their short comings and remedy the issues. To achieve this, The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing (CoP) have set out a 10 year plan with the sole focus on providing the community with the best available service in the ever changing word of modern day policing.

NPCC (No Date) claim *“Police need to develop a proactive and sophisticated understanding of community needs to keep people safe, particularly as communities become more diverse and complex. To these ends, we have invested in neighbourhood policing using uniformed police officers, community engagement officers and police community support officers to help solve local problems, tackle anti-social behaviour and build trust and legitimacy in communities”*.

Word Count – 5779.

TASK 3 Option 3

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Road Policing

You should choose a serious collision that you have been involved **from year 2/3 that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role in providing a response.

Critically reflect upon the management of a serious collision in which you played a significant role in. What were the causes and what strategies, and initiatives could be implemented to reduce the likelihood of it reoccurring?

6000 words (+/- 10%: *include your actual word count at the end of each section*)

ANSWER:

TASK 3 Option 4

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Information and Intelligence

You should choose an investigation that you have been involved in **during year 2/3 that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role.

Critically evaluate and reflect upon how information and intelligence was used to progress a given policing operation.

Consider the role of the National Intelligence Model and reflect on how information and intelligence was critical to the outcome of the situation and analyse how the role of NIM as a business process is used to shape a wider force policing objective.

Examples of policing operations could be relating to cannabis factory, organised crime groups, or handling of stolen goods.

6000 words (+/- 10%: *include your actual word count at the end of each section*)

ANSWER:

TASK3 Option 5

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Conducting Investigations

You should choose an investigation that you have been involved in **during year 2/3 that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role.

Critically evaluate the role of the victim, or the witness in the investigation and the strategies employed to manage their journey through the criminal justice system. Consider the role of specialists in relation to complex live (or cold) cases.

Critically reflect on how you have ensured the wellbeing and resilience of the investigative team and self during the investigation.

Consider the professional support involved for victims and witnesses and how you maximise the evidential opportunities they present.

6000 words (+/- 10%: *include your actual word count at the end of each section*)

ANSWER:

TASK 4 Bibliography

The bibliography should only include sources referenced within the workbook using the Harvard referencing system. Information about referencing in written assignments and how to avoid plagiarism can be found on Moodle. It is important that you are aware of the importance of ensuring that the work submitted is your original work.

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