

This essay will discuss and describe how classical criminology informs evidence-based policing with reference to drug crime, which will include supplying drugs and using drugs. Criminology is the study of criminal behaviour and crime. Criminology looks at the criminal's motivation, the crime's punishment, and the possibilities of preventing that crime from happening in the first place. Evidence-based policing is the idea that police practices should rely on scientific evidence. Evidence-based policing should be used to lead and assess the police force. Evidence-based policing uses research to find the best methods of understanding any problems that may occur the research also assesses any police interventions; this may include suggesting any changes that need to be made within the police force. Evidence-based policing should be used by everyone in the police force (College of Policing, 2023).

According to UNODC (2023), in classical criminology, the punishment for the crime is a way of getting even with the criminal. If a poor person was to steal property from the rich, then the punishment would be possible death. The death sentence is not a fair punishment for theft especially if the circumstance of the theft was unknown, however back in the eighteenth century not much thought was put into easing the suffering of the poor. During the seventeenth-century classical school of criminology had been developed known as the enlightenment period. The theory of criminology had been developed by Jeremy Bentham and Cesare de Beccaria. They are seen as the founders of classical criminology. Both Bentham and Beccaria wanted to reduce the brutality of the sentences that were handed down to offenders. Bentham believed that the punishment in the form of death did nothing to deter anyone else and it was having a negative impact on society's happiness. However, Beccaria believed that laws needed to be developed to make any punishment line up with the crime that had been committed (University of Sheffield, 2018). The Enlightenment period highlighted the notion that people make the decision to commit a crime and the punishment for the crime should be about preventing the crime from happening again by others. The punishment uses the person or offender as an example for everyone else who may be thinking about committing a particular crime, for example, if someone thinks about stealing from a shop they would consider the punishment, which might be prison time, and they might make the decision not to steal. Classical criminology suggests that a person makes a choice to commit a crime. They are committing the crime of their own free will (Penny, 2005). There are advantages and disadvantages to classical criminology. The advantages to

classical criminology stopped handing out unjust punishments, such as the death sentence for theft. Another advantage is that the punishments that were handed out were used as a deterrent for others. Some of the disadvantages of classical criminology are not every citizen understood the law, sometimes they would not know if they were committing a crime (Goel, 2018). Classical criminology is seen to be focusing on the act of the crime and not the person who committed the crime and is also used as a deterrent for others.

Criminology has changed over time and now focused on the crime, and the person that committed the crime this includes the motivation of the person and the preventative measures that must be put in place. There are strategies that have been put in place to tackle crime. Problem-solving policing (POP) or problem-oriented policing is a way of trying to tackle crime. POP will try and identify a particular problem, they will then try to understand the problem and then develop a response to the problem, for example, if there is a particular area that has a high crime rate then they would increase the police presence in that area to prevent the crime from happening (College of Policing, 2023).

The SARA model has four steps. Scanning, finding, and prioritising possible crime and disorder issues. Analysis, examining possible issues by gathering relevant data and intelligence to pinpoint underlying reasons why there are issues. Response, create and put in place organised activities to address the reasons for all the issues that were found. Assessment, measure the effectiveness of the response, examine if the response had a positive or negative effect, should possible changes need to be made to gain the desired response. When working with the SARA model be prepared to revisit earlier steps just in case new information arises and different plans need to be made (College of Policing, 2023).

Academics and professionals in criminology have stated that there are benefits to targeting communities that have a high crime rate. There are some studies that have shown that when there is a cluster of crimes in certain areas called 'hot spots', and police presents are increased then the crime rate is reduced (Braga, 2019). 'Hot Spot' policing is a plan that can minimise criminal activity. The idea of hot spot policing is that criminal activity and criminal disorder are not spread throughout a community but rather clusters in small areas. It puts its resources in high-crime areas and by doing that it should combat crime effectively. According to the College of Policing (2023), there are small pockets of criminal activity within communities, where crime happens regularly and

had become predictable. These pockets in the communities are called micro-units of geography. If police officers are placed in the middle of a hot spot, then they should be able to see the surrounding area clearly. Hot spots may include addresses, buildings, bus stops and street segments. There are two theories that underpin hot spot policing. Deterrence theory, this theory suggests that when a police officer is visible to offenders then crime will be prevented. The second theory is crime opportunity, this suggests that if a police officer is near then the likelihood of the offender being caught committing the crime is higher and the offender will rationally think about the crime and the punishment and are less likely to commit the crime. However, those that are committing crimes to gain money or property to fund their substance abuse, are just as likely to commit the crime with police presence (Pierce, 2017). Research shows that Hot spot policing is effective and has reduced drug crime by 30% (Youth Endowment Fund, 2023).

According to GOV.UK (2023), possession of drugs, even if it did not belong to the person that was caught with it could result in them receiving a fine or a warning, this would depend on the class of drugs, where the drugs were found and if there were any history of drug possession. For those that supply the drugs, the penalty would be greater. For some people, the need for drugs outweighs the potential punishment. If there were police present in a hot spot area a drug dealer may decide to change location regularly. Substance use disorder (SUD) is a mental health illness. It can affect an individual's brain and behaviour. If an individual has SUD, then there would be an overwhelming urge to 'get their fix'. Classical criminology does not account for mental health problems such as SUD, as classic criminology stated that the individual is committing a crime of their own free will and rational thought (Mental Health Foundation, 2022). Classical criminology says that the individual will weigh up the risk and rewards, for a person with SUD the reward of buying and using the drug is higher than the risk of being caught and punished (Dorn, 2016). If a person that is addicted to drugs is sentenced and receives prison time then they have a chance of rehabilitation while they serve their sentence. According to the UK parliament (2023), there is strong evidence to show that there is a positive impact on prisoners that have completed drug interventions while in prison. Those that are addicted to drugs could use prison time to rehabilitate but they would need to continue the treatment once they are released from prison.

In 2015, three men were arrested for supplying class A and class B drugs. One of the men, Paul Chance, received a sentence of eight years in prison. The arrests were made after the men were kept under surveillance by the police force. According to the Office of National Statistics (2023), long prison sentences are not a deterrent for crime. However, prison time does keep the criminals off the street, and while they serve their sentence they may rehabilitate and once they are released, they might not get involved in criminal activity. In this case, using one of the police strategies such as SARA may have prevented the crime from taking place, however, in drug-related crime locations and times may change regularly so it would have been difficult to implement any strategy other than surveillance. Classical criminology shapes modern-day policing. The idea is to potentially scare other people that might be considering committing the same crime or a similar crime or make it difficult for people to commit crimes by implementing the police force strategies. However, when it comes to drug use or the supply of drugs studies show that prison sentences are not a deterrent and police presents are not a deterrent as such because they could change location and times of selling their drugs regularly (GOV.UK, 2023). Not all punishments are prison sentences, the courts may hand out non-custodial such as fines, community service orders and probation orders. According to Valletta (2015), a prison sentence is as effective as a non-custodial sentence when it comes to reducing crime. However, the courts continue to hand out prison sentences in the main attempt to reduce crime. From 2021 to 2022 the total number of prison sentences that were handed out had risen by 5%, a total of 10,755 during that year (GOV.UK). According to the Sentencing Academy (2022), it is cheaper to provide the police force with extra funding to prevent crime than it is to send offenders to prison.

To conclude, classical criminology has helped modern-day policing. Both Betham and Beccaria wanted to create a system where the punishment matches the crime and where the punishment can become a deterrent to others that might commit the same or similar crime. The other deterrents that are used to try to prevent crime are the measures put in place by the police force such as POP, SARA, and the Hot spots, by using police presence or CCTV as prevention to crime. If individuals that are going to commit a crime, such as supplying drugs, are aware that either the police are watching or CCTV has been installed then they would not sell their drugs at a specific location regularly, however, they could change the times that they meet their buyers

regularly. Studies have shown that when these preventative measures are put in place crime rate does reduce.

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