

AN
EXAMINATION
OF HOW CRIME
AND ANTI-
SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR
CAN AFFECT
LOCAL
COMMUNITIES

Sophie Jones
Rachel Smith
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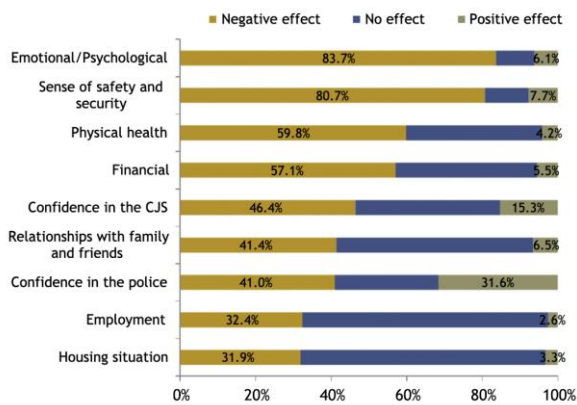
Prepared
By

Sophie
Jones

Crime and anti-social behaviour are unfortunate realities that can profoundly impact local communities. To fully understand how anti-social behaviour affects local communities is crucial to understand and address these issues critically examining how crime and anti-social behaviour affect local communities is crucial. By delving into the numerous ways in which these problems manifest and exploring their consequences, we can gain valuable insights into the measures that need to be taken to create safer and more harmonious neighbourhoods. In this essay, there will be a clear and precise discussion of a high-profile case. After careful consideration, the writer has expanded her knowledge and has chosen to study the case of James Bulgar. The Murder of James Bulgar had an impact on the political and social view of the time and this essay will also aim to explore the various changes that were made in legislation in the aftermath of the sentencing of Robert Thompson and Jon Venables for this heinous crime. Within this essay, the author will examine how crime and anti-social behaviour linked to a high-profile case can affect local communities. Within the case, there will be a discussion of how crime and ASB can take a toll on victims and their communities what happened to the families involved in this and how it took their mental health. To delve into further depth critically she will analyse whether appropriate police action is taken on such cases and if it is effective. To further this the writer will evaluate the high-profile case and analyse with evidence the trust that local communities have between them and the police. To finalise the essay the writer will analyse the case and main points. of how to prevent crime but if not how to respond to ASB in communities

Research studies show that Anti-social behaviour can have a hard impact on the trust in the community and their institutions such as the police and local authorities. The Home Office has stated that Anti-social behaviour negatively impacts the quality of life of families and locals where the Anti-social behaviour occurs. (UK Government,2023) The larger impact of Anti-social behaviour expanded to emotional impact as individuals have that fear in themselves of anti-social behaviour for example if a situation were dealt with it would be done but what would happen eventually and who would be there to support those suffering? Diverse types of Antis Antisocial behaviour can cause distress or even intimidation by the person's behaviour towards you. The Home Office found that many individuals suffering from the impact of anti-social behaviour were either ranging from anxiety or depression and changing how they were due to the fear of anti-social behaviour. The UK Parliament debated the impact of youth crime and antisocial behaviour on shop owners and the elderly, Vickers states that people are afraid to leave their homes once it gets dark outside because they do not know who is about and what will happen to them even if they only want to go to the shop. (Vickers,2022) This demonstrates the stress and fear of individuals because anti-social behaviour can cause anxiety if not dealt with once it has arisen. According to the government, there are numerous impacts that crime can have on victims and their families, an individual in the middle of a crime as a victim may be stressing about physical harm for example how they feel or what they want to do such as overdose or feeling suicidal. There are also various ways of emotional and psychological harm this can be shown by the below data. (Stripe, 2022)

Figure 1: The effect of the crime on victims



(Dinisman & Moroz, 2017)

This data graph suggests that the biggest issue is the Emotional and Psychological impact that it has on victims and their families with 83.7% which is higher than average which may suggest that these victims are not receiving support from the police after incidents which may lie within the trust of the police. As briefly mentioned, trust in the police can mean everything to these victims who are suffering or require every inch of support, towards the bottom of the graph with 41.0% lies confidence in the police with a negative effect but on the other hand 31.6% with a positive effect the effect there is a higher rate of an effect of what confidence communities have in for the police because with percentages like these on a negative way, the police haven't been responding to anti-social behaviour as much as they should be. According to this graph, there is likely to be no change in future trust between the communities and the police if they do not respond to cases quickly and make a change.

Within this essay, the writer has decided to discuss the case of James Bulgar and link it to how it affects communities and families. 2-year-old James Bulgar was murdered back in 1993 when he was abducted from a shopping centre by two boys named Jon Venables and Robert Thompson. Bulgar's injuries were so unreal his body was found on a railway line after he had been beaten to death. A newspaper report states that there were many reports of people who had seen James Bulgar that day with these two boys, they described James as crying and distressed, and he had several injuries to his head. The newspaper report stated that many reported that Bulgar was held arm by arm the boys dragging him and "kicking him in the ribs" (Sharrat,1993) According to the research studies show that James Bulgar was brutally murdered by two boys much older than him, but DNA tests ran, and they found blood on both boys' clothing as they were the last two boys to be seen with Bulgar before his death. According to research by the Echo newspaper, the writer clearly states that what Bulgar's killers had committed was lawfully wrong however, they should have been sentenced in either a small court or private as they were sentenced in an adult court when they both are children(Lally, 2023) Evidence suggests that most people who attend this court date disagreed with young children being in an adult court. A review of the James Bulgar case had a major effect on the young boy's families and the families of the boys who murdered him but also the community effect it had, nobody was 100% certain to leave their kids unattended, furthermore, a report from the community made an impact on how they were affected. Sometime after the Murder of young James Bulgar, some members of the community had decided that the sentence that was given to the killers was not long enough they stated "The public had believed for the nature of the crime and how severe it was, the sentence was far too lenient" (Naisby,2017), many people had agreed with this statement

because at the nature of these young kids and their ages what mentality did they have and what was their initiative as they intended to kill Bulgar.

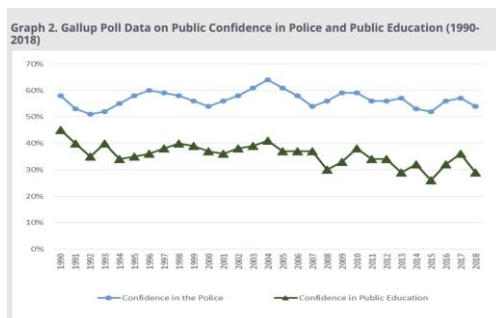
The Murder of James Bulgar created an atmosphere and tension between the social time of this murder and the government's legislation. Various types of legislation were slightly altered, and the sentencing of youths was finally established based on the events of this case. One form of legislation that was amended was the Child and Young Persons Act 1963, this was originally set at the age of 8 however it has now been moved to the age of 10 (Maguire,2018). Another form of legislation that was changed because of the murder of James Bulgar was the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Subsection (2)(B) of the Criminal Justice Act states that 12 months was the maximum detention length but has since been extended to 24 months (The ational Archives,2023). Furthermore, it was established that James Bulgar's Killers, labelled Child A and Child B as no identification was made until the boys were found guilty, however, sources suggest briefly that rehabilitative custody would have been the correct response instead of a sentence at their age (Orr,2017). But even that decision wouldn't be as straightforward as it seems, with the age of the boys, and their mindset to kill, and kidnap a child the moral responsibility need of two 10-year-olds in a youth prison sentence wasn't met.

In Conclusion, the sentencing of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson for the murder of James Bulgar created a massive amount of conflict between the government and the public concerning the appropriate sentence. Rehabilitation was viewed as the more appropriate form of punishment due to their age and accountableness as we believe that they both are blameworthy of violating the standards of conduct and killing another. Furthermore, the sentence was viewed as far too merciful, but it impacted the political side where legislation has been made to change how young offenders are viewed more in society. more in society. This has introduced tougher forms of punishment for example a child being accused of murder under the Criminal Justice Act (2003) has been raised to 12 years, but these are all the steps that are beneficial for sentencing young offenders for the crimes they have committed not to commit again.

According to the article provided by Victims Support, the majority of victims suffer from the aftermath of the crime, they strongly suggest that additional and further support is required during the time they spend with the CJS (Criminal Justice System) as when they go through the legal process for the victims they can cope with the after stress and anxiety or if they are offered ongoing support for a few years later to prevent any ongoing illnesses or mental health issues. (Moroz,2017). It is important that some victims experiencing the crimes would mainly benefit from participation in outside support groups so that they can reach out to different levels of support to receive some advice. Victims can reach out for support from support groups for example if they are not receiving support from their families. Research studies show that there was a range of 27% to 57% of individuals who needed advice and support from support groups, they asked for emotional support whether they would talk to someone or receive that support.

What constitutes effective and appropriate police action is the effective way to tackle crime based on what evidence is currently available. College of Policing states that the resources that are targeted are done by focusing on hot spots, which are places where gangs gather and have repeat crimes attached but they also focus on the individuals that have a high profile listed as a continuous offender which seems to be the most effective way to allocate resources for crime

reduction. In many years officers on the beat have been victimised for treating people differently and making unfair decisions. Officers have been seen to identify that minority ethnic people are more visible to the police to identify as they live in the poor and most problematic accommodations and police presence tends to be higher as that is where over 50% of their calls come in (Dodd,2022). A case like this can decrease police trust within the community because they are victimising individuals already because of their race. The police encourage people to cooperate with them to build that trust to not break the law they will make fair and wise decisions and treat everyone fairly. In summary, the most effective and appropriate action that police can take to reduce crime is to target resources based on the examination of the main problem to provide fair treatment to everyone that they gain contact with (Herbert,2023).



(Dolan Consulting Group,2018)

Within this graph, you can see that the confidence in the police between 1990 and 2018 has had a slight decrease throughout the years which has staggered between 50-60% but has not risen the slightest. The bottom graph line is the confidence in the television news media which lies drastically below the confidence in the police however, if the police forces apply different levels of enforcement and approaches towards the public the trends are likely to increase. Public trust in the police has fallen to a severely low level, police officers are making the wrong decision to join the force as it is too easy to get in but the wrong people are chosen reason being that a considerable number of officers are in the position where they are abusing the victims for “sexual purpose” (Brunt,2023). A case linked to this statement is Sarah Everard’s murder. Sarah Everard was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a serving metropolitan police officer Wayne Couzens. After this serious incident, trust in the police was severely affected by the events that that place with Sarah Everard. The Police performance in tackling violence against women had a decline in the public’s trust also, with this case the police were found very poor level of the percentage being charged and prosecuted had fallen with the rape cases percentage dropping to a 45% this seems very low on the police and their effort but what the public couldn’t understand was how a police officer would commit such a crime which then gave the police a bad reputation. It is evident that Sarah Everard was targeted for being a woman on her own and Couzens took his chance and was charged with all three offences (Ditcham,2022). In conclusion, with this event that took place, there was no trust in the police because he was one of their own but even though he was charged and found guilty the public perception of this case completely ruptured the trust in the public. This created a media image which had a huge effect on the confidence as it was online and, in the newspaper, but if the police want to improve their public perception of how to prevent crime and ASB and then reduce the number of negative encounters, they will be more effective in maintaining and building the public confidence.

Throughout this essay, it is clear to understand that the writer has demonstrated a clear and precise understanding of the knowledge applied to a police crime. In summary in this case, the impact was that the legislation had changed after the murder of young James Bulgar who was brutally murdered by two youths aged 10 who pleaded guilty to abduction and murder on the 24th of November but were later charged on the

20th of February 1993. In conclusion this essay has discussed how to prevent ASB but if not how to maintain it. The writer has stated what officers are trying to achieve by preventing it but also linked to a high-profiled police perception it gives to be able to control how the public feels.

Word Count –2,444

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