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Essay one:

How effective is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) as a means of reducing crime? Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may refer to relevant case studies.

Introduction

In this essay the author will define their understanding of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). They will also evaluate how the five principles CPTED (physical security, surveillance, movement control, management and maintenance and defensible space) (Greater Manchester Police, 2023) are used to either alter the design of a building or environment or to design a new building or environment with the aim of creating a safer neighbourhood and reducing criminal behaviour.

The author will discuss how CPTED works best when combined with other crime preventions strategies such as police patrols. They will also discuss its limitations and how it can be more effective in crimes such as anti-social behaviour and burglaries but have a limited impact on certain crimes such as vehicle thefts.

Main body

CPTED differs from traditional crime prevention, which puts safeguards in place after an incident has taken place as it is a pro-active approach to designing with security in mind. It is a collaborative approach where several agencies (e.g., architects, police, and community) work together to change the way that buildings and environments are designed including how their appearance (e.g., calming colours) can alter behaviour. Jolma Architects (2019) highlight how landscape architects and urban designers work together to create safer spaces and reduce or prevent crime. By changing the dynamic of an area (e.g., a focus on the night-time economy in Sydney Australia) has reduced violent crime as the increased numbers of people during the night-time provides natural surveillance.

Cozens and Love (2015) discuss the origins of CPTED and highlight some of the evidence associated with it. There have been several iterations over the years but the three main qualities for a safe city street still stand, namely a clear demarcation between a public and private space, natural surveillance by people on the street and what is now becoming the norm for many cities a 24hr economy that increases the number of people on the streets during the night. They also provide an overview of the main criticisms and challenges for the future, especially as the world's urban population is projected to account for 60% of the total population by 2030 with the potential for increased crime as there will inevitably be a greater concentration of people in smaller spaces.

The author has considered whether all the principles of CTPED needs to be in place to reduce criminal behaviour and has concluded that for new builds or green field sites CPTED principles are best practice and can be built into the design, but for existing buildings or environment this can be cost prohibitive and a low or no cost recommendation may have to be implemented to increase security (e.g., maintaining good visibility and lighting inside and out) (College of Policing, 2017). It also requires that people change their behaviours and habits e.g., if shops were open 24hrs would people go shopping at night and be a source of natural surveillance? Ryan (2014) discusses how CPTED can change how people act in a place by altering its design, the goal being to reduce crime and fear and improve quality of life. Basic principles include "natural surveillance".

The College of Policing (2017) discusses the effectiveness of CPTED and suggests that whilst it has had no impact on crime, there have been some studies which, while not statistically valid, suggest that fewer commercial shop robberies has taken place. The report acknowledges that this evidence is weak as the studies took place over 23 years ago and the quality was limited based on the design, comparison groups and outcome measures. There is evidence that multi-component programmes appear to be more effective with 30%-84% reduction in robberies whilst single-component programmes ranged from reductions in robberies from 83% to increases of 91%. The reductions in robbery were associated with implementing another form of security to compliment CPTED (e.g., hiring guards).

CPTED focuses on crime prevention through effective design of buildings and their environments. There are other crime prevention strategies that can be compared with CPTED, these are Situation Crime Prevention where for example target hardening is implemented to provide extra security making it harder to commit a crime. There is also Social and Community Crime Prevention where individuals who are likely to commit crimes are gathered and an intervention applied. This is like a Youth Offending Service. Finally, Environmental Crime Prevention states that visible signs of decay in a neighbourhood signal public neglect leading to a fear or crime which prompts 'respectable' community members to leave resulting in the eventual decline of the neighbourhood (StudySmarter, 2023).

Conclusion

CPTED is not effective for all crimes but when complemented by another intervention it can have a positive impact. After considering the studies that suggest a decrease in commercial robberies in retail settings, the author agrees that the source data is old, the design of the questionnaire did not result in quality data being returned and a new survey should be undertaken.

The author can see the value of implementing CPTED strategies to reduce crime however costs can vary dependent upon the scope of the work to be done, the buildings and environments to be changed especially if the changes are to existing building rather than designing a new build for CPTED. The author also acknowledges that there could be a low cost CPTED implementation where through behaviour changes residents can perform elements of natural surveillance and be more vigilant to support CPTED.

Finally, the author recognises that there are greater benefits to CPTED if it is part of the design at the start of the new build or community. The author feels that it would be challenging to introduce CPTED into an environment that may already have challenges and set behaviours. In such cases intervention to support crime prevention (e.g., visible police patrols) may prove more effective.

TOTAL WORD COUNT: 965

Essay two:

Response policing – why is it important to manage trauma and mental wellbeing in policing?

Introduction

In this essay the author will evaluate the effects of mental wellbeing and trauma which officers face daily. They will also discuss the importance for officers to have coping strategies to manage their mental wellbeing to ensure they can be effective.

Throughout this essay, the author will explore the effects trauma can have on the mental wellbeing of police officers and how it can quickly have an adverse effect if they do not receive support to manage their stress and resilience. This can be via a Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) referral or personal support from family and friends.

Main body

Mind (2023) suggests that mental wellbeing can mean different things to different people, but by using the term mental wellbeing, people can determine how they are feeling and the coping strategies they need to move forward. Mental health is not black and white; it can vary depending upon how someone is affected by a particular situation. Many use the terms mental health and mental wellbeing to mean the same thing, but there are noticeable differences. Mental Health covers the full range of feelings that someone would have, from normal daily stresses through to diagnosable conditions e.g., depression, bipolar. Wellbeing is more the point-in-time feelings that people would have across the spectrum (Wheeler, 2021).

The Department of Health (2014) states that there is a two-way relationship between wellbeing and physical and mental health and they both influence each other. Many who enjoy good mental health can have days when they struggle, and a person's mental wellbeing may not always mean they are happy.

Police officers can be exposed to the three types of trauma, Acute (single incident e.g., sudden death), Chronic (repeated and prolonged exposure e.g., domestic violence) or Complex (multiple and varied). Each of these could temporarily affect mental wellbeing even for those with good mental health. If these events are not dealt with effectively, they can cause more long-lasting damage to mental health which may not manifest itself immediately and may affect fitness for work as they struggle to cope when dealing with challenging situations (e.g., sudden death) (Early Connection, n.d.). It is also dependant on personal coping strategies that the officer may use e.g., preparing themselves before going to a sudden death may be less traumatic than being physically assaulted without warning.

Research by University of Cambridge (n.d) on 16,857 serving officers and operational staff suggests that approximately one in five officers and staff in the United Kingdom (UK) have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and c90% of those who responded had been exposed to trauma said they would go to work as usual even if suffering from stress or depression. Trauma can affect people differently, especially if they relate to the trauma (e.g., when dealing with a young child dying if they have a young child).

It is essential that officers can manage their trauma and mental wellbeing so that it does not affect their decision making and their professionalism. An article on mental health in the UK police force by Edwards and Kotera (2021) suggests that approximately half of the 130,000 police officers in the United Kingdom have taken sickness leave due to mental health in the last 5 years. In addition, their 2016 study showed that 17,000 officers felt their mental wellbeing had significantly worsened where 39% required support for their mental ill health. Whilst police officers across many forces are now seeking support for their mental health, there are still significant numbers who are suppressing their emotions. An article by Bell, Palmer-Conn and Kealey (2021) provides an explanation of why mental health illness stigma is prevalent and the research sample were convinced that there is an under reporting of police mental ill health given that one in four of the UK population experience mental health issues.

There is perceived stigma associated with admitting that you have mental health issues and there are many factors why this occurs as mentioned by Newell et al

(2021). Officers want to trust that what they disclose is confidential and fear being labelled as 'weak' or being seen as a liability. They do not want to be seen or addressed any differently to other officers.

Failure to manage their trauma and mental wellbeing can lead to further consequences such as sickness absence, ill-health retirement, lower self-esteem and can have a negative impact on their families or other relationships (Demou, Hale and Hunt, 2020). In addition, if an officer has dealt with a traumatic event, they can often receive short-term support as mentioned by Violanti (2006) e.g., debriefing where an officer can talk through the traumatic event. A more long-term intervention such as a TRiM can be used to support officers who have dealt with multiple traumatic events, encourage help-seeking but more importantly reducing the stigma (Watson and Andrews, 2018).

Improving an officer's mental wellbeing can also have a positive affect for themselves and their families and the public. Evidence from Purba and Demou (2019) suggests that it can boost an officer's self-esteem, enabling them to work more efficiently and be more productive.

It is essential that an officer receives support following a traumatic incident. If this support is not received and the officer attends another incident, their trauma could be re-triggered which could have serious consequences e.g., affecting their decision making (Mind, 2020) which could potentially put themselves at risk.

Conclusion

Today's police officers face an increasing number of challenging incidents on a daily basis that can lead to high levels of stress as they deal with traumatic events often working long hours to ensure the incident is investigated thoroughly.

Despite the perceived stigma surrounding poor mental health, police officers are slowly acknowledging that they have mental health issues and are discussing their feelings and getting the support they need.

Every police officer at some point in their career will experience bad mental wellbeing because of a trauma. The author was surprised at the number of police officers who were diagnosed as having PTSD or complex PTSD symptoms and strongly supports

that where officers can employ their own strategies to cope with the situation e.g., sudden death, they should do so as soon as possible and seek additional support if required. They should not keep it hidden.

The author believes that the terms mental health and mental wellbeing are not fully understood by officers. Those who are experiencing either of these conditions may not understand what they mean and how to get the support they need. On the other hand, there are still officers who may mock their colleagues because they just do not understand these conditions.

TOTAL WORD COUNT: 1099

Essay four:

Why is it necessary to challenge the negative aspects of organisational culture within policing? Your answer must be based on academic research rather than personal experience.

Introduction

Throughout this essay the author will explore the meaning of police organisational culture and why it is important. They will also include the negative aspects of this culture and why it is deemed necessary to challenge them particularly in response to increased levels of public outcry and the perception that police officers are protecting each other and not being held accountable for their misconduct.

There are several high-profile examples where police actions have resulted in negative public perception towards police officers leading to violent disorders not just in the United Kingdom but as Mynenko and Ditcham (2022) highlight, the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement has drastically shaken confidence in the police across the world and also state that public confidence in the police has reduced from 62% in 2017 to 55% in 2020.

Finally, the author will discuss interventions that are taking place to address the negativity and to build public trust and confidence in the police. The College of Policing (2021^b) is actively updating their recruitment processes to emphasise ethics and integrity, with a focus on recruiting a diverse work force which will bring fresh perspectives.

Main body

A working definition of Organisational Culture is provided by Sun (2008) as “the way we do things around here”. The people, in this case police officers, are the culture so changing that is complex and challenging. As explained by the College of Policing

(2021^a) building trust and respect with the public is vital in creating an environment within which both parties collaborate and take ownership of issues to create effective neighbourhood policing.

Creating the right organisational culture within the police is the key to creating the police/public partnership that is needed. Taking steps to ensure that all interactions are consistent with the principles of the code of ethics e.g., treating people fairly, listening to their views, being open and honest especially when explaining how and why decisions were reached is vital.

Tudor (2023) discusses how there have been serious failings across several high-profile cases which identified misconduct and illegal behaviour by serving police officers and have caused police forces to look at the broader issues such as the vetting process, professional standards, and workplace behaviour in a bid to address and stop this negative behaviour. Following the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer, HMICFRS (2022) reviewed the police's vetting and counter corruption arrangements and concluded that vetting standards were too low, and it was too easy for the wrong people to join and remain in the police force. They also stated that there had been 'some systemic failings, missed opportunities' and made an unusually high number (43) of recommendations which focused on pre-employment checks, improving the quality and consistency of vetting decision making and extending the scope of the law relating to police complaints and misconduct procedures.

London School Economics British Politics and Policy (2021) identifies several failures following the murder of Sarah Everard which, if followed up, could have prevented her rape and murder. It also triggered an analysis by Femicide Census of murders of women in the United Kingdom that showed 8% were committed by a stranger and 1% by a serving or former police officer (Long et al. 2020). The Metropolitan Police (n.d.^b) response to this murder brought into sharp focus other murders of women in public spaces and re-enforced that changes must be made to protect them. Measures such as more patrols in 'hotspot' areas to reassure the public and, what the author considers to be essential, an urgent review of all current investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct and domestic abuse against police officers. The force also recognises the need to provide support and protect those officers who made the allegations. This will make challenging negative behaviour easier without any repercussion.

Muir (2022) highlights two reports which provide overwhelming negative evidence to support gross misconduct e.g., misogyny, racism, misconduct, and lack of vetting in the Metropolitan police service. They also provide quantitative data analysis which supports 18,589 misconduct allegations were made by 8,917 officers or staff which resulted in 10,252 cases being investigated during April 2013 to March 2022 (Metropolitan Police, n.d.^a). The author was surprised to read that it takes an average of c400 days to resolve an allegation of misconduct where it involves the Independent Office for Police Conduct and c350 days if they're not involved. These delays have a negative impact on the officer who made the complaint, the officer who is the subject of the complaint and on the public who continue to lose confidence in the police force the longer a complaint remains unresolved. The author was also surprised that between 55%-60% of allegations made are not taken forward as very often the decision is 'no case to answer'. What is quite concerning is that where there is a case to answer numbers of dismissals have fallen and there is a growing perception that nothing happens when misconduct is reported which discourages others from reporting negative behaviour.

The final report of the strategic review of policing in England and Wales by the Police Foundation (2022) discusses how there is a crisis of public confidence in our policing institutions and that many police officers have also lost confidence. It also discusses how unethical, illegal, and immoral conduct by police officers destroys public trust in the police. It also recommends that the code of ethics is deeply imbedded into police training and 'ethical health checks' are part of an officer's professional development.

Conclusion

The author believes that there has been overwhelming evidence in recent years to support a negative organisational culture within the police force. Public perception has been greatly influenced by a series of high profile cases to include, but not limited to, the Sarah Everard case where questions have now been asked about the level of vetting that Wayne Cozens underwent before joining the police force which was clearly inadequate.

In response to recent incidents, government and policing bodies have committed to tackle police standards and culture and have launched several enquiries to look at

broader issues. The author welcomes this and along with new recruitment and training processes that encourages diversity and building trust with the public, the right behaviours can be taught to new recruits at the start of their career.

TOTAL WORD COUNT: 1047

Essay five:

How effective is MAPPA as a means of protecting vulnerable people from harm? Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Introduction

In this essay the author will discuss their understanding of Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and how the police, in conjunction with the probation and prison services, work with other agencies to assess and mitigate the risks that violent and sexual offenders living in the community can present and in doing so how they are able to protect the public.

The author will critically explore the MAPPA framework and discuss its effectiveness in protecting vulnerable people by reducing reoffending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders.

Main body

As mentioned by Peck (2011) MAPPA was established in 2003 under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 to play a key part in dealing with serious violent and sexual offenders. Whilst it has been introduced to the police and probation services to manage and evaluate the risk posed by serious violent and sexual offenders towards the community, for MAPPA to work efficiently it requires numerous agencies to engage with each other.

As referenced in the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (2011), MAPPA offenders must fall into one of three categories and depending on the risk they present they are assigned to one of three levels to be effectively managed. For example, category one is registered sex offenders, category two is violent and other sexual offenders who received a sentence of 12 months or more to include those who are detained under hospital order or guardianship. Category three is for other dangerous offenders who do not meet the eligibility criteria for category one or two but are considered to present a risk to the public.

New research carried out at the Policing Institute for the Eastern Region (PIER), Mann (2023) determined that MAPPA is a well-respected and highly valued approach for managing the risks presented by sexual and violent offenders. They studied almost 40,000 offenders over two and a half years in the most comprehensive analysis to date. It shows that the reoffending rates of those who were managed under MAPPA were 12.2% compared with the national average rate of between 30%-31.3% over a one-year period. They also suggested several recommendations to improve MAPPA such as new training to address gaps in the current training packages, increase management of the offender and using MAPPA more effectively to manage youths who are moving from youth offending service to the probation service. Additional evidence by HM Inspectorate of Probation (2021) supports the PIER research that MAPPA has been a key factor in reducing reoffending. Statistics have shown that offending by non-registered sex offenders and violent offenders reduced from 26% in 2000 to 23% in 2004 and offenders who are a high risk to the community reoffending decreased from 29% to 16% between 2000-2010. This suggests that without MAPPA being introduced there would be a potential for offenders to have a higher reoffending rate. However as mentioned by Wate (2015) the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) provides support for MAPPA with providing them up-to-date information and intelligence e.g., if an offender moves between areas.

Although evidence suggests that MAPPA can be an effective means of protecting vulnerable people, it also identifies areas which are not as effective. Hannon (2016) identifies that there is insufficient training, MAPPA roles and responsibilities are not clearly understood, and staff turnover limits the experience that they are able to gain. Another challenge was to ensure that all agencies worked together in a coordinated way to share information with each other to ensure that offenders were managed correctly, and that risks were mitigated.

Whilst MAPPA has been received positively, there are still areas that need improvement surrounding the administration and assembly of Risk Assessment Plans (Thomas, 2016). MAPPA may not always be effective in protecting vulnerable people as the source of evidence that it uses can be questionable e.g., in addition to the evidence that the agencies have collected it also considers what has been reported to the police which may or may not be accurate as a victim's emotions can affect what they are willing to report (Posick and Singleton, 2014). This could mean they may not

want to engage with the police to give a true and accurate account or report incidents which can pose a great risk to the victim and members of the public if violent and sexual offenders are not identified and helped through MAPPA.

There are other means through which vulnerable people can be protected for example the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as Clare's Law which enables the police to disclose information to a victim or potential victim about their partner's or ex-partner's previous abusive or violent offending (Gov.uk, 2022). As discussed by Fitz-Gibbon and Walklate (2017) it also allowed the victim the "right to ask" and the "right to know". However, as it relies on the information from the Police National Computer there is a limit to its effectiveness particularly if the incident has never been reported to police, then it will not be disclosed to the victims. Although Clare's Law enables you to request this information it does not apply to offenders' information gathered through MAPPA. That can only be disclosed on a case-by-case basis if there is a significant risk to the community (Zgoba and Cowan, 2019).

The murder of Sarah Payne in 2000 led to the creation of the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) which, although is not actually a law, is known as Sarah's Law. Greater Manchester Police (n.d.) discusses how someone can formally request information from the police related to whether someone who has contact with a child or children has committed paedophile offences or poses a risk to children for some other reason.

Conclusion

Since the creation of the MAPPA framework 20 years ago there has been a reduced rate of offending by those who were managed by MAPPA. This has been corroborated by PIER which has conducted comprehensive evidence-based research to identify recommendations for improvement. Whilst MAPPA is a robust framework, the author acknowledges that it should evolve to consider more modern policing processes and legislation.

The key to the effectiveness of MAPPA is the collaboration between the police, national probation service and the prison service along with other agencies/local

authorities to manage and monitor violent and sexual offenders. Without full cooperation from everyone a level of risk can be introduced.

Where MAPPA may not be the most effective means of protecting the public other laws have been introduced e.g., Sarah's Law which can provide parents, guardians, and carers with information to better safeguard their children's safety and welfare.

TOTAL WORD COUNT: 1087

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