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

Introduction

In the year ending September 2022 there were a total of 277,237 burglaries recorded in England and Wales, 195,692 of which were residential burglaries (Office for National Statistics, 2023). South Wales Police (2022) saw a 17% fall in residential burglaries during the first six months of 2022 compared with the same period in 2021, however there is still work to be done looking at the UK statistics.

Study.

In August 2022 a report was published which looked at the police response to burglary, amongst other crimes, how response can be improved and how crime can be stopped. The report found that the best way to stop crime was to prevent it occurring initially and this would have to be done by working with other agencies and partnerships (HMICFRS, 2022). The National Police Chiefs Council lists its aim of preventative policing as having fewer victims and offences by working with partners and looking into the underlying causes and aims to do so by applying three levels of preventive measures: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary prevention (NPCC, 2022). Primary prevention attempts to stop the problem before it occurs, Secondary prevention looks at diverting specific people away from committing crime and Tertiary prevention attempts to reduce the existing problem (HMICFRS, 2022).

Over the years policing styles have changed from being reactive to focussing more on the proactive side and therefore allowing police to take preventative measures to crime in an attempt to reduce criminal activity from the root, i.e. Primary prevention. There are numerous crime prevention strategies which police put in place, such as Problem Oriented

Policing (POP) and Community Oriented Policing (COP) (Mugari & Obioha 2021), both of which will be discussed throughout.

Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) places emphasis on strategies which are preventative in nature and is a method used by police to identify problems and create and evaluate responses to those problems (Goldstein, 2003). POP is seen as a method used to approach the tackling of crime as opposed to an actual intervention in itself and the method in which it is applied can then be evaluated (College of Policing, 2017). Overall evidence suggests that POP led to a 33.8% reduction in crime and disorder and although this appears significant there were also difficulties and issues with the method. Police forces across the UK have saved large amounts of money when implementing POP, however more specifically both Durham and Lancashire police forces reported thousands of pounds worth of savings in relation to burglaries (College of Policing, 2017), evidencing the success of the application.

Whilst there are clear positives such as the reduction in crime and the cost-saving aspect Sidebottom, A., *et al* (2020) point out there are also difficulties with POP such as the training of staff and its dependence on senior leads adapting the strategy. The study also makes reference to the adaptation of POP to suit each sector of policing and points out that at present it is most used by neighbourhood policing rather than current priority focusses such as county lines or child exploitation, therefore suggesting that perhaps POP isn't suited to all areas. That being said Chainey, (2012) points out that high visibility policing of neighbours can be seen as a deterrent for burglary, which suggests that there could be a positive link between the implementation of POP by neighbourhood policing teams and reduction in burglaries.

Whilst POP is primarily focussed on the cause of problems and doesn't necessarily involve public communications, Community-Oriented Policing (COP) on the other hand focusses on the way the problem is solved and the community is an integral part of this (O'Neill, 2010). O'Neill (2010) point out that often POP and COP are often assumed to be the same methods of policing, however there are significant difference, COP for example can be simply speaking with the community and understanding what they want done. COP

Gill *et al* (2014) found that the implementation of COP improves perceptions of policing and increases public satisfaction, meaning that with increased respect there is a likelihood that people are more inclined to obey the law (Sunshine & Tyler, 2003). Whilst there are positives Schaefer Morabito (2010) point out that there maybe some difficulties in COP as there is no specific criteria and varies due to the dependence on the community it's serving, therefore what works in one place, may not be welcomed in another. COP also relies on communities being willing to work with the police, which any many neighbourhoods is not the case (Gill *et al* 2014), and as Li (2013) illustrates in relation to burglaries, neighbourhood policing engagement works best in areas where crime is consistently high but neighbours are willing to support each other. College of Policing (2015) detail the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch stating that it has a strong overall effect on crime and suggest that it can act as a burglary deterrent with 26 in 100 crimes being deterred by neighbour watch, however again linking in the COP, this requires the willingness of communities to engage with policing. It can be seen that with successful integration of neighbourhood policing and the support of community there is a strong positive impact on crime for minimal effort, which can be perceived as a huge benefit of COP (College of Policing 2015).

Conclusion.

It is clear from the methods mentioned above that there are positive aspects to all, however they are not without their drawbacks. Although often confused as the same method of policing, Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Oriented Policing are clearly very different and both have points which can be seen as particularly pertinent in the reduction of burglary. The idea of focussing on the root of the problem has clear advantages in the reduction, however the support from the community that comes with neighbourhood policing also appears to be a keys aspect of successful policing. In conclusion it can be seen that a combination of both Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Oriented Policing has the potential to bring about a huge improvement in the number of burglaries, should it be implemented correctly, as seen in the studies mentioned above. It seems from the studies that as much as policing can target crime, a huge amount of success in decrease in burglaries comes from public action and therefore showing the importance of community engagement from police.

WORD COUNT: 1049

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

Introduction.

Community Cohesion is necessary in all communities to allow for various groups of people to live harmoniously and encourages integration of both old and new residents to adapt to each other (NPIA, 2015). In 1991 94.1% of the population identified as 'White' (Office for National Statistics, 2012) and over the years this percentage has consistently declined, with the 2021 census recording 81.7% of residents identifying as 'White' (Office for National Statistics, 2022). It can be argued from this data that the UK is gradually becoming more culturally diverse and therefore community cohesion is more pertinent than ever to ensure the successful integration of different cultures. One of the key accountabilities of a police constable is to engage and reassure groups and communities and establish localised partnership to engage in problem-solving (College of Policing, 2023), something which looking at the definition of Community Cohesion seems to fit hand in hand.

Studies.

In 2001 there were disturbances in towns across the North of England involving numerous groups of different cultures, which resulted in The Cattle Report (Home Office, 2001) being published. The report focussed on numerous aspects which caused the problems and alludes to what can be done to avoid such tensions in the future by making suggestions for all communities and those involved with communities. The report found that the main cause of the problems were different communities living parallel lives with a distinct lack of integration and with a lack of effort to interact with one another, and thus came the point of the importance of Community Cohesion (Home Office, 2001). One of the findings within the report stated that those police forces which had made the most effort to communicate with all sections of the community had the most success in building positive relationship and avoiding negative situations. Many of the findings are similar in that positive police

engagement had positive outcomes with different community groups, and therefore it can be taken from this that policing plays an important part in Community Cohesion. The study by Merry *et al.* (2012) encompasses many sources and has found that working with communities has become the main focus to enhance confidence in the police. It has found that this has been successful globally, and overall when a community felt cohesive this resulted in improved confidence in police.

It is not only the police which play a part in maintaining community cohesion, it requires the involvement of numerous authorities, not limited to, local authorities, housing and education (NPIA, 2015). Engagement with the community by all of parties is key should it be successful, however it is also important that authorities reach out to all groups, not just those who are willing to initially engage (NPIA, 2015). Specifically in relation to policing however, the report has found that although visible patrol and police presence is important, this is not sufficient and officers should also actively communicate and collate information from residents that will be beneficial. Similarly Merry *et al.* (2012) found that the way in which police communicate with the community has the biggest impact, as opposed to just the frequency or visibility of police.

It has also been shown that cohesion and community engagement with police can lead to lower rates of crime, therefore not only benefiting the community but also in turn, improving the public's perception of the police due to the ability to feel safer in their environment (NPIA, 2015)

The link between community cohesion and crime rates is also studied in detail by Wedlock (2006) and Lee (2000) and the impact which crime has on a community overall. The study by Lee found that when higher levels of control are displayed within a cohesive community, the level of violent crimes which people are affected by are lowered. This finding is also present in the study by Wedlock however, it also develops on this finding by showing that theft offences are also reduced by an overall rate of 3% on average, leading to a more positive area for communities to reside.

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2009) took the study of the relation between Community Cohesion and policing one step further again and estimate the amount which could be saved within different categories such as insurance, policing and the public. It is estimated that around £530 million could be saved in relation to numerous crimes with an average of 2.9% decrease in the level of crime as the sense of community increases. From this data, it could again be argued that in turn community cohesion is aiding police funding by reducing costs but also aiding the public by decreasing costs of replacing valuables stolen as part of the crime.

These studies along with reports such as The Cattle Report (Home Office, 2001) show that community cohesion and policing is interlinked, with community cohesion reducing crime and engagement by police officers improving community cohesion. Although it would be possible for communities to co-exist without policing, it is clear that successful policing increases the trust which the public has in the police and in turn the levels of communication between police and communities resulting in successful cohesion (Merry *et al.* 2012).

Conclusion.

It is clear from the above studies that police play a huge part in creating and maintaining community cohesion, however it could also be said that community cohesion also assists the police in the sense that successful unity within leads to a reduction in crime. Although communities need to be willing to engage, it is also important that authorities such as police are actively trying to encourage the engagement, especially from groups who may initially be less willing to interact with police. It is also clear from the study that the economic benefit from community cohesion is beneficial to both the public as well as the police, demonstrating that should we want to feel such benefits, it is important for both police and communities to communicate and work together efficiently.

WORD COUNT: 991

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

Introduction.

A bias can often occur without us even being aware and can affect how decisions are made. They can be influenced by our upbringing, culture and personal experiences and can have an impact on those around us, with out without us knowing (Atewologun et al, 2018). Northon (2016) states that to have a bias is to be human, however it is important that we are aware of our biases and how they can affect things, especially from a professional perspective. Police officers, amongst other professionals, run the risk of have pre-conceptions regarding those involved in criminal investigations before full inquiries have been carried out (Rassin et al. 2010). This study aims to look at the impact which biases can have on a police officers day to day work and the types of measures that are in place to minimise personal biases.

Study.

Every individual working within policing is expected to behave in a certain way and over the years there have been numerous models set out to ensure the police are professional in every way, which includes being aware of any biases. These date back to the Peelian Principles 1829 and since then, newer measures such as The code of Ethics and The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) have been developed, aiming to assist police to behave in a the correct way when faced with decision (College of Policing, 2014).

PACE brought about many changes for policing, one of them aimed to change how stop searches were done (Phillips & Bowling, 2012). Pre-PACE stop searches were based on officer discretion, often influenced by their own prejudices singling out those of an ethnic minority, brought to a head in the Brixton Riots of 1981 (Jackson, 2015). To avoid such widespread issues again, PACE was introduced and brought about rules to ensure that searches were now

only done when an officer had 'Reasonable Suspicion' (Qureshi & Farrell, 2006), therefore aiming to avoid an officers bias influencing their searches as part of investigations.

Despite PACE having been an integral part of all officers daily activity for numerous almost 3 decades Bury et al. (2018) and Abi Deivanayagam et al (2021), point out that there is still clearly an issue with discrimination of sorts within policing, especially in relation to stop searches and racial profiling, however Irwin-Rogers (2018) argues that it is unclear whether this is conscious or subconscious making it difficult to address.

The Code of Ethics is another measure which aims to assist police in making non-discriminatory decisions and is at the heart of the National Decision Model, something which is taught to every police officer (College of Policing, 2013a).

The Police Code of Ethics list 'Honesty and Integrity', 'Equality and Diversity' and 'Duties and Responsibilities' as three of the Standards of Professional behaviour of which a police officer is expected to act in line with. The College of Policing states that all officers will receive the support of their organisation when it can be shown that their decisions were managed and reasonable at the time of making them (College of Policing, 2013a). The method of using the National Decision Model and the Standards from the Code of Ethics ensure that officers are truthful in their duties, treat all people fairly and are aware of the impact a bias can have when making their decisions in relation to daily work and investigations (College of Policing, 2014).

College of Policing (2013b) state the importance of an 'Investigative Mindset' in order to follow the most appropriate lines of enquiry and complete them most important actions, however this should always be done without discrimination. Despite these guidelines which have been set out to curb bias behaviour, Rassin et al. (2010) discuss numerous high-profile cases where police, prosecution and even judges have allowed their bias to have a detrimental impact on investigations and have made decisions based on pre-conceptions. Similarly, Meissner & Kassin. (2002) found that an officers bias can lead them to believe that

a suspect may be guilty before an investigation process has even began. Holt et al. (2019) had similar findings in that officers could be seen as being dismissive before even fully understanding the situation, in this case it was in relation to cybercrime in and answer to this, their suggestion was that officers undergo further training. Similarly James (2018) found that officers bias is not stable and there are possibilities to change these prejudices and therefore suggested that tailored training may help avoid personal bias in policing.

Many of the studies mentioned as well as that by Fridell (2017) explain the difficulties in measuring bias within a police force with Fridell elaborating on this suggesting that one of the best ways in which to find a bias within a police force is the speak with the communities who witness it. The suggestion by Fridell aims to take on board communities positive and negative thoughts about the police and by listening and building a rapport make changes one step at a time to tackle the issues with the community perceives as bias. This suggestion ensures that communities feel involved and feel that what they believe is important to police to bring about necessary change.

Conclusion.

It is clear from the studies mentioned that very often police officers let their bias affect how they work and puts them at the risk of having untrue preconceptions about suspects. Such biases in turn can have a detrimental impact on the investigations and despite the fact there are often measure put in place to deflect prejudices these aren't always successful and the integrity is compromised.

Although over the years police have introduced measures such as The Code of Ethics and The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, it is clear that more work needs to be done to deter prejudice behaviour by officers and to correct those who are bias within investigations. Despite the difficulties to measure bias within police forces, engagement with the community and studies could help make positive amendments to identify potential issues, whether this is by introducing more guidelines or via training.

WORD COUNT: 1013

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

Introduction

Gov.uk (2014) list numerous types of organised crime including child sexual exploitation and abuse, modern slavery, illegal drugs and organised immigration crime and although since 2013 there has been a strategy in place to tackle such crime, it remains a deadly national security threat (HM Government, 2018). In January 2023 it was announced that new efforts would be made to tackle serious and organised crime in England and Wales, further to that which was initially published in 2018 (Gov.uk, 2023). Many people are forced to work under the control of organised crime gangs however there are several groups of people who are more at risk of becoming exploited by criminal gangs (National Crime Agency, 2015).

Study

There are many ways in which a person could be a victim of organised crime and many ways in which they can be characterised, however these are often found to be vulnerable people or young children forced into illegal activities by gangs (Cooper et al, 2017). These gangs use numerous ways to force someone into illicit activities such as violence, coercion and intimidation and are able to exploit an individual's vulnerabilities to make them more susceptible (O'Hagan & Long, 2019). Hurley & Boulton (2021) note that there are several factors which make a person more susceptible to becoming involved with serious organised crime, several of which are linked to an individual's education, specifically lower educational qualifications, exclusions from school and being out of conventional education all contribute to the likelihood of someone becoming involved with organised crime gangs. Similarly, findings by Wroe (2021) showed that a large number of young people involved in county lines who took part in their study were out of main stream education or had been excluded. In relation to these factors, Boulton et al. (2019) found that although it was difficult to show exact outcomes, it appeared that those who did engage with education change their attitudes and visions. This suggests that improvement in education in younger years could have a

positive impact on the number of people associating with organised crime gangs, however it is clear from this study that this alone will not stop the issue and that it is important to look at numerous strategies.

Boulton et al (2019) elaborate on the demographic which are most at risk of becoming involved in serious and organised crime, that being young adults and more specifically male adolescents between around 12-18 years of age (Baidawi et al, (2020). Although it is believed that male adolescents are most at risk, young females are also susceptible to becoming involved in illicit activities with gangs. Research by Storrod and Densley (2017) note how young women would often be contacted by gang members online and perceived this attention to be flattering and enjoyed the social status, however once these females were lured in the attitudes of the gang members would change and the girls would be taken advantage of, typically for criminal activity or sexually exploited. Thompson (2019) further adds to this and suggests that the motivation for young people joining gangs are factors such as social status, money and power especially for those from deprived areas, however this is often a way of grooming rather than actually rewarding. Holligan et al (2020) illustrate how young females with addictions and who lack support often believe that gang members are helping them with payments of some form, however are exploiting them sexually or by using their homes to store illicit items. A major issue with these teenagers and young adults getting involved with organised crime gangs is that they do not see themselves as being vulnerable or victims, rather they see it as their choice and an easy way to make money, especially by those from disadvantaged backgrounds who see others involvement on a daily basis (Windle et al, 2020).

Gunter (2020) suggest that those living in estates which are disadvantaged and already have close ties to criminal activity, makes youths more likely to become entangled with gang life and therefore more likely to be exploited. Radcliffe et al (2020) discuss a link between disadvantaged social areas and exploitation of vulnerable people, in particular children, in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and drug gangs. Similarly Crooker et al. (2017) and Maxwell & Wallace (2021) expanded on the idea that young people are at risk of being

exploited by saying that those who come from deprived areas are particularly at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity especially persuaded or lured in by the promise of money or higher value items which they wouldn't typically have access to or drugs. Further to this Linton et al (2017) suggest that there is a direct link between socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the use of illicit drugs, suggesting that there are further factors which make those residing in deprived neighbourhoods more susceptible to exploitation by gangs. As explained by Moyle (2019) many drug users find themselves involved with county lines gangs, often in exchange for small quantities of drugs for personal use. Initially many of these drug users say that there is a mutual benefit when working for these gangs, however research tends to lean towards the ideology that gangs are taking advantage of these drugs users and exploiting their addictions (Hesketh and Robinson, 2019).

Conclusion.

It is clear from research that there are numerous factors which make someone more vulnerable to being exploited by organised crime gangs. Individuals who have been exploited speak about initial benefits which draw them in however this soon changes and their vulnerabilities are taken advantage of by the gang members. Despite there being several different types of exploitation and in turn different types of vulnerabilities are exploited, it seems that there are some shared factors in victim's upbringing and lifestyles which makes them more susceptible to the exploitation. It is clear that many of these vulnerabilities are intertwined and therefore raises questions as to whether in some ways it is almost impossible for certain people to avoid the exploitation or links to organised crime despite government plans and raises the question as to whether more needs to be done to protect these vulnerable people.

WORD COUNT: 1023

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