

BSc Professional Police Practice

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Essay one:

This essay examines distinguished cases of police misconduct in which there was a significant neglect in professional duty which in effect influenced current professional policing policies. This essay will also assess the value and worth of how these policies have increased community confidence in the police.

According to the (College of policing, 2014) Police code of ethics which are accountability, Integrity, openness, fairness, leadership, respect, honesty, objectivity, selflessness. These ethics allow officers to perform their duties with the public at the forefront of all their actions. Standards need to be talked about as an everyday business consideration. If the public don't have the confidence to trust the police to be fair, acting ethically and in their best interests, they are less likely to assist the police in upholding the law. Public lack of confidence in the police would mean the public less likely to assist the police in enforcing the law.

(O'Reilly, 2022, PP. 1-17) presses the imperativeness of the code of ethics, which goes hand in hand in terms of the public having confidence in the police.

In 1829 Sir Robert Peel set out the model of policing who stated the phrase Johnson (2017) 'the police are the public and the public are the police'. This reiterates how essential and fundamentally important it is to engage with the public and gain their trust.

Stephen Lawrence and Macpherson report

Heal, A. (2018) was a useful source in summarising the Stephen Lawrence infamous article, where on 22nd April 1993 Stephen Lawrence is stabbed to death in a racist attack by a gang of white youths, conviction was only brought upon two of the suspects eighteen years after the attack on January 2012.

In 1999, that the Metropolitan police investigation into the south London killing had been undermined by "professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership", set fresh standards for forthright judicial criticism. Quinn (2019).

March 1998, listened to 88 witnesses and generated 100,000 pages of documents. The final report, 389 pages long, was delivered in February 1999 – remarkably swift progress compared to public inquiries before and since. Macpherson report highlighted two startling words “institutional racism” and 70 recommendations were made. Due to word limitations 70 recommendations cannot be discussed therefore to be pertinent only two will be highlighted.

- 1) One of the recommendations were for all forces should reflect the cultural and ethnic mix of the communities they serve.
- 2) Annual published reports on the progress of police authorities in meeting their ethnic minority recruitment, promotion and retention levels.
- 3)

IMPORTANCE OF RECRUITING OFFICERS FROM BAME

It is important to recruit officers from a diverse background because this structure enables officers to understand the current complex problems in a diverse community. This has been further highlighted by Fekete, L. (2018). This also mentions the importance of addressing inequity within the force, this will also increase confidence in the community due to the force highlighting and being self-critical.

Athwal, Harmit (2014) Vol.56 (1), p.22-42 has also highlighted the significance of recruitment and how the adverse effects could be felt in society with perception of immigrants in particular a hindrance for officers to carry out their duties in a complex diverse society.

There has been a relentless drive to recruit officers from the BAME community. IN 2019 Hon Priti Patel MP announced the recruitment of 20,000 officers, the recruitment of BAME officers was particularly the focal point. At the time this was referred to as “Unprecedented opportunity”. This has taken place 20 years after the Macpherson report.

Even though there has been an uplift in BAME recruitment, publication parliament (2021) have highlighted how the increase of BAME officers could also be fuelled by a natural increase in BAME population within the UK.

According to the NatCen report (2018) individuals are deterred from joining by historic negative perception of the police. This was fuelled by disproportionate stop and search statistics. This report also highlighted how families deterred their loved ones from joining due to significant lack of trust.

Current statistics

According to the Office of National Statistics (2019) 15% of the population consider themselves to be non-white, yet the current BAME recruitment of officers is 7.3% Ethnic figures gov (2020). This figure is almost half of the actual reflection of current population.

With the net immigration to push this figure considerably higher by 2030 (ONS 2020). At current recruitment levels forces across the UK will not be able to achieve this.

Annual published statistics will substantiate how the current black, Asian, minority ethnic (BAME) recruitment is far below the reflection of the diverse population. But according to the publication parliament (2021) the BAME officers in supervisor ranks is far worse. Inspector above posts is currently around the 4%.

The BAME population increase outstrips the non BAME population by 2.5%, which means the current uplift in figures are not a true reflection, 12% of officers have not disclosed their ethnic origin which further exacerbates the problem with the statistics.

Conclusion.

There is no doubt that the current police forces in the UK have made significant strides in ensuring their forces are an honest reflection of the current diverse population. The fact that the forces are self-critical and are trying to be as transparent as possible in a scrutinised world should be looked upon admirably. With over 100,000 officers in the UK currently protecting the public it is inevitable that there will be some officers not performing with the code of ethics at the forefront of their thoughts. But it is shameful that after 23 years of the Macpherson report and almost 30 years after one of the most shocking acts which shock the British policing to its core. The force is still lagging behind with its recruitment even though progression has been made. Statistically speaking the issue is only likely to

become worse and the current recruitment is improving yet with net immigration to increase the huge hole could be a long way off. Maybe the current forces no longer are benchmark for other forces around the world.

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Essay Two

This essay examines the links between why certain groups are more vulnerable to being targeted by serious and organised crime groups and the effectiveness of police practices to investigate such issues.

Law insider (2019) describes any individual under 18 or unable to look after themselves, or protect themselves from harm, exploitation. This could be due to there circumstances, illness, trauma or any other reason.

One such classification scheme for identifying vulnerability identifies five main types. Cognitive or communicative, institutional, or deferential, medical, economic and social.

Crown prosecution services (2019) have illustrated under section 45 (6) a group which has purpose to carry out criminal activity.

Organised crime gangs (OCG'S) often seek to target the vulnerable. They can often be victims of violence themselves or socially pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying weapons. They are often abused, exploited, or placed into dangerous situations themselves. Pitts, J. (2019) stipulates how gangs use various techniques in order to carry out their objectives.

An Organised criminal group is a group of individuals normally led by adults for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). This involves serious and organised criminality. One such example is where there is the movement and selling of drugs and money across the country, known as 'county lines' because it extends across county boundaries. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the use of vulnerable people or children to sell drugs in an area outside of the area in which they live.

National society for the prevention of cruelty to children (NSPCC) (2022) have mentioned that children join because they feel they don't have any other option and that they need protection. Peer pressure, bullying, statutes, being excluded from school have also been mentioned. Mental distress, addiction, debt issues, family dysfunction and abuse are all problems that can lead to individuals being more vulnerable to organised crime groups.

The children's charity Barnardo's research report 'Exploited and criminalised'(2021) found particularly during the pandemic children were being targeted as long isolation periods meant there was more poverty than ever with many families struggling to pay bills and buy essential living supplies such as food. They found busier places were being used such as supermarket car parks and entrapping them with 'easy' money.

Social workers advise the number of children being targeted by criminal gang involvement has risen in 2020 from 10,960 to 14,700. Those involved in trafficking rose from 2,490 to 3,010 and those involved with drug misuse from 23,710 to 29,170. An increase across the board.

Despite the increase studies show there is still a lack of understanding or consistency from relevant services such as social services, police force and health care professionals.

A frustration from many children's support charities in particular Barnardo's lies in the fact that there are many different approaches being taken to tackle the vulnerable children but very few centralised tactics deployed by organisations. Barnardo's as a result of this report under the freedom of Information Act requested police forces to give them the number of CCE (child criminal exploitation) victims in their areas. Although the majority of police forces replied (37 out of 40) only one force was able to provide exact reports and findings. The argument here is that if the police forces are not recording or identifying CCE numbers and if there are not enough resources to investigate why children or those vulnerable are coerced into criminal activity, it is then more likely these vulnerable victims will lead to be criminalised and not safeguarded.

There are several suggestions the charity has proposed to the Government that need to be made to Police crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. It wants the Bill amended to include a legal definition of CCE. This would bring it in line with the child sexual exploitation. After a government consultation in 2016 helped frontline professionals define more efficiently child victims and those at risk. The hope is the same can be achieved here.

Criminal exploitation was the most prevalent exploitation type among children referred to the NRM (National referral Mechanism) with 2,554 children identified as potential victims.

As a result of findings Crown prosecution services (CPS 2021) have also implemented an Organised Crime strategy to investigate and tackle the matter further.

There are eleven areas of work central to the implementation of CPS strategy. This being one of the main police practices being implemented to investigate the issues.

1. Criminal Justice System Engagement
2. International Engagement
3. Drug Trafficking
4. Firearms Trafficking
5. Organised Immigration Crime and Human Trafficking (including Modern Slavery)

6. Child Sexual Exploitation
7. Cyber Crime
8. Money Laundering
9. Organised Acquisitive Crime
10. Lifetime Management of Offenders
11. Confiscation and Asset Recovery
12. There are four main components that make up HM governments serious and organised crime strategy, namely Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare.

The main one of relevance here is Prevent.

Prevent, by seeking Serious Crime Prevention Orders and other ancillary orders to disrupt and inhibit those likely to be involved in Organised Crime in the future.

The NVAP (National Vulnerability Action Plan) was also revised in 2020-2022. This identifies seven key themes that have specific actions for officers encountering cases with vulnerability and the college of policing have adopted.

Early intervention, secondly Protecting, supporting safeguarding and managing risk, thirdly information, Intelligence and data collection and management of information. Effective investigation and outcomes, Leadership, Learning and development and communications.

An action plan has been implemented National vulnerability action plan (NVAP) action plan (2020) . This includes a breakdown of the ten recurring areas where improvement is needed and the action plan states the system wide solutions and objectives targeted.

There have been many recent measures taken to change acts and create awareness surrounding the issue of vulnerability. The statistics show the agencies involved need to not criminalise but identify the vulnerability and target those areas in the community before opportunistic criminal gangs seek to. The national police forces are struggling with the growing trend of gang culture and exploitation. A better working relationship between the charities enabling allocation and direction of resources would be effective. No central tactical agency and forces not recording the exploitation is also a factor in not being able to tackle the issue head on.

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Essay Three

This essay examines the definition and role of MAPPA, effectiveness of police practises to investigate public protection incidents involving violent and sexual offences.

MAPPA is a multi-agency public protection arrangement, (Crown Prosecution Service, 2021) which assesses and ensures the successful management of risk posed by sexual and violent offenders. MAPPA also sets out the guidelines and responsibilities of the police, probation trusts and prison services. Other agency such as youth justice board could also be involved in the responsibility for the care of young offenders. This is all established under the criminal justice act 2003 (CJA 2003). MAPPA was introduced in early 2000.

MAPPA also takes the role of recalling to custody, arranging suitable accommodation, provide advice, case review and also foreign travel. CJA 2003 stipulates the duties of the following agencies under section 325(3): -

Youth offending team: -	Support to stay away from crime.
Department of works and pension: -	Access to suitable employment.
Ministry of defence: -	Military personal.
Education: -	Provide helpful programmes.
Social services: -	Safeguarding, promoting welfare.
Health authority: -	Improving health.
Local housing: -	Housing capacity.
Immigration department: -	Immigration issues.

Every MAPPA offender falls into one of the three categories.

- 1 Anyone who has been convicted or cautioned, even individuals found not guilty due to insanity.
- 2 Violent offenders, sentenced to at least 12 months in prison or non-registered sex offenders.
- 3 Other dangerous offenders that require active resources of MAPPA.

There are three categories of MAPPA management level as well

- 1 Single agency management, these offenders usually does not require MAPPA services to be utilised.
- 2 Any active involvement of more than one agency which is usually the police and probation.
- 3 Multi agency senior management overview or risk.

Policing

(Policing, 2022) Sexual or violent offender manager (MOSOVO) is a specially trained unit dealing with sexual or violent offenders. Information and evidence are gathered and managed by the police which is highly effective, this also assesses the risks for repeat offenders. Intervention can also be implemented which could be in the capacity of an arrest or special warning. All information gathered will be exhibited and examined with robust integrity. This is a very effective department of the police which directs resources where it is required with specially trained individuals.

Neighbourhood policing team (NPT), (policing, 2021) Is a neighbourhood team specially trained engaging with the community in order for better understanding and resolving the complex society we live in. Information is also shared in order to prevent crime intervene where necessary. This is not always effective due to the NPT predominately dealing with low level issues which leads to delays.

“This guideline is underpinned by Section 34 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides a legal requirement for chief officers to make arrangements to consult with the public in each neighbourhood, provide local information about crime and policing and hold regular public meetings”

(webster, 2022) states the evidence based policing element in which agencies as working solely based on requirements, the effectiveness of the programme has also been questioned. The integrated offender management has stated that the programme has lost its way.

“Persistent offenders who commit high numbers of burglaries, robberies and drug-related crimes cause havoc and leave people feeling unsafe in their own communities” (Russell, 2020). The current statistics also paint a disappointing picture. 40% of offenders are refused accommodation which is not providing the support required, particularly young offenders. Whilst only 75% of young offenders are under the correct programme. Reoffending is currently costing the United Kingdom economy 18 billion every year (Russell, 2020).

(statistics, 2022), currently up to December 2020 the reoffending rate is up to 23.1%. Adult reoffending is up 22.7%, while juvenile reoffending is up 29.2%. Perhaps the most startling statistics is 54.9% of adults serving a sentence less than 12 months reoffending within the first year.

(Inspectors, 2021) dissects the statistics, 73 percent of the offenders were registered sex offenders, 98% were level 1,

These figures suggest that most registered sex offenders do not reoffend for the eligible users. Even though most of the service users that do reoffend are of the non-serious category.

“Of this offender cohort, 84% were male and 16% were female, with the gender split remaining reasonably stable over time. Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 23.9% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 18.3%. Since 2009, these rates have fluctuated between 23.9% and 33.8% for males and 18.3% to 24.4% for females”.

Summary of level 2 and 3 show the following success factors

- The effective communication between agencies such as police and probation are important particularly for serious offenders immediately after release.
- Systematic exchange of information between agencies in which intelligence can be shared.
- For high-risk offenders’ better access to accommodation is vitally important.
- Any cases in which children were involved either way require good links.
- Victim liaison particularly when it comes to housing.
- Discretionary disclosure particularly important when it comes to employment. Especially with regards to schools in near by areas for suspected grooming.
- Effective and efficient response is required for high-risk offenders where the behaviour is deteriorating in which emergency services need to be called without delay.
- When any license case comes to an end it requires immediate robust challenge and scrutiny.

All decisions need to stand up to intense scrutiny if a particular decision has not had the desired effect or the offender has reoffended with detrimental results. Many challenges have risen in the past at all levels, especially cognitive biases effecting decision making.

MAPPA is a very effective tool which allows the agencies to manage, monitor offenders from various categories, not only does this place these individuals under this umbrella to allow for effective management. This also allow for the most offenders from non-serious offences particularly to get their life back on track into main society. Such as employment, housing, integrating back into society without the stigma yet move on with their lives.

But sensitive information has to be managed in a correct and responsible manner under robust circumstances. Service users right cannot be infringed such as the right for individuals to know what was mentioned in a MAPPA meeting, what level is being considered and who will be in the MAPPA meeting.

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Essay Four

For the purpose of this essay, I have been asked to critically evaluate the impact of early intervention on young offenders and young people at risk of being involved in gangs. To assess the effectiveness of partnership approaches to prevent or deter involvement in gang-related activity.

There are many risk factors that significantly affect a youth's likelihood of becoming involved in gangs. (justice, 2020)

It is relevant to mention here there is no single definition of 'gang'. However according to the paper "Dying To Belong" (2009) it is "a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who 1-see themselves as a discernible group 2 -engage in criminal activity and violence and 3- lay claim over territory (geographical or illegal economy territory) 4-some form of structural feature and 5-be in conflict with similar other gangs (HM Government ,2011).

Some are environmental factors and there is a constructive argument to be had that other are personality traits of genetic makeup. To list a few we have aggressiveness, lack of school connection, parental criminality, low levels of parental involvement, early initiation of violence, child maltreatment, academic failure, parent-child separation, truancy, regular school transitions, peer gang membership, delinquent peers and siblings, substance use, poverty, community disorganisation, availability of drugs and firearms and exposure to racial and violence prejudice. Being subjected as a youngster to two or more of these risks significantly increases the involvement with gangs.

Protective factors identified through case studies have been those such as parental involvement and monitoring, Family support, Coping mechanisms, positive social connections, support from peers and academic achievements.

(Gang involvement 2017). Prevention efforts are imperative to reducing youth involvement with gangs. Both primary and secondary schools also hold a duty to prevent and protect their pupils. It is already criteria Ofsted inspectors must be satisfied with. Primary school teachers should all receive adequate training highlighting the risk factors for youth violence and gang involvement. Studies such as Gottfredson,D.C. suggest youth start to show characteristics from as young as age seven that teachers can pick up upon to show likely gang interest to aid

early intervention. The debate to be had here is we are 'stereotyping' a whole load of characteristics belonging to certain youth and anticipating they will be joining gangs. This is not always the case.

The UK government have had in place the 'Ending gang and Youth violence' programme since 2011. The emphasis placed here was to 'prevent' young children and offenders from getting involved in gangs. Early intervention foundation was introduced and literature reviews took place. In particular the Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence Literature Review.

Most of the data collation that informs us of 'what works' for early prevention comes from programmes in the USA.

There are two main types of programmes in the UK. Skills based and family focused.

Skills based programmes concentrate on self-control, anger management and socio-economic skills. The argument here is many come from low-income backgrounds and have very early onsets of behavioural problems. Their exposure to the risks we talked of earlier cannot be controlled.

Family focused programmes include home visiting, parent training and family therapy. It needs to be recognised here that making that change in young people is difficult when their home lives are complex. Measures can be introduced at a young age with parent and family interventions, but it is difficult to ascertain how much effect that has at adolescent age for the same youth.

It should be mentioned there are resource constraints for professionals to follow up these risks factors and continuity would prove very difficult.

Mentoring programmes involve an older or experienced person offering support and guidance to the youths. Community based mentoring is found to be more effective but have limited evidence. On the flip side there is an argument that relationships that end within three months can have adverse effects on at risk youth.

Community engagement programmes where partnerships are built and data shared can lack evaluation. For example, sports programmes in the community aim to engage youth in

prosocial activities and help to increase their self-esteem. There have not been enough studies to suggest they also help reduce gang involvement or crime.

Furthermore, there are gang specific programmes. This is aimed at preventing young people joining a gang but helping them find ways out if they do. There is not much evidence to suggest this has been effective (particularly in USA) where gangs are more prevalent.

Finally, there are 'Deterrence and Discipline programmes. This is based around using scare tactics. Such as visiting prisons and boot camps. Evidence suggests these types of approaches are highly ineffective. Particularly if grouped together youths on these types of programmes can also encourage deviant behaviour. Robyn M. O'Connor and Stephanie Waddell (2015).

Of all the programmes introduced to act as early intervention for gang involvement the most effective are the Functional Family Therapy. There is evidence (Gordon,D.A.Graves. K & Arbuthnot,J (1995) to suggest it has reduced young people's offending and delinquent behaviour.

In conclusion, implications have been made for Policy and Practice. There is an ability for programmes to make positive changes to the youth and prevent gang involvement if caught at a younger age and the at-risk signs are detected at earlier stages.

Addressing wider family and peer-group risk factors can have positive effects. Volunteers are needed but the role primary facilitators play, teachers, social workers and the positive police engagement in school settings and the such can all play a positive impact.

Tight resources exist so policy-makers and commissioners need to weigh up the pros and cons of investing in well-evidence programmes. Policy makers also need to be cautious with military style programmes as these are shown to have an adverse effect.

It was interestingly also found the most effective parenting programme's used technology in the form of videos to demonstrate practices for parenting as an example.

There remains difficulty in measuring and monitoring gang involvement specifically which causes difficulty in particular with frontline gang activity for youth. Programmes only form

one part of the solution. Comprehensive approaches, higher-level systems and partnership between services and providers across the board. Providers should start or continue to monitor and evaluate their services, working to improve the evidence based behind their programmes they are offering.

Aos,S,Phipps,P.,Barnoski,R & Lieb,R. (2001).

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