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Evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies (e.g. problem-oriented policing, predictive policing, intelligence-led policing, reactive policing) in relation to a specific type of crime of your own choosing. Your answer must be based on academic research, not personal experience.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Drug related crime is a large-scale issue in the United Kingdom and Worldwide. Allen et al., 2021 found between 2020 and 2021 there were approximately 210,000 drug offences recorded in England and Wales alone. They noted a 19% increase from the previous year highlighting the sheer impact drug related offences have on UK police forces and criminal justice systems. Furthermore, they found 17 hospital admissions per 100,000 in Wales were drug and mental health related showing the further impact drug offences have on the NHS as well as criminal justice services.

A wide range of policing strategies exist all with the intention of preventing crime. This essay aims to evaluate the effectiveness of problem-orientated policing and intelligence led policing and explore their effectiveness where available on drug related offences specifically.

Problem-orientated (PO) policing aims to examine the underlying causes of repeat problems to pro-actively resolve issues and includes innovative thinking while liaising with local communities and agencies. The SARA model aims to address recurring problems by scanning and identifying relevant problems, analysing, and understanding relevant factors to know how to proceed, responding by executing solutions and assessing the outcome and determining whether the intended goals were achieved (Pop Centre, 2001).

Weisburd et al., (2008) conducted a meta-analysis that evaluated the effectiveness of PO policing and compared the SARA model with a comparison group. It was found the SARA model had a statistically significant affect, on reducing crime. This was further supported by the national research council (2004) that conducted a systematic review of PO policing particularly the SARA

model and assessed the fairness and effectiveness in policing and found the PO model to be effective in reducing crime.

Hinkle and Weisburd et al., (2020) aimed to further extend the findings relating to PO policing and conducted a review of available research. The findings re affirmed initial findings with statistically significant results that PO policing resulted in a reduction in crime compared to control-based groups.

Hope et al., (1994) specifically focused on PO policing on drug related offences, a case study was conducted on 3 different drug dealing problem areas and it was found that in all three cases police officers had an essential role completing actions agreed by the community and as a result seeing a reduction in drug related crime. However, this is an extremely small case study that shows on a small-scale local basis PO policing can be effective. More research will need to be conducted to assess whether these results would be replicable on a large scale or national basis.

In contrast to this Braga et al., (2019) found there were obstacles preventing police agencies enhancing their problem-solving abilities including which were innovation and creativity in creating problem solving and this resulted in officers returning to traditional methods such as reactive arrests. This was further supported by Skogan et al., (2000) who found relying on individual officers to conduct their own problem-solving methods was 'woeful'. This suggests it may be beneficial for forces to have task wide problem-solving efforts which could reduce pressures on individual officers and standardise the efforts across the force areas and provide more consistent results for victims and communities. It can be noted that this crime prevention strategy may work effectively for certain types of offences as CORDNER and BIEBEL (2005) found most types of offences that were effective with PO policing was drug and public nuisance issues.

Another crime prevention strategy is Intelligence-led (IL) policing, which is a model of policing revolving around the assessment and management of risk (de Lint, 2006). Ratcliffe (2016) developed the IL policing model that highlights a link between criminal intelligence analysis and how that influences the decision maker which impacts the criminal environment.

Researchers have explored the implication of IL policing and the effect it has on crime prevention including drug related offences. Ratcliffe et al., (2008) studied detectives working in a drug-gang investigation team and found progress was made organisationally when conducting investigations in an intelligence led way. However, results showed cultural and mindset changes of detectives were limited suggesting officers were going to return to more reactive based policing once the study had been concluded. This study highlights the need for large scale and long-term research that will encourage a change in habits of involved officers to alter their mindset and the workforce culture as a result on a long-term basis compared with a 'quick fix' study that will prevent little change long term.

The intelligence-led approach has been supported by researchers Kirby et al., (2010) that observed 200 offenders arrested for drug related offences. While half of the offenders had been arrested via an intelligence-led approach and the other half were arrested via the 'reactive' approach researchers noted that the most prolific offenders that caused the most distress to the community were arrested using the IL approach. These results highlight the effectiveness of the IL approach and how this approach could gain support from the local community who were seeing long term prolific offenders finally facing criminal outcomes.

Despite supporting research emphasising the importance of intelligence-led policing a contradicting summary by Williamson (2008) suggested that in research from Brodeur (2008) the majority of serious and complex cases such as drug offences, sexual offences and murder, the

suspects in cases are identified too quickly to make the use of intelligence or knowledge led policing and adversely in those cases where there is time to use knowledge or intelligence to identify those persons those cases mostly ended in failure and no prosecution. These findings offer a controversial conclusion to intelligence led policing and suggests the need for quick and expeditious work by detectives in these serious investigations.

Carter & Carter (2008) highlighted that despite the post-9/11 era that has encouraged intelligence-led policing as the frontrunner for approaches of crime reduction there are operational policies that need adapting to reflect this new focus specifically in the areas of community policing. This study highlights the need for further research to be conducted for intelligence-led policing to be implemented as effectively as possible and as a result reduce community based and facilitated crime such as drug offences.

While these studies providing both supporting and negating evidence for the effectiveness of both PO and IL policing largely there is a need for the implementation of force wide consistent approaches as both methods provide evidence that the outcomes are individual police officer dependant, and this inconsistency can affect the outcome of these approaches to a varying degree which in turn impact effectiveness for victims and communities.

Word Count: 1086

Community policing – to what extent do police have a role in creating and maintaining community cohesion? Your answer must be based on academic research.

Word limit: 1000 words.

An essential part of policing revolves around interactions within the community whether those involved persons being the victim, suspect, witnesses, or those who hold information and intelligence valuable to the police. The Local Government Officer (2002) stated community cohesion measures the extent of shared relationships within a community and for effective community cohesion there was a need for people with a diverse range of backgrounds who have equal opportunities and support between those individuals. This answer aims to explore the evidence that questions whether there is a role for the police within local community cohesion and how this can be implemented and maintained.

Community cohesion allows involved partners to understand a local community and gain their trust and respect. Thornton and Mason (2007) explored community cohesion from a police force perspective in High Wycombe following intelligence relating to a potential terrorist plot leading to an unprecedented number of raids and arrests overnight in the local area. The local area of High Wycombe has a well-represented Muslim community with an estimated 26,000 people. Following this incident, the local police force Thames Valley aimed to improve community cohesion to prevent radicalisation in young people. As a result, they used the implementation of neighbourhood police officers and teams to engage with the local community through activities and listen to their concerns. This operation was found to be a success and the results showed increased understanding within the community with the police force. This study showed how effective community cohesion can be with police forces and how increased understanding can result in increased trust. Within this case however it is important to acknowledge the police were not the only agency involved and for the most successful outcomes engagement is also required from local council, social services, and charities to support police forces with the goal of increased community cohesion.

These findings have been further supported by Beirens et al., (2007) who found informal networks amongst new and diverse communities increasing the chances of new commers of communities participating effectively in structures of governance. This is an important finding that suggests the need to proactively engage with residents as soon as they settle within new communities to effectively give the new residents the chance to learn the local governance process and engage with it in a trusting manner. Beebeejaun and Grimshaw (2007) questioned diverse communities and the effect this has on neighbourhood governance and stated while community cohesion attempts to respond to diversity it rejects its effectiveness by suggesting the assumptions relating to these diverse groups lead to a failure in true understanding of neighbourhood dynamics and identities. This research highlights the true complexity of these local communities and states the importance of police forces and partner agencies not generalising these communities which could adversely impact the trust of local people.

There is a great need for partner agencies to participate in activities to increase community cohesion and the responsibility for this should not lie on the local police force beyond any other agency. The local Government (DCLG, 2006) produced a paper specifically encouraging local service partners to be proactive and encourage and engage with 'marginalised and minority' residents within the local community. While it would be beneficial from a local policing perspective to encourage partner agencies into the responsibility of increasing community cohesion Foster Research and Tetlow Associates (2007) highlighted concerns relating to local council's lack of knowledge and intelligence on local minority people and this could hinder the ability to engage with these minority communities correctly and proactively. Yarnit (2006) supported this notion as they found new residents that are not recognised as citizens their needs are unlikely to be met and as a result distrust in the community can develop.

From a local perspective Cooper and Innes (2009) assessed the causes and consequences of community cohesion in Wales and found community cohesion and the impact on the local community cannot be separated from the wider economic status of the community therefore suggesting other hardships such as economic status of local communities need to be acknowledged and considered when the police and partner agencies are implementing strategies. This research highlights the need for the local council and or government to be involved in at least the creation of the community cohesion strategy for the most effective data and intelligence on factors such as economic welfare of the community.

A motivator for local police forces to create and maintain social cohesion is the affect social and community cohesion has on the confidence in the police. Goudriaan et al., (2005) studied social cohesion and how it altered the probability of local people reporting incidents to the police and found crime and victim features as well as community cohesion and socio-economic disadvantages affected the likelihood of reports being made to the police. This research was further supported by Bradford et al., (2007) who highlighted the importance of community cohesion on the legitimacy of public support and found residents who saw regular overt police patrols and that were informed regularly of police activities were more positive about the ability of the police. This research highlights the need for regular high-visibility patrols that can reassure the community and build confidence creating a cycle of community cohesion. Tyler and Fagan (2006) who found perceptions of police legitimacy increased when residents were in contact with the police and happy with their treatment by them regardless of the outcomes of the investigation. This research highlights the importance of police presence for the maintenance of community cohesion as this research suggests the public would be more satisfied to see the police and be treated well by them even if the outcome of their investigation is not successful.

Research has highlighted the need for a police presence and an understanding of local challengers particularly for minority groups within the community for community cohesion to be created and maintained. It has also been found there is a need for other partner agencies to engage with community cohesion as they have better resources and intelligence available. Factors such as economic status affect community cohesion and police forces and partner agencies should be sensitive to how this affects residents.

Word Count: 1023

What impact can personal bias have on investigations, and how effective are the measures in place to prevent this? Your answer must be based on academic research rather than personal experience.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Unconscious bias is where judgements are made based on our own personal experiences and these can often be made subconsciously without a person's awareness or intentions (Frith, 2015). Raymond et al., (2013) highlighted that we are all affected by bias, and nobody is exempt. With this idea in mind, it is important to accept that bias exists and raise awareness for bias and how these can impact investigations. This essay aims to understand effective measures are to prevent the impact of personal bias on criminal investigations.

Police bias impacts the perception of police legitimacy (Elaad, 2022) and legitimacy has been found to be an essential impact to whether people report crime to the police (Tyler and Jackson, 2014). From this research it can be suggested that actions need to be conducted to attempt to prevent this and raise self-awareness of personal bias. The presumption of guilt by police officers has been highlighted as a key factor in police officer's bias when conducting criminal investigations and requires a need for officers to identify the truth when it is being told by suspects. So, to avoid this Dando and Bull (2011) attempted to increase police officers' ability to suspect when the truth is being told and it was found with effective training police officers are more likely to identify when suspects are lying or telling the truth. This research suggests that with the appropriate training officers can overcome some level of personal bias. However, this research was a small-scale study and further repetitions would need to be conducted with a larger group of participants (Doherty et al., 1979). This idea was further supported by Findley (2012) who found officers applying tunnel vision focus from the offset of an investigation led to a range of forms of bias including confirmation bias and hindsight bias. This idea also stems further into investigations as the National Academy of Sciences (2009) found there were issues of accuracy of forensic officers particularly how forensic

analysis could be led by ongoing investigations to find 'supporting' evidence and that forensic workers could be 'pressured' by investigating officers. This research is concerning in nature and further analysis would need to be conducted in relation to this specific issue to establish whether bias is a true impact.

Another method to prevent the formation of personal bias in police investigations is the prevention of forming a hypothesis early in the investigation. O'Brien (2009) studied confirmation bias and the actions of the minimizing of inconsistent evidence and found participants who remained neutral on their hypothesis from the offset of the investigation showed less bias than those who showed bias from the offset. This idea was further supported by Ask and Granhag (2005) who studied criminal investigators and undergraduate students and read a set of facts from the preliminary investigation of a murder case where the facts were altered to suggest the suspect involved had a jealousy motive. It was found investigators were less likely to acknowledge inconsistencies in the investigation once a motive had been supplied. This result was not observed from the academic participants suggesting a higher motivation to solve an investigation swayed investigators' perspective more than the academics. This evidence has been further supported with recent research by Schmittat et al., (2022) who explored the theory that a prosecutor's charging decision predicted the outcome of a trial due to confirmation bias it was found that the effect of an alternative story by the suspect in a case decreases the likelihood of getting charged.

Liden et al., (2018) examined confirmation bias and what techniques are available in prosecutorial decision-making evaluating whether confirmation bias is reduced when the decision maker is altered between arrest and prosecution. Researchers also included a comparative group of students to act as a control to the prosecutors. Results found; prosecutors who initially who had charged suspects with an offence went on to have more 'guilt-confirming' attitudes toward their investigations, it was found however that pre- charge investigators were less biased and were more impartial in making decisions. This research suggests that prosecutors and investigators take a more

invested interest and guilt belief of cases once the suspect has been charged with an offence and are more impartial before this time. Further results of this research highlighted the student sample had more guilt confirming beliefs after the stage of arrest and right through the investigation. This difference in results could suggest as students form part of the general population, they have a more serious perception of arrest compared to investigators become more influenced after the charge point.

It is also important to note not only investigators can be influenced by bias during investigations. Liden and Juslin (2018) researched judges' guilt assessments and their confirmation bias. Researchers compared judges' decisions on trustworthiness and guilt, judges were informed of a colleague's decision and results showed judges were more likely to convict someone of an offence if they were aware their colleague had also convicted. This suggests judges were perceptive to confirmation bias as a preconceived understanding that their colleagues had convicted resulted in a higher chance of themselves reporting. This research observed 64 judges in Sweden and so a wider scale experiment will need to be conducted for these results to be generalised.

Research relating to bias within police investigations appears to be in its primacy and there is a high need for a range of research studies discussed to be replicated with an increased participant size for research to be applied to the general working population and more inferences to be drawn. Measures to combat this bias include allocating investigators within the case to act after arrest and charge to prevent confirmation bias. These measures have limited effectiveness currently however further research is required to best understand the most effective measures.

Word Count: 961 Words

What characteristics or factors increase the risk of exploitation by Serious or Organised Crime Gangs? Your answer should examine both the psychological and socio-economic characteristics of victims of exploitation.

Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Word limit: 1000 words.

A range of characteristics and vulnerabilities can contribute to the risk of exploitation from serious or organised crime groups. This essay identifies these risk factors of victims and explore the impact of these exploitive behaviours and using available literature focusing on areas such as cuckooing by organised crime groups.

‘Cuckooing’ is a term penned for the exploitation of vulnerable people by organised crime gangs and as Spicer et al., (2019) referenced the origin of the term as relating to the behaviour of the unwanted or nest intruder invading tendencies of the cuckoo birds. Essex Police (2018) reported a case study where a vulnerable female in her 40’s living in London had her home taken over by an organised crime group who were using her home as a base to deal drugs within the area. Two males received prison sentences as a result of this. Cuckooing has in recent years become associated with the extensive drug dealing model known as ‘County Lines’ (Comber et al., 2017). The County Lines model explains the movement of inner city drug gangs to suburban areas (Andell and Pitts, 2018). Concerningly Windle and Briggs et al., (2015) found the increase in county lines movement has led to an uptake of involvement of children as ‘runners’ within drug dealing gangs as they move within local communities in a more undetected and less suspicious manner. Spicer (2018) conducted a literature review on the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people known as ‘cuckooing’ and found drug dealers began using vulnerable people’s homes with the intention of creating a ‘base’ to move with a new local drug market and to “shield” themselves from the police and other law enforcement services. Coliandris (2015) found

those typically targeted by these organised crime groups are considered 'Vulnerable' and the NCA (2016) supported this suggestion stating vulnerable persons included those with disabilities, mental health issues and those suffering from drug and alcohol addictions. This research suggests those under the radar of local support services are vulnerable and as a result exploited without support services being aware or attending their home as a result allowing organised groups the free reign to take over their premises and go widely undetected for some time. Wilson et al., (1996) support this idea as it was found persons with learning difficulties are significantly more likely to be victimised.

Haroscopos and Hough (2005) suggested that the movement of drug dealing to indoor spaces occur in a 'safe' place and less visible places with the increase of covert police patrols, neighbourhood watch and CCTV. Arguably this has increased the need for drug gangs to access private premises in suburban areas hence the beginning of cuckooing. Coomber and Moyle (2018) found a model for cuckooing focused on force used against a vulnerable resident at a premises was a frequent technique. Alternatively, researchers also suggested a popular technique from organised crime gangs is to 'befriend' the vulnerable subject. This then allows access to a premises creating an effective base within suburban locations. Butera (2013) found that 'gangs' across various Canadian cities took over the homes of drug dependant tenants with trade of a small number of drugs given to the tenant as a pay off in exchange for access to the house. This research shows the risk posed to the tenants particularly those with drug addiction further fuelling their addiction while the gang members continue to take advantage of the property.

Chakraborti and Garland (2015) found persons with learning difficulties were vulnerable to cuckooing and considered it a 'disablist hate crime'. The researchers also

highlighted how cuckooing can compound their social isolation thus leaving them more reliant or likely to engage with organised crime gang reinforcing this abusive cycle. The NCA (2017) found the gangs are reliant of essentially imprisoning their cuckoo victims within their homes and this makes them more reliant as 'hosts' of a premises and less likely to alert law enforcement or other civilians of the exploitation they are experiencing. Stone (2018) supported these findings and suggested this form of cuckooing should be considered a form of modern slavery highlighting the true extent of the victimisation ongoing to vulnerable victims.

Another characteristic of those who are vulnerable to being victimised and exploited by organised crime groups are children and adolescents. Windle and Briggs (2015) found children and young people are seen as 'exporting hubs' by organised crime gangs. This was further supported by Windle et al., (2020) who explored the role of children and young people in county lines drug dealing and found these children often grow into the world of drug dealing and lose the assumption of being 'victims' by the police as their attitudes and willingness to cooperate worsen. It was noted by researchers the requirement is for services to engage positively with children and use this engagement to form a policy-related discussion to effectively reduce harm. Williams and Finlay (2018) explored how gang crime affects young people and found those young people engaged in county lines have an increased chance of sexual exploitation, criminal convictions and experiencing violence. While this research shows these concerning findings it is hard to establish the cause or effect of this data and more research will need to be conducted to explore whether being involved in county lines is the precursor for these outcomes for young people.

Research findings shows vulnerabilities including learning difficulties, drug and alcohol abuse and age of involved parties involved including children are impact factors that increase the impact factors of being vulnerable to exploitation by organised crime groups particularly those involved in drug dealing and county lines. More research is needed to explore the cause and affect of these characteristics and most importantly how this can be prevented and avoided particularly in young people involved in county lines to prevent the cycle continuing.

Word Count: 965

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