Review complex types of internet-dependent crimes. (2000 words).

To review complex types of internet dependant crimes I will first outline the potential consequences to businesses and individuals of falling victim to this type of crime. Then I will list the types of crime that can be committed online and what type of platforms are used by perpetrators to commit these crimes. Then I will explain how internet crimes can fall into two categories and explain the difference between cyber dependant crime and cyber enabled crimes. I will then review different types of internet dependant crimes and outline the difficulties that exist in policing this sort of crime. I will explain the issues that victims face with reporting internet dependent crimes and methods used by perpetrators to commit the crime.

Internet dependant crime or cybercrime as it is also known has continued to significantly increase year on year and can have several negative impacts on individuals and businesses who are all at risk of becoming victims to this type of crime. This is corroborated by the National Crime Agency who state that "Cyber-crime continues to rise in scale and complexity, affecting essential services, businesses and private individuals alike. Cyber-crime costs the UK billions of pounds, causes untold damage, and threatens national security" (NCA, 2022). Cybercrime is generally a new form of crime which is only been made possible due to the introduction of the internet and advances in digital technology which provide a platform for criminals to conduct their illegal activity. Technological advances have no doubt helped with everyday life for an individual or business, but it has also given criminals the opportunity to target potential victims in a way which is becoming increasingly difficult to detect, prevent and safeguard individuals and businesses.

There are a number of crimes that are that can only be perpetrated through the use of the internet. Crimes such as trading in illegal items through use of the dark web, hacking, malicious software, trolling, online threats, disclosure of private sexual images without consent, online harassment, stalking, grooming, and cyber fraud are all types of internet dependant crimes and can be carried from the use of an electronic devise such as smart phones, laptops, game consoles and even internet enabled televisions.

According to the Crown Prosecution Service, internet crime falls into one of two categories. "cyber-dependent crimes - which can only be committed through the use of online devices and where the devices are both the tool to commit the crime and the target of the crime, and cyber-enabled crimes - traditional crimes which can be increased in scale by using computers" (CPS, 2017). Cyber dependant crimes include mostly hacking attempts and the targeting of networks and computers by using malicious software. The objective of using this type of crime is to cause maximum impact and

disruption on the victim with the goal of either collecting information or blackmailing the victim into handing over some sort of payment. Cyber enabled crimes are crimes that have transformed and increased in scale because of the advancements in technology. Online bullying or trolling on social media platforms is just one of a number of crimes that has increased through advancements in communications. Another more prevalent cyber enabled crime is child sexual offences such as child grooming and the indecent images of children that can be uploaded and distributed online through the use of the internet.

Internet dependant crime can have wide ranging effect on an individual who has become a victim of this type of crime. As there are so many different types of internet crimes as previously stated the negative effects can be devasting, especially if the victim is a child. Online grooming is an internet dependant crime that involves an individual using the internet to persuade, trick or force a child into doing something sexual for them. This could include sending naked photos or videos of themselves to the individual for his own sexual gratification or to distribute the material online for others to see.

Perpetrators of this crime need a platform to target underage children and so to communicate with them they need to use the same communication platforms so that they are able to build up that trust and relationship with their victim. According to the NSPCC "Almost half of the offences used Facebook owned apps, including Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger" (NSPCC, 2021) which are easily accessible to any person including children who have access to a smartphone or computer.

Most children these days have smart phones and access to the internet which makes it easier for any potential perpetrators to communicate with their potential victims without revealing their identity. This could involve setting up fake profiles on social media platforms such as Facebook or Snapchat so that their identity is secure. There the perpetrators are able to send messages and communicate with their potential victims. The victim will not be able to ascertain if the person they are messaging is who they say they are, and this could potentially lead to someone revealing personal information of themselves to a person they do not know. For example, an adult could set up a profile online and state that he is thirteen years old when in fact he is thirty years old and with no way to prove he is telling the truth or not. "A groomer will use the same sites, games and apps as children in order to gain their trust and build a friendship. However, they may also seek to manipulate, blackmail and control the child, potentially isolating them from their friends and family" (Childnet, 2021). This deception is a way of manipulating a potential victim into a false sense of security so that they believe they are communicating with someone of their own age and as such may be more willing to believe and trust that person. Building a relationship is a key component of the grooming process. Perpetrators will try and build an emotional connection with their victims with the goal of making

them believe that they have no choice but to do what the perpetrator asks of them and to make the victim believe that the abuse and exploitation is normal.

It would be incorrect blame the crime of "Grooming" just on the internet or technology. Grooming has been around well before the invention of the internet or social media. Grooming has and still exists on a more personal level, for example between family members, mentors, or carers, where the perpetrator has or is trying to build a relationship with their victim by becoming a dominant figure in their lives or convincing the victim that they are in a loving relationship with the goal of gaining power and influence over the child. All this can be achieved without the use of the internet or social media. However, it cannot be argued that the invention of the internet and the variety of communication platforms and apps that are inexistence today has increased the risk to underage children as well as opening up unlimited opportunities for perpetrators to carry out their "Grooming" online. According to recent research "with nearly half of ten-year-olds in the united kingdom already owning smartphones and tablets, never before has the internet shaped children's lives so powerfully, informing the way they think, behave and purchase" (Statista Research Department, 2020).

Online grooming is one of the more challenging and difficult crimes to detect especially for the police. As it stands today anyone can log onto a social media platform and create a profile and start messaging other people. There is no limit on the number of profiles that a potential perpetrator can create, which enables them to disguise their identify and increases the difficulty of police and other agencies tracking and stopping these individuals.

According to the NSPCC "there were 5,441 Sexual Communication with a Child offences recorded between April 2020 and March 2021, an increase of around 70% from recorded crimes in 2017/18" (NSPCC, 2021). This shows the scale, severity and how widespread this type of crime has become in society. This could possibly be contributed to the lack of action by the government in introducing the online harm bill which is intended to "introduce new rules for firms which host user-generated content, i.e. those which allow users to post their own content online or interact with each other, and for search engines, which will have tailored duties focussed on minimising the presentation of harmful search results to users" (NSPCC, 2021) this introduces financial penalties to firms who design social media platforms and instils a duty of care to the under age children that use their platform and prevent them from becoming victims of online grooming or child sexual exploitation.

It could be argued that the lack of government response in introducing legislation that will regulate social media platforms is not the only cause of the increased number of victims year on year. As with all internet dependant crime, advancements in technology have increased the reach of perpetrators

and help disguise their true identity, but to identify and prevent future members of the public falling victim to online crime, organisations like the police need victims to come forward and report the actual crime. Victims of this type of crime could have a number of reasons for not reporting that they are a victim. Victims could be embarrassed that they been manipulated online and do not want to admit to anyone that they may have sent naked images or videos of them selves to someone else online, or simply they do not have confidence in the police dealing with crime. Another explanation could include victims who do not believe they are victims and do not understand that a crime has actually taken place. This effectively limits the police response to fighting cybercrime. If the police are unaware that a crime has taken place, then can they really be held responsible by the public for the increase in online crime. It can be argued that without awareness of the crime, it is impossible to prevent but alternatively the police and other public law enforcement agencies have a responsibility to educate and inform members of the public on the dangers of crime online especially involving underage children and child sexual exploitation.

According to a recent report the "police response to cyber-dependent crime is generally good, but it can be inconsistent" (HMICFRS, 2019), one possible reason for this could be due to the complexity of investigating internet dependant crimes. It can be difficult for officers to fully understand this type of crime as training in this area is not of the required standard. Another issue is that victims who do report an internet dependant crime could receive misleading or confusing advice depending on who they contact. Victims and officers may not be aware that the most appropriate advice can be obtained by contacting Action Fraud.

Words 1804

Assess the role of community policing in fostering and maintaining community cohesion (2000 Words)

To assess the role of community policing in fostering and maintaining community cohesion I will first explain what is required of all parties involved. I will then outline the importance of establishing a connection with the community and outline the benefits and explain why it is important that the local community are supportive and involved in the decision-making process. I will explain the importance of community alienation and the effect it has on communities and assess the engagement methods that are available to the community policing team. Finally, I will assess the effect of community cohesion has on the role of the community policing team and explain the importance of a community policing has on the community.

Community policing involves local officers that are dedicated to serving the community and who work closely with local authorities and residents to decide policing policies. This enables every party to work out and find solutions for any ongoing neighbourhood issues. An effective community policing program will benefit everyone involved as "evidence has shown that effective community engagement, targeted foot patrols and collaborative problem solving can significantly increase public confidence in policing activity" (College of Policing , 2013).

The way people connect has changed dramatically as a result of online technologies and communications. This is causing a shift in how communities are viewed, moving away from communities defined merely by geography and toward communities defined by common interests or backgrounds. Understanding the manner in which individuals' network, communicate, and engage, as well as how this shapes the establishment of communities in both geographical and virtual dimensions, is critical to comprehending the complexity of communities.

By establishing a connection with the community, a community policing team may collaborate on goals such as targeting crime in the local area which can increase the community's quality of life, targeting anti-social behaviour and reducing the tension that could build up between the public and police. The overall goal of community policing is for the police to break down community barriers between the police and members of the public and establish a working connection with the public that can make an officer's job simpler while also making members of the community feel involved in decision making around local issues. It is difficult to argue that "without the cooperation of the public, policing in developed democracies would become essentially

unworkable. In simple terms, the police service would cease to function without the active support of the communities it serves" (College of Policing , 2013). As this is true, the ability to serve the public in manner which is as acceptable and effective to the public can depend on the resources available to the police at the time. The lack of officers and rising crime rates can lead to a lack of officers engaging with the public due to high demand from response policing which could lead to creation of "'Hybrid' roles for example, combining neighbourhood functions with response or investigation work and some officers no longer being attached to specific locations. The meaning of neighbourhood policing is becoming more ambiguous and agreement on what it is and how it should function risks breaking down" (Higgins, 2022). This in turn can lead to further disengagement from the public as they perceive a lack of commitment from the police in dealing with community issues and could eventually lead to community alienation.

Community alienation can have serious and long-lasting effect on police and the community. This is evident and highlighted during the Brixton Riots in the 1980s where a lack of understanding and engagement with the community led to an intelligence void which resulted in negative information about the police and ultimately contributed to the disorder that followed. If the police had engaged more with local community, for example through schemes such as a neighbourhood policing team and had not alienated the community in regard to perceived heavy-handed tactics and a complete lack of understanding of the social issues at the time then any tension that had built up between the police and public could have been eased and the disorder that followed may have been avoided.

One of the most important aspects of community policing is engagement as "research suggests that the way in which officers behave when engaging with the public helps to reduce crime by encouraging respect for the law and fostering social responsibility, making people more likely to help the police and not break the law" (College Of Policing, 2013). As this is true, engagement with the community has many challenges for the police service. As now more than ever, communities can be diverse and will all have different opinions on the police. If these opinions are negative of the police, then there will be a reluctance on these members engaging with the police in the first place. One solution to encourage engagement is for the police to become a more diverse force, which involves recruiting officers from these communities which would increase the trust and the understanding for both the police and the community.

There are a number of different engagement methods that can be implemented by the police. A community impact assessment is one of these methods. Police can use local situation awareness to

assess community tensions and vulnerabilities, as well as identify elements that are likely to affect them. This allows the police an insight into the community's perceptions of insecurity and vulnerability, as well as economic, political, and social issues that affect a community. A community impact assessment's goal is to uncover issues that may undermine a community's trust in the police's capacity to respond appropriately to community needs, hence improving police response. It assists in informing the community police about long-term strategies to re-establish community trust and acquire knowledge for the long term. For a community impact assessment to be successful it is critical that the assessment is accurate and that all members of the community are involved. Without the opinion and intake of all members of the community, the assessment could give inaccurate information which could result in only a small proportionate of the ongoing community issues being addressed in the assessment. A community impact assessment can also provide a thorough grasp of the issue at hand, the identification of susceptible persons and groups, the evaluation of community trust in police action, and the development of community intelligence.

There are number of factors that also need to be addressed if implementation failure is to be avoided in regard to community engagement. Sharing responsibility with the community is a key factor in community policing. If the community feel like they are involved in the decision-making process and planning stage from the start, then they may also be willing to take ownership. This can also become a source of frustration and tension between the police and community as members of the community may request certain actions from the police but are unaware of the limitations the police may have because of lack of resources or funding. For example, there could be a request for more police foot patrols in a certain area targeted by anti-social behaviour. This could be unachievable due the lack of officer numbers or due the high demand of response policing. If communication between the public and police was not effective, then the public may make up their own mind on why the police were not dealing with the anti-social behaviour. They could believe that the police did not have an interest in supporting their community or even that the police are not listening or taking their opinions seriously. This is why it is so important that the police secure "community participation in relation to local priorities and problems. Neighbourhood policing has shown that public confidence improves when local people are involved in decisions about the issues that most concern them" (College Of Policing, 2013).

There also needs to be a flexibility when dealing with different types of communities. Every community will have its own issues with anti-social behaviour and crime and will want a tailored response to each issue. That means that the police will have to be flexible in their approach. For example, a community in central London will have a lot of local issues that are not found in a valley

community in South Wales. Alternately, both communities could have the same issues with county lines or drug dealing, so a more generic and effective response would be needed to tackle the issue.

One of the most important roles of community policing involves improving and maintain community cohesion. The importance of cohesion cannot be understated as “community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. Integration is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another. This is a key contributor to successful Community Cohesion” (NPIA, 2021). A sense of belonging to a location, a group, or a community can be achieved by community cohesion. It encourages individuals to get along in their community, making them feel safer and more comfortable in their surroundings. This boosts individuals’ favourable attitudes towards other people and the public services that serve them, as well as their overall sense of happiness and well-being. This in turn helps “prevent crime, promotes self-policing communities and increases sources of intelligence” (NPIA, 2021). There are certain communities that will suffer from low cohesion. This could be down to their geographical location, such communities that are more rural and isolated or deprivation, where the area is not as affluent as more city centre communities. That be said it is still possible for more affluent area to suffer from low cohesion, possibly due to the ethnic minorities that reside there and their reluctance to engage with local authorities or police due to past experiences. It is important that these areas are identified by the community policing team so that an effective approach can be implanted and that every possible member of the community is essentially involved in the decision-making process.

In conclusion the role of a community policing team is essential in not only maintaining cohesion but also tackling crime and anti – social behaviour. Without the community policing team there is risk of alienating the public, who could potentially disengage and withdraw from any communication or engagement with the police. This will then affect intelligence reports, resulting in a lack of knowledge of the local issues, which would then result in a negative opinion of the police due to a perceived lack of action, where in fact without the intelligence available to the police it be impossible to plan or prepare to tackle the local issues. If local cohesion and engagement can be sustained by the community policing team than faith and trust in the police service can be improved. This is vital as “the original British policing model attributed to Sir Robert Peel places a high value on tolerance and winning the consent of the public. Policing by consent means securing co-operation in observing the law from as many members of the public as possible” (HMIC, 211). When the public sees the police as genuine and "on their side," they are less inclined to commit crime and more willing to help the police by providing information, serving as witnesses, and assisting in the fight against antisocial behaviour.

Words 1886

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