

Evidenced based policing and applications

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Introduction

Within British policing there are many contrasts to how a situation is dealt with. This would be things like what decision-making models they use and whether they find that either traditional policing or evidenced based policing is more beneficial. Policing has developed over the years and it's only natural that they have to find new ways to combat new crime, and this can involve changing the way they police as a whole to get the best outcome. This assignment will present evidence-based policing by looking at resources to gather information on policing in the modern society in Britain, it will also introduce a scenario in which the police would have to use a decision-making model to create an ethical and the most beneficial outcome.

Main discussion

In this scenario, police have had to stop a woman wearing a hijab due to having reports from a small local shop that she has stolen a few items. The police have to search her, but they are male and there are no female officers available to conduct the search. A crowd is forming filming the interaction.

This situation can easily go awry due to the circumstances of the potential perpetrator being a woman and also following a Muslim faith in which she has to wear a hijab. Due to the woman wearing a hijab it indicates that she follows a faith where it is forbidden for her to be touched by any other man than her husband. The police officers must make an ethical decision on where and how they search her. To do this they follow the code of ethics which as stated by Blackstone's Handbook for Policing Students 'the code of ethics is central to the professionalism of the police service' and one of the principals of the code of ethics is equality and it applies to race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. This can be an ethical dilemma with the two male police officers because they know that her religion is against males coming into physical contact with her and seeing her hair, so they must choose to either wait out of the way of the public eye until

a female officer is free, or take her down to the station to get searched by a female. This shows that they have taken the code of ethics into account and have respected the religion that the woman follows. They also took into account the NDM (national decision-making model) as one of the steps is assess threat and risk and develop a working strategy. For this the threat would be the woman's religion as it hinders them from searching her and the strategy, they adopted was to go to the station to get her searched by a female officer as it is out of the way of public eye and they wouldn't have to wait for an unknown amount of time until a female officer is free, this way it protects the womans faith and the police officers but also allows the police to do their job.

It isn't just the NDM that the police use though, there are other models like the OSARA model and the ATLAS model. The OSARA model is a model based to tackle crime that stands for 'Objective, scanning, analysis, response and assessment' as stated on the College of Policing website. This allows a police officer to fully assess the situation which further allows them to make a decision that benefits the outcome and people involved better. It can also allow an officer to naturally use these 5 stages the more they use it. Then the ATLAS model, this model allows recruits of the police to adopt a certain view when dealing with situations, its stands for 'ask questions, test and critically evaluate existing research, learn from already existing approaches, adapt practices, and share the outcomes'. This model helps as it allows the police to find new and more effective ways to deal with crimes. The NDM stands for the national decision-making model, and it is another model that the police use to help with making decisions and is the most used guideline within the police and its fundamentals are to 'asses, plan, act, monitor and report.'

Another thing the police follow is the code of ethics. This is a set of principals the police in Britain have to follow and allow an affective force. The code of ethics follows a set of nine rules that every member of the police force must follow, these nine rules are, accountability, fairness, honesty, integrity, leadership, objectivity, openness, respect and selflessness.

These models aren't the only things used to help policing. Evidence based policing is policing based off of evidence and statistics. This would be things like what method the police used to tackle crime that had the best results. They do this through trial and error and through a period of time to get the most accurate results and determine the best methods to be used when tackling certain crimes. There can be a few problems with this method and not everyone fully agrees to it. It could be the problem of trying one method that makes no impact at all or makes the crime worse, funds would also go into trying different methods and due to this people may find that the money being used is wasted because the method or methods the police used didn't work. There have been instances where it has been stated that evidence-based policing is needed, like Bueermann, J 2012 where agencies must 'maximise their efficiency and effectiveness.'

Evidence based policing can be extremely beneficial, especially now when new ways of committing crimes are popping up, like, computer crimes, it also allows the service to have a better and deeper understanding of the ways the crimes work and what age group etc. are committing them.

Traditional policing is sticking to what they know and what has always worked, even though it may be a little outdated and is not as effective as it used to be a couple years ago. They work on trying to identify what the problem is and the most affected areas and making arrests as soon as possible rather than finding different angles to approach the situation. This method is not agreed upon by some of the public- especially within our society today and find that flat out arresting people is not always the way to go- but many do still believe that this is the best way of policing. The implications of this are that the general public may feel like the police is being too forceful and have too much power and this could lead to protests or even riots, the UK have seen this in the past with the Brixton riots.

Traditional policing has failed in a way with the public's view of the effectiveness of policing. From the House of commons website, it shows statistics of the public's view on the effectiveness of policing 'the confidence level of policing has fallen over the years from 62% in 2017/18 to 55% in 2019/20'. Though it is not a massive difference, it shows that traditional policing had slowly lost its effectiveness and due to that, it lost some of the public's confidence in the police.

A good source to use to evaluate the effectiveness of policing by evidence is provided by the college of policing as it provides the reader with the different methods the police have used and how effective they were at reducing crime or whether it made crime rise. It also displays how strong the evidence was creating more confidence within the police to use whatever method reduced the crime. For instance, one example from the College of policing website is 'sports programmes designed to reduce crime and prevent reoffending' where it had an 'overall reduction in crime' and very strong quality of evidence to support the findings.

It is seen in this assignment that there are many different ways a police officer can go around a situation using the different decision-making models and can help with any situation they face, for example, the scenario given was one where the NDM and the code of ethics was used. It also delved into traditional policing and evidence-based policing and how they have failed in some areas but succeeded in others. It does demonstrate how situations will need these models as they aren't as straight forward as they seem, and these models help the police with making the right decisions but also protects them in a way as they can state that they were just following the NDM or the other decision making models.

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