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EVIDENCE BASED POLICING AND ITS IMPACTS ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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Introduction

Within this report we shall review how effective problem solving techniques can be applied to a real-world policing scenario. Within this report we will be analysing and contrasting Evidence-based policing methods (EBP) against traditional policing methods within the policing scenario of a domestic abuse case. A sector of violence within the UK which affects “2.1 million people” (Jones 2023). As police have fought against this branch of violence for many decades using traditional policing methods such as reactive policing where officers have to react post-incident. A subsequent investigation into whether a preventative measure can be developed via EPB will be explored within this report. As most police practice is shaped by “local customs” (Sherman 1998) within this report a conclusion and several red will be developed which shall allow the reader to form there own personal outlook on how effective the “new” approach of evidence based policing is, and if it’s benefit is more effective than its predecessor.

Main Body

The contrast between Evidence Based Policing and traditional policing methods.

As previously mentioned within the introduction. Within the terms of domestic abuse within the United Kingdom , traditional policing is based on reaction from the police service. And officers are merited on how swiftly they may act or respond to an incident. Within the years of 2005 to 2007 an astonishing “9%” * of people where approximately recognised as domestic abuse victims. At this time traditional policing

methods such as the aforementioned “reactionary” form of policing alongside a high proportion of police being visible to the public allowed only for the police to be at the scene post-incident. Where the victim has already been harmed or even worse. However within the years of 2007 to 2009 the advisory group of DASH was formed (domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence was formed) which uses a form of the OSARA model to create a “risk-identification checklist” (Robinson 2021) which allows victims to be identified by police services as high risk allowing for greater help to be given.

Forms of evidence based policing within domestic abuse.

As evidence based policing is developed more efficiently within today's police services and begins to become the new “traditional” form of policing. There are several key aspects to EBP which in the real world scenario of a domestic abuse crime may be crucial to helping prevent and mitigate the consequences of this crime. Firstly the incorporation of the ATLAS (Ask, Test, learn, adapt, share) and OSARA (Objective, Scan, Analyse, Respond) within modern police services are key within several forms of crimes such as organised robbery and anti-social behaviour. But due to the complex nature of domestic abuse, and how it's ever-changing from case to case. A basis needed to be developed which allowed a large basis of risk factors to be identified and flagged to allow for a more comprehensive approach to case. Within 2013 the Rapid Evidence Assessment was created to allow the police service to search for people who may have been suffering from risk factors such as “depression or marital unrest” (Wheller 2014).

Code Of Ethics

Within policing regardless of whether an officer seeks to protect the public with traditional or more evidence based policing. The officer has to stand by the code of ethics. Developed in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel as a system of “continual professional development” (Marshall 2014). Within the scenario of domestic violence. During the reaction and possible of arrest of a suspect. Fairness and an ethical treatment of everyone involved must be respected. Within domestic violence cases. Officers are permitted to use “positive action” which coincides with the Police conduct regulations of 2012’s “use of force” (Gold 2021) which maintains that positive action must be conducted with the possible use of force to ensure that the victim is safe from any possible harm that may come to them. This harm may be considered as the suspected perpetrator of the violence. Or an unsafe location for the victim to be present within. This is a positive aspect of traditional policing as it originates from Peels 1829’s code of ethics and however as it may have been introduced as new legislation. Still maintains the same principle as its original code developed by Peel.

National decision making module

The national decision making module is a very relative piece of evidence based policing. Developed in 2012 by Chief Constable Adrian Lee and Chief Constable Brian Moore. As an evidence based approach to policing this modern policy allows officers to build a larger “picture” of the scene they are going into. Within a domestic violence scenario. An office may use the “gather information and intelligence” (NCOP 2024) bracket of the national decision making module to request call handlers to provide them with information and evidence regarding the incident. Such as the names of the persons involved. Any violent history that those people might

posses. This allows the police officers to act accordingly. As a higher degree of danger may be present due to a persons violent tendency, which may make police officers at that call at risk. As a modern example of policing this module allows for change. Helping officers and legislators adapt. As the “take action and review” (NCOP 2024) branch of the module allows officers to change their positions and conduct within a scenario such as a domestic violence case. For example allowing an officer to be more personable to a victim under duress. Or adapting a use of force to ensure the victim is safe. These branches within the modules allow the review and adaptation of the officers process to be changed to the most appropriate and effective to allow the victim and perpetrator the most appropriate course of action.

The effects of evidence based policing.

As the introduction of proactive , evidence based policing grows within the United Kingdom different forms of policing have been born from Sherman’s original observations in 1998. For example the development and implementation of “hot spot” policing. Which uses evidence such as emergency calls and primary evidence in the form of CCTV footage and officers in a area. At a certain time which has shown to have a high number of crime within it. Allows officers to mitigate those crimes. The use of hotspot policing has shown an “8 percent decrease in service calls in areas that use hotspot policing” (Potts 2019). On the other hand within the scenario of domestic violence within the United Kingdom. The use of EBP. More specifically the implementation of the Priority perpetrator identification tool. (PPIT) has allowed police services to focus on “perpetrators which should be priority targets” (Pinchevsky 2016). These tools have successfully helped a “2%” (wright 2016) drop. Allowing people to be safer within there relationships.

Conclusion / Recommendations

Within conclusion the development of evidence based policing within specifically the scenario of domestic has aided in slowly minimising the amount of domestic crime that has occurred within the United Kingdom, however due to its difference from its original traditional approach. Many officers and services are hesitant to develop it. Possibly due to the lack of long term research and data that has accumulated on programmes such as DASH or the PPIT which are still in there infancy's. However within the short time that these programmes and evidence based approaches have been available to services which have used them. A decrease has been noticeable. A decrease which may be argue, would not be there if it was down to the traditional reactionary policing of the past. The predictive and analytical approach that the evidence based approach's have allow for a preemptive intervention of the crimes that may occur in the future. Allowing the victim justice before the crime has even committed, ensuring there safety.

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