

BSc Professional Police Practice

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Essay one:

This essay examines cases of police misconduct in which there was a significant neglect in professional duty which in effect influenced current professional policing policies. This essay will also assess the value and worth of how these policies have increased community confidence in the police.

According to the (College of Policing, 2014) Police code of ethics which are accountability, Integrity, openness, fairness, leadership, respect, honesty, objectivity, selflessness. These ethics allow officers to perform their duties with the public at the forefront of all their actions. Standards need to be talked about as an everyday business consideration. If the public don't have the confidence to trust the police to be fair, acting ethically and in their best interests, they are less likely to assist the police in upholding the law. (O'Reilly, 2022, PP. 1-17) presses the imperativeness of the code of ethics, which goes hand in hand in terms of the public having confidence in the police.

Johnson (2017) has discussed the positive impact and importance of a professional policing body, which was established by Sir Robert Peel in 1829. The fundamental importance of engaging with the public and to gain their trust has been further highlighted with the phrase 'the police are the public and the public are the police'.

Heal (2018) was a useful source in summarising the Stephen Lawrence infamous article, where on 22nd April 1993 Stephen Lawrence is stabbed to death in a racist attack by a gang of white youths, conviction was only brought upon two of the suspects eighteen years after the attack on January 2012. In 1999, that the Metropolitan police investigation into the south London killing had been undermined by "professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership", set fresh standards for forthright judicial criticism. Quinn (2019).

March 1998, listened to 88 witnesses and generated 100,000 pages of documents. The final report, 389 pages long, was delivered in February 1999 – remarkably swift progress compared to public inquiries before and since. Macpherson report highlighted two startling words "institutional racism" and 70 recommendations were made. Due to word limitations 70 recommendations cannot be discussed therefore to be pertinent only two will be highlighted.

- 1) One of the recommendations were for all forces should reflect the cultural and ethnic mix of the communities they serve.
- 2) Annual published reports on the progress of police authorities in meeting their ethnic minority recruitment, promotion and retention levels.

It is important to recruit officers from a diverse background because this structure enables officers to understand the current complex problems in a diverse community. This has been further highlighted by Fekete (2018). This also mentions the importance of addressing inequity within the force, this will also increase confidence in the community due to the force highlighting and being self-critical.

(Athwal, Harmit 2014, p.22-42) has also highlighted the significance of recruitment and how the adverse effects could be felt in society with perception of immigrants in particular a hindrance for officers to carry out their duties in a complex diverse society.

There has been a relentless drive to recruit 20,000 officers which has been mentioned by (British Broadcasting corporation, 2019). The recruitment of BAME officers was particularly the focal point (College of Policing, 2020). At the time this was referred to as "Unprecedented opportunity". This has taken place 20 years after the Macpherson report. Even though there has been an uplift in BAME recruitment. (Publication Parliament, 2021) have highlighted how the increase of BAME officers could also be fuelled by a natural increase in BAME population within the UK.

According to the (NatCen report, 2018) individuals are deterred from joining by historic negative perception of the police. This was fuelled by disproportionate stop and search statistics. This report also highlighted how families deterred their loved ones from joining due to significant lack of trust.

According to the (Office for National Statistics, 2019) 15% of the population consider themselves to be non-white, yet the current BAME recruitment of officers is 7.3% (Ethnic figures government, 2020). This figure is almost half of the actual reflection of current population. With the net immigration to push this figure considerably higher by 2030 (Office for National Statistics, 2020). At current recruitment levels forces across the UK will not be able to achieve this based on the (Publication Parliament, 2021) statistics. These figures will also substantiate how the current black, Asian, minority ethnic (BAME) recruitment is far below the reflection of the diverse population. But according to the (Publication Parliament, 2021) the BAME officers in supervisor ranks is far worse. Inspector above posts is currently around the 4%.

The BAME population increase outstrips the non BAME population by 2.5%, which means the current uplift in figures are not a true reflection, 12% of officers have not disclosed their ethnic origin which further exasperate the problem with the statistics. (Publication Parliament, 2021). This could dent the public confidence in the police which has been highlighted by Gayle (2021) this has been described as a permanent crisis.

There is no doubt that the current police forces in the UK have made significant strides in ensuring their forces are an honest reflection of the current diverse population. The fact that the forces are self-critical and are trying to be as transparent as possible in a scrutinised world has been welcomed. With over 100,000 officers in the UK currently protecting the public it is inevitable that there will be some officers not performing with the code of ethics at the forefront of their thoughts. But it is shameful that after 23 years of the Macpherson report and almost 30 years after one of the most shocking acts which shock the British policing to its core. The force is still lagging behind with its recruitment even though progression has been made. Statistically speaking the issue is only likely to become worse and the current recruitment is improving yet with net immigration to increase the huge hole could be a long way off. Maybe the current forces no longer are benchmark for other forces around the world.

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Essay Two

This essay examines the links between why certain groups are more vulnerable to being targeted by serious and organised crime groups and the effectiveness of police practices to investigate such issues.

(Law insider, 2019) describes any individual under 18 as vulnerable or a person unable to look after themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation. This could be due to their circumstances, illness, trauma, or any other reason. One such classification scheme for identifying vulnerability identifies five main types. Cognitive or communicative, institutional, or deferential, medical, economic, and social (Yale University 2022). Crown Prosecution Services (2019) have illustrated under section 45 (6) a group which has purpose to carry out criminal activity.

Organised crime gangs (OCG'S) often seek to target the vulnerable. They can often be victims of violence themselves or socially pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying weapons. They are often abused, exploited, or placed into dangerous situations themselves. Pitts (2019) stipulates how gangs use various techniques to carry out their objectives.

(Crown Prosecution Service, 2016) An Organised criminal group is a group of individuals normally led by adults for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). This involves serious and organised criminality. One such example has been mentioned by (National Crime Agency, 2018) where there is the movement and selling of drugs and money across the country, known as 'county lines ', because it extends across county boundaries. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the use of vulnerable people or children to sell drugs in an area outside of the area in which they live.

(National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, NSPCC 2022) have mentioned that children join gangs because they feel they don't have any other option and that they need protection. Peer pressure, bullying, statutes, being excluded from school have also been mentioned. Mental distress, addiction, debt issues, family dysfunction and abuse are all problems that can lead to individuals being more vulnerable to organised crime groups.

The children's charity Barnardo's research report 'Exploited and criminalised' (2021) found particularly during the pandemic children were being targeted as long isolation periods meant there was more poverty than ever with many families struggling to pay bills and buy essential living supplies such as food. They found busier places were being used such as supermarket car parks and entrapping them with 'easy' money.

(Barnardo's, 2021) Social workers advise the number of children being targeted by criminal gang involvement has risen in 2020 from 10,960 to 14,700. Those involved in trafficking rose from 2,490 to 3,010 and those involved with drug misuse from 23,710 to 29,170. An increase across the board.

A frustration from many children's support charities in particular Barnardo's lies in the fact that there are many different approaches being taken to tackle the vulnerable children but very few centralised tactics deployed by organisations. Barnardo's as a result of this report under the Freedom of Information Act requested police forces to give them the number of CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) victims in their areas. Although most police forces replied (37 out of 40) only one force was able to provide exact reports and findings. The argument here is that if the police forces are not recording or identifying CCE numbers and if there are not enough resources to investigate why children or those vulnerable are coerced into criminal activity, it is then more likely these vulnerable victims will lead to be criminalised and not safeguarded.

There are several suggestions the charity has proposed to the Government that need to be made to Police crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. It wants the Bill amended to include a legal definition of CCE. This would bring it in line with the child sexual exploitation. After a government consultation in 2016 helped frontline professionals define more efficiently child victims and those at risk. The hope is the same can be achieved here. (Children Society 2021).

Criminal exploitation was the most prevalent exploitation type among children referred to the NRM (National referral Mechanism). As a result of findings Crown prosecution services (CPS 2021) have also implemented an Organised Crime strategy to investigate and tackle the matter further. (United Kingdom Government, 2021). (British Broadcasting Corporation 2018) has highlighted how girls as young as 13 who were sexually exploited in Rochdale were failed by society at several levels. To make matters worse criminal charges were brought against them for prostitution.

There are areas of work central to the implementation of CPS strategy. This being one of the main police practices to investigate the issues. Such as international engagement, drug trafficking, child sexual exploitation. There are four main components that make up HM governments serious and organised crime strategy, namely Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare which work hand in hand with the police forces.

(Child Sex Exploitation Police 2018) has been funded by the police forces and crime commissioner to determine the risks and safeguard children. (London Metropolitan Police force, 2021) have implemented their own protocol in which they identify the victims at the earliest stage and provide support. This is done in partnerships with other agencies and charities such as Barnardo's, Fearless, Enough campaign. Despite new strategies implemented, (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 2021) has stated the rising cases and concerns for children year on year.

By seeking Serious Crime Prevention Orders and other ancillary orders to disrupt and inhibit those likely to be involved in Organised Crime in the future. But the success of this program has been brought into question by (British Broadcasting Cooperation, 2014) & Versi (2017) due to the lack of support, moving government ideology and disproportionate targeting.

Charities, agencies, and forces have adopted a similar policy, early intervention, protecting, safeguarding and managing risk. There have been inconsistencies in strategy. The statistics show the agencies involved need to not criminalise but identify the vulnerability and target those areas in the

community before opportunistic criminal gangs seek to. The national police forces are struggling with the growing trend of gang culture and exploitation. A better working relationship between the charities enabling allocation and direction of resources would be effective. No central tactical agency and forces not recording the exploitation is also a factor in not being able to tackle the issue head on.

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Essay Three

This essay examines the definition and role of MAPPA, effectiveness of police practises to investigate public protection incidents involving violent and sexual offences.

MAPPA is a multi-agency public protection arrangement, (Crown Prosecution Service, 2021) which assesses and ensures the successful management of risk posed by sexual and violent offenders. MAPPA also sets out the guidelines and responsibilities of the police, probation trusts and prison services. Other agency such as youth justice board could also be involved in the responsibility for the care of young offenders. This is all established under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003). MAPPA was introduced in early 2000.

MAPPA also takes the role of recalling to custody, arranging suitable accommodation, provide advice, case review and foreign travel. (Criminal Justice Act) 2003 stipulates the duties of the following agencies under section 325(3): - Youth offending team, department of works and pension, ministry of defence, education, social services, health authority, local housing and immigration department.

Every MAPPA offender falls into one of the three categories.

- 1 Anyone who has been convicted or cautioned, even individuals found not guilty due to insanity.
- 2 Violent offenders, sentenced to at least 12 months in prison or non-registered sex offenders.
- 3 Other dangerous offenders that require active resources of MAPPA.

There are three categories of MAPPA management level as well

- 1 Single agency management, these offenders usually does not require MAPPA services to be utilised.
- 2 Any active involvement of more than one agency which is usually the police and probation.
- 3 Multi agency senior management overview or risk.

(College of Policing, 2022) Sexual or violent offender manager (MOSOVO) is a specially trained unit dealing with sexual or violent offenders. Information and evidence are gathered and managed by the police which is highly effective, this also assesses the risks for repeat offenders. Intervention can also be implemented which could be in the capacity of an arrest or special warning. All information gathered will be exhibited and examined with robust integrity. This is a very effective department of the police which directs resources where it is required with specially trained individuals.

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), (College of Policing, 2021) Is a neighbourhood team specially trained engaging with the community for better understanding and resolving the complex society we live in. Information is also shared to prevent crime and intervene where necessary. This is not always effective due to the NPT predominately dealing with low level issues which leads to delays.

Webster (2022) states the evidence based policing element in which agencies as working solely based on requirements, the effectiveness of the programme has also been questioned. The integrated offender management has stated that the programme has lost its way. If MAPPA is not effective in its very role of preventing repeat offences this would be devastating for the society such as robberies, and burglary. **“Persistent offenders who commit high numbers of burglaries, robberies and drug-related crimes cause havoc and leave people feeling unsafe in their own communities”** (Russell, 2020).

The current statistics also paint a disappointing picture. 40% of offenders are refused accommodation which is not providing the support required, particularly young offenders. Whilst only 75% of young offenders are under the correct program. Reoffending is currently costing the United Kingdom economy 18 billion every year (Russell, 2020).

According to the (United Kingdom Government statistics, 2022) currently up to December 2020 the reoffending rate is up by 23.1%. Adult reoffending is up 22.7%, while juvenile reoffending is up 29.2%. Perhaps the most startling statistics is 54.9% of adults serving a sentence less than 12 months reoffending within the first year. (Inspectorate 2021) dissects the statistics, 73 percent of the offenders were registered sex offenders, 98% were level 1.

Leroy Campbell was a serious violent sex offender, whilst under a probation officer whom he informed that he would reoffend because of previous offences. This was not taken seriously, after a couple of week Leroy Campbell raped and killed Lisa Skidmore and attempted to murder Lisa Skidmore’s mother. He then set fire to the property. The independent review conducted found that fundamental errors were made particularly with the level of category. Leroy Campbell was reviewed under level one at release where he should have been under level 2 or 3. (Inspectorate of Probation, 2018). Jason Gomez is another repeat offender who repeatedly stabbed an inmate 190 times despite telling an officer (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2015). These high-profile errors have resulted in loss of lives due to communication and poor management.

(Justice Inspectorate, 2021) has welcomed probation reforms due to being part privatised, placing all staff under one umbrella even though the pace has been slow. Yet qualified staff shortages problems are having adverse effects on the service which have been highlighted and is causing significant concerns.

(College of Policing, 2021) Summary of level 2 and 3 show the following success factors: - Effective communication, information sharing between agencies, disclosure when required, better access to accommodation, and robust challenge and scrutiny.

All decisions need to stand up to intense scrutiny if a particular decision has not had the desired effect or the offender has reoffended with detrimental results. Many challenges have risen in the past at all levels, especially cognitive biases effecting decision making. Cherry (2022) Cognitive bias occurs when individuals interpretate information which effects their decisions making based on the world around them.

MAPPA is a very effective tool which allows the agencies to manage, monitor offenders from various categories, this allows individuals under one umbrella to allow for effective management. The program also allows for the most offenders from non-serious offences particularly to get their life back on track into main society. Such as employment, housing, integrating back into society without the stigma yet move on with their lives. But sensitive information must be managed in a correct and responsible manner under robust circumstances. Service users' rights cannot be infringed such as the right for individuals to know what was mentioned in a MAPPA meeting, what level is being considered and who will be in the MAPPA meeting. Due to high profile errors and the effectiveness brought into question, particularly with current reforms it is essential to manage the system correctly through the transition period. Reoffending is also on the rise across all ages.

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Essay Four

This essay critically evaluates the impact of early intervention on young offenders and young people at risk of being involved in gangs. To assess the effectiveness of partnership approaches to prevent or deter involvement in gang-related activity.

(Childline Organisation United Kingdom, 2021) has stated that a gang is a group in which its participants are given a sense of belonging, some could part take in criminal activity, forcing individuals to commit offences which can be dangerous and unsafe. Some carry knives or weapons used to harm others and intimidate. (Childline Organisation United Kingdom, 2021) would further argue that individuals would join due to feeling respect, protection from bullying or even economical reasons.

Whittaker and Densley (2017) have highlighted the increase in gang violence with profit their primary objective. Cobain and Dodd (2018) have further highlighted how gangs have shifted from turf wars to business ethos. This has been substantiated by a case study carried out by (London South Bank University, 2018). A case study was conducted 'from postcode to profit' which discussed how gangs are involved in county lines. This has resulted in extra funding to combat young individuals joining gangs. This has also contributed to an increase in knife violence which has gripped the United Kingdom capital. Other key findings in the report stated that more girls are involved than before, rise in social media and child exploitation. The report also highlighted how gangs will exploit young individuals from broken homes, use sophisticated techniques to lure youngsters.

(Postcode to profit, 2018) report has discussed the current government strategy in order to prevent exploitation and youngsters joining gangs. The governments strategy to focus on partnerships, local solutions, early intervention, rehabilitation.

(Early intervention foundation, 2018) The report has discussed how young children are supported through early intervention. The findings in the report discuss how the foundation can flag up early signs in children as young as 7. Poor role models within the family home dynamics have also been highlighted. School staff and stakeholders have raised several concerns within the report such as: Lack of understanding in terms of threat levels within schools, lack of confidence in the service, poor or lack of support outside the school walls. Pressure on schools to divert resources away from academic pressure to focus on long term goals such as prevention of gang crime which might not take place.

The report made 4 recommendations: - Use of evidence in school information, increase in the time provided to develop children's emotional and social skills, improve links between schools and other involved agencies, police involved with decisions, evidence-based approach.

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British Broadcasting Corporation (2022) has discussed the on-going gang issues in London. After the 2011 riots a database was set up to identify individuals who are likely to be committing gang violence or being victims. 1200 individuals have been removed from the list, currently 1933 individuals are on

the list leaving it the lowest numbers since the list began. Young black men are disproportionately affected as victims and perpetrators.

O'Connell (2021) has discussed how violence involving young gang members has been getting worse in London. Members involved in the killing have been members for over 15 years, whilst carrying knives is a common occurrence. Knife crime offences in the London region is the highest in the United Kingdom relative to its population excluding Manchester. Which is at a rate above 118 per 100,000 population (Statista, 2021). The figures suggest a steady increase in knife crime over the last few years but there has been a recent drop from last year. (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime MOPOC, 2022) has suggested the slight decrease in knife crime is due to the increase in police funding and police numbers. But (Statista, 2021) has suggested the knife crime figures are consistent across the country excluding Manchester.

(Local Government Association, Breaking the cycle of violence, 2018) is a prevention program with a simple message, catch young people before they go down the wrong path. The scheme involves multi agency approach, training program for all health workers to spot exploitation, doctors to visit schools explaining consequences of violence. Partnerships including school, health boards and doctors, analyse data from A & E, consider working with taxi drivers and security staff with over £200 million cash injection.

This scheme has analysed case studies in Bradford with child sex exploitation, Bristol with violent knife crime, Glasgow with high murder rates. All have had their own challenges. (Local Government Association, 2021) has suggested the current program is working well in large cities fighting their own battles. Glasgow once dubbed the capital city of homicide has seen its murder rate drop by 58% (Glasgow live 2016). Even though each city has had its success it is still difficult to compare difference types of crime statistically. Wintour (2011) suggested that children who aren't even born in problematic households require intervention to stop youngsters joining gangs due to poor role models in their families. Several other cities have looked into the 'Breaking the cycle of violence' particularly London.

Finally, there are 'Deterrence and Discipline programmes. This is based around using scare tactics. Such as visiting prisons and boot camps. Evidence suggests these types of approaches are highly ineffective. Particularly if grouped together youths on these types of programmes can also encourage deviant behaviour. O'Connor and Waddell (2015).

In conclusion, implications have been made for Policy and Practice. There is an ability for programmes to make positive changes to the youth and prevent gang involvement if caught at a younger age and the at-risk signs are detected at earlier stages. Addressing wider family and peer-group risk factors can have positive effects. Teachers, social workers and the positive police engagement in school settings. It was interestingly also found the most effective parenting programme's used technology in the form of videos to demonstrate practices for parenting as an example.

There remains difficulty in measuring and monitoring gang involvement specifically which causes difficulty in particular with frontline gang activity for youth. Programmes only form one part of the solution. Comprehensive approaches, higher-level systems and partnership between services and providers across the board. Providers should start or continue to monitor and evaluate their services, working to improve the evidence based behind their programmes they are offering.

It is difficult to determine if the recent drop in knife crime is due to increase in police funding or police recruitment drive, but it has been highlighted by several agencies and case studies that early intervention is the way forward.

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