

Task 1- 1000 words - Understanding the role of Constable/Maintaining Professional Standards. Critically evaluate the concept of 'the professionalisation of the police service' considering how 'Maintaining Professional Standards' 'ethical and inclusive' and 'Coaching and Mentoring' approaches contribute to this.

Professionalism within the police has been a mainstream topic of conversation for many years. From how officers deal with and treat members of the public, to how police staff behave whilst they are on and off duty, police officers and staff are constantly monitored and often scrutinised when they fall short of their professional standards. Police officers are guided by The Code of Ethics which was established in 2014. The Code of Ethics sets out and defines the exemplary standards of behaviour for everyone who works in policing (College of Policing, 2021). Throughout this piece of writing, I will critically evaluate professionalism within the police service, by giving an example of when an officer's conduct has fallen below the level expected of them. I will then consider how maintaining professional standards and how coaching and mentoring can enable officers to become more effective and professional within their roles.

Prior to the 19th century, there had only been informal policing through 'night watchmen' and these individuals were few and far between. In 1829 the Home Secretary Robert Peel created the first 'Professional Policing' service, we now know as the London Metropolitan Police. Peel introduced around 1,000 officers known as 'Bobbies' or 'Peelers' but this number rose to 3,000 officers by 1830. The main aim of this professional force was to deter crime, instead of reacting to it as it had been policed previously. Although this new force was at first met with hostility, The Met soon became and successful. By 1851 there were around 13,000 police in England and Wales, although existing legislation did not compel local authorities to establish local forces (UK Parliament, 2021). Peel also introduced his 'Peelian Principles' which today has been reformed into The Code of Ethics. These ethics govern how police officers conduct themselves throughout their careers.

There have been instances when police officers have conducted themselves not in accordance with The Standards of Professional Behaviour as stated in The Code of Ethics. The first standard is honesty and integrity. This is defined in The Code of Ethics, 2014 as 'I will be honest and act with integrity at all times and will not compromise or abuse my position'. As police officers, we can sometimes become victims to threats and bribery from members of the public and members of organised crime. However, it is then down to the officers to deal with this accordingly and not abuse their position for their own personal gain. A high-profile example of misconduct by a police officer was that of DCI April Casburn in 2010. Casburn at the time was head an anti-terrorism unit and was alleged to have contacted the then newspaper 'News of the World' to discuss a phone hacking enquiry that was ongoing. It was alleged that Casburn had requested payment from a journalist to provide information, however no payment was ever made, or information given. Casburn's account was that she had discussed persons already in the public domain and felt that she was acting accordingly as she believed that funds were being wasted with police resources being given to the phone hacking enquiry. Casburn was found guilty of misconduct and was dismissed from The Met. Incidents such as this, lower public confidence in the police and in turn discredit the reputation of the police.

With growing diverse communities, officers must make sure that they abide by the third standard of The Code, equality and diversity which states 'I will act with fairness and impartiality. I will not discriminate unlawfully or unfairly' (Code of Ethics, 2014). Officers have a duty to treat all individuals fairly and without discrimination and to help build and maintain confidence from members of the public who have protected characteristics and those that don't. As stated in Blackstones, 2019, 'Ethics are important for all police officers because if police methods and procedures do not meet high ethical standards then the authority of the police will be undermined'. It is important to note, that this standard must

also be adhered to between colleagues and that organisations must promote a safe and inclusive working environment for all its employees. Gwent Police have a 'Positive Action' policy which helps to break down barriers that may stop underrepresented groups from applying to the force. This does not mean that individuals from underrepresented groups are given advantage over other applicants, but that they are given a fair chance and that the needs of the force and local communities are also taken into consideration. 'Gwent Police has a strong commitment to valuing difference and encouraging inclusivity - both within our organisation and through the service we provide. One of the ways that we can ensure we deliver a service that meets the needs of the public is to have a workforce that reflects our communities. This means ensuring that we attract, recruit and retain a diverse workforce' (Gwent Police, 2021). By ensuring that everyone is treated fairly and without prejudice, officers will become more effective and professional in their roles. With forces like Gwent Police implementing 'Positive 'Action' schemes, the needs of the communities are more likely to be met as well as diversifying the members of staff across the force.

Another approach that can contribute to maintaining professional standards in policing is through coaching and mentoring. Mentoring has been defined by Eric Parsloe as 'Mentoring is to support and encourage people to manage their own learning in order that they may maximise their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be' (University of Reading, 2020). Police officers are mentored and coached all the way through their careers which enables them to learn, get feedback, improve and gain promotion should they wish to do so. The most significant time of coaching is when they first become response officers. They are assigned a mentor or tutor who are usually very experienced and through these tutors they learn how to deal with incidents and how to treat members of the public. This can be both extremely beneficial as well as detrimental. It can be beneficial as if the tutor is a very experienced, well thought of officer, these behaviours and attitudes will be passed to the student, and they will develop a

wider skill set. However, on the other hand, if the tutor has lost their passion for policing, or has a judgemental attitude, then this attitude can also pass on the student and shape the way they police often leading to misconduct. It is the responsibility of both the mentor and student to uphold the Code of Ethics and report any misconduct that they become aware of. An example of misconduct in a mentor role was as recent as 2019, when PC Mark Saville of Greater Manchester Police, was dismissed from the force when he was found guilty of making racist comments. The officer, who was based at the City of Manchester division, is believed to have made the comments in a training session. A senior officer said in his role he was meant to set an example to colleagues (Keeling, 2019). A more recent mentoring practice is known as 'Reverse Mentoring'. This is when frontline officers are trained as mentors and as such 'coach' those of senior rank. The benefits of this practice are increased senior leader visibility and engagement, a better appreciation of the issues affecting under-represented groups in policing and opportunity to demonstrably connect with the frontline to understand current issues (College of Policing, 2021).

In conclusion, this essay has evaluated professionalism within the police and discussed approaches that contribute to this. By upholding the core values of policing and maintaining professional standards, the police can build a strong reputation and gain public confidence whilst continuing to learn and grow, not just from the communities' we police but from colleagues and mentors also. It is crucial for all police staff to maintain their honesty and integrity so that the police will be a service that is trusted by all.

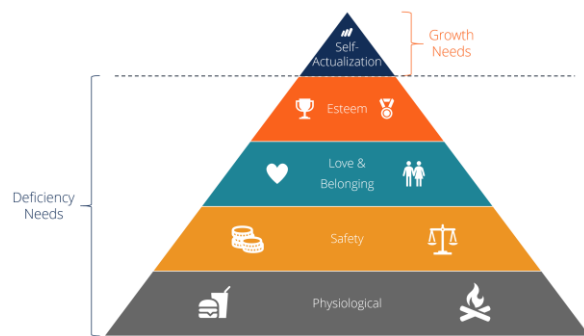
Total word count: 1,031

**Task 2 – 1000 words - Critically evaluate the role of police in: Response policing
(public perception and critical/major incidents)**

The demand on police forces in the UK is increasing at a rapid rate. The demand outweighs the number of response officers on the streets and in turn affects public confidence. As stated by The College of Policing 2021 police officers respond to wide range of incidents in an appropriate, professional and timely manner, in accordance with guidance, policies and procedures, in order to support public confidence in policing. Although the demand is high, it is important as a police force that standards are maintained and that we continue to improve our working relationship with the public. Throughout this piece of writing, I will be critically evaluating the role of response policing by looking at how psychological factors can impact on day-to-day policing roles. I will also be discussing the public perception of the police and incidents that have had a negative effect on their perception. I will then discuss the role of response officers when dealing with critical and major incidents.

To understand how response officers build a rapport with members of the public when dealing with incidents, I will firstly discuss Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs which was developed in 1943 by Abraham Maslow. The hierarchy consists of 5 levels of need and Maslow believed that once each level has been fulfilled, humans are able to progress to the next level and achieve their potential. 'Maslow put's individual development into perspective, assuming that individuals always seek a good quality of life. In reality the needs do not appear in the same way with everyone, and they also vary over times (50 minutes, 2015).

Below is an example of Maslow's hierarchy:



(Corporate Finance Institute, 2021)

This model is used by police officer every day, without even realising it. When supporting victims of crime, we make sure that all of their basic needs are met before we ask them if they are willing to provide statements. For example, we would make sure that they are in a place of safety, reassure them, be empathetic towards them and explain who we are and what the process is going to entail. As the victim realises that their basic needs are being met, they will progress through the levels of the hierarchy and will start to build a rapport with officers as they begin to feel safe and understand that they are being listened to and looked after. Once all the levels of needs have been met, the victim will be in a position to provide good evidence and be able to assist police with their enquiries.

Another way police officers can gauge and response to members of the public is by using emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand how you are feeling, and how your own feelings can impact on others around you. It is also understanding how to manage and respond to other individuals' emotions and feelings. This is one of the most important and crucial tools we can use in policing as we regularly need to talk with members of the community and be empathetic to their frustrations or problems.

'Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is the ability to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in an effective and positive way. A high EQ helps individuals to communicate

better, reduce their anxiety and stress, defuse conflicts, improve relationships, empathize with others, and effectively overcome life's challenges' (Durlowsky, 2015).

I will now discuss an incident that had a negative impact on public perception of the police, and how police can work to improve relationships with the community's we police. In 1981 there was huge unrest in London over police having racist attitudes and tensions came to boiling point with the Brixton Riots. The riots were a result of The Metropolitan Police, unfairly and most of the time unjustified, stop searching black people. Because of this, the police were widely untrusted and rapport with the general public was at rock bottom. After the riots communities were unwilling to engage with police and a review was conducted by the home secretary Lord Scarman which stated that police powers had been used discriminately and as a result The Police And Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was brought in to hold officers accountable and ensure that members of the public were treated fairly and proportionately.

Although legislation has been brought in to regulate the use of police powers and ensure that officers are not discriminating against anyone, there is still a lot that can be done to ease community tensions and build trust with members of the public. As the police now 'police by consent', without community engagement, police forces simply would not be able to function. One way we can improve relationships is through community engagement and cohesion. The College of Policing, 2021 give the following actions as being crucial to community engagement:

- Regular formal and informal contact with communities
- Using engagement to identify local priorities and inform problem-solving
- enable the police to develop a better understanding of communities and their needs, risks and threats

- officers, staff and volunteers being responsible for and having a targeted visible presence in neighbourhoods
- officers, staff and volunteers supporting communities, where appropriate, to be more active in the policing of their local areas

By carrying out the above and being more visible in the community, police officers can better understand the needs and issues that residents may have. If police officers can conduct more local patrols, the public confidence will increase and communities will feel safer seeing police officers being more proactive. More regular patrols will also have an effect on crime rates, as more visible officers can prevent and deter crime.

I will now discuss how police officers respond to major and critical incidents, and why their actions impact on public perception. Blackstones, 2019 states that a major incident is an emergency that requires the implementation of special arrangements by one or more of the emergency services, the NHS or local authority. An example of a major incident would be a large house fire. At an incident like this the police would oversee the coordination of the emergency response and remain visible throughout the incident whilst allowing the other emergency services to carry out their duties. All updates regarding the incident would need to be passed to the control room.

The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) was set up for coordinating major incidents requiring a multi-agency response. It developed procedures which allow for joint working between police, fire and rescue, and ambulance services, enabling each organisation to work with others, but still maintain autonomy and follow their own procedures. (Blackstones, 2019)

Any policing incident has the potential to become 'critical'. It is essential that police officers have early recognition of an incidents potential so that it can be dealt with quickly and professionally. Blackstones 2019 states 'A critical incident can be 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'. Most critical incidents appear in the media, and this affects the public's confidence in how police deal with them. A recent critical incident that gained media attention were the Mayhill Riots in Swansea, South Wales. What first started as a large gathering of youths for the funeral of a friend, soon descended into chaos with 100's in attendance in the area of Mayhill. Cars were set alight, as well as nearing houses having their windows smashed. Videos quickly began to circulate on social media, showing a riot van leaving the scene and police were heavily criticised for not having a presence or arresting offenders on site. Residents were also left scared and feeling let down that the police have not intervened sooner and prevented the events from unfolding.

To conclude, this piece of writing has critically evaluated the role of police in response policing by first evaluating how psychological factors can impact on relationships with members of the public. By being aware and in control of one's emotions, you can help to understand and diffuse situations by gaging the emotions of other's around you. I have then gone on to how incidents have had negative impacts on public perception and how these perceptions can be changed and improved by engaging with and listening to the communities in which we police. As we police by consent, it is crucial for police officers to maintain good relationships with partner agencies and the local communities that we work to protect.

Total word count: 1,104

Task 3 - 1000 words - Information and Intelligence/Communication Skills

Critically evaluate the methods used by police in gathering information and intelligence, how information contributes to the 'tasking and coordinating' process and how information and intelligence is communicated.

In modern day policing, information and intelligence play a crucial role and a vast number of crimes are detected and in turn, deterred because of collating and disseminating this information. The National Crime Agency (n.d) states that intelligence is information that has been analysed to assess its relevance and reliability. Throughout this piece of writing, I will be critically evaluating methods used by police to gather information and intelligence such as covert human intelligence sources and online sources of information. I will also explore how this information is then evaluated and used within the tasking and coordinating process by looking at the National Intelligence Model. Finally, I will discuss how information and intelligence is communicated once it has been through the tasking and coordinating process, from senior management teams to local BCU's.

There are numerous ways in which the police collect and are given information and intelligence. Routine collection of information includes information that has been sourced because of routine policing activity and must only be used for a specific policing purpose. Tasked collection is information that has been prioritised for example anti-social behaviour in the local town, or information gained on organised crime groups. Then there is volunteered information which is gained from members of the public or our partner agencies such as social services. This information can again be regarding problems arising in the local community or concerns around individuals. Volunteered information is usually given to police from people who want the intelligence to be acted upon.

One of the most widely used methods of collecting intelligence in the police is through a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS). A CHIS is an individual who is handled by police and will be briefed on information and intelligence that they need to gather. They will establish relationships with members of organised crime groups or speak with members of the community to gather this intelligence. The intelligence will then be fed back to police and will either be used to build a better picture of the crime taking place, or it will be acted on depending on the nature of the intelligence. Blackstones, 2019 states that in essence a CHIS is therefore someone who cultivates another person to obtain information, or who provides access to information, or who discloses information. There can be great risks associated with being a CHIS as they are often involved with serious organised crime, however they are invaluable to policing. In 2018, CHIS operations led the National Crime Agency to disrupt over 30 threats to life, arrest numerous serious organised criminals, seize over 3000kg of Class A drugs, safeguard over 200 people, and take almost 60 firearms and 4000 rounds of ammunition off the street (Home Office, 2021).

Another method of gathering information and intelligence is via online sources. With the modern world becoming more and more web based and social media dominant, this method is increasingly becoming more popular. Social media is also increasingly being used for criminal activity for example drug dealing and the sale of stolen goods. Individuals, (those involved in criminality and those not), tend to post a lot about their lives and associates on social media, so it is an easy way of gathering intelligence about their activities and interests this way. Whilst the police can gather some intelligence from online sources, it is important to remember that as the internet is relatively unregulated, a lot of information could be false and unverified. If using the internet as a source of information for policing purposes, it should be done according to guidance and officers must keep in mind that they could leave

behind a digital footprint when researching individuals. Open-source searches can be of value in gathering further intelligence but must be done properly (Blackstones, 2019).

When information and intelligence is gathered, it will be evaluated through a system police officers know as the '3x5x2' system. This system grades the reliability of the source, the reliability of the information and finally who the information can be shared with. Once intelligence has been evaluated and is ready for dissemination, analysts will look at the intelligence to establish the MO an offender and to match up any crime patterns. According to the National Intelligence Model (NIM), this analysis should be undertaken in 4 key areas:

- Problem profiling – identification of crime hotpots
- Subject profiling – analysing actions of suspected criminals and their associates
- Tactical assessment – recommendations from analysts on the deployment of resources based on intelligence available
- Strategic assessment – likely future developments in criminal activity

(Blackstone's, 2019)

The National Intelligence Model is a business framework that helps to establish and set policing priorities over 3 levels. Level one is local and neighbourhood BCU's, level two is force or regional and level three is national and international. The main part of the NIM is the Tasking and Coordination Process. This determines the operational responses to crime and disorder, and prioritises intelligence requirements (Blackstones, 2019). At the centre of this process are the Strategic Tasking and Coordination Groups. The Strategic Tasking and Coordination Groups use intelligence to determine strategic priorities and are made up of senior members of police rank, police staff and intelligence analysts. This group decides on intelligence that is used on a force or regional level. There is also the Tactical Tasking and

Coordination Groups which operates at local BCU level and plans police response to the intelligence passed on from the Strategic Tasking and Coordination Group. The Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group is normally comprised of Sergeant rank and below. Information and intelligence is then communicated via various meetings throughout the police force. One of the main meetings that affects local response officers is the daily management meeting. This is held every day and is where the priorities for the day are given by the inspector of the area to the local sergeants. It is also an opportunity for sergeants to update the inspector of how many response officers they have working and if they feel any changes need to be made to priorities in their area.

In summary, this essay has evaluated the methods of gathering information and intelligence by police. It has explored the advantages and disadvantages of methods such as Covert Human Intelligence Sources and open sources such as online information and evaluated their usefulness. Information and intelligence has to first be collected, then analysed before it can be collated and used to establish policing priorities and objectives. Once this is done, these intelligence-led priorities can be disseminated through all levels of policing management and staff. In conclusion, through the many methods police use to gather and act on intelligence, crime patterns can be more easily detected and in future, prevented.

Total word count: 953

Task 4 - 1000 words - Public Protection

Critically evaluate police strategies for dealing with public protection incidents considering the impact of abuse on victims, the impact of personal attitudes and values on the investigative process and the association between Serious and Organised Crime groups and public protection issues.

Over the last few years, there have been major budget cuts not only in the policing sector but in health and social care. This has resulted in the rising number of 'non-crime' related incidents that police are now involved in. A police officer's role now must incorporate safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our communities. When we talk about public protection, we tend to think of the management of sexual and violent offenders, but it now incorporates protecting victims that have been involved in sexual offences, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse and domestic abuse (Blackstones, 2019). Throughout this piece of writing, I will be critically evaluating the strategies involved in dealing with public protection issues, whilst also considering the impact of abuse on victims. I will consider the short- and long-term effects of abuse and I will consider how personal attitudes and values can impact on the investigation process, such as the abuse of power whilst in a policing role. I will then go on to discuss the association between serious and organised crime groups and how this can cause issues in public protection.

Public protection is a huge part of day-to-day policing and the victims we support can be extremely vulnerable individuals. A victim is defined as 'a person who has been harmed (physically, financially or emotionally), injured or killed as a result of a crime, accident or

other event or action' (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2021). It is important to understand how the role of the victim in the criminal justice system has changed over the centuries. During the 1800's, the criminal justice system was solely led by victims, meaning they held responsibility for what was reported and the disposals that would be used for offenders. As time has gone on, developments to policing in many ways transferred the responsibility for detecting and apprehending offenders from the victim to the police. In the later nineteenth century, the Director for Public Prosecutions began to take a more direct role, thus largely side-lining the victim in the decision to prosecute (Ward, 2020). Given that the impact of crime on victims can have massive implications on their mental and physical health, towards the mid-20th Century there has been more of a move back to placing victims at the heart of the criminal justice system, bringing in disposals such as 'Restorative Justice' which gives the victim a voice in how the offender is dealt with. The Victim's Code was introduced in 2016 and it focuses on victims' rights and sets out the minimum standard that organisations must provide to victims of crime (Gov.uk, 2021). It is vitally important when dealing with incidents, that police officers place the victim at the centre of their actions and give them a voice.

I will now consider the short term and long-term effects that victims can suffer as a result of abuse. When we think of abuse, most would tend to think of physical abuse straight away, however abuse can come in many forms and it is important for officers to understand this, and how different forms abuse will have different effects on each victim. Some short-term effects of abuse can be physical injuries, confusion, fear, anger and shame. As time goes on, and the victim tries to recover from the abuse, they can start to suffer from longer term effects. These can be mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression, feelings on loneliness or self-hatred. Depending on the type of abuse, victims can also suffer lifelong physical injuries and PTSD. These longer-term effects have detrimental impact on the

victim's life as it could prevent them from working and leave them feeling vulnerable and afraid of the outside world. A victim suffering these long-term effects is a man named Dan Biddle. Biddle was a victim of the 7/7 London bombings and sadly lost both of his legs in the attack. As a result of his disability, Biddle now struggles to find work and is finding it hard to cope with his new lifestyle. Biddle said in an interview with the BBC "I don't see why my disability discounts me from employment. I have the same aspirations as other people to be successful. I'm just in a wheelchair' (BBC, 2018).

Another long-term effect of abuse on victims is 'Trauma Bonding'. This is normally seen between partners in a relationship, or relationships between adults and children. It occurs when one individual is the abuser and the other becomes the victim. The victim feels powerless to do anything about the abuse or normalises it and does not see it as abuse. In a case of child abuse, the adult abuses the child, then tell him/her they are special, beautiful, perhaps buys them gifts. Then the adult abuses the child again (Jacobson, 2018). Normalising this behaviour can have serious emotional effects on the victim and can affect their relationships and social skills later in their lives.

I will now consider how personal values and beliefs impact on the investigation process. Police officers are not exempt from becoming offenders, and at times, officers have fallen short of their lawful duties and abused their position of power. A recent example of this was during the 'Kill the Bill' protests in March 2021. A young woman has claimed that police officers dressed as postal workers followed her and a flatmate home and gained entry to their building. The young woman said, 'the disguised officer and at least three other male plain-clothed officers followed her flatmate up the stairs before revealing they were police with a warrant' (Wall,2021). The female stated that the ordeal had caused her to have a

panic attack and left her feeling humiliated. The female felt that officers had acted inappropriately and deceptively to gain entry to her flat, and later received no apology when the officers realised they had gone to the wrong address. Incidents such as this tend to be broadcast in the media, and in turn lead the general public to distrust the police and its officers. These incidents then result in members of the communities being unwilling to help police with investigations and creates tensions towards police forces.

Whilst discussing public protection, serious and organised crime groups must also be discussed alongside the issues they create. As stated in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018, 'serious and organised criminals operating in the UK sexually exploit children and ruthlessly target the most vulnerable, ruining lives and blighting communities. Their activities cost us at least £37 billion each year'. This cost has risen from £24 billion in 2013. The most serious of crimes we see in the media from these SOCG are crimes such as child sexual exploitation. Over the last 4 years, child online sexual exploitation and abuse referrals have rise by 700%. The SOC strategy 2018 has set actions for dealing with SOCG:

- Pursue – offenders through prosecution and disruption
- Prepare – for when serious organised crime occurs and mitigate impact
- Protect – individuals, organisations and systems
- Prevent – people from engaging in serious organised crime

(Serious Organised Crime Strategy, 2018)

In 2019, The Home Office published a fact sheet that stated there are around 80,000 people in the UK that present as a threat to children online. Along with law enforcement agencies, social services and other partners, The Home Office has devised a strategy for all agencies to take a more joined up approach of tackling all forms of child abuse (Home Office, 2019).

Another strategy that is used when dealing with public protection issues and SOCG is through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Police, probation services and prison services manage sexual and violent offenders under MAPPA, to prevent any harm coming to the public. Information about these individuals is recorded and shared between the partner agencies so that risk assessments can be made. Supervision of these individuals comes under 3 levels:

- Level 1 – Ordinary management. The offender can be managed by the agency responsible for the supervision or case management of the offender.
- Level 2 – Active multi agency management. Case requires the active involvement and co-ordination of interventions from other agencies to manage the presenting risks of serious harm.
- Level 3 – Active enhanced multi agency management. Cases that meet the criteria for level 2 but where it is determined that the management issues require senior representation from the Responsible Authority and Duty-to-Co-operate agencies. (Ministry of Justice, 2012).

It is crucial for response officers to be briefed and beware of these offenders that either reside in the communities they police, or who have connections in those areas. It is also important that officers are aware of any conditions/orders that are in place for these individuals so they can be monitored and reported if any breaches are identified.

In conclusion, this essay has discussed the role of victims within the criminal justice system and looked at the impacts of both short- and long-term abuse victims suffer. The essay has also discussed an incident of when officers have abused their power and how that can impact on people's views on the police. I have then critically evaluated strategies that are used by law enforcement agencies as well as partner agencies to manage violent and sexual offenders whilst mitigating the risk to the general public.

Total word count: 1,049

Task 5 - 1000 words - Evidence based policing/criminology and crime prevention/criminal Justice

Critically analyse the concept of evidence-based policing and 'what works' in policing evaluating crime prevention theories and strategies and considering the options open to reduce re offending.

Today, evidence-based policing is used to determine how a crime is committed and what works in the approach to solving the crime or preventing it from happening again. In an evidence-based policing approach, police officers and staff create, review and use the best available evidence to inform and challenge policies, practices and decisions (College of Policing 2021). This essay aims to critically analyse the concept of evidence-based policing by looking at its origins. I will also be evaluating crime prevention theories and strategies such as the routine activity. Whilst doing this I will consider strategies and options that are in place to reduce the risk of re-offending such as drug and alcohol treatment and Integrated Offender Management.

Evidence based practice has been widely used for years in other professions typically in the medical industry. It was first introduced to policing by Professor Lawrence Sherman in 1998. In contrast to basing decisions on theory, assumptions, tradition or convention, an evidence-based approach continuously tests hypotheses with empirical research findings (Sherman, 2013). In his writing, Sherman focused on the three T's 'targeting, testing and tracking'. Rigozzi, 2013, describes the three T's as below:

- Targeting scarce resources by focusing on predictable concentrations of crime and disorder
- Testing police practices to help choose those that work best to reduce harm, and:

- Tracking the delivery and effects of police practices

The main aim of utilising the three T's strategy is to be more cost-effective in preventing and tackling crime whilst maintaining public confidence. It has also enabled a new style of policing, instead of officers being solely reactive and answering calls, they are now more proactive and are more focused on their tasks. Studies have shown that using an evidence-based approach as opposed to a reactionary approach, has proved effective at reducing crime.

I will now discuss what works in crime prevention strategies. One crime prevention theory that is used in policing is the 'Routine Activity Theory'. Introduced in 1979, Cohen and Felson used the routine activity theory model to understand crime activity and patterns of individuals. When the model is used and a crime pattern is established, it can then be used to prevent the crime from happening again. The theory suggests that there are 3 key elements to any crime: a motivated offender, a suitable target and the absence of a capable guardian. Without just one of these elements, Cohen and Felson believed that the crime could not be committed. I will now break the theory down and use a policing example to demonstrate how it works. For example, a house owner has had their garage broken into on several occasions when they have been away at weekends and items have been stolen. The likely offender in this scenario is the burglar, a suitable target is the garage, and the absence of a capable guardian would be the victim and lack of security measures. To prevent this from happening again, the victim could introduce target hardening measures such as CCTV cameras on their home and garage or security alarms. With the introduction of a capable guardian, the target would be less favourable to the offender and would hopefully deter them from committing this crime again.

Another crime prevention theory that can be used in policing is the 'hot model'. In 1999, Ronald Clarke introduced the idea that there are 'hot products' that are highly sought after by thieves. He introduced the 'CRAVED' model which rates how desirable an object would be to a thief:

C – Concealable

R – Removable

A – Available

V – Valuable

E – Enjoyable

D – Disposable

The model was designed so that a score can be assigned for each factor, and a high total CRAVED score would indicate that the object is more likely to be stolen (Blackstones, 2019). This model can be used alongside 'hot spot policing'. Hot spot policing is a strategy that involves the targeting of resources and activities to those places where crime is most concentrated. The strategy is based on the premise that crime and disorder is not evenly spread within neighbourhoods but clustered in small locations (College of Policing, 2021). By increasing patrols in known 'hot spots' and increasing police visibility, crime can be deterred in these areas. Police can also work with members of the public in these areas to advise on target hardening measures on how to keep themselves and their valuables safe.

I will now consider options that are available to police to prevent re-offending. More often than not, offenders have an addiction e.g. drugs or alcohol and this can be the main reason that they commit crime. A drug user may commit burglaries or thefts in order to sell items on

so that they can buy drugs. When an offender is arrested, at the custody desk they will be offered the choice of being referred to a drug and alcohol charity or partner of the police. These charities offer rehabilitation services to help the offender face and then tackle their addiction, whilst also offering support in other areas intended to improve their quality of life. In 2012 a survey was conducted amongst offenders that had taken part in rehabilitation programmes over a period of two years. Of 133,000 people that started treatment, 44% of these people did not reoffend in the two years after starting treatment. The study also showed that the people who had completed their treatment were less likely to reoffend (Public Health England, 2017).

Another option that is used to prevent re-offending is Integrated Offender Management. Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together (Gov.Uk, 2015). The police have designated IOM teams that work alongside local authority (housing), probation services and health services. The aim of IOM teams is to support prolific offenders and remove any obstacles that could lead them to reoffend. For example, if an individual is a prolific shoplifter, the reasons for this need to be explored. It could be that the offender is homeless and commits crime just so they have a safe place to sleep (custody/prison). IOM teams can work with partner agencies to source accommodation and benefits for this individual in the hope that it prevents them from re-offending.

In summary, this essay has explored what evidence-based policing is and has evaluated what works in crime prevention strategies such as using the routine activity theory to determine crime patterns of individuals. It has also considered how utilising partner agencies and in house teams can help to rehabilitate offenders and prevent them from re-

offending. By using a combination of crime prevention strategies and also working with offenders to rehabilitate them, the police forces across the UK can cut crime rates and improve public safety and confidence.

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