

1000 words - Understanding the role of Constable/Maintaining Professional Standards

Critically evaluate the concept of 'the professionalisation of the police service' considering how 'Maintaining Professional Standards' 'ethical and inclusive' and 'Coaching and Mentoring' approaches contribute to this.

An evaluation of the PEQF Policing Qualification to produce academic officers that can deal with the complexity of modern day crime and the effectiveness and relevance of this qualification if innate behaviours do not match Policing standards. An evaluation of Evidence Based Policing (EBP) in making informed decisions that targets issues, using 'what works' and the election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to make ethical decisions that are public informed, enhancing their feeling of value and inclusion.

Professionalism reflects in the level of standards in relation to behaviour, training and knowledge (ref). The Code of Ethics comprises nine standards and principles of professional behaviour for Policing in England and Wales (Gov.uk, 2014); the ethics and behaviours that members must adhere to, including being integral, fair and accountable (College of Policing, 2022). The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) (2016) set out a 10-year-vision that acknowledges the need for change in the Police service, to remain professional and relevant as the demand in our communities increase and the complexity of crimes develops (McCann and Granter 2019).

As a result, in 2020, the PEQF Qualification was introduced; a university qualification that sets a minimum standard of education for all new officers (BBC, 2016). The NPCC (2018) reports that Police professionalism is demonstrated by the ability "to develop a modern, adaptable workforce that is responsive to change". Rhodes (2004) states the benefit of high-level education and knowledge is the enhancement of confidence and self-esteem; producing a more professional individual. In support, Carter (1989 p. 76) states college-educated officers are more analytical, and thus, more objective with the public. The benefit of these attributes in the Police, is that community confidence can be built as more complex crimes can be investigated efficiently.

However, I would argue that to complete a university level qualification whilst starting an extremely stressful job could be problematic in that it causes additional stress and distracts from the main role in hand; policing, which could jeopardise an officers ability to provide a high-level of professional service. Furthermore, those with excellent communication and practical skills with a lesser academic persuasion, could slip through the net, as they are put off from joining the Police because of the daunting prospect of completing a higher-level qualification. Westmarland and Conway (2020, pp. 378-392) report many officers in law enforcement have minimum education but are advanced as far as ethics is concerned. It could be argued that education only gets an officer so far; being able to communicate with the public is arguably the most vital skill as an officer. If we cannot do this, we cannot gather evidence, build rapport or trust and thus carry out the basic principles of the role.

Due to the newness of the course, research could not be sourced for the effectiveness of this qualification however Rhodes (2004, pp.1-154) and Carter (1989, p. 76-77) indicate the likelihood

for benefits. However, I would suggest that beginning academic studies after officers have settled into the role could be more effective as it puts less pressure on officers from the start. This idea could also prevent large investments into persons who may realise the job isn't for them, shortly into starting. It may be that after a period of time within the police environment, the objective of the qualification may be clearer, as officers have gained context into the policing environment, aiding higher quality work.

Carter (1989, p. 76) argues that there may not be any level of education that can unlearn bad ethics and behaviours a person holds, suggesting a qualification may not be as vital as other components for a professional service. In support is the high profile case of George Floyd's death by Police, in 2020, where Police Officers continue to act against policing standards and behaviours. It is these behaviours that arguably impacts the communities confidence in the police, the most.

Nevertheless, the NPCC (2016) states the emphasis the Police would continue to make on the Code of Ethics. Neyround (2010) emphasises the Police's new professional standards to include: resolving priorities harms, multi-agency approaches looking at harm that may be caused rather than harm that has been caused (prevention). To achieve this, an EBP approach has been introduced to the Police.

The NPCC (2016) stated the Police would create a professional service that was ethically based and informed by a shared understanding of 'what works' and what is important to the community. The introduction of EBP and the election of PCCs has allowed informed decision to be made on policing matter and crime plans with the support and confidence of the public (NPCC, 2016). The effectiveness of this is an increase in public confidence as they feel they have a voice for their priorities and what adds to their quality of life, making them feel valued and included. The combination is effective in that it is informed by those that the police are trying to protect and what is put in place is scientifically proven to work and can be strategically targeted and thus shows value for money. By using EBP, preventative action can be taken, rather than reactive, which relieves the strain on other sectors. Nevertheless, a high weighting of priority in prevention methods in policing may affect public perceptions, as less concentration and time is put into low level crime; pressures not to spend much time trying to resolve low level issues can cause communities to feel they are not seeing the impacts of police work, as if they would if their low level crimes had been resolved. By using statistics from EBP, the police shows professionalism as they can make justified and informed decisions and changes and strategically target those most vulnerable. Communicating the Police's strategies and current work more clearly would be useful to improve the public's confidence in Police work and could encourage community support.

To conclude, research suggests the PEQF education will be beneficial in producing more analytical and academic officers which is vital in addressing dynamic and complex modern day crimes however more research needs to be conducted on its effectiveness in the coming years, however the timing of when this qualification is to be complete could be reviewed. EBP is an effective tool of professionalism as it uses science to make ethical and informed decisions and allows a strategically targeted approach to those that require police support the most; showing value for money and efficiency, helping improve the communities confidence in the Police.

1000 words - Community/Response Policing/Policing roads/Conducting Investigations /Digital Policing

Critically evaluate the role of the police in one of the following areas:

- Community policing (strategies and incentives)
- Response policing (public perception and critical/major incidents)
- **Policing the roads (application of regulations)**
- Counter Terrorism Policing (Structure/ Risks/Insider threat).
- Digital Policing (Internet related crime / Digital evidence retrieval).

Policing the roads (application of regulations)

An evaluation of the the effectiveness of Specialist Traffic Police Officer's and technology in the identification and disruption of crime. A review of how a multi-agency approach, public support and evidence-based campaigning can amend road polices to create safer roads.

In the UK, since 2010, Stats19 data collection has reported an average number of five fatalities and 68 serious injuries, per day, on the road (Gov.uk, 2013); the main factor being human error, including drink-driving and distractions (Gov.uk, 2022). Traffic officers use various methods to prevent casualties and to disrupt criminal activity, enabled by road-networks.

The Police are the primary enforcement agency responsible for the application of regulations on the road; enforcing traffic rules and legislations to increase safety (Zain and Navin, 2003). Other agencies that support include: Highway Agencies, which can identify uninsured drivers and Driving Vehicle and Licensing Agency (DVLA) (Department for Transport, 2020).

The Police use Specialist trained traffic officers to target road-related offences, who are highly trained drivers, trained in pursuit to stop dangerous drivers who fail to stop and hold an extensive specialist knowledge of road-related legislation and procedures. Much like the rest of the Police force, due to funding cuts, Katsianis (2017) reports that over the last decade there was a 30% drop in the number of Traffic Officers in the UK suggesting too little a number of specialist staff on road, considering the increase in crime facilitated our road networks; Serious and Organised Crime such as illegal trafficking of people, drugs or other contraband (Department for Transport, 2020).

In contradictions to the reduction in specialist officers, technology-led enforcement has increased and includes the use of speed cameras, mobile data captures, average speed check cameras and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) (Department for Transport, 2020). These technologies greatly aid the application of regulations as they accurately and autonomously capture a high volume of road offences which single officers would not have the capacity to do.

Perkins et al., (2017, p.7) reviewed 41 Red Light Camera studies and concluded that there was a 20% reduction in total injury crashes and 61% decrease in red-light violations. Steinbach et al., (2016) reviewed 35 Speed Camera Studies and concluded there was an average reduction in speed of 7% and a reduction of severe or fatal crashes by 21%. Evidence-based analysis from data collected from such research and technology indicates profound hot spots for violations are so cameras can be strategically placed. The use of ANPR is an effective tool to identify the ever more complex wider organised crime throughout the UK, supporting officers on the ground when it

comes to locating criminals in their vehicles. ANPR spans all of the UK, reflecting the geographical span of these crimes. However, Gov.uk (2021) identifies that neighbouring countries Police in a different manner to the UK. It would be beneficial to re-evaluate road policing structure to become more linear, in order to jointly tackle Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCG) that spans internationally.

The use of this technology also allows traffic officers to be more pro-active and concentrate on incidents that cannot be captured using technology, such as identifying drug drivers and dealing with road traffic collisions but also identify criminality, which is intel-led. Technology can compliment officer's legislative powers of stopping vehicles (Road Traffic Act, 1988) to conduct checks. The tool of drug wipes used by officers has attributed to an increase in drug drivers identified (Hall, 2021); an increase in one fifth, from 2018-2019 to 11,614 (Shale-Hester, 2020).

During the Coronavirus National lockdown (2020), more stop checks were conducted to identify the reason for driving which allowed other offences to be identified, which traffic officers may not have capacity to conduct out of lockdown, due to demand. These checks may have preventative driver's going on to commit more serious driving offences, as they were educated on the severity of even low-level offences. Nevertheless, Gov.uk (2022) reported that in 2020, an estimated 1460 road-related deaths occurred in the UK, which included four months of national lockdown. Technology-led roads policing and increasing safety features in vehicles supports safer driving but the plateau in the number of road-related deaths since 2010 which continued, even in a National lockdown, highlights an inefficiency in Roads Policing.

Like much policing, public is relied on for information and reporting; the same would be useful for identifying road-related offences. Many drivers now have technology onboard, for example dash cam, and Operation SNAP tackles the issue of limited traffic officers by enabling the public to provide submissions of videos and photographs of road-related offences, that they have witnessed (GoSafe, 2022). This is effective in that it provides evidence that can support the prosecution of dangerous drivers.

Campaigning charities can also tackle the number of road-related casualties and support the stretched policing resources. 'Break' is a UK charity that campaigns for safer road, encouraging those in charge to implement evidence-based policies and investment to make UK roads safer and provide school talks. Break is currently campaigning to lower the drink drive limit which, if granted, would increase the number of drivers convicted and reduce drink-drive related fatalities and injuries. Regarding school talks, 4000 young drivers are killed or seriously injured each year on UK roads and if education can effectively deter youths from driving dangerously, then the plateau of deaths and injuries on the road can hopefully begin to decline (Gov.uk, 2022). Similarly, Gwent Police arrested 100 drivers in during a Christmas Drink-Drive campaign in January 2022 (Birt, 2022).

In 2016, the 'Success for Turning the Corner' Campaign was launched, aimed to increase the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at street junctions. The campaigning utilised evidence-based research to identify several conflicting rules relating to junctions in the Highway Code. In 2022, relevant rules within the Highway Code were revised (British Cycling, 2022).

Technology-led policing is proved paramount to tackle the increasing crime facilitated by our road networks and address the plateau in deaths and serious injuries since 2010, all whilst providing specialist officers more availability to proactively challenge issues that cannot be dealt with by

technology however more specialist officers are required. The public and evidence-based campaigning is proved a successful support to the police in tackling road regulations.

1063 words

1000 words - Information and Intelligence/Communication Skills

Critically evaluate the methods used by police in gathering information and intelligence, how information contributes to the 'tasking and coordinating' process and how information and intelligence is communicated.

An evaluate of the effectiveness of three ways the Police collect Information; through Routine Collection, Task Information and Volunteered Collection. An assessment of the reliability of collection methods and their impacts on human rights, such as surveillance. Analysing the Intelligence Collection Plan, the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and the role of the Field Intelligence Officer (FIO) in collecting and analysing information and distributing it. An examination of how the information is tasked and coordinated so it can be used to efficiently deploy resources by the Basic Command Unit (BCU) following an informed assessment of threat and risk.

Innes and Sheptycki (2004, p.6) describes information as bits of data. Intelligence is information derived from a variety of sources that have been sanitised; recorded, graded and evaluated to ensure its reliability and validity (Bryant and Bryant, 2020 p.522-523). The police term for a source of informant is a Covert Intelligence Source (CHIS) (Bryant and Bryant, 2020 p.522).

Information is collected in one of three ways; task information, volunteered collection and routine collection (College of Policing, 2022). The information is required for Police purposes and this reason provides the legal basis for such collection, recording, evaluation, sharing and retention of information. Necessities for collection include: to protect life and people, preserve order and preventing the commission of crime (College of Policing, 2022).

Routine information is collected from routine or operational policing activities. Information is sourced from all Police activity for example, arrests and targeted activities such as Stop and Search (College of Policing, 2022). Some information gathered this way may only be relevant for the purpose it is collected however it can be used in a wider Police context which makes better use of resources and identify links between activities. Data collected is also first hand and often quantitative information, which means demographic and geographical patterns and inferences can be drawn from it; this is effective in this identifies areas where Police need to target.

Task Information is the prioritised collection of information from many sources, internally and externally to the Police, for example CCTV, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and covert surveillance (College of Policing, 2022). The latter, in particular, poses a breach to human rights as the method of collection is often intrusive however the Investigatory Power Act (2016) prevents the unlawful use of it (Gov.uk, 2016). The benefit of this form of collection is the reliability of the hard evidence that can be gathered and the expanse of data sources. ANPR can track vehicles beyond force area and is heavily utilised in building evidence for serious and organised crimes, whereby their criminal activity is facilitated by road networks.

Where as voluntary information is often provided from members of the public who may have witnessed an incident and recalls what they saw. Manning (1992) describes the police as information dependent and reliant on the public as a primary source of information; more recently, social media has become a well used source of info for the Police which reaches out to a

bigger community in a timely manner (Akhgar et al. 2019). The issue with this is that, at the initial stage, we do not know if that person is a reliable source i.e. they could be providing a biased perspective. Regarding social media, we do not know who is behind the messages and likely have no way of discovering. Nevertheless, this information is often easy to come by and is first hand evidence and is the basis for a more complex investigation.

Where there are gaps in information the Intelligence Collection Plan is successful in closing them, such as collecting forensics in support to prove or disprove an initial allegation or place a subject in the location of the incident, for example (NPIA, 2008, p.25). Stringent use of legislation is required to justify the proportionality, necessity of such methods and consideration of ethics. The positive of this is that it can build on initial evidence, increasing validity. Forensics in UK are using DNA profiling and databasing into the routine investigation of volume crime to identify subjects in future criminal activity (William and Johnson, 2008, pp.1-18). It could be again, viewed as intrusive of a person's human rights however it would be gained under legitimate circumstances, whilst in police custody, and legislative framework followed in order to allow forensics to be seized, retained and analysed (Houck and Siegel, 2015, pp.621-650).

Innes and Sheptycki (2004, p.6) describe that the NIM uses a framework to process the information gathered and convert it into actionable intelligence, using a problem-solving approach. NIM was introduced in the 1990's to support action against Serious and Organised Crimes. NIM works on 3 levels: level 1 (local area level: low level crime), level 2 (force: moderate level crime) and level 3 (national and international level: serious and organised crime) (Environmental Agency, 2017). John and Maguire's (2004) conducted a 21 month study of three police force's implementation of the NIM; 72% stated that working with the NIM made their BCU more effective, as it aided strategic direction, decision making and development of tactical plans, such as the numbering type of officers to be; effective as it makes efficient use of limited resources and ensures the safety of officers. Our judgement of the scale of threats results in how Police respond; sources deployed to tackle the issue is strategic tasking and coordination.

Intelligence is also communicated during Daily Management Meetings, which discuss incidents from the last 24 hours (National Centre for Policing Excellence, 2005, p.83). Field Intelligence Officer's develop intelligence in support of identified priorities, such as an increase in burglaries, and disseminate weekly stat reports to keep officers, on the ground, informed so they can proactively, for example, complete proactive patrols in areas of increased burglaries.

A range of information collection is essential to allow for an informed and strategic response to all levels of Policing and although voluntary information may not be reliable, it is often the catalysts for more reliable evidence as all data can be collected and analysed to produce intelligence. The intelligence collection plan is effective in that it closes information gaps through, often, reliable data collection. The National Intelligence Model proves versatile through being highly effective across three forces in supporting BCU's in their strategic management of resources and ensures informed deployment of resources that reflects the risk. Whereas the Field Intelligence Officer provides valuable information to officers on the ground which aids development of priorities, based on 'hotspots' for crime.

1000 words - Public Protection

Critically evaluate police strategies for dealing with public protection incidents considering the impact of abuse on victims, the impact personal attitudes and values on the investigative process and the association between Serious and Organised Crime groups and public protection issues.

A discussion on Victimless Prosecution, multi-agency approaches and Special Measures, focusing on supporting domestic abuse (DV) victims; a public protection incident and safeguarding the public from dangerous offenders. Analysing the issue with a lack of support and consent to Police action. Addressing the impact of trauma caused by incidents and how it prevents victims from supporting prosecution and victims views of the prosecution process.

The term public protection has a broad meaning. Bryant and Bryant (2021, p.293) describes it to be associated with “the management of violent and sexual offences and the protection of victims of though the investigation process of sexual offences, violence, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, domestic abuse, hate crime and missing persons”. Serious and Organised Crime Groups are defined under Section 45 Serious Crime Act (2015) as person who carry out criminal activity in groups.

The issue with public protection issues is the victim’s fear of repercussions from reporting it; fear of further injury from assailant. CPS (2020) emphasis the lasting trauma of domestic abuse and where some victims may initially provide a supporting statement, many retract in attempts to forget the situation, often meaning the offender gets off without charge.

In line with the lack of support for Police action, ‘victimless prosecution’ or ‘evidence-based prosecution’ was introduced in 1980s, putting cases to court without victim support, if risk is seen to be high and it is within the public interest. However, if statements are retracted they are not worth as much value; this should be reconsidered. CPS (2020) provides eight successful examples of victimless prosecution, one based on a 999 call and body-worn video footage which led to the conviction of a defendant for common assault on his partner and obstructing a police officer; sentenced to an 18 month conditional discharge. Victimless prosecution is primarily targeted at domestic incidents but should be considered more broadly for other violent and sexual offences. However it could be criticised for its ethics, overruling victims wishes but is often due to coercion and manipulation that these victims do not want to cooperate.

A multi-agency public protection approach is used to support victim and manage the offenders. Victims who do not support the prosecution process may support civil remedies and other safety and support approaches. Police cannot deal with offences effectively alone and require other agencies provide their expertise and tools to compliment Police’s crime detection (CPS, 2020).

The Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (2011) identified the failing with Multi Agency Public Protection Approach (MAPPA), that having a lead agency in multi-agency work causes a barrier, as each agency only tends to see their own perspective and may disagree with other agencies on the best plan of action. Everett (2010) suggests a lack of clarify of each agencies role and responsibility, a barrier in each agencies professional languages amongst other concerns and a shift of responsibility when a referral is made to a partner agency, could be the reason. Suffolk Police (2022) highlights that MAPPA is crucial and highly effective in reducing the risk posed by dangerous

offenders and safeguards the public. Where as the College of Policing (2022) highlights a lack of use of the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (VISOR) whereby neighbourhood police officers are aware of registered sex offenders living on their patch (College of Policing, 2022). Everett (2010) highlights that there is little evidence of multi-agency effectiveness. Furthermore, much like prosecution, if multi-agency support is declined by victims, the Police cannot put them forward for support whereas, if there is risk to children, consent is not required; this should be considered for adults as well.

Personal attitudes impact the police investigation process (Rossetti, 2016). Victim Support (2010) concluded from their research that only half of victim's felt they were kept up to date to a satisfactory level and a third do not hear anything further from when they first report an incident, identifying that millions of victims are 'left in the dark', annually.

The Police must sensitively deal with public protection incidents, not to put off victims contacting police again, in fear of a forced police investigation or the anticipation of a long case. However, those that do support prosecution can benefit from Special Measures; measures provided to vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses to help them provide the best evidence during prosecution. Methods such as live links rather than having to be present in the court room and screens to protect the victim from the offender in court (Bryant and Bryant, 2020 p. 293). The Welsh Government has recently invested over £400,000 in 13 new facilities across Wales. A 20-year victim of domestic abuse stated that without being able to provide evidence in a safe location, she could not have done it (Welsh Government, 2022).

The association between Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCG) and public protection issues is the vulnerability of victims at the centre. Often victims of these crimes are coerced, controlled and groomed, so much so, they believe they are not victims. Public protection issues such as DV's are often vulnerable as they are the partner of the offender, may live with them and feel trapped, hence why many do not follow through with prosecution, if they even support Police action from the outset. Where as victim of SOCG may be young children, groomed and coerced into transporting drugs or the case of 'cuckooing' whereby offenders 'befriend' a vulnerable person in order to utilise them for their property where they may then go on to store drugs and run their drug dealing business from there. Both are categorised by the same management team also, Management of Sexual Offences and Violence Offenders team.

Strategies to deal with public protection incidents are still broadly reliant of victim support however 'victimless prosecution' is proved a successful strategy in providing support for domestic abuse victims and should be used in more public protection cases, particularly as domestic cases are usually evidence-poor as they tend to be behind closed doors and have still had success. It cannot be argued that the idea that utilising specialists resources for their respective skills in dealing with public protection incidents could be successful. However, the need for greater communication and understanding between agency's. The multi-agency approach lacks evidence to demonstrate it is effectiveness, which is a worry as it is key strategy in Police's dealings with public protection incidents. The association between public protection incidents and SOCG is the vulnerability of the victims.

1000 words - Evidence based policing/criminology and crime prevention/criminal Justice

Critically analyse the concept of evidence-based policing and 'what works' in policing evaluating crime prevention theories and strategies and considering the options open to reduce re offending.

An evaluation of Evidence Based Practise in Policing, identifying the challenges EBP faces with increasing complexity of crime through the absence of a physical environment. Techniques discussed to ensure the validity and reliability of research conducted. An evaluation of Early Intervention, Targeting and Problem-Solving Strategies as crime prevention strategies and prison visits from family to deter re-offending.

EBP is where statistics and validated research are used to inform changes in policies and practises that may be outdated (Sherman, 1998). Lum and Koper (2017) states that Sherman (1998) was the first to suggest the concept of using evidence-based practises in policing; inspired by evidence-based practise in other professions notably, medical science (Bryant and Bryant, 2020, p.51). College of Policing (2020) describes evidence-based policing (EBP) as where, the police "create, review and use the best available evidence to inform and challenge policies, practices and decisions"; practises that may be outdated and ineffective (The University of Sheffield, 2017). Sherman (1989) states the amendment of policies and procedures are often conducted with the aid of partner organisations.

Statistics are an impactful tool used to portray a point and in policing can be used to identify 'hotspots' of crime and strategically deploy resources to it. Ratcliff (2019) states good research is peer reviewed and should try to disprove their findings; reject competing explanations. If they cannot disprove their findings this is an indicator that their results are reliable and valid

The Home Office (2016) set out six crime prevention strategies, including focusing on 'character'; early intervention with those who are at greater risk to being exposed to factors that lead to a higher propensity of crime. The College of Policing (2022) provide a 'Crime Reduction Toolkit' which is an online store for systematic reviews that highlights intervention strategies, the quality of research, the effectiveness of strategies and cost to implement.

Grove et al., (2012) and Johnson (2013) provide evidence that targeting repeat victims of burglary, and their close neighbours, can reduce both re-victimisation and overall crime, as offenders return to areas that are familiar and may have gained success from before. Evidence suggests that random patrols of areas have no correlation to a reduction in crime and thus should be targeted to 'hotspots'. There is strong research to suggest that crime is concentrated to certain areas including; areas of deprivation and city centres, named 'hotspots' (Maguire et al., 2012). Sherman et al., (1989) states that more than half of the calls received by the public to Minneapolis Police were made by 4% of the addresses.

Hinkle et al., (2020) highlights the success of a similar 'targeting' approach in his review of Problem-Solving Crime studies, whereby crime reduced in 31 out of 34 studies. The strategy focuses on the problem not individual incidents and is made up of four stages: systematically identifying the problem, undertaking analysis to understand reasons for the persistent problems,

implement tailored responses and analyse if the tailored responsive were effective (Sidebottom et al., (2019). Crime decreased by one-third in areas that received problem-solving relative to areas that did not (Hinkle et al., (2020) reports that crime fell by one-third in areas whether problem-solving was introduced compared to areas that did not have such strategy implemented. There was no evidence to suggest crime was being displaced to other areas, in fact, evidence suggests that the reduction in crime diffused into neighbouring areas implying that problem-solving could be implemented in combination with other crime reduction strategies, such as hotspot policing.

Similarly, a review of the new Focus Deterrence Strategy (FDS) also saw crime reduction in neighbouring areas (Braga et al., 2019). FDS “target prolific offenders, combining improved access to support with strict enforcement (College of Policing, 2022). This strategy saw a 79% crime reduction and seen most effective amongst serious crimes involving gangs and thus targets high-risk individuals. Research suggest this strategy should be utilised in the UK. The majority of studies are from the US, so it must be questioned if this tool is transferable to the UK first.

These crime prevention strategies also offer a tool to prevent re-offending. Another strategy highlighted is prison visits. The College of Policing (2020) report that a meta-analysis of 16 studies combined, mostly in the US, highlighted strong evidence to suggest prison visits by friends and family reduced re-offending by one-quarter due to the positivity and support family and friends provide which helps cope with negative feelings. However, much of this research is from the US so the transferability of assumptions must be questioned as imprisonment between countries varies.

It could be questioned that if EBP lacks the appreciation for complexity of policing and the number of factors that attribute to an environment or criminal activity. To assess what works in Policing, evidence needs to be collected over time but due to the fast-paced change in crimes and complexity of them, by the time finding, it could be questioned if they are already outdated. Nevertheless, Weisburd et al., (2004) provide evidence to suggest that crime hotspots can persist over long periods of time; in Seattle crime hotspots consistently persisted year on year.

Most research and findings found are based on data collected from the physical environment; using local agency shared information such as, convictions, hospital admissions and arrests (Home Office, 2016). EBP has the challenge of increasing crime complexity, as appose to volume crime, such as burglaries and thefts which provide more quantitative data; easier to analyse. Where complex crimes are difficult to quantify as there is often no physical environment to gather data from; i.e. cyber-enabled crime and the offender may reside in the same country as the victim. “Policing literature contains very few examples of evaluated efforts to reduce organised crime” (Atkinson et al., 2017).

EBP provides a scientific review on what what works in Policing. Through reliable and valid analysis, the police can used proved strategies to target crime hotspots and offenders with confidence. There is strong evidence to suggest the effectiveness of Early Intervention, Targeting and Problem-Solving Strategies in crime prevention and prison visits from friends and family can deter re-offending. There appears limited research more complex and dynamic types of crime, which suggests the complexity of these crimes is difficult to study but there is a necessity for this research to be conducted as it shapes a high volume of modern-day and serious crime. EBP needs to keep up with the pace of the changing crime otherwise it will be outdated before the research is released.

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