

Essay one:

Critically evaluate the concept of 'the professionalisation of the police service', and consider the extent to which 'maintaining professional standards', 'ethical and inclusive' and 'coaching and mentoring' approaches contribute to professionalisation.

Word limit: 1000 words.

The first step in evaluating the 'professionalisation of the police service' is to determine what is actually meant by that concept. Denise Martin, writing in *An International Journal of Research and Policy* quotes Peter Neyroud as saying that professionalisation requires “the creation of a professional body, developing a framework of accredited qualifications across the organisation, adopting a code of ethics, and developing a strong knowledge base dictated by scientific evidence”. Martin goes on to explain that these factors have largely been adopted through the introduction of a graduate recruitment scheme and the introduction of the College of Policing and an updated Code of Ethics (2021 [2011]).

An important observation to be made from this definition above is that it closely relates to the approaches of coaching and mentoring and the need to maintain professional standards, as laid out in the question. This is particularly valuable when considering perhaps the most cited reason, of late, to review Police standards; that of public perception.

Ditcham and Mynenko, writing in an article for Rusi.org explain that “public confidence in the police has been on a downward trend...from 62% in 2017 to 55% in 2020” (2022). Whilst high-profile instances of Police failings are often cited as having responsibility for this downward trend, in reality there are further reaching reasons, linked to those outlined in the question, which the above article goes on to detail. Ditcham and Mynenko explain

that a significant factor in the decrease in public confidence is linked to perceived Police failings in tackling crimes such as violence against women, with prosecutions for sexual assault having declined by 4%. The article goes on to explain that forces are increasingly “criticised for a lack of care and sensitivity towards victims, possibly explained in part by a lack of training”.

There is, therefore, a clear connection between possible inadequacies in training and public perception; something which could be seen as being addressed by efforts to introduce graduate and higher-education based training to incoming officers. Another means of improving training amongst newly recruited officers is the increase across forces of mentors and on-the-job training, supported by the College of Policing, largely through interactive online packages. The mentoring or coaching of new recruits by more experienced officers has certain valuable aspects; notably providing probationary officers with a single point of contact for the early stages of their development. One concern in this field however, is a tendency to promote the idea of becoming a tutor officer as a development opportunity or a stepping stone to promotion, rather than as a role in its own right. This incentivisation of the tutor role risks pairing newly recruited officers with tutors who have no long-term aspirations to train and develop their students. This incentivisation of the role is best evidenced by Dr Tom Cockcroft et al. writing in an article for the Open University. In it they explain that some forces offer incentives such as “desirable shift patterns and linking tutoring to promotion” whilst others stated “that they incentivise the tutor role with money” (2022). Despite these incentives however, the article goes on to explain that “over half of the forces who submitted returns indicated that they experience challenges in retaining tutors”, indicating that the incentives offered are only a short-term solution to a long-term issue of officer training.

Interestingly, both of the articles referenced above, also make reference to the diversity

and inclusivity of the Police service. In the case of Ditcham and Mynenko, they reference the Stephen Port case as a high-profile failing by Police, which they suggest is the result of “institutional homophobia within the police service”, whilst the article from Cockcroft et al. makes reference to many tutors having “not received diversity training...[which] can impact negatively on their tutees if they fail to support them and make them feel included”. In the case of the LGBTQIA+ community referenced by Ditcham and Mynenko, there has long been a perceived intolerance by Police. Dean Blackburn, writing in *Criminal Justice Matters* magazine noted that: “In the 1990's most rank and file police officers viewed being gay as akin to paedophilia...and believed that being lesbian or gay, and also a police officer, presented a 'conflict of interest'” (2008).

In spite of this, however, the article by Cockcroft et al. does indicate that forces across the UK are being made aware of issues regarding diversity and associated exclusion and that this awareness may well lead to improvements in diversity training and education going forward, in addition to the other steps being taken to ensure that individuals such as members of the LGBTQIA+ community feel supported and included.

In considering 'the professionalisation of the police service' in relation to the factors laid out in the question, it is apparent that these aspects play a pivotal role in professionalisation. The maintaining of professional standards, following the definition of Neyroud, requires the introduction of a professional body that oversees the industry and holds it to account. In the case of the police service, and as evidenced by Ditcham and Mynenko, it is both the College of Policing and the British public who perform this role. The public rate the police based on the standard of work they observe and where there are failings, steps are taken by the College of Policing to address this. These steps tie directly into the coaching and mentoring element of the question, which has a considerable impact on the rank-and-file officers that serve the public. Whilst it is apparent that the College of Policing is taking

considerable steps to ensure that officers are well trained and suitable for the role, using methods such as the introduction of graduate recruitment schemes, the article by Cockcroft et al. nevertheless shows that there is still room for improvement. The tutor/tutee model in its current iteration has areas that require addressing, particularly when ensuring that the right people fill the mentor role in order to provide the best start to new recruits, which in turn assists in the development of competent, compassionate officers. That same article also raised concerns over the requirement for diversity training amongst tutors. The importance of this to the professionalisation of the Police cannot be underestimated as it impacts not only on incoming recruits but also on the treatment of the public they serve. By developing an awareness of diversity and inclusivity and being able to work on that amongst their colleagues, it will ultimately improve on officer abilities to consider the same factors when attending incidents and will lead to officers who are more understanding and thus make better, more professional decisions.

Word Count – 1095

Essay two:

Response policing – Critically evaluate the role of response police in dealing with critical/major incidents, and explain the importance of managing trauma and mental well-being.

Word limit: 1000 words.

As is evidenced in the name, it is the role of response police officers to respond to incoming requests for Police and attend those incidents based on the information that is provided to us during the initial telephone call. What this means is that response officers will attend to not only low-level incidents such as shoplifting or anti-social behaviour but

will also be expected to attend a variety of critical and major incidents, often as the initial responder. Often times it will be the role of these response officers to carry out initial enquiries and actions that can impact on the progress of the investigation. This is perhaps best evidenced by Dr. Mark Roycroft, writing in *Decision Making in Police Enquiries and Critical Incidents, What really Works?*, who explains: “The first officer at a crime scene, for example, may decide how to best preserve evidence which could lead to a conviction, then later be called to attend a critical incident such as a suspected arson, before helping defuse a violent situation” (2019).

When attending an incident, it is the responsibility of every officer to carry out their role to the best of their ability to aid in the investigation. The term often used to describe these enquiries is the 'Golden Hour'. The golden hour is best described as the first hour of the officers attendance, when they have the best opportunities to make meaningful investigations. In the case of a response officer, who may be first on the scene, these enquiries can be vital. Roycroft again details the relevance of this enquiries thusly: “Where the police are informed of an incident shortly after it has occurred, offenders may still be in the area. Locating them can provide forensic opportunities...the testimony of witnesses can also be obtained while the offence is still fresh in their mind, CCTV images and other data can be collected before it is deleted”. It is clear then, that the evidence that a response officer can accrue during that initial attendance has the potential to vastly alter the direction of an investigation; and this is true whether the incident is low-level or a critical or major incident.

A major incident, as described by Northumbria Police, is “beyond the scope of business as usual operations, and is likely to involve serious harm...or risk to human life or welfare” (2022). Examples of a major incident include natural disasters and serious events, such as the Grenfell Tower disaster, where a Police presence is essential. In a situation such as

these, the sights and experience going on around them is likely to have a profound impact on all those present. The National Library of Medicine, for example, explains that “witnessing a traumatic event...can be psychologically quite damaging...[with] 30% of individuals who witness a traumatic event develop[ing] post-traumatic stress disorder” (Patki et al., 2014).

Given the statistic above, and an awareness amongst Police forces that victims and witnesses require ongoing support, it is the responsibility of attending Police officers to direct those people to appropriate resources. There are many options open to officers to do this, in the form of partner agencies such as victim support services or through more direct requests for assistance such as the submission of Public Protection Notifications, which allow forces to liaise with relevant authorities. What is also important to note however, is that the above statistic does not solely apply to members of the public who are witnesses to impactful events. Attending officers themselves are also privy to the sights and experiences that impact on a persons mental health after a traumatic incident and may be affected by them. Karen Bullock and Jon Garland writing in *Policing and Mental Health, Theory, Policy and Practice* explain that “stressors within the police environment might result in psychological impacts such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder” and that of “17,000 police officers...[who] completed an online survey... 80% of respondents acknowledged having experienced stress, low mood, anxiety or other mental health and well-being difficulties” (2020). Similar research by Brendan Burchell and Jess Miller for Cambridge University explains that of “thousands of police personnel across the country...12% showed clinical symptoms of Complex Post-Traumatic Stress disorder” (2022). C-PTSD is characterised as a mental health issue where sufferers exhibit the symptoms of PTSD such as nightmares and intrusive thoughts but, in addition, struggle with managing their emotions and maintaining relationships (nhs.com, 2022). The

combination of these symptoms is likely to be detrimental, not only to a suffers short-term mental health but also their long-term well-being and could in the case of Police officers, impact on their ability to carry out their role effectively.

There are indications that Police forces acknowledge the importance of managing the mental well-being of their officers and are taking steps to support officers who require it. Typically, officers who attend critical or major incidents are provided with the opportunity to attend a Trauma Risk Management (TRIM) meeting. The aim of a TRIM meeting is to provide a safe space for officers to talk through their experience and receive dedicated, workplace support, or to be re-directed to other support if it is required. There are also other avenues of support for officers such as the Oscar Kilo organisation which supports officers with a range of mental health issues.

What is apparent based on the evidence outlined above is that response police officers contribute vitally in critical and major incidents, often as the first responders to these calls. They are responsible for carrying out 'Golden Hour' enquiries which contribute to the direction of the proceeding investigation and also to the initial evidence-gathering process. What is also apparent is that in the course of these investigations, response officers are exposed to potentially traumatic scenes which have the potential to impact on their mental well-being in the long-term. It is clear that forces are aware of the importance of supporting officers and ensuring their well-being is considered, as evidenced through the TRIM services that are offered to officers after attending particular calls; however, based on the statistics, there are still indications that mental health issues are prevalent amongst police officers.

Word Count – 1018

Essay three:

Critically evaluate police methods of gathering information and intelligence. You may choose a specific method of intelligence-gathering for this answer.

Word limit: 1000 words.

It could be argued that information and intelligence are the cornerstone of any Police investigation. Evidence proves an offence and it is the gathering of information that provides that valuable evidence. Police officers can gather and assess information in a multitude of ways, picking and choosing different methods under different circumstances to best advance their investigation. One such source of valuable intelligence and information is the 'human element'. The suspects, victims, reporting people and witnesses to an offence who are spoken to by officers in order to develop an explanation of events.

An often essential piece of information that officers can gather at an incident is a victim's account of what has happened. Often times, a victim will make initial contact with Police and will provide a summary of what has taken place to the call-handler or in the email contact form. It is the responsibility of the Police to take this initial account and use it to develop a plan of action for progression, which often includes speaking with the victim and gathering a more in-depth account in the form of a written and signed statement, in order for the officer dealing with the case to gather the most precise intelligence.

When attending to a report of an incident, officers will try and collect a statement from the victim at the earliest opportunity. This is done in order to collect best evidence, as a statement relies on the victim's best recollection of the events before, during and after the incident occurred. Given that the victim may have been through a particularly traumatic event, officers must make considerations when obtaining a statement. To that end, there are various means that officers can employ to make the victim feel more at ease or more

willing to engage. Victims may choose to have someone else present, such as a friend or family member. Whilst these people cannot participate in the statement giving process, they nevertheless provide support to the victim via their presence.

Despite the inherent value of a supportive victim giving a comprehensive account of an event, in order to gather information, there are nevertheless several issues which need consideration; paramount of which is that the victim is able to change or even withdraw their statement at any point during the investigation. As part of the process for obtaining a victim statement, victims are reminded that significantly altering their account or withdrawing it can affect their reliability. As the chart below, from Petter Gottschalk article in *The Police Journal* indicates, there are issues with the perceived reliability of victim accounts.

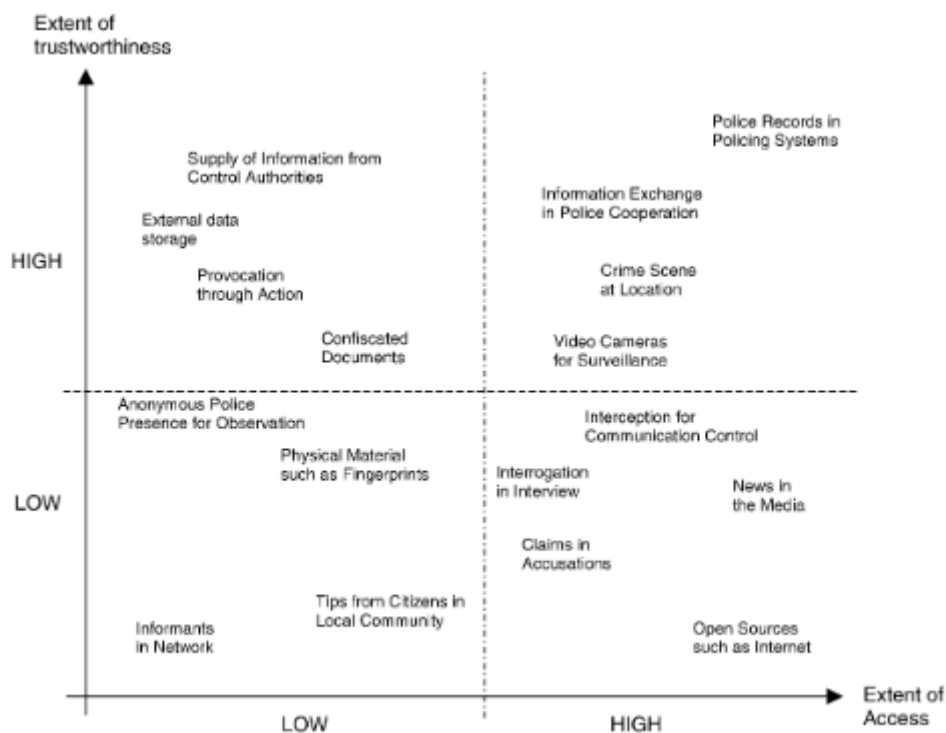


Figure 1: Trust in and access to information sources

Looking at the table above, a victim account of an incident would typically fall under the “claims in accusations” category. As the table shows, intelligence from sources such as

these are easily accessible but not deemed especially reliable. Combine this with the possibility that the victim may change their account and the result could be a statement of limited evidential value. Despite this observation, the Police service are often considered to be victim-led and pursuing a case without a victims account could lead to difficulties in securing enough intelligence to support a prosecution.

Similar issues to those of victims statements arise in the pursuit of information from witnesses to incidents. Like victim statements, witness accounts are gathered at the earliest available opportunity in order to try and secure best evidence whilst it is still fresh in the mind of the observer. Unlike victims, however, witnesses are often not directly affected by the incident itself and are thus less impacted in terms of mental recollection or concerns. As a result, witness statements can provide good detail for the development of intelligence. Additionally, due to the degree of separation from the incident, witnesses can potentially provide a less biased account of the incident, particularly as there is little personal gain or benefit to them being untrue in their statement. John T. Wixted et al. writing in *The Association For Psychological Science Journal* explain that the downside of witness testimony is that it has historically been considered unreliable and this may remain the case with “a search of Google using the exact phrase 'eyewitness memory is unreliable' yield[ing] 2,250 hits” compared to only 2 for a search substituting the word 'reliable' (2018).

Despite this historic criticism of witness accounts however, the same article goes on to explain that under ideal conditions, eye witness recollection was found to be highly reliable, as evidenced by the table below, which shows the correct identification of suspects by witnesses compared with their confidence:

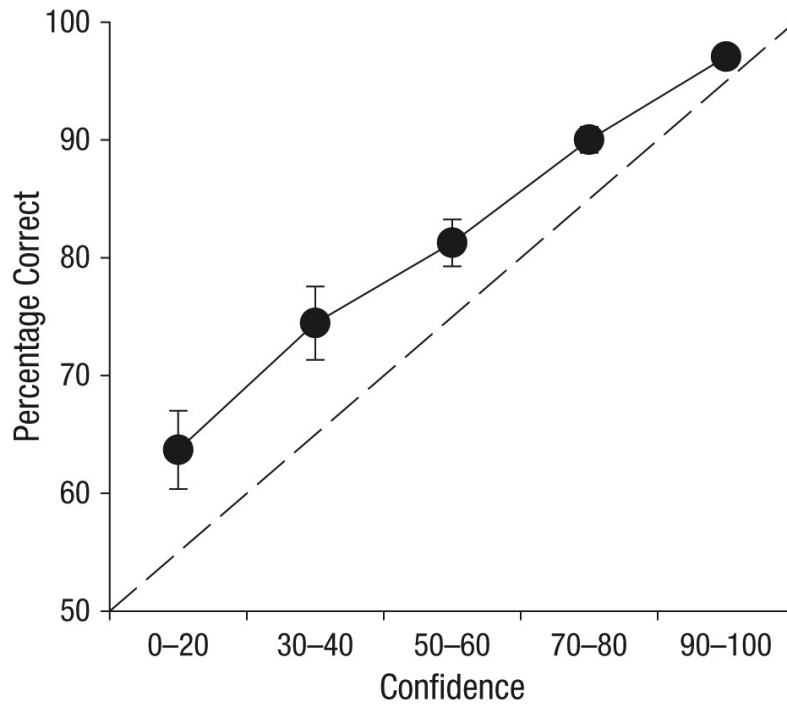


Figure 2: Suspect-ID accuracy averaged across 15 studies with comparable scaling on the confidence (x-) axis.

Unfortunately, what this article evidences is that despite witness testimony providing a reasonably high chance of obtaining valuable information and intelligence, the pre-conceived uncertainty over its reliability could be detrimental in its use to prove a case.

The final element to consider in gathering information and intelligence of this nature is the gathering of information from suspects. Typically, suspect information is gathered via formal interview rather than the statement format of victims or witnesses. Collecting information in this way has some clear positives, but also some significant negatives which need to be considered. The most clear benefit of obtaining intel via interview is that the method is more structured. The suspect is presented with questions, the answer to which is intrinsically valuable to the case and by answering them, the suspect either provides that valuable information or declines to do so, which carries with it its own value. By properly employing this method of information gathering, the scope of the information can be

focused and unnecessary details can be avoided or omitted.

The negative element of the suspect interview process, however, is that it can adversely affected the suspect and result in less than perfect results. An article published by Herrington and Roberts in *Policing: A journal of Policy and Practice* explains that: “police suspect interviews are stressful...individuals with a PV [Psychological vulnerability] may not cope well with the stress” (2012).

Given the excessive stress element outlined above, it is clear that there is significant potential for the information gathered during a suspect interview to be adversely affected and result in less than best evidence.

Considering the information outlined above, it is apparent that whilst the information gathered from people involved in an incident are valuable to some extent in developing intel, they come with significant negatives and would likely be insufficient to prove or disprove a case based exclusively on their merit. There is too much potential for deception, mis-remembering and the withholding of information for them to be considered entirely reliable.

Word Count – 1088

Essay four:

Critically evaluate police strategies for dealing with public protection incidents. Your answer should consider the impact of abuse on victims, the potential impact of bias on the investigative process, and the links between Serious and Organised Crime Groups and public protection issues.

Word limit: 1000 words.

When evaluating Police strategies for dealing with public protection incidents, it is important to consider a type of incident that has the potential for multiple victims and suspects. Drugs offences typically have the capacity to involve various groups, from youths through to organised crime groups. Before reviewing the impact on victims, Police strategies for dealing with drug offences, including the positives and negatives of such an investigation will be considered, with particular attention being paid to the more severe types of drug-based crime.

There has been significant steps taken to improve the Police response to serious drug offences, largely driven by the increasing prevalence of said offences observed by forces across the UK. This is evidenced by Grace Robinson et al. writing in an article for *The International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, who explain that the “‘County Lines’ model of drug dealing is commonplace, with 71% of British police forces reporting ‘established’ County Lines activity” (2019).

‘County Lines’ is a term that has become increasingly prominent as larger scale drug rings have developed throughout the UK. It is defined by the National Crime Agency as being where “illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries” (n.d). Such is the magnitude of the problem that steps are being taken at every level of policing to try and address the issue.

Neighbourhood policing teams, for example, take significant steps within individual forces to try and address drug offences and stop them developing into a wider issue. PCSO's and neighbourhood officers are uniquely placed to be able to identify problem offenders within their force area and deal with concerns from the community. Neighbourhood teams are able to provide valuable information from intelligence gathering practices, that can help specialist teams within their forces to identify and arrest high-ranking members of drug

gangs and organised crime groups, thus assisting in the deconstruction of County Lines routes.

The specialist teams to whom neighbourhood officers can pass intel are present in the majority of UK forces and perform a vital role in targetting high level targets within the drug trade. Due to the specialisation of their role, they are able to dedicate time and resources to carrying out wide ranging, protracted investigations which in turn directly affect the dealers ability to manufacture, trade, recruit and sell their product.

Beyond the efforts of individual police forces, there is a UK wide strategy for addressing large scale offences, such as those involved under the 'County Lines' umbrella. Where these organised crime groups operate beyond the force area of a single force, it becomes the responsibility of the National crime Agency to liaise with forces and target drug traffickers both locally and on a wider scale. This method does, however, present some negatives which require consideration.

The largest issue in regards to this method of investigation is that high-level initiatives result in the oversight of lower-level offences. The result is that local community level issues are overlooked in favour of addressing more impactful, wider-reaching crimes; the type that the general public have less awareness of. It is for this reason that police forces must balance an awareness of large scale crime and methods of addressing their impact on the community they serve. For example, Robinson et al. explain in their article that “vulnerable populations, including children under the age of 18, are used...to supply drugs for little reward” and that they are easily coerced into this lifestyle due to “young people admire[ing] gang members and aspire[ing] to be like them”. Young people are disproportionately involved in crime and are often targeted in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, where they are swept up into the lifestyle. The targetting of these

young people, with the intention of using them in a high risk, low reward role could constitute they themselves being considered victims of the more senior gang members. Children and youths are used by Organised Crime Groups as a means of deflecting investigations into their actions. Police forces across the UK try to avoid criminalising children and this works to an OCG's benefit as they can turn investigations away from themselves in this manner. Rather than criminalising children, forces opt for diversionary schemes to try and encourage children out of a life of crime, which limits the extent of the investigation by Police.

Despite these intervention tactics, there is still a clear link between youth offenders and violent crime, often as a result of youths becoming more wrapped up in the inner workings of Organised Crime Groups. Artemis Skarlatidou et al. writing in *Crime and Delinquency* explain that “knife crime offences in England and Wales have hit a high...with an 80% increase during the last 5 years. About a third...occur in London, and two-thirds of these incidents...involve young people 10 to 25 years old” (2019). Youth involvement in these statistics accounts for both perpetrators and victims and youth-on-youth violence is increasingly common.

A side effect of youth involvement in offences linked to Organised Crime Groups and 'County Lines' issues is that they result in a bias towards young people by both the general public and law enforcement agencies. Due to the increasing involvement of young people in the day-to-day operations of drug-based organisations, youths and dealers are becoming the face of the crime amongst their community. What results is a bias upon the investigative process, where concerned members of the public report innocuous incidents to the Police under the misapprehension that a group of youths equates to a criminal gang. This in turn impacts upon the genuine investigative steps being taken to address organised crime, with the youth element increasingly being considered exclusively as

perpetrators, rather than victims of a system arranged by high-level dealers to indoctrinate them.

As evidenced above, Police forces are taking meaningful steps to try and address the increasing crisis of organised crime groups and associated criminal activity. Where possible, they give considerations to who is involved and offer opportunities for offenders to correct their course rather than criminalise them unnecessarily. What is also apparent however, is that in the attempts to address the bigger picture, there are failings at a grass-roots level which can result in young people, themselves possibly victims of crime, being misinterpreted as offenders and punished or ostracised as a result. It is clear that more needs to be done to address protecting all aspects of the public, rather than excluding some in the process of protecting others.

Word Count – 1074

Essay five:

Critically analyse the concept of evidence-based policing and 'what works' in policing by evaluating crime prevention theories and strategies and considering the options available to reduce re-offending. You may choose a specific type of offence for this answer e.g. domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, knife crime. Your answer must be based on academic research not personal experience.

Word limit: 1000 words.

In order to consider the role of evidence-based policing, it is important to establish its definition. Cynthia Lum and Chris Koper, writing in *Critical Issues in Policing:*

Contemporary Readings define it thusly: "Law enforcement agencies should somehow use

research knowledge to help guide strategic and tactical decisions” (2021). What is meant here is that evidence is gathered through research and experiences to help advance the methods used in policing, maintaining what works and removing what does not. Evidence-based policing is valuable to officers in the investigation of many different offences, including in situations of domestic violence. It impacts on both prevention strategies for domestic incidents and on measures that can be taken to reduce re-offending.

Domestic violence requires considerable investigation by police officers. The requirements of attending officers are not only limited to their initial actions but also to long-term steps that they take to offer protections and support. During the initial attendance following a report of domestic violence, officers are responsible for gathering evidence, detaining suspects and safeguarding victims. As a minimum expectation, officers are encouraged to take positive action at the scene of a domestic incident. This can take many forms, but as a minimum, officers would be expected to separate both parties for a set amount of time, assuming that an offence is not immediately apparent.

Attending officers are also responsible for ensuring that suitable protections are put in place once a victim is identified; typically in the form of a Public Protection Notification (PPN). The PPN is a document completed by officers following various different reports, one of which is any domestic incident. This document provides officers with the opportunity to gather details of the offence which can be shared with partner agencies who may be able to provide their own type of support for the victim. Typically, in the case of domestic violence reports, the PPN would be shared with the victim's GP, mental health and social services and the victim support team. The PPN is not the only means of protection that officers can put in place, but acts as a valuable first step. By developing intel that they gather for the PPN, officers are able to collect information about the relationship between

the victim and offender, which can then be used to request the serving of a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) upon the offender. A DVPN puts restrictions on the offender, such as controlling the places they are allowed to attend or the means by which they are allowed to have contact with particular people. This gives the victim the opportunity to liaise with Police safely, if they feel they want to support an investigation; particularly as DV victims and offenders typically live together.

Sources indicate that reports of domestic violence are rising in the UK. This was particularly observable at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, with Ria Ivandic et al., writing in an article for The Centre for Economic Performance, that “the United Kingdom [has] witnessed an increase of more than 20% in domestic violence emergency calls” when compared to the months before lockdown (2020), similar data from the Office for National Statistics further supports this figure by indicating that “domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales rose 6% in the year ending March 2021” (2021). To try and address this increasing trend, Police and partner agencies having increasingly begun to work on strategies to prevent members of the public becoming victims of domestic violence. One notable preventative measure is the introduction of Clare's Law, which allows members of the public or their immediate family to request information on any Domestic Violence related history their partner may have. The benefit of this method is that it educates potential victims and provides them with the opportunity to safeguard themselves from harm before it happens.

The nature of policing unfortunately means that the vast majority of steps officers can take with regards to domestic violence are reactive as opposed to proactive. Clare's Law is unique, in that it is a proactive means of dealing with domestic violence that can be taken by the public themselves with limited police involvement. The role of police typically begins once an offence has occurred, after which time they can take steps to avoid re-offending

but cannot undo what has already been done.

Prevention of re-offending then, is an increasingly valuable tool to police officers.

Developments are regularly made to try and address re-offending and several contingencies are already in use by police officers. Perhaps the most apparent means of preventing re-offending is to create distance between the offender and victim, either temporarily via a DVPN or more permanently via the arrest and successful prosecution of the offender. Other options such as restraining orders and non-molestation orders offer a similar outcome and are enforced by police involvement. There is however, a glaring downside to many of the methods and this lies in the fact that they provide a solution between one offender and one victim; they do little to address the potential for the offender to carry on similar behaviour with another partner and this is often the case.

In order to address re-offending against different partners, steps must be taken to try and educate offenders and alter the mindset that leads to them offending. To this end, various educational pathways have been developed to try and address domestic violence reoffending. In an Analytical Summary conducted on behalf of the National Offender Management Service by Sinead Bloomfield and Louise Dixon, a review of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme and the Community Domestic Violence Programme were conducted. Based on their findings, Bloomfield and Dixon summarised that “a difference of 13.2 percentage points was observed between those who received treatment and those who did not for any reoffending” (2015). This indicates a moderate success rate in reducing reoffending amongst aggressors, given their inclusion in diversionary practices.

The evidence presented above suggests that despite improvements by police in addressing domestic violence, there remains considerable work to be done. The evidence-based approach has allowed for alternative means of investigation and outcomes, in the

form of preventative education and wider reaching measures such as DVPN's but, despite these, figures for domestic violence incidents continue to rise. Consideration must be given, however, to the possibility that it is through increased knowledge of these measures, that domestic violence victims feel more able to report abuse. Strategies for re-offending continue to develop, showing signs of potential and combined with an improving knowledge of domestic violence amongst officers, via research and education, there is the potential for Domestic violence incidents to be more effectively managed.

Word Count – 1099

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