

Compare and contrast the concepts of evidence-based policing and problem-oriented policing, and evaluate their effectiveness as a crime prevention tool. Your answer must be based on academic research.

There are 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. (Home Office, 2023) All 43 forces have a responsibility to police the community and the public, this is referred to as neighbourhood policing. (College of Policing, 2015) Neighbour Policing Teams (NPT) have a role to play in tackling problems such as Domestic issues, neighbourhood disputes and problem-solving within the communities. (College of Policing, 2015)

In order to problem solve, NPT may use evidence-based policing. (College of Policing, 2020). Evidence-based policing is the findings from analysts' research on how effective a certain tool is when applied in a policing environment (College of Policing, 2020). It focuses on testing law enforcement activity, testing and targeting certain problems within the communities. (College of Policing, 2020)

Before evidence-based policing and proactiveness in the police came into practice, the public felt over-policed and subjected to bias. Additionally, many of the communities who are located in the under-apprenticed areas felt underserved. This left gaps in the police service and it was not solving any problems, only prolonging them. (National Institute of Justice, 2012) To overcome these problems and issues in the community police are evolving their style of police to become more proactive to problems using evidence-based research to improve multiagency and public relations. (National Institute of Justice, 2012)

Analysts will use the 'Maryland Scale' which indicates levels of study that can be applied to inform an evaluation of findings, these explain what impact policing has had on a certain area or if any problem-solving tools that NPT has applied have been effective. (College of Policing, 2020). Level 1 of the Maryland scale explains that the change, or impact cannot be measured, and it cannot be proven as they do not have anything to compare it with (College of Policing, 2020). Level 2 of the Maryland Scale is similar to level 1 however with an added before and after measure. Analysts are able to compare the progress. Although analysts can determine if there is change, they cannot prove that the change was related to the intervention used by NPT, meaning there could be added factors. (College of Policing, 2020). Level 3 would have a before and after measurement across two sites with the same problem. However, NPT will not implement an intervention on one of the sites therefore deeming any change or improvements on the sites most likely due to the interventions put into place by NPT. (College of Policing, 2020). Level 4 is similar to level 3; however, analysts will implement multiple measures, tests, and control sites which can result in findings regarding variables that cannot be controlled such as; leadership and cultures, sickness, demand profiles, or different crime. NPT will then implement interventions with any positive results will be proven from the intervention. (College of Policing, 2020). Level 5 is the standard. The analysts will randomise control trials and sites with

the use of an intervention that has directly resulted in outcomes as any other explanations for the change can be ruled out. (College of Policing, 2020).

In 2010, UK police officers formed a Society for evidence-based policing (SEBP). This was a group of policing academics that devoted their time and research to the production of evidence-based policing. They would do this by supporting research and accessing police data. (Heaton and Tong, 2015). Due to the research put into evidence-based policing, The College of Policing issued Body worn video cameras to Response Police Officers throughout England and Wales in 2015. The result of this, was that the camera would improve evidence-based policing throughout investigations as it captures the evidence then resulting in increased Criminal Justice outcomes and support for victims and witnesses. (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021) As well as, results in a layer of accountability for police officers and the public, which led to a reduction in complaints. (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021). In recent years evidence-based policing breakthroughs have been effective in policing such as the above example (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021) The biggest advantage of evidence-based policing is that police can make decisions and justify them based on the method of investigations that have been proven. Other examples include using the intervention on sobriety checkpoints which led to a decrease in crime, as alcohol influences people's actions and how they perceive their actions. (Potts, 2019) As well as implementing the intervention of street lighting. (Potts, 2019) This is due to most crimes happening at night or in the dark. By implementing street lighting to decrease certain night-related crimes as the streetlights put on the spotlight on the offenders committing the crime. (Potts, 2019)

However despite the extensive research that has deemed evidence-based policing positive, certain misconceptions around evidence-based policing prevent practitioners to develop their skills further and implement their findings into policing. (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021) Such as practitioners should not use their professional expertise. The most recent breakthrough studies are the most effective and should be implemented and collect relevant evidence may solve the problem without implementing a response. (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021) 'An excessive focus on evidence-based practice, over experience-based knowledge gleaned through qualitative studies can be detrimental to gaining real-world insights.' (Exploring evidence-based policing, 2021) Additionally, some police officers may not have any academic experience in knowing how to implement an evidence-based strategy. (Alfredo, 2011)

Evidence-based policing will only be as good as the practitioners or the research itself. (Alfredo, 2011) For example, if the investigation method is proven to work, extensive reached methods such as surveys and trials have taken place, then the evidence is only going to be as good as that. (Alfredo, 2011) However, if the research is not extensive with implementations being put in place when applied to policing scenarios it may have the same benefits. (Alfredo, 2011). As well as attaching 'evidence based' to some policing strategies, it may give the public a false sense of security if the outcome is not what is expected. (Alfredo, 2011).

Hotspot policing is a strategy that NPT could implement in the community as it explains three elements of a problem. (College of Policing, 2022) A hotspot area is where a certain area in the community attracts certain problems or crimes such as Anti-social behaviour on the beach or outside shopping centres. (College of Policing, 2022)

Hotspot policing theory explains there wouldn't be any more problems if you removed one of the following, The Offender; The Location; or the Victim. For example, putting a police presence in a certain area, will deter offenders from the area and therefore decrease the problem and the likelihood of a crime being committed. (College of Policing, 2022) Furthermore, if the police were to apprehend the known priority offenders from that area, then it would decrease the crime rate in that area. (College of Policing, 2022) Most police forces in England and Wales will implement this as a strategy in a certain areas of a concern, that it would be relevant to, as it is a proven intervention through evidence-based policing to help reduce certain crime in hotspot areas. (College of Policing, 2022)

Problem-solving policing, also known as problem-oriented policing, created by Herman Goldstein is an approach that is used to tackle crime and disorder. (College of Policing, 2017). This is by identifying the problem, developing a thorough analysis of the problem, tailoring a response to the problem, and assessing the effectiveness of the response. (College of Policing, 2017) This will give the police an effective way to become more proactive to crime and disorder rather than reactive. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.166).

SARA model is related to problem orientated policing and is an acronym that is used by UK police forces to identify and tackle crime and disorder. (College of Policing, 2017). SARA is made up of four stages: scanning, prioritising, and identifying certain potential crimes and disorders. While scanning officers should identify when a problem is calling for police attention or causing any harm. (College of Policing, 2017). Analysis, gathering information and intelligence, in order to find underlying issues. NPT should consider where the problem is, the level of risk and harm it may generate to the community, and how the problem has occurred. (College of Policing, 2017). Response and implementation of tailored policing to reduce and address the causes of the issues. The problem should be identified as a certain issue, but NPT should consider how the problem is patterned, the factors that contribute to it, and what scale the problem is on. (College of Policing, 2017). Measure, this stage reviews and measures the effect that implemented policing had on the area. NPT should consider if the response outcome is as intended and if the response has been effective in removing or reducing the issue. (College of Policing, 2017).

Problem-oriented policing has been shown to have a positive impact on the communities that it serves (Scott and Clarke, 2020). The UK College of Policing describe problem-orientated policing as the best policing strategy to date. (College of Policing, 2017). It is described as a systematic way of dealing with problems that put a strain on the community. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.166). Problem-oriented

policing is not only implemented by the police but by other multiagency organisations such as social services or the local council. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.166). National Intelligence Model, community and partners can all identify a problem within the community that may need problem-oriented policing implemented.

However, despite the research that is in favour of problem-oriented policing, there have been challenges when implementing the above strategies. (Tilley, Read and Great Britain, Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, 2000) While implementing SARA some common negatives proven were policing officers were not putting enough effort into the scanning stage, and basic and limited scanning were not effective in identifying certain areas of concern. (Scott and Clarke, 2020). There is an over-resilience in police data for information and intelligence, traditional enforcement is more implemented when responses are put in place, resulting in a poor review of the response implemented. (Scott and Clarke, 2020).

Problem-oriented policing is also unlikely to be used as a response to one isolated incident, this is to generally address any long-term issues the in the community where the problem is reoccurring or similar in one area. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.166).

Goldstein stated while receiving the 2016 Stockholm Prize for Criminology, 'I have grown accustomed to viewing successful efforts to implement Problem Orientated Policing – when carried out in all of its full dimensions – as episodic rather than systematic; as the results of relatively isolated cells of initiative, energy, and competence. I view these pockets of achievement as exciting and pointing the way but sprinkled among a vast sea of police operations that remain traditional and familiar.' (Scott and Clarke, 2020).

In conclusion, In the most recent years elements that relate to evidence-based policing have made an extensive breakthrough that benefits policing in the community, the criminal justice system, and holding police accountable. As well as increased factors on how implementing police responses to evidence-based proven issues has resulted in a positive. However, there are misconceptions when it comes to evidence-based policing being in place. By taking a more evidence-based policing approach it is intended that most NPT will be able to better support the public. Problem-solving policing is time-consuming and takes effort from the NPT however, time and effort are what is needed from the police to be able to implement an effective response to the problems, as well as collaborative work from a multiagency organisation such as schools, social services, or councils to deliver more effective policing to benefit the community.

Word count: 1939

Critically analyse the role of police within joint emergency services operations and examine the potential impact of such incidents on officers' mental wellbeing. Your answer must be based on academic research rather than personal experience, but you may refer to examples of high-profile critical and major incidents.

A major incident is defined as 'An event or situation with a range of serious consequences which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agencies.' (JESIP, 2022). A critical incident is defined as 'any incident where the effectiveness of the police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family, and/or the community.' (College of Policing, 2018) Both critical and major incidents have their differences as a critical incident may include workplace accidents and natural disasters. However, a major incident is urgent and may disrupt a business or working day. (Yogesh, 2018) It also requires a major incident team to respond, on the other hand, they both may occur at any time and will be unavoidable. (Yogesh, 2018). Emergency services will work as joint operations to form a response team to major and critical incidents as set out by JESIP. (JESIP, 2022) Critical and major incidents have a serious and harmful effect on the public and first responders, due to this first responders' mental health can be affected negatively. (Mental Health Awareness, 2020)

Most police officers are likely to attend major or critical emergencies within their careers. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). There are 43 UK police forces in England and Wales (Home Office, 2023). Each police force will have its contingency plan to deal with a variety of critical and major emergencies, for certain types of emergencies such as the influenza pandemic, hostage sieges, or aircraft crashes there will have to be legal requirements met under s1 civil contingencies act 2004. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249)

The Joint Emergency Service Interoperability (JESIP) was created to coordinate major incidents that require a multi-agency emergency response. Multi agencies that could be involved in responding to a critical/major incident fire and rescue, ambulance service, and police service. JESIP allows these organisations to work together effectively but allows them to keep their individual procedures. JESIP also allows the shared risk assessment of the emergency while considering each individual organisations focus during the incident. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.250)

If the police did not respond to a major incident and therefore the emergency was not dealt with, there could be serious aftermath involved with the impact on the community. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). The community would fear further crime or disorder, or a matter of distrust within the community as the community's expectation of the police force was not met during the emergency. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.250). Also, any victims or families that have been personally impacted by the emergency will not have been addressed leaving a high level of vulnerability. The police have an important role in supporting and liaison with the victims, family, and the community as it promotes trust and prevents complaints within the community for the local police force. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249)

Another responsibility of a police officer in attendance to a major or critical incident would be that would be first on the scene would be a 'METHANE report'. (JESIP, 2022). METHANE is an acronym that has been created by JESIP that is a guide in the early stages of a major incident. Any police officer may find themselves being the first on the scene in any major

incident. METHANE is used to effectively communicate what the incident is to the control room in order to risk assess what recourse and multiagency may be required. (JESIP, 2022).

'M' represents Major incident, at this stage, the police officer must decide whether the emergency should be deemed a major incident. (JESIP, 2022). 'E' represents exact location, the police officer must communicate with the control their exact location as accurately as possible. They should use street names and landmarks. (JESIP, 2022). 'T' represents type of incident, the officer at the scene must define the nature of the incident, for example, explosion or road traffic collision. (JESIP, 2022). 'H' represents any hazards that affect the response or the multi agencies that could be present, suspected, or hazards that could potentially arise. (JESIP, 2022). 'A' represents access, the police officer must describe safe routes in and out for the emergency services to be able to respond. (JESIP, 2022). 'N' represents the number of casualties if any, the police officer must explain if there are any victims at present in order to assess the resources needed. (JESIP, 2022). 'E' represents emergency services; the police officer must assess how many emergency services will be needed and which multi agencies will need to be contacted.

The first police officer on the scene will have to carry out a risk assessment, they're responsibilities would be to assess the situation and understand what has happened. To communicate the incident by using 'METHANE' quickly and to prioritise actions to be taken. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). This is done to be able to alert any needed resources, protect any persons entering or at the scene, and structure certain responses. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). For example, if a police officer attempted to save a life in a house fire without the correct PPE, the outcome could not be as planned, and other emergency services would have to make efforts to save that police officer who put themselves in danger. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). Therefore, the police officer would have to take the correct steps in assessing the incident in order to avoid endangering the scene, people, or evidence further. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249)

It is only the police's responsibility when attending the incident, they should be mindful if a crime has been committed or that the major/critical incident could be a crime scene. For example, any road traffic collision should be assessed to whether the driver was under the influence or had the right document to be on the road. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). If the incident is deemed suspicious, officers should be alert to anything such as signatures or behaviour that could be deemed suspicious and be led to crime. Therefore, deeming the major/critical incident a crime scene where the police would have the responsibility to preserve and protect evidence. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249). This is due to the power that police officers have been granted by the government, in order to investigate any offences outlined. (Bryant, R. and Bryant, S. 2019, p.249).

Mental health disorders are reported frequently in emergency workers, due to the stressful nature of their job as well as being exposed to traumatic incidents, more than the average person throughout their lifetime and career. (Stevellink et al., 2020) There was a study identified by UK Biobank that collected genetic, physical, and health data from the public. They have compared this with similar characteristics of emergency workers in the UK. The findings reported that 32.8% of the emergency service personnel, were more prone to experience alcohol abuse compared to 29.2% of the public. As well as, emergency services personnel were 9.2% more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder and 6.8% more likely to develop depression from their exposure experiences. (Stevellink et al., 2020)

The increased risk of alcoholism, PTSD, and depression are potentially due to the exposure to a frequent traumatic critical/ major incident that emergency workers respond to throughout their careers. (Stevellink et al., 2020)

Due to police officers and other emergency workers responding to traumatic critical/ major incident, PTSD is one of the leading mental health disorders to develop. (Institutes of Health, n.d.) Emergency workers who develop PTSD, may experience avoidance and emotional numbing. This could have a detrimental effect on personal life, such as family and friends. (Institutes of Health, n.d.) PTSD may develop into anxiety or depression, the cause of alcoholism or suicidal thought or attempts. There may also be effects such as irritability, burned out, unable to experience enjoyment, a sense of dread, neglect, or impatient. More detrimental side effects may include flashbacks or effects on dreams such as nightmares. They may also feel isolated and alone, without the correct support or relatability that another going through the same experiences. PTSD has a severe effect on the emergency workers day to day life as it is hard to function normally with the distractions and effects that it has on your mental health. (Institutes of Health, n.d.)

There are some barriers when emergency workers suffer from PTSD, which prohibit them receiving the proper care. (Saladino, Algeri and Auriemma, 2020) For example, difficulty getting time off work as being an emergency worker is a demanding job, fear of job repercussions. As well as some people having a fear of what treatment the doctor is going to offer or fears of not getting support or help with mental health. Emergency workers are reluctant to ask for help as they do not want to become a burden on the system, As well as, the stigma around getting help for mental health, however, there are services for emergency workers. These barriers will only prolong the side effects of mental health and allow the symptoms of detrimental mental health to get worst over time. (Saladino, Algeri, and Auriemma, 2020)

There are certain Mental Health resources used to tackle mental within the police force such as Trauma Risk Management (TRIM). Due to certain major/critical incidents potentially being traumatic such as serious injuries, child deaths, road traffic collisions, etc, as proven by (Stevellink et al., 2020) This can cause a toll on mental health, TRIM is offered to every police officer who attends an incident that could be deemed as traumatic. (marchonstress, 2012.) You can be referred by your line manager or referred by yourself. TRIM is a peer focus support system, that gives emergency workers access to mental health practitioners to help guide them through any mental health struggles that they may be facing. TRIM is described by an emergency worker who has used their services as 'one of the best support tools used,' 'great tool to help to develop their job role and assisting with mental health.' (marchonstress, 2012.)

There is other mental health support tool that can be used by an emergency worker such as, 'SHOUT,' 'Police Care' and 'Oscar Kilo.' (Mental Health At Work, n.d.) However, TRIM is used more frequently throughout police forces in England and Wales due to their success rate in decreasing stresses in mental health linked to traumatic exposure. (marchonstress, 2012.)

Major and critical incidents can be a variety of incidents that need multiple resources from multiple agencies with the correct PPE, skills, and powers to deal with the incident at hand. To assess a critical or major incident the acronym 'METHANE' should be used to identify any assistance or resources that may be needed this is a proven effective way to risk assess the incident. If the first responder does not complete 'METHANE' or adopt a correct risk assessment, this can have detrimental effects on the outcome of how the incident is dealt with. As well as the traumatic exposure that major and critical incidents project onto emergency workers, it is proven by a study that it is most likely the cause of why emergency workers such as police will develop mental disorders such as PTSD, depression, or anxiety. Resulting in services such as 'TRIM' and 'Police Care' to offer a service in an attempt to support and decrease the number of emergency workers who suffer from mental health disorders as a result of major or critical incidents.

Word count: 1952

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