

PCDA Assignment One

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Essay one:

Examine how prominent cases of police misconduct or malpractice have influenced current professional policing policies. Evaluate how these policies have increased community confidence in the police, with reference to the Code of Ethics.

Your answer should be based on academic research rather than personal experience, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Answer:

The Peelian principles have emphasised the importance of public confidence within the police for generations (College of Policing, 2022). Some however believe the reality of modern policing, including training and organisational culture promotes unethical decision making which impacts community trust (Edwards, 2012).

Additionally, the frequency and scale of police misconduct provokes questions into whether poor decisions are the result of a polluted organisation as opposed to individual “bad apples” (Punch, 2009, p. 9). Furthermore, police misconduct can impact lives, attract high media attention and trigger widespread procedural change.

This essay will expand upon the expected standards within the police service and examine the misconduct cases of the Hillsborough disaster and Stephen Lawrence murder, including their contribution to current policing policies. Finally, this essay will evaluate how these policies have increased public confidence, in contrast with a view that confidence is built from strong day-to-day policing as opposed to policies and guidelines (Jackson and Bradford, 2009, p. 501).

The professional standards expected within the police service comprise of nine areas, which share overarching themes of professionalism and integrity (College of Policing, 2022). In support, a study across 15,807 police officers found the organisational environment which promotes the lowest officer misconduct is one of fairness and accountability (Fridell, Maskaly and Donner, 2020, p. 1089). Contrastingly, factors of social media, sexual misconduct, corruption, drugs, private business interests and infiltration by organised crime have been identified as current risk factors (College of Policing, 2022).

Prominent misconduct cases can grow exponentially from singular moments. This is illustrated through the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989 which resulted in the death of 97 people when South Yorkshire Police oversaw the FA Cup semi-final match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. The events that day led to what is described to be the worst disaster in British sporting history, which brought intense scrutiny into the police action taken (BBC, 2022). The aftermath of the tragedy caused concern and largely impacted public confidence in the police, where investigations across decades were completed by West Midlands Police, Lord Justice Taylor, a Hillsborough Independent Panel and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (Independent Office for Police Conduct, 2018). Famously, Lord Justice Taylor found a lack of police control was the main cause of the disaster (Taylor, 1989, p. 49). Furthermore, the Hillsborough Independent Panel report led to the first state apology in 2012, where the Prime Minister apologised and acknowledged years of police deception following the incident (Coleman, 2015, p. 86). Overall, this incident formed a prominent case study in British history and vastly transformed the policing of future public events.

Police misconduct attracts intense media attention. An example is the Metropolitan Police's alleged corrupt and errored investigation into the Stephen Lawrence murder, a case which brought accusations of racism to the police and changed British policing methods moving forward (BBC, 2018). Following the racially motivated attack, police action was immediately criticised, through a failure to identify witnesses and capture key evidence. Criticism then further increased through delayed arrests and questionable police conduct. Evidential difficulties meant Stephen's family and the public waited until 2012 before the first convictions against those responsible were made. In 1999, an inquiry from Sir William Macpherson notoriously concluded the investigation was flawed with themes of poor leadership, organisational racism and incompetence (Macpherson, 1999, p. 365). This became a tainted reputation for the Metropolitan Police for many years. Furthermore, the Macpherson report made 70 recommendations to nationwide policing in what was described as the largest strategy in history to improve the relationship between ethnic minority groups and the police (Bowling, Parmar and Phillips, 2008, p. 631). Finally, a further review was completed by Mark Ellison in 2012, which presented concerns of lost evidence, questionable undercover operations and the improper treatment of witnesses (Home Office, 2014). Overall, this incident led to a vast change in policing policies and widened the gap between police and the community. Specifically, recommendations within the Macpherson report helped drive the development of the Murder Investigation Manual to enhance future investigations (Association of Chief Police Officers, 2006, p. 1).

These instances show how police misconduct impacts public confidence in the police across prolonged periods. To support this, the British Crime Survey found a steady decrease of public confidence in police between the early 1980s and the early 2000s (Jackson and Sunshine, 2006, p. 218). Consequently, in 2014 the College of Policing developed a new code of ethics, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary was asked to review professional standards departments and the Independent Office for Police Conduct was expanded to oversee serious police complaints (Home Office, 2014). This however has not addressed the public confidence decline, where the 2020 Crime Survey of England and Wales showed confidence in the police had continued to fall from 62% in 2017 to 55% in 2020 (Mynenko and Ditcham, 2022). Despite this, a public understanding of the challenges police face exists. In 2014, the College of Policing surveyed 2,043 members of the public of which 68% stated they would not wish to be in the police's position in day-to-day decisions (Home Office, 2014).

The purpose of the Independent Office for Police Conduct is to promote impartiality and studies show the public support a non-police avenue of complaint investigation (Savage, 2013, p. 897). Conversely however, some believe the policing role involves complex decision making, and respect the need for operational experience to investigate officer misconduct (Schulenberg *et al.* 2017, p. 786). This conflict in public opinion means complaint investigation alone cannot solely improve public confidence.

Strong day-to-day policing, supported by the code of ethics is therefore crucial to sustained public confidence in the police. Psychologists find that negative experiences outweigh positive counterparts within human perceptions, with the cure

being an increased volume of positive instances (Baumeister *et al.* 2001, p. 362). It is therefore powerful for instances of proud British policing such as the 2012 London Olympics and late Queen Elizabeth II's funeral to be publicised frequently alongside strong instances of daily community engagement.

In conclusion, it is evident instances of police misconduct can be life changing and drastically impact community confidence in the police. The resulting procedural changes support the specific misconduct area however public perception can take many years to change its momentum, where public confidence in the police is shown to have been falling for a considerable time. Psychology teaches singular negative instances outweigh a positive counterpart and therefore strong day-to-day policing, supported by the current code of ethics in addition to enhancements within the police complaint systems set the strategy to promote long term improvement in community confidence in the police.

Word Count – 1094

Essay two:

Examine why certain groups might be vulnerable to being targeted by Serious and Organised Crime Groups, and analyse the effectiveness of police practices to investigate such issues.

Your answer should be based on academic research rather than personal experience.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Answer:

The impact of serious and organised crime threatens to outweigh police resources, where a joint organisational approach is required to address this high-risk national priority (Kirby and Nailer, 2013, p. 397). The severity leads some to believe serious and organised crime is the leading risk to national security because of the consequences on victims, communities and Britain's economy. Callous criminal behaviours mean vulnerabilities are preyed upon, where individuals require protection from their lives being devastated, and businesses need support to avoid a criminal future (Home Office, 2018). This essay will explore serious and organised crime, vulnerability and how the two areas meet. The essay will also detail how factors such as adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and wider vulnerability factors are exploited to facilitate county lines, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and wider areas. Finally, current police practices to address these risks will be discussed, alongside the challenges they face within this shadowed and hidden world.

Although academics argue the definition of serious and organised crime, a common factor is the exploitation of vulnerability (Finckenauer, 2005, p. 68). Serious and

organised crimes range from the distribution of illegal drugs to modern slavery and CSE. In 2018, the country's serious and organised crime strategy showed that criminals routinely target the most vulnerable, including children and those with reduced community engagement. Here, manipulation and fear are used to control victims, which amplifies into wider groups. This expansion leads to the funding of further criminality, development of corrupt businesses and an impact on the wider economy (Home Office, 2018). Consequently, the impact ranges from individual life altering abuse to a national economic influence.

Within policing, vulnerability is described as a person being unable to safeguard themselves from mistreatment (College of Policing, 2021). This stretches across vast territories which crime leaders seek to exploit. ACE's are a common factor, where traumatic childhood experiences result in an increased propensity for adult vulnerability (Felitti *et al.* 1998, p. 245). Furthermore, ACE's can impact generations, where the outcome in later life shapes parental environments and generational abuse occurs (Lomanowska *et al.* 2015, p. 131). Conversely, vulnerability factors such as protected characteristics, financial concerns or substance misuse can develop without prior trauma (College of Policing, 2021). Additionally, theorists have explored the priority of human motivation, where physiological and safety needs are foundational and can lead victims to criminal groups in times of desperation (Maslow, 1943, p. 370). These topics demonstrate the complex nature of vulnerability development, and how organised crime leaders and victims meet.

A prominent area where serious and organised crime groups exploit vulnerability is the transportation of illegal drugs, named county lines. Here, criminals utilise

coercion, rewards and violence to lead children and vulnerable adults into the transportation of drugs across the country (Home Office, 2018). The risks spread into small businesses, who are persuaded to handle illegal goods and launder money in exchange for business security (National Crime Agency, 2016). Case studies show this can evolve into criminals residing with victims, where homes become criminal bases and victims are trapped in material and psychological debts, labelled cuckooing (Home Office, 2018). These activities are often hidden from the public eye and difficult for authorities to detect.

Victims become transitioned between criminal industries, with drug transportation often linked to CSE and modern slavery (National Crime Agency, 2021). Studies find it difficult to separate CSE statistics from overall sexual offences, however research across 2,275 children suggests 5% within the UK have experienced child sexual abuse (NSPCC, 2021). To add complexity, CSE is predominantly unreported which means statistics are likely below reality. Additionally, there are fears even upon criminal prosecution, cases will have likely involved a substantially larger volume of unknown abusers (Colley, 2019, p. 261). Finally, serious and organised crime charges prove so rare it took until 2018 for the first conviction of child related abuse under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which included county lines and evidences the prosecution challenge (Stone, 2018, p. 285). Ultimately, the concealed yet vast scale of criminality poses a challenge for the police and wider country.

Technology advancements mean criminals are moving into the online world which adds speed and complexity to their abuse (Home Office, 2018). To amplify pressure, UK police forces have experienced staff reductions, particularly in Police Community

Support Officers who develop invaluable community intelligence (Van Dijk and Hoogewoning, 2015). When trends, locations and repeat victims are known, police have a respected ability to prevent crime and therefore efficient information utilisation is a priority to combat criminal evolution (Braga and Weisburd, 2006, p. 11).

Research has been completed into the policing National Intelligence Model. This found the model provides effective information development which links well with problem solving police practices such as the SARA and problem-oriented policing models when embraced (Kirby and McPherson, 2004, p. 46). This research highlights a priority for police to process information well, with utilisation of the National Intelligence Model found to support action targeted at the heart of criminal functionality.

Although crime statistics for serious and organised crimes are difficult to capture, police are revered in their ability to investigate the area. The challenge for police however is recognised, with understanding that a reduction in serious and organised crime requires a collaborative approach, against what is estimated to cost £37 billion nationally each year (Home Office, 2021). In 2009, Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU's) were introduced across England and Wales, which created a partnership between police and the National Crime Agency, a milestone in collaboration (Home Office, 2018). ROCU's however have incurred criticism, with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) concluding that consistent funding issues and poor leadership have left ROCU's with considerable improvement opportunity (HMICFRS, 2021). Specific to police services however, the HMICFRS's yearly police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy reports have yet to find a police force requiring improvement in the serious and

organised crime category (HMICFRS, n.d.). Whilst these findings compliment police, more accurate research into serious and organised crime volumes is required to truly understand the effectiveness of current practices.

In conclusion, serious and organised crime creates a nationwide challenge, with an impact so vast that vulnerable individuals experience extreme abuse, on a scale which threatens the country. Crime leaders work within a shadowed environment, with statistics difficult to measure and justice difficult to fulfil. Nonetheless, police are respected in their ability to reduce crime when educated, and partnership plans are established to advance the country's response. The factors and impact on victims are well researched, a national desire to protect exists and the future of collaborative action is supportive to the long-term reduction in this criminality.

Word Count – 1099

Essay three:

Assess the role of MAPPA in managing offenders, and evaluate the effectiveness of current police practices to investigate public protection incidents involving violent and sexual offences.

You must use academic research to support your answer.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Answer:

Persons considered a high risk of committing violent or sexual offences live amongst communities, families and the vulnerable, a reality which has caused debate between public protection and offender human rights for decades (Forbes, 1996, p. 23). In balance of these perspectives, the Labour government introduced multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) across England and Wales which has evolved throughout the 2000s (Taylor and Yakeley, 2019, p. 157). Violent and sexual offences impact victims over short and long-term periods, where ramifications spread from individuals to nations (Spalek, 2016, p. 7). To increase public concern, Britain has experienced years of high-profile sexual abuse reports, with high media attention towards investigations such as Operation Yewtree (Erooga, 2014). Strong media attention, whilst sometimes questioned, creates a pressure to reduce risk, illustrated through the murder of Baby P where 2823 annual British newspaper mentions triggered concern regarding media behaviour (Elsley, 2010). This essay will explore MAPPA processes and police practices to safeguard the public, where positive statistics will be debated against less visible challenges.

From inception, MAPPA's direction has been to drive partnership working and support effective offender management in their re-introduction to communities (Taylor and Yakeley, 2019, p. 157). Previously, England and Wales had experienced over a decade of public concern regarding propaganda from media teams. Consequently, many campaigned for a British policy alike America's Megan's Law, particularly following the murder of Sarah Payne (Taylor and Yakeley, 2019, p. 158). MAPPA has since evolved, where the volume of managed offenders has increased with time. A factor within this some believe to be an increased confidence to report crimes following cases such as Operation Yewtree (Erooga, 2014). In 2019 for example, studies show the volume of managed offenders was 70% higher than in 2010 (Ministry of Justice, 2019).

The nations interest in this field creates a pressure for public protection and accountability. Within early research, analysis showed promise, where 60% of victims in domestic violence cases reported no subsequent violence following MARAC support (SafeLives, n.d). Within MAPPA processes, the risk of offenders is assessed between one of three categories which dictates the level of management consideration provided (SafeLives, n.d.). Studies towards the most serious offences, across 229 level three offenders (who present the highest public risk) found less than 1% had committed a further serious offence in 2008/09 (Wood, 2012, p. 114). More recently, a review within 2015 showed re-offending rates had dropped compared with 2011, and a higher percentage of cases received victim support (HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, 2015). This suggests MAPPA's effectiveness has grown with time. The results alone however do not reflect some of the negative findings during that timeframe.

Behind published compliments of England and Wales' approach through MAPPA, some argue re-offending of the smallest volume shows failure whilst others have concern with the ethical intrusion of offender management (Hudson and Henley, 2015, p. 564). Research also shows in some cases curfews and rules result in family tension, frustration and a higher offender reliance on alcohol and drugs (Deuchar, 2012, p. 124). Although in 2015 statistics reflected well on MAPPA, the same inspection provided nineteen improvement recommendations, some of which were as elementary as the development of accurate notes and better information dissemination to police (HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, 2015). Concerningly, there are also tensions and varying levels of engagement identified between agencies involved within MAPPA. Here, a study across 147 cases found police and probation services to be well committed, however other agencies to be rarely present or supportive (Maguire *et al.* 2001, p. 1). These areas show that whilst published headlines reflect MAPPA positively, there are tones within the approach with less favourable atmospheres.

In addition to MAPPA, it is vital police effectively investigate violent and sexual offences. Police services hold the primary responsibility for offenders within category one of MAPPA processes, which include registered sex offenders (RSO's) when they are no longer subject to National Probation Service management (College of Policing, 2017). Research finds police management of RSO's and violent offenders to be strong in 90% and 86% of instances respectively (HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, 2015). Equally, support for wider police teams, outside of public protection departments is vital, where senior police

managers have responsibility to ensure intelligence is disseminated efficiently to frontline teams to enable effective policing should concerns occur (College of Policing, 2017). Furthermore, police services have adopted usage of the ViSOR system to promote effective communication between partner agencies and reduce offender risk (HM Prison Service, 2022). Finally, research finds offender non-compliance within level three MAPPA cases occurs with approximately 45% of offenders, where police action is taken and public protection is provided before offences occur (Wood, 2012, p. 115). Consequently, police have a comprehensive structure regarding violent and sexual offenders. Despite this, whilst percentages for good offender management are high on first impression, results are not currently at the public expectation of perfection.

Police performance is not without criticism. A review in 2021 raised concerns in the volume of police investigations for serious sexual offences, non-molestation and retraining order breaches being closed through evidential weakness or lack of victim support (HMICFRS, 2021). Additionally, concern has formed towards the use of pre-charge bail, where processes such as voluntary attendance interviews and complex bail applications lead to a reduction in pre-charge bail usage (HMICFRS, 2022). Finally, several high-profile cases of police abusing their powers to commit sexual offences have shaped poor public confidence and perception (Independent Police Complaints Commission, 2012). In summary, these areas show that whilst MAPPA related processes are generally well complied with, other areas within police control hold opportunity to better protect the public.

In conclusion, MAPPA has led the management of violent and sexual offenders across England and Wales for decades. Throughout, findings show the volume of managed offenders has increased, re-offending rates have reduced and victims are better protected. Beneath this however, MAPPA has experienced criticism in basic areas and internal conflict between supporting agencies. Nonetheless, the duration of MAPPA's existence is testament to its foundation. The approach has frequently brought American comparisons however the public desire for protection is balanced with opposing views of offender rights, where England and Wales have avoided public vigilantism and offender disappearance as experienced within the USA (Fitch, 2007, p. 18). Police have established processes for the management of offenders and are motivated to share information well to support investigations. There are however opportunities to better safeguard the public, through resolution of pre-charge bail concerns and further research into cases concluded as evidentially weak or victims withdrawing support.

Word Count – 1098

Essay four:

Critically evaluate the impact of early intervention on young offenders, and young people at risk of becoming involved in gangs. Assess the effectiveness of partnership approaches to prevent or deter involvement in gang-related activity. Rather than relying on personal experience, support your answer with relevant evidence drawn from academic sources.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Answer:

Young people engaging in gang related activity has created a prolonged national challenge to support adult futures and reduce crime rates. Across decades, gang research has brought American comparisons, and whilst there is little evidence the UK reflects American behaviour, the presence of violence and criminality is undeniable, with prevention practices and learning shared between both countries (Crime and Justice, n.d.). Early intervention with children has formed a key focus for UK governments dating back to 1997, where criticism was placed on prior approaches (Crime and Justice, n.d.). The challenge however persists within risk factors of upbringing, education and socialisation which form the root of why many children continue to seek gang participation (Pitts, 2009, p. 21). Furthermore, children present a tendency to act on impulse, without full consideration and a desire to impress which can leave them vulnerable to poor decision making (McDaniel, 2012, p. 253). This essay will explore the background of early intervention and consider its value towards young people at risk of gang involvement. Additionally, this essay will investigate the effectiveness of partnership approaches to deter gang

involvement, and question whether effective partnerships are the route to success, or whether the context of the support is pivotal.

For decades, early intervention has been the UK's priority approach to steer young people away from gang involvement. Early Intervention is explained to be risk identification and effective support to guide children away from poor life paths (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020). This focus began in the late 1990s, where the UK government promoted the ability to predict children at risk of criminalisation and encouraged intervention as early as possible (Soloman and Blyth, 2009, p. 1). Concerningly, this ethos proved how children as young as early primary school age displayed warning signs of gang involvement (Home Office, 2015). This shows the prolonged period children's involvement in gangs has been a concern in the UK, and the particularly young age it can develop. To emphasise the importance of effective intervention, research shows children of a primary school age who engage with gangs are on average three times more likely to be involved in serious or violent offending in adult life (CYCJ, 2015).

Intervention routes span across many avenues and organisations, with differing levels of success however most include a common tone of strong partnership working. Given the particularly young age children can display signs of gang involvement, a large focus is placed on primary school support, where research shows early-stage intervention is highly effective (Home Office, 2015). The opportunity identified, and support provided through schooling is also celebrated by the Youth Crime Action Plan, a government strategy to support overall youth crime (Home Office, 2010). Wider however than education, a plethora of avenues have

been explored and found to be highly beneficial intervention options. Partnership organisations and charities provide assessments and facilitate support in areas such as mentoring, family life and community engagement which have proven highly successful (Home Office, 2015).

Early intervention however is not widely celebrated, with some believing it overwhelms youth support teams, incurs a high national cost and creates a criminal trail for innocent children (Crime and Justice, n.d.). High volumes of children enter the support mechanisms each year, at times based solely on a perception of risk as opposed to actual gang or crime related evidence, in a manner which some believe is manipulated to aid government popularity (Crime and Justice, n.d.). Furthermore, international reviews of youth intervention have found more intense and frequent support contact has a negative long-term impact on those involved (McAra and McVie, 2007, p. 337).

The contrast between these viewpoints demonstrates the delicate nature of the challenge, whereby some intervention is proven successful however more intense or repeated contact can have a detrimental impact. A prominent example here is children's involvement with gang specific intervention programs, where lighter sessions such as ex-gang members visiting schools receives encouraging findings, however more intrusive methods such as children visiting prison environments have been proven to strongly increase the likelihood of future criminality (Home Office, 2015). This example perfectly presents the difference between subtle and intense intervention, and the impact poor support choices can cause.

A commonly agreed view however is that any form of intervention requires effective partnership working, from information sharing to the delivery of support. The public health model was also born in the late 1990s however has evolved with time. The model centres around a strong working relationship between key agencies, including healthcare, police, charities and council departments (McLean, 2020). Here, agencies including the police have re-focussed those who engage with gangs to build relationships, identify root causes, and support rather than discipline, in a theory and practice which has been celebrated worldwide (Deuchar, 2013). Regarding adult forms of gang involvement, the model has been expanded in Glasgow, which found success under an enhanced approach named Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). This approach tested elevated partnerships, diversion offers and an element of increased accountability, in a study which led to a drastic reduction in gang activity in the area (Home Office, 2011).

Not all partnership-based approaches however have proven successful, with other studies showing the content of support is most influential as to whether benefit will be found. As example here is where although effective partnerships existed, intervention which overemphasised negative consequences, or instilled discipline as the foundation to achievement in life, led to a 2-8% increased likelihood of offending (Lipsey, 2009, p. 139). To complicate the selection of most appropriate intervention options, research also finds a difference in impact when young males and young females received the same method of support (Early Intervention Foundation, 2015).

In conclusion, it is evident the support of young people away from gang involvement has been a high priority in the UK dating back to the 1990s, where early intervention

has formed a key strategy. Early intervention has evolved into many avenues, which stretch across numerous organisations, with strong partnership working promoted throughout. Regardless of partnership working success however, the choice of intervention method appears to be pivotal, with some options proving to have a detrimental impact. Despite these findings and views, there is substantial opportunity for clearer research and understanding. Foundations are in place across support options and structure however studies at present are limited to smaller geographic areas, with largely anecdotal feedback as opposed to statistical results in terms of gang deterrence. The priority and duration of focus to support young person's away from gang involvement is impressive however, and the platform for further research appears established to further understanding and processes across the coming years.

Word Count – 1094

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