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Essay one:

How might the Code of Ethics help to reduce incidences of professional misconduct and increase public confidence in the police?

Support your answer with relevant evidence drawn from academic sources.

Word limit: 1000 words.

The code of ethics may help to reduce incidents where by officers are guilty of committing acts accounting to professional misconduct which will therefore increase public confidence within the police.

The code of ethics is a set of principles and standards of behaviour that are set out for all police officers in England and Wales to adhere to and follow which will help guide them in the conduct of their actions which will help them remain accountable and trustworthy increasing the public's perception of them. The code of ethics doesn't just apply to police officers, but applies to everybody that works in policing, that being police civilian staff, police constables, volunteers such as special constables and support staff. They apply to all ranging from chief constables to police constables and everything in between. This ensures that the police service as a whole operates by the code of ethics, therefore giving the best possible service to members of the public as possible (College of Policing, 2014). The code of ethics was brought into place to allow policing as a whole to be brought more in line with other professions. The code of ethics should empower all police officers to do the right thing and allow them to feel comfortable to report breaches of the code, no matter the rank on the person guilty of the breach. Most police officers were already adhering to the code of ethics when they were released in 2014, but work is still underway to ensure that all colleagues are acting within the code at all time. Not all breaches have to be dealt with by formal inquiries or hearings. Most minor breaches can be dealt with by an employee's normal line manager such as a sergeant or local Inspector. On the other hand, major breaches of the code may constitute as gross misconduct in a public office and could result in someone having to leave the role. In all, the code of ethics will empower everybody in policing to do the right thing which is expected by the public, therefore increasing public confidence in the police (College of Policing, 2014)

The police should adhere to the code of ethics during every situation, whether that be making small decisions such as daily tasks which aren't even involving the public, to admin, workflows or large impact decisions such as what a police officer decided to do with some members of the public, be it arrest, report them or even what they write about them on police systems. The police have a massive responsibility to the public and a lot of their decisions have a real impact of individuals, and their families lives. Positive and negative contact with the police impacts public perceptions. Negatively experienced contact with the police by members of the public, including victims of crime,

showed negative associations with public opinions, and were found to be more influential than positive encounters. However, a positive experience can increase people's trust and confidence and influence their willingness to cooperate (GOV.UK, n.d.)

When police officers make decisions. They use a decision making model which helps them rationalise decisions and ultimately make the correct decision. This is called the National Decision Making Model (NDM). All officers use this to justify why they have made a specific choice and illustrate how they came to make this choice in slow time or fast time situations. It is used almost subconsciously at the present tense, and it is used to record how officers came to a specific conclusion or decided after the fact when writing statement for example. This is arguably one of the most utilised processes that police officers use as each choice has a bearing weight on members of the public. Even as this is an extraordinarily important model for police officers to use, at the core of this model is the code of ethics, which in my opinion shows that the code of ethics and values and standards that the police adhere by are far more important and have a far greater impact on members of the public and public confidence in the police (Ethics and Values: Ethics of Professional Policing, n.d.).

There are 9 codes as part of the code of ethics. These are accountability, fairness, honesty, integrity, leadership, objectivity, openness, respect and selflessness. I will explore and analyse one of the codes, and that is being accountable as a person foremost which will translate to being an accountable police officer. What I have found is that being accountable has its own part in creating a more professional organisation and increasing public confidence, so with the other 8 codes being adhered to simultaneously it in my opinion a great set of values to hold to ensure that the police as a whole is providing the best, ethical service to the public.

Being held accountable as a police officer is a core value which the police and the public should all strive to effect. And in my opinion, it is an important value to have. The police in recent years have been at the centre of many scandals involving criminality and corruption. The Metropolitan police force for example which is the biggest police force in the United Kingdom have been put into special measures. This was in June 2022. Special Measures is a status applied by regulators of public services in the UK, to providers who fall short of acceptable standards, and it is commonly applied to failing schools and hospitals.

This is the first time the measures have been applied to the Met, and the inspectorate has said that the force has been placed in its "engage" process which "provides additional scrutiny and support to help it make improvements" (Waters, 2022).

During recent scandals. Individual officers have been held accountable, and also the organisations themselves have also had to be held accountable. In most cases there are process changes, culture changes and also even leadership changes that happen in a bit to eradicate the poor practices which some police officers and forces operate under. This is usually published so that the public can see that the police forces which are public services are acting in the public's best interest. Therefore, and in conclusion, the police are acting within the codes of practices and being held accountable, they are reducing incidences of professional misconduct and ultimately increasing public confidence (waitzman, 2022).

Essay two:

How effective is a multi-agency approach as a means of managing violent and sexual offenders?

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

Word limit: 1000 words.

A multi-agency approach is designed and set out to best manage violent and sexual offenders. These types of offences have a profound effect on society as a whole as they are felt more and disagreed on by more members of society. Society as a whole has a perceived tolerance of certain crimes, and some are frowned upon more than others. For an example, some people may be more inclined to sympathise with someone who is stealing items from a brand of store worth millions of pounds to feed their family as they are genuinely struggling. This is compared to an incident where somebody has committed a racially aggravated, unprovoked attack upon a member of society causing the victim substantial injuries. You would be hard pressed to find someone who sympathises with the attacker over a shoplifter. This is also true for perpetrators of sexual offences.

Serious violent offenders and sexual offenders have some of the highest and worst effects on victims and members of the community, and therefore they are required to be managed using a multi-agency approach. This is done by a multi-agency public protection approach (MAPPA). The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides for the establishment of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements ("MAPPA") in each of the 42 criminal justice areas in England and Wales. MAPPA is not a statutory body in itself but is a mechanism through which agencies can better discharge their statutory responsibilities and protect the public in a co-ordinated manner. MAPPA allows agencies to assess and manage offenders on a multi-agency basis by working together, sharing information and meeting to ensure that effective plans are put in place. Agencies retain their full statutory responsibilities and obligations at all times. All MAPPA offenders are assessed to establish the level of risk of harm they pose to the public. Risk management plans are then worked out for each offender to manage those risks (MAPPA, n.d.). The aim of MAPPA is to manage certain types of criminals. It places the onus onto the police, prison service and probation services to manage and keep track of these offenders. They do this by having meetings and discussing these offenders. The organisations can collect data and information on the offenders, and they regularly share this information with the other services. This allows them to develop working strategies on how to negate associated risks with these offenders being re integrated into society.

There are three main categories of offenders managed by MAPPA. Which I will now explore. The first category is category one, this category is reserved for all registered sex offenders. Involves normal agency management which include cases with a low-medium risk of serious harm to others. Registered sex offenders are required to provide their personal information and continue their registration every year. The sex offenders notification requirements is commonly known as the sex offenders' register. This is a register containing the details of individuals convicted, cautioned or released from prison for a sexual offence against children or adults since 1997. The information they are required to provide include things such as details of their bank accounts, their national insurance

number and whether they are living with a child or staying at an address with a child for at least 12 hours a day, to name just a few requirements. They may also have house visits from the authorities. Although these are a category managed by MAPPA, they are not usually discussed at MAPPA meetings. (claims.co.uk TM, n.d.). The second category is category two. This category is reserved for violent or other sex offenders not subject to notification requirements. Often called local inter-risk agency management these are cases with a high or very high risk of harm to others. These cases are usually discussed in meetings and active involvement is required by more than one service. This usually includes the police and probation services, and they are required to draw up plans to mediate risk on a case by case basis. The third category is category three. These are known as Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels or MAPPPs, reserved for those deemed to pose the highest risk of causing serious harm or whose management is so problematic that multi-agency co-operation and oversight at a senior level is required with the authority to commit exceptional resources (Unlock, n.d.).

In short MAPPA does work. The stats speak for themselves, and it does build a strong case in continuing MAPPA and further developing and working with MAPPA to help manage certain types of offenders. In March 2019, there was approximately 82,900 MAPPA subjects in England and Wales. This is a rise of 85% since a similar time in 2009. 98.2 percent (81,428 subjects) of offenders were subject to level one management, 1.6 percent (1,327 subjects) were at level two and 0.2 percent (164 subjects) were at level one. Although you may immediately think this a negative thing as it shows that the numbers are up, you would be wrong. To analyse this information accurately, you would need to look at the information from the perspective that higher numbers of nominals means that there are higher numbers of subjects being managed, this would mean that the services are looking at more people and are developing more contingency plans. Therefore more risk management is in place, consequently keeping the public safer. For subjects managed by MAPPA under category three, the offenders that pose the highest risk to the public. Reoffending rates fell from 29 percent to 16 percent between the year 2000 and 2010. This shows that a multi-agency approach to managing violent and sexual offenders is having a profound effect and is having a positive impact on the safety and confidence of the public (HM Inspectorate of Probation, 2021).

952 words

Essay three:

To what extent is 'lifestyle' theory an accurate reflection of what makes certain people vulnerable to becoming a victim of Serious and Organised Crime?

Your answer must be based on academic research into the psychological and socio-economic characteristics of vulnerable people.

Word limit: 1000 words.

The concept of lifestyle theory suggests that certain individuals may be more vulnerable to becoming victims of serious and organised crime based on their lifestyle choices and behaviours. Some of these behaviours may be individual factors such as personal behaviours, routines, choices and financial situations. The theory can be interpreted as victim blaming as it focuses on lifestyle choices of the victims and doesn't articulate that the criminals are the ones committing the crimes,

however it is important to study lifestyle theory as it offers agencies a real way of studying the cycle of crime, how it presents itself and how best to tackle it (Mkhize and Majola, 2021)

Lifestyle theory is a reflection of what makes certain people vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime, however it plays into a bigger organisational playbook for serious organised crime groups, who have a bigger motive and set of playbook strategies to committing crime and using vulnerable and impressionable members of society to their advantage in the soliciting of crime.

Factors that make certain groups of people more vulnerable to being victims of crime vary by things such as social class, age, gender, ethnicity and also being a prior victim of a crime. Social class plays a significant factor in being a victim of a serious crime. People from deprived areas are more likely to be victims of violent crime. For example. People in low income areas are two times as likely to be a victim of robbery than those in high end areas. In my opinion it is due to the fact that there are less opportunities for people living in those areas which increases their propensity to commit violent crimes such as robberies and burglaries. It is far more likely that someone would turn to these types of crimes as the poor get poorer in today's ever growing cost of living crisis than it is for the rich getting richer. This disproportionately affects the lower class communities more than anybody else. It is of my opinion that it is a vicious cycle which has no answer on how to solve as the police can only do so much (De Courson and Nettle, 2021).

Age also plays a significant role in your probability of becoming a victim. As a person is younger, they are generally naiver as they have had less life experience and tend to trust people more. This exposes them to crimes such as child criminal exploitation as they are generally very impressionable as their brains aren't fully formed. It is a tough problem to solve as it begs the question as to if you deal with young offenders as victims themselves or do you deal with them as offenders through the youth offending services (Research in Practice, n.d.). It is also very probable that elderly people will be frequent victims of crime. In a study conducted with six males and eleven females ages between 63 and 90 years old. Older victims identified it themselves that the causes of them becoming victims of crime were mutual dependency between victim and perpetrator, power and control imbalances, loneliness and a marginalised social position of older persons. Effects of abuse included negative feelings, physical and psychological distress, a change of personal norms and values, changed perspectives on money and low self-esteem. It shows that older victims themselves perceive abuse differently to other people. They may have a higher tolerance to it compared to other people. You have to view it from the angle that at the risk of generalising, that many older members of society may leave their less, see friends and family less and are more likely to seek contact with other people, even if when they are, they are subjecting themselves to possible financial abuse for example. In the study mentioned above. The vast majority of victims stated that they were subject to psychological and financial abuse (Mysyuk, Westendorp and Lindenberg, 2016).

Gender plays a role in becoming a victim. Although crimes such as domestic abuse happens to both genders including males and females. Violent cases of domestic violence usually happen to females more than males. According to the office of national statistics which is a country wide statistic office operating in the United Kingdom. An estimated 7.3% of women (1.6 million) and 3.6% of men (757,000) experienced domestic abuse in the last year ending March 2020. Also women aged 16 to 19 years were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over which corresponds with my first point of age playing a factor (Office for National Statistics, 2020). In my opinion there are many psychological reasons as to why women are more at risk to domestic violence than men, but I don't believe I could condense that aspect of it into this piece of academic work. But what I will say is that there are generic stereotypes when it comes to the physicality's of women and men that leave women more at risk of serious harm than men. Size,

strength, and endurance. This would place women more at risk if a man was to attempt to assault her physically.

862 words

Essay four:

Why is a partnership approach the most effective way of preventing re-offending?

Support your answer with relevant evidence drawn from academic sources.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Partnership approaches are largely built on the premise that no one agency can be responsible for and know all of the ways to deal with and stop individuals from re offending. It is ideal to have multiple different agencies imputing and discussing ways to help support offender rehabilitate into society as each agency will approach the issue from different perspectives and offer a unique suggestion on how to solve a problem (Berry et al., n.d.).

This is important as in my opinion, each agency will all strive for the same goals at the end of the process, however each agency may have micro agendas taking place, even though the main goal may be protecting the public for example. This is great as it ensures that all aspects are taken care of and by looking at the problem from different angles, and putting mechanisms in place to overcome different problems that may arise during the process ensures that the end goal is met. It limits the opportunities that unknown complications will arise during the process of getting to that main goal. An example of such could be the police for instance, may have weekly meetings with a perpetrator of a sexual crime. The police will look at it from their perspective and may miss opportunities when it comes to housing. Therefore, a local housing authority would take part in the MARAC meetings. They would have their own record for the perpetrator and could offer that to the police, they would also be best suited to finding a suitable location to house the individual, to limit contact with potential victims and prevent re offending. It would then be up to social services and the local health care association such as ABUHB to offer psychological support to the perpetrator to help them understand their actions and hopefully understand that their actions are unacceptable, therefore rehabilitating them to being able to live in society and prevent further risk to the public.

As each agency will approach an issue through their own view. A multi-agency approach is the best way to catch cases from slipping through the net and protecting victims. A MAPPA for example would by means of multiple agencies looking at a case, and each identifying vulnerabilities and aspects of the case would provide the identification of risk early on. It would improve agencies responses by providing a means of information sharing. It would also provide an opportunity for joint decision making to take place to ensure that the priorities are dealt with in the most effective way. This would be done by coordinated action to assess, manage and reduce risk to victims (College of Policing, 2015).

The same philosophy is used to prevent offenders from re offending. If agencies come together to discuss the needs and triggers of an offender. Expertise can be drawn from multiple different agencies to identify these. This will then lead to the right choices and support being offered to offenders. The aim would be to prevent re offending and a smooth transition back into society as a functioning valuable member of society. A multi-agency approach may be a more suited method to

prevent re offending as opposed to prison sentence for example. Overall, the evidence into the effectiveness of prison in reducing reoffending is mixed at best. Whilst prison can represent value for money in the short-term when it is used for high-risk serious and/or certain types of prolific offenders, a number of studies have found that community sentences are more effective in reducing reoffending than short-term prison sentences (Scottish Government, 2015). A multi-agency approach may be better suited to imposing conditions/opportunities for the offenders to learn about effects they are having within the community and support to be given to them such as rehabilitation courses, such as providing them with the opportunity to gain experience, learn new skills and attend educational courses to offer better prospects in terms of employment.

What is also worth noting is that certain offenders would feel more comfortable engaging with different services and organisations due to social culture and status when it is in regards to the police. This is due to the stigma the police hold as many people mistrust the police in today's current climate. This situation may be better in the future as police forces strive to be more inclusive and diverse to better represent the communities they serve. The questions you must ask yourself must be along the lines of would a member of a ethnic minority prefer to engage with a serving police constable of their same ethnic origin who may have a better understanding of an individual's current struggles within his or her life. What I am trying to get at is that due to the mistrust in the police for reasons such as the one listed above. Offenders will be more willing to engage with other services such as social services or probation services with some offenders may feel like those services are more inclined to help and support them rather than find offences and reasons to further incarcerate them.

847 words

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