

Academic Assignment

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Essay One:

How effective is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as a means of reducing crime? Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may refer to relevant case studies.

A criminologist from the USA, named C. Ray Jeffrey, coined the phrase 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED). He explained how there are opportunities for crimes to occur due to the social and physical environment and, as such, there are opportunities for crime to be reduced by making changes to the environment (Draper and Cadzow, 2004, p. 9). The research supporting CPTED can be aligned under six subheadings (Moffat, 1983, cited in Cozens, Saville, Hillier, 2005, p. 330-339). The first being, territoriality, which suggests a sense of ownership over a space for its users. Meaning there are less opportunities for lawbreaking. Surveillance is the next subheading, and Cozens, Saville, Hillier (2005, p. 331) consider that if lawbreakers perceive that they will be observed then they are less likely to engage in criminal activity. The third aspect is access control, whereby potential offenders are denied access to targets and thus creating an increased sense of risk. Activity support is the next element, and this considers the encouragement of stakeholders to use a public space. The next subheading, Image/Management, identifies that a positive image should be promoted and maintaining the space is crucial to continue promoting the area to the public. The final aspect is target hardening, where offenders would require increased efforts to engage in criminal activity as access to potential targets would be limited or denied.

The most prominent aspect of CPTED that discourages offenders to engage in crime within CPTED areas is surveillance, with officers tasked with designing out crime in agreement (Armitage and Monchuk, 2019, p. 323). They go on to say that offenders considered the risk of being observed as key factor in decision making. However, offenders and officers, disagree with the least effective component, with offenders referencing defensible space and officers considering management as the least effective component. Armitage and Monchuck (2019, p. 327) state that a defensible space could attract offenders to commit crimes as it may indicate wealth and that there may be desirable and valuable items within that space.

The UK have adopted CPTED a scheme known as Secure by Design (SBD), which is run by the Association of Chief Police Officers. Armitage (2000) explains how housing developers are encouraged to design out crime at the planning stage, paying particular attention to domestic burglary. In the Home Office Briefing Note, Armitage (2000) explored the impact of CPTED on refurbished estates, new build estates and residents' crime surveys. They found that, when considering the refurbished estates, the two schemes analysed had 67% and a 54% higher crime rates compared to before the SBD accreditation. Additionally, when studying the new build estates, they found that in the 25 SBD certified estates there were 26% fewer crimes compared to the 25 non-SBD new build estates. Residents were surveyed, 250 in SBD housing and 250 in non-SBD housing, there was a 47% response rate. The results showed that 2.9% of SBD respondents had been victims of burglary, whereas 8.4% had been victims from non-SBD housing. Other considerations, such as feeling 'very unsafe' at home or near their home were also analysed, with SBD housing consistently recording lower percentages than non-SBD housing. The briefing also considers cost, and it reveals that the median cost across South Yorkshire was £440 for new build properties and the cost to refurbish existing properties was £600 to achieve SBD certification. It reveals, in comparison, that the average cost of a burglary was £1670.

CPTED does draw some criticism as Harper (2022) explains that police have been removing benches and shrubbery from parks and blocking the construction of new cycle paths, highlighting that the public suffer due to the lack of green spaces and public amenities. They suggest that, instead of implementing CPTED schemes, authorities should invest in local areas, with the ambition of reducing social inequality. In addition to this, Burke (2022) considers whether CPTED schemes have a detrimental effect of crime. Gilstad-Hayden *et al.* (2015, p.252) suggest that violent and property related crime decreases with tree canopy cover, therefore questioning the approach taken by police to remove greenery in public spaces. In a study, Goodman and Aldred (2021), discuss how low traffic neighbourhoods can reduce crimes such as, violent, and sexual crime, public order, possession of weapons, burglary, and vehicle related crime. Suggesting that increased levels of pedestrians and cyclists have a positive impact on crimes rates.

Evaluating individual CPTED schemes can be challenging as the quality of research can be called into question due to complexity of CPTED (Cozens and Love, 2015). They outline how several factors can influence the outcome, and that the scale of results is small considering these factors. This shows that, even with the available research, it is difficult to truly assess the effectiveness of CPTED schemes. There is evidence to suggest that CPTED schemes can be highly effective at reducing crime. There's considerable evidence that supports the use of SBD in particular. However, there is also evidence that suggests that CPTED schemes can have a detrimental effect on crime statistics. The principles associated with CPTED can also provide varying results when considering their effectiveness to reduce crime, with a suggestion that defensible space could tempt criminals. Travis states in Feins, Epstein, and Widom (1997, p. vii) that a 'one size fits all' approach is not conducive and that CPTED schemes should be developed in close partnership with local communities as the best results often consider the varying geographic, cultural, economic, and social characteristics found within society. When considering the research, CPTED has genuine merits and when used effectively and it can assist in making significant reductions in crime. Although, each project needs to be tailored to the suit the community it is meant to serve, given the evidence that CPTED can, in the end, have a detrimental effect of crime rates.

Word Count: 968

Essay Two:

Why is it important to manage trauma and mental wellbeing in policing?

Policing present significant risks to the mental health of police officers and staff (Clements, Sharples and Kinman, 2020, p.81). There are three principal areas of risk associated with trauma management within policing (Hesketh and Tehrani, 2018, p. 532). Firstly, where response officers respond to incidents, secondly where specialist officers are exposed to psychological hazards such as dealing with rape victims, and the third being where officers attend at a major incident such as a terrorist attack.

When trauma occurs for an individual, they require appropriate support to prevent the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Taylor, 2014, p. 2-3). In a study, Demou, Hale and Hunt (2020, p, 711) explain how there was a widespread underreporting of mental health problems, with PTSD, anxiety and depression being documented. Many of the respondents outlined out traumatic events influenced their mental health issues. Mind (2022) discuss how there is a stigma in the police to not speak out regarding mental health issues, especially when much of the work is about helping others. There is a case to be made that masculinity within the police leaves officers feeling isolated as they do not have an outlet for their emotions (Contreras-Negretti, 2019, p. iii). Stamatakis (2019, p. 6) explains how police personnel do not take appropriate breaks or time off to manage their mental wellbeing following trauma, and outlines that the lack of resources are significant factor in people not taking such time for themselves. They go on to say that a standard response would be to schedule compulsory overtime, not allowing colleagues to take time to ensure the wellbeing of officers can be managed effectively.

Bell and Eski (2016, p. 96) consider suicide rates as a crucial factor in managing trauma and mental wellbeing, and discuss how police officers are less likely to speak out about their ongoing issues which therefore leads to those concerns being intensified. 163 police officers were recorded to have committed suicide between 2011 and 2019 according to the Office of National Statistics (Taylor, 2022, p. 5). This is not an issue contained to policing alone as over a quarter of emergency workers have considered ending the lives, and 62% reported having a mental health problem while working or volunteering (Mind, 2016). The Home Officer (2022) reports that police forces across the UK are made up of approximately 65% males. Doward (2016) reported that, in a survey funded by the Mental Health Foundation, men are less likely to seek professional help for their mental health and are less likely to discuss their mental wellbeing with loved ones. In addition to this, almost three quarters of all suicide related deaths in England and Wales in 2021 were men (Office of National Statistics, 2022). Therefore, there is a strong indication that police officers, especially male officers, are at risk of suicide due to not managing their mental wellbeing effectively.

Approximately 20% of police officers are drinking to hazardous levels according to Syed *et al.* (2020). However, an alternative study outlined that almost one in three officers reported drinking hazardous levels of alcohol and 3% of officers were drinking harmful levels of alcohol (Irizar *et al.* 2021, p. 8). They also found that officers with possible mental health conditions were twice as likely to report binge drinking and harmful alcohol use compared to those without a mental health issue. Alcohol has become associated with helping police officers deal with the work they carry out (Perkins, Howell, and Shearing, 2020, p. 292). It is expected that a police officer adheres to standards of professional behaviour, included in these standards is that an officer must remain fit for work so that they can carry out their responsibilities as a police officer (College of Policing, 2014). The National Health Service (2022) extensively list the issues relating to alcohol misuse; these include long term health implications such as depression, cancer, and brain damage. They also include social issues such as the breakup of a family, unemployment, and financial problems.

Miller, Peart, and Soffia (2019, p. 311) report that over 1000 police officers had some involvement in the Manchester Arena terror attack in May 2017. They consider that it is a vital public health issue for police officers need to be prepared for traumatic events so that they have the resilience to deal with them. Furthermore, Brewin *et al.* (2020) considers that issues with mental health in policing could have a detrimental effect on the relationship between the public and the police. Beyond policing, a negative stigma remains in the public regarding individuals that suffer with mental health issues despite public education campaigns (Bell, Palmer-Conn, and Kealey, 2021, p. 6). There is a suggestion that the public would lose confidence in the police should trauma and

mental wellbeing not be managed effectively. Turner and Jenkins (2018, p. 155), however, believe that the police organisations need to do more to provide support. They outline a lack of formal support is backed up by the destruction of informal support systems due to the loss of shared social spaces.

Police organisations have launched several schemes to help manage the wellbeing of officers. Trauma risk management (TRiM) is a process where officers are supported by their peers and aims to support individuals following trauma and to reduce the stigma around mental health so that those in need of support seek it out (Watson and Andrews, 2018, p. 348). There has been a national drive to improve police wellbeing services, with the introduction of Oscar Kilo and the National Wellbeing Service (Phythian *et al.* 2022, p. 24).

It is evident from the research that there is a significant concern with the rates of mental ill health abundant in policing. It is also clear that much of the problem is not being reported as officers are reluctant to come forward with their situation. This suggests that those individuals are not able to manage trauma or their mental wellbeing effectively. Suicide rates are significant, with men being of particular concern, especially given the male dominance in policing. Alcohol misuse is also a particular concern as drinking levels are high. Research shows that this level of drinking can exacerbate mental ill health, as well as have a series of other health implications. The final aspect considered is the impact on public trust in the police. If police organisations do not have the support of the public then they could lose their authority (Tudor, 2023).

Word Count: 1069

Essay Three:

Why is it necessary to challenge the negative aspects of organisational culture within policing?

Organisational culture is determined by groups of people, as opposed to individuals (Druckman, Singer and Van Cott, 1997, p. 69), culture can develop through shared experience and often engage both the emotions and the intellect. Although, it is also discussed how organisational culture can be ambiguous and confusing and that enforced changes to culture can occur as circumstances develop.

Schein and Schein (2016, p. 6) explore a dynamic definition of culture within a group or organisation. They discuss how a shared learning of a group as it resolves ongoing challenges helps to define its culture. The definition discusses how the group will evaluate what has worked well and then new members are educated in these methods given their considered success. The new members are taught how to react to similar challenges in the same way. Schein and Schein (2016, p. 6) go on to explain that this pattern of accumulated learning can lead to being taken for granted and group members are no longer aware of the pattern.

To understand why it is necessary to challenge the negative aspects of organisation culture within policing it is important to understand the outcome of what the impact of these negative aspects are. Baroness Casey (2023, p. 13-14) has identified significant issues within the culture of the Metropolitan Police in an independent review of the force's standards of behaviour and culture. Some of the cultural difficulties identified in the review include being too hubris and not being accepting of external support, denial of its own flaws, that people are not able to speak up and optimism bias whereby they blame individuals rather than consider the organisational culture.

Within this report, Baroness Casey (2023, p. 13) discusses how the Metropolitan Police dismiss external viewpoints and appear to consider that it is not possible to comprehend the complexities of their work without being part of the organisation. Baroness Casey believes that this is a significant weakness in the operation of the police force and prevents them from bringing in external agencies to help improve the culture of the organisation. Leaders within organisations who submit to hubris can become arrogant, they also develop contempt to those with alternative points of view (Fleming and Delves, 2017, p. 63). Furthermore, it is outlined how if these leaders are not exposed to differing opinions and are surrounded by sycophants then it could lead to crises within the organisation, which could in turn destroy it. Easton (2023) explores the possibility of the Metropolitan Police being disbanded, and refers to Baroness Casey hinting as such, though they also point out that wholesale reform such as this is not imminent.

The denial of its own flaws is another issue identified by Baroness Casey (2023, p. 13). The explanation is that the Metropolitan Police do not take ownership of the shortcomings encountered and begin from a position where they consider that no wrongdoing has occurred and only accept any responsibility when the proof is irrefutable. It is identified that this leaves the force in a position where they are unable to learn from previous mistakes. Furthermore, it is identified how many of the wider issues within the report could have been addressed had this culture not been apparent in the organisation. Schabracq, Winnubst, and Cooper (2003, p. 40) tells us that people from outside an organisation can easily identify aspects that are being neglected. They go on to explain that when something does go wrong, these shortcomings become evident as the organisation does not have the resources to be adaptable in their approach to dealing with such issues. Schabracq, Winnubst, and Cooper (2003, p. 40) continue by explaining that reactions such as denial can lead to the aggravation of the issues at hand. Dodd (2023) suggests the force were in denial about the extent of the institutional racism claimed in The Macpherson Report in 1999 as the review conducted by Baroness Casey has also identified that the Metropolitan Police are racist.

Another aspect that Baroness Casey (2023, p. 13) considered when addressing the cultural problems of the Metropolitan Police is that individuals are not able to speak up or criticise. It is suggested that there is a culture of looking the other way and telling senior management what they want to hear. Even when senior officers actively seek alternative views individuals feel unwilling to disclose. Baroness Casey acknowledges that these practices can occur within policing but that those who do should be supported and encouraged throughout. Hagen (2018, p.

56) discusses how organisations that have drafted reports on issues that have arisen are effective only after the fact, but an organisation with a sound culture of speaking up can resolve an issue before it becomes one. Furthermore, Kakkar and Tangirala (2018) explain that opportunities and threats can be better managed when members of the organisation feel comfortable to candidly express their opinion.

There is an optimism bias within the Metropolitan Police according to Baroness Casey (2023, p. 14), it is considered that the organisation seeks out a way to change the perception of an incident so that it puts the Metropolitan Police in a more positive light. One example of this would be where they would blame a small group or an individual rather than considering the organisation as whole and trying to address its culture. Baroness Casey explains that culture cannot be improved by merely creating new guideline or updating the directive.

The College of Policing (2023) discuss '*policing by consent*', whereby the police serve with assurance of the public. Therefore, it is necessary for the police to ensure the public has trust in them. Having considered some of the aspects of the review conducted by Baroness Casey it is evident that police forces must eradicate these negative aspects of organisational culture. The impact these cultures appear to have on the Metropolitan Police to go about their work appears to be significant. There is even a suggestion that should the force not be able to continue in its current form, as the problems that were there in 1999 may well still be there in 2023. Although this only considers one police force within the UK, if these cultures are apparent in other forces, then they are likely to have a similar impact on the force's ability to police by consent.

Word Count: 1048

Essay Four:

How effective is MAPPA as a means of protecting vulnerable people from harm?

Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Organisations consider multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) as vital to the successful management of violent and sexual offenders, including integrating offenders back into society following a prison sentence (Woods *et al.* 2021, p.318). The Ministry of Justice (2022a) explain that MAPPA were established as a set of statutory arrangements to manage the risk associated with these offenders by Sections 325 to 327 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Sutherland and Baker (2009, p. 1) explain how MAPPA has been utilised for adults, but that there is developing interest in its use for young people. Section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act (2003) identify the police, the probation service, and the prison as the '*responsible authorities*'. Other agencies, such as the youth offending team, housing, the local authority, and health authorities are deemed to have a '*duty to cooperate*'. There are also three levels of management (Inspectorate of Probation, 2021). Level one being single agency management, usually managed by probation and are not discussed at MAPPA meetings. Level two being managed by two or more agencies, usually the police and probation. Level three being a multi-agency approach to managing the risk.

Woods, Kemshell and Maguire (2007, p. 6) established, in a study, that the main aim for MAPPA amongst stakeholders was to provide protection to the public from these serious offenders. They also identified inter-agency collaboration as a key aim but considered the rehabilitation of offenders as less of a priority. Offenders that are subject to MAPPA are risk assessed, and then categorised as either, very high risk, high risk, medium risk, and low risk. Offenders are separated into three categories (Taylor and Yakeley, 2019, p. 160). The first managing registered sex offenders. The second managing violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more in prison, non-registered sex offenders, or offenders detained in hospital. The third category manages offenders who do not fall into the first two categories but who have committed offences that are deemed to put the public at risk.

Research has shown that the police and the probation service cooperate effectively, but that there are communication difficulties with the prison service (Nash and Walker, 2009, p. 178). Further complications were identified too, as although they agree that public protection is crucial, they do not agree on risk and the need for public protection in some instances. Williams (2019, p. 69) explains how communication, information sharing and acting upon that information is crucial to public protection and effective offender management. As such, the inability of the responsible authorities to work together, along with agencies with a duty to cooperate means there is an increased risk that an offender is not managed effectively and therefore poses a risk to vulnerable people.

Figures from the Ministry of Justice (2022b) explain that offenders subject to MAPPA increased to 89,438 by the 31st of March 2022, an increase of 3% on the previous year. They also detail that MAPPA managed offenders were charged with 172 serious further offences over the same period, showing a 2% increase. This, therefore, shows that less than 0.2% of the MAPPA population are receiving serious further offence charges and that the rate of crimes these charges is growing at a slower rate compared to the rate of the MAPPA population.

Wood (2012, p. 117) considers the reconviction rate of offenders as a measure of how effective MAPPA is. They suggest that the reoffending rates of MAPPA managed offenders compared to not managed offenders indicate that MAPPA is effective way of limiting reoffending and therefore an effective means of protecting vulnerable people from harm. However, in March 2015, it was revealed that the whereabouts of 396 registered sex offenders in the UK was not known (Barrett, 2015). This suggests that there are shortcomings with MAPPA as serious offenders have been able to evade police and are therefore a particular risk to vulnerable people. A response, however, from the NPCC (2015) explains that many of those 396 offenders have returned to their home countries, and should they return to the UK then they will be arrested. They add that, thanks to Sexual Harm Prevention Orders and Sexual Risk Orders, the UK can safeguard vulnerable people

at home and abroad. The NPCC explain that the MAPPA is a highly effective tool in minimising the risk to vulnerable people, although they concede that they cannot eliminate the risk altogether.

There is a varying level of accountability to victims in relation to offender management as victims of crime are kept at a distance from the risk management of these offenders (Wood and Kemshall, 2008). They go on to say that given how little involvement victims play in offender management, they do not have an input into what happens to the offender. However, Lester and Sheppard (2015, p. 99-100) indicates the key role victims having to play in the process of offender risk management. They explain that the responsible authorities can only be satisfied that the victim's concerns are reflected in the risk assessment if the victim is consulted with properly. They add that, although victim cannot attend at multi-agency public protection meetings, they should be provided the opportunity to contribute to the risk management of an offender as they will be able have an input on the risk that the offender presents.

When considering how effective MAPPA is at protecting vulnerable people it is important to consider how well the process works compared to how it should work in theory. As discussed, when it comes to a matter of such severity, clear communication is key. To put office politics aside is crucial and harmonious inter-agency work is vital. The research suggests that there is room for improvement in this aspect. There is also evidence to suggest that MAPPA can be effective as reoffending appear to grow at a slower rate compared to the rate at which MAPPA offenders are acquired. The rate of reconviction for managed offenders also indicates that MAPPA is effective, compared to non-MAPPA offenders. The report that 396 offenders were currently unaccounted for initially reads poorly as an operation such as this cannot be deemed effective if so, many potentially dangerous offenders go missing. However, when considering the response, it alleviates those initial concerns. Keeping victims at the centre of the risk assessments appears critical to the success as only they can have insight into the real risks posed. As the NPCC state, it is not possible to eliminate all risk, but it appears MAPPA does effectively protect vulnerable people. Although there is an indication that more can be done to protect people further.

Words Count: 1095

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