

## LEVEL 6 ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION

|                             |                                     |                                                                 |                  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
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### Essay one:

*Research conducted on behalf of HMICFRS found that if people do not believe that the police treat the public fairly and with respect, they are significantly less likely to report crime either as a victim or a witness (BMG Research, 2018). How effective are measures in place to ensure that officers act with integrity and treat the public fairly and with respect?*

*Your answer must be based on academic research rather than personal experience. Word limit: 1000 words.*

The effectiveness of measures in place to ensure police officers in the UK act with integrity and treat the public fairly and with respect has been a subject of considerable scrutiny and development over recent years. How various mechanisms including legislative frameworks, oversight bodies, and internal policies, aim to uphold these standards is ensuring process and measures are implemented successfully.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), which is a foundational legislative framework that establishes the powers and duties of police officers in England and Wales. It includes codes of practice for the exercise of police powers and safeguards to protect the rights of individuals (PACE, 1984). This Act is crucial in promoting fairness and respect in police procedures.

A primary measure and practice within policing is the Code of Ethics, which was established by the College of Policing (CoP). These codes outline the standards of professional behaviour expected from all police personnel within the establishment including officers, staff, PCSO's and police support officers. The CoP installing these codes plays a crucial role in setting the professional standards and providing specific training to police officers. It has developed the Code of Ethics, which outlines the principles and standards of behaviour expected from all officers (College of Policing, 2014).

This code serves as a foundational document that guides officers in their daily interactions with the public. Training programs focused on ethics, diversity, and human rights are regularly conducted to reinforce these standards. The emphasis on continuous professional development helps in maintaining high levels of integrity and respect within the police force (Home Office, 2019).

In addition to the code of ethics there is Police Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Legitimacy (PEEL). They conduct inspections on behalf of HMICFRS and these inspections play a crucial role in today's current police forces, and they review the performance of each individual force too. HMICFRS independently assesses police forces and other law enforcement agencies in the public interest. It provides the public with independent assessments of the effectiveness and efficiency of policing, including how police forces treat the public (HMICFRS, 2021). The PEEL inspection report individually assesses forces within England and Wales with the following gradings; inadequate, requires improvement, adequate, good, and outstanding with their performance which is easily accessible by the public showing transparency throughout policing.

Several, legislative measures also support police integrity in the UK. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced significant reforms aimed at improving police accountability and governance. This Act includes provisions for the establishment of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), they are elected to hold the police to account on behalf of the public. PCCs play a vital role in ensuring that the police are responsive to the needs of the communities they serve and that they operate with integrity and fairness (House of Commons, 2011).

Oversight bodies such as the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The IOPC oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. It conducts independent investigations into the most serious and sensitive incidents and allegations involving the police. The existence of an independent body ensures that complaints are managed impartially, enhancing public confidence (IOPC, 2020).

The IOPC 2024 is set out to achieve a vision which focuses on gathering, sharing, and prioritising whilst implementing learning by four key objectives. Those four key objectives are, making sure that people know about the complaints system and are confident to use it. The complaints system delivers evidence-based and fair outcomes to hold police accountable for their actions. The IOPC ensure that

their influence improves policing and that the organisation itself delivers high performance (IOPC, 2024).

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) independently assesses police forces and other law enforcement agencies in the public interest. It provides the public with independent assessments of the effectiveness and efficiency of policing, including how police forces treat the public (HMICFRS, 2021).

Overall, while these measures are comprehensive and aim to uphold high standards of integrity and fairness, their effectiveness can vary. Therefore, continuous monitoring and variation of these measures are necessary to address any gaps and ensure that the public's trust in the police is maintained and strengthened. (College of Policing, 2024). Whilst these measures provide a robust framework for promoting integrity and fairness, their effectiveness can be variable. The public perception and trust in the police can vary among different communities. Studies show that while a significant portion of the population maintains a high level of trust in the police, some minority communities report less favourable experiences and lower levels of trust (Bradford et al, 2017).

Despite vigorous frameworks, instances of police misconduct do unfortunately occur. High-profile cases and subsequent investigations sometimes reveal systemic issues that need addressing. This indicates that while the measures in place are strong, their implementation can sometimes fall short (IOPC, 2021).

There is an ongoing effort to continually improve policing standards. Recommendations from oversight bodies and public inquiries often lead to reforms aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of measures to ensure integrity and fairness (Home Office, 2020). Trust in the police can vary among different communities. Studies show that while a substantial portion of the population maintains an elevated level of trust in the police, some minority communities report less favourable experiences and lower levels of trust (Bradford et al, 2017).

In conclusion, the UK has implemented a comprehensive framework of measures designed to ensure police officers act with integrity and treat the public fairly and with respect. Independent oversight by bodies such as the IOPC, professional standards set by the College of Policing, and legislative frameworks like the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 collectively contribute to fostering accountability and professionalism within the police force. However, continuous efforts are required to address disparities in public trust and ensure that these measures are effective across all communities.

**Word count= 969**

## Essay two:

Choose **one** of the following questions:

- **Response policing** – Assess the extent of response officers' role in dealing with critical and major incidents.
- **Community policing** – Why is partnership the most effective strategy for improving community engagement?
- **Information and intelligence** – How effective are current methods used to communicate information and intelligence (within individual police forces and more widely), and how might they be improved?

Your answer must be based on academic research.

**Word limit:** 1000 words.

Community policing particularly through partnership, has been widely recognised as an effective strategy for improving community engagement in England and Wales. This approach relies on collaborative efforts between the police and the community to address safety concerns, build trust, and enhance the quality of life. The effectiveness of partnership within the community policing can be explained through several key scopes.

Partnership in community policing is widely regarded as the most effective strategy for improving community engagement in the UK for several key reasons. Firstly, partnerships enable the combination of resources and expertise from various interested parties, including local authorities, social services, community groups, and residents. This collaborative approach enhances the ability to address complex social issues that contribute to crime and disorder, which the police alone may struggle to manage effectively (College of Policing, 2023).

Partnerships between the police and the community foster trust and mutual respect. Research has shown that when police officers work collaboratively with community members, it helps to build a sense of trust, which is crucial for effective policing. Trust enhances cooperation, making it easier for police to gather intelligence and work on preventing crime rather than just responding to incidents (Bullock and Johnson, 2012). This collaborative approach enables the police to leverage the skills, knowledge, and resources of various community stakeholders, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to crime and disorder problems (Crawford & Lister, 2007).

These partnerships can build trust and legitimacy within communities. When police work alongside other community stakeholders, it fosters a sense of shared responsibility and cooperation. This collaboration helps to break down barriers between the police and the community, leading to improved communication, mutual understanding, and increased willingness of the public to engage with the police. (College of Policing, 2023).

Effective community policing relies on identifying and solving problems that affect the quality of life in communities. Partnerships enhance problem-solving capabilities by

incorporating the input and perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders. As Goldstein (1990) argues, problem-oriented policing, a core component of community policing, benefits significantly from partnerships because they enable the police to address underlying issues rather than just symptoms of crime. The collaborative approach ensures that solutions are more holistic and tailored to the specific needs of the community (Goldstein, 1990).

Partnerships allow for the combining of resources and expertise, which enhances the capacity to address complex social issues. For instance, Crawford and Lister (2007) note that multi-agency partnerships bring together diverse perspectives and resources that can be more effective than police acting alone. This collaborative approach enables the police to leverage the skills, knowledge, and resources of various community stakeholders, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to crime and disorder problems (Crawford & Lister, 2007).

This Increased legitimacy is evident when police engage in partnerships with community organizations and residents, they are perceived as more legitimate and accountable. Legitimacy is a critical factor in policing, as it influences public willingness to comply with the law and cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Studies suggest that legitimacy arises from procedural justice, where fair treatment and transparency in police processes play a significant role (Tyler, 2006; Mazerolle et al., 2013).

Trust in police from ethnic backgrounds groups has always had an impact in community engagement, mainly concerns of persons regarding institutional racism within policing and this just causes failure with ethnic minority groups wanting to trust the police. The Macpherson Report (1999) defined institutional racism as follows:

“Collective failure of an organisations to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin’ Consequently, the behaviour and attitudes of people within the organisation can discriminate and stereotype minority ethnic people through ‘unwitting prejudice” (Macpherson,1999).

All police officers and members of police staff are drawn from a variety of communities. Therefore, they carry into their work their values and belief set that can feed preferences in particular situations. Such preferences can include biases and prejudices that are based on gender, race, sexual orientation, or other facets of identity (Gold, 2022). Furthermore, partnerships support proactive rather than reactive policing. By working with community members and other organizations, police can identify and address underlying issues before they escalate into more serious problems. This preventative approach is crucial for sustainable community safety and well-being.

Shared responsibility within partnerships encourages a shared responsibility for addressing community issues. This approach recognizes that the police cannot solve all problems alone and that effective crime prevention and community safety require the involvement of various stakeholders. This collaborative effort leads to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to community problems (Crawford, 1997).

Improved Problem-Solving through partnerships, police can influence the expertise and resources of other organizations including community members. This collective problem-solving leads to more innovative and efficient solutions to local issues. Innes and Weston (2010) highlighted how collaborative efforts in problem-oriented policing result in more effective crime reduction and enhanced community well-being.

Better resource allocation can allow effective partnerships to be able to resource allocation by pooling resources from different agencies and organizations. This ensures that resources are used more efficiently and effectively, leading to improved outcomes for community safety and engagement (Skogan, 2006). Partnerships allow for merging of resources and expertise, which enhances the capability to address complex social issues.

Practical evidence from various studies supports the effectiveness of partnership strategies in community policing. For example, the National Reassurance Policing Programme (NRPP) in England and Wales demonstrated that partnership approaches led to significant reductions in crime and improvements in public perceptions of safety (Tuffin, Morris, and Poole, 2006).

Similarly, the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative, which focused on partnership and community engagement, reported positive outcomes in terms of crime reduction and enhanced community relations (Quinton and Morris, 2008).

Problem-oriented policing is not conventional policing. It calls on the police to work creatively and collaboratively and engage in open-ended enquires to better understand and respond to presenting problems. It is not surprising, therefore, that capacity—notably time to conduct problem-oriented policing—was viewed as a primary facilitator of or barrier to problem-oriented policing. In the context of recent cuts to police budgets in England and Wales (Higgins, 2018).

Working with other agencies such as social services, education, and housing can provide comprehensive solutions to complex problems (Bullock & Tilley, 2003). This integrated approach can address the root causes of crime and disorder rather than just the symptoms. Allowing for a more effective strategy for policing to improve community engagement.

In conclusion, partnerships within community policing are the most effective strategy for improving community engagement in the UK due to their ability to build trust, optimize resources, and enhance problem-solving capabilities. Academic research and practical examples consistently highlight the benefits of collaborative approaches in addressing public safety issues and improving police-community relations.

**Word count: 1119**

**Essay three:**

*How effective are cognitive interviews as a means of obtaining initial accounts from victims and witnesses?*

*Your answer must be based on academic research.*

**Word limit:** 1000 words.

Cognitive interviews (CI's) are a widely recognized method for obtaining accurate and comprehensive accounts from victims and witnesses in police investigations within England and Wales. This technique, developed by Fisher and Geiselman in the 1980s, is designed to enhance memory recall by utilizing various psychological principles. These elements are crucial for helping interviewees recall information more effectively, making CI's particularly useful in various scenarios, including those involving vulnerable persons (Crest, 2016).

CI's have been shown to significantly enhance the amount of accurate information recalled by witnesses compared to standard police interviews. Enhanced memory recall research indicates that this method can increase the amount of correct information by up to 30-50% without a corresponding increase in incorrect information (Fisher & Geiselman, 1992). This is achieved through techniques such as reinstating the context of the event, varying the order of recall, and focusing on sensory details.

A key advantage of CI's is their ability to reduce the influence of misleading information. By avoiding leading questions and encouraging witnesses to report everything they remember, the cognitive interviews help minimize the incorporation of false details into the witness's account (Memon, Meissner, & Fraser, 2010). This is particularly crucial in legal settings where the accuracy of testimony can significantly impact the outcome of cases.

CI's have examined the suitability of different witnesses where CI's have proven effective across various populations including children and individuals with neurodiverse conditions. Research by Milne and Bull (2002) demonstrated that CI's could be adapted to suit the needs of vulnerable witnesses, thereby improving the quality of their testimonies. They also researched into reducing leading questions. One of the key principles of the cognitive interview is to minimize the use of leading questions, which can distort witness recollection. Fisher and Geiselman (1992) argued that CI's reduce interviewer bias and the influence of leading questions, leading to more reliable witness statements.

With the help of training and implementation the success of CI's heavily depends on the training and expertise of the interviewers. Kebbell et al. (1999) noted that well-trained interviewers could significantly improve the quality of information obtained from witnesses. However, the effectiveness of CI's could be compromised if interviewers are inadequately trained or fail to adhere to the structured protocol.

There are many challenges faced with the implementation of CI's. For instance, there's time as a factor, one of the main criticisms of cognitive interviews is that they can be time-consuming. The detailed and systematic nature of the CI process means

that it often takes longer than traditional interview methods. Clarke and Milne (2001) pointed out that the additional time required for CIs could be a barrier to their widespread adoption, especially in resource-constrained environments. Planning is essential when conducting CIs and interviewers preparing themselves to the best of their ability, using the tools and resources they have when conducting the CIs.

There's also the flexibility in execution of these types of interviews. The effectiveness of CIs can vary significantly depending on how well the techniques are implemented. Dando et al. (2009) found inconsistencies in the application of CIs across different police forces, which can affect their overall effectiveness. South Wales Police have specific training requirements for officers to gain specialist techniques when conducting these types of interviews. Specialist courses such as PIP 2 and vulnerable adult are completed over a 5-week period, these courses are intense, in-depth and provide officers with necessary skills required to conduct to prevent error and mistakes.

Research has raised concerns about the cognitive load placed on interviewees during a cognitive interview. For example, Holliday et al. (2011) suggested that the multiple recall strategies used in CIs could potentially overwhelm some witnesses, particularly those with cognitive impairments. A key advantage of cognitive interviews is their ability to reduce the influence of misleading information. By avoiding leading questions and encouraging witnesses to report everything they remember, cognitive interviews help minimize the incorporation of false details into the witness's account (Memon, Meissner, & Fraser, 2010). Previous methods of questioning and interviewers should be aware of the interviewees expectations and defer asking certain questions that may confuse them.

Geiselman & Fisher (2014) detailed that there were two techniques from the original CI that serve this purpose. Firstly, requesting the narrative again but this time in reverse order, and secondly requesting the witness to change physical or conceptual perspectives on the event (Geiselman and Fisher, 2014). Each of these techniques typically is employed near the end of the specific-questions phase of the CI practice where each was taken from research on memory for stories (Anderson & Pichert, 1978; Whitten & Leonard, 1981). This study was based on the concept that there are multiple access routes to memories as specified by Geiselman and Fisher in 2014.

One of the primary challenges of cognitive interviews is the need for extensive training for police officers. Effective implementation requires a deep understanding of the cognitive techniques and regular practice, which can be resource intensive (Kebbell, Milne, & Wagstaff, 1999). Without proper training, the benefits of cognitive interviews may not be fully implemented causing discrepancies. Another challenge is the process can also be extremely time consuming than that of traditional interviewing methods, and if interviewer includes all the phases designed within the

memory recall it takes a lot longer, this can be draining for all those involved, and this must be considered when arrangements are made to facilitate the CI's.

Overall, cognitive interviews are an effective tool for obtaining initial accounts from victims and witnesses in police investigations within England and Wales. They enhance the quality and quantity of information recalled, reduce the risk of misleading information, and promote greater witness cooperation. However, their effectiveness is contingent upon proper training, sufficient time and planning to conduct the interviews. As such, police forces must balance these factors to maximize the benefits of cognitive interviewing techniques.

Word count: 969

**Essay four:**

*Examine the various socio-economic and psychological characteristics which can make people vulnerable to exploitation by criminal gangs.*

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

**Word limit:** 1000 words.

Criminal exploitation by gangs is a pressing concern in England and Wales, affecting a substantial number of vulnerable people. This issue is comprehensive, incorporating a range of socio-economic and psychological characteristics that influence individuals to becoming targets of gang behaviours and activities.

Concentrating on socio-economic characteristics including poverty, where individuals from low-income backgrounds are more prone to gang exploitation. Poverty creates a sense of desperation, making illegal activities appear as viable means of survival. According to the Home Office (2020), economic hardship is a significant driver for young people joining gangs as it promises quick financial gain and an escape from poverty (Home Office, 2020).

Furthermore, psychological, and physiological characteristics, including mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. This also incorporates substance abuse, and developmental disorders, which significantly contribute to the vulnerability of individual gang exploitation (Public Health England, 2021).

Such influences can make these individuals more vulnerable to exploitation. Gangs exploit these situations by providing a deceptive sense of support and belonging, appealing to those most vulnerable. The Children's Society (2018) highlights that children with mental health issues are often groomed by gangs for criminal activities (Children's Society, 2018).

Other factors such as social exclusion where socially marginalized individuals, including those from minority ethnic backgrounds, often face discrimination and limited opportunities, leading to feelings of alienation. This exclusion makes them

targets for gangs that offer a sense of belonging and purpose (Densley, 2013). These socially excluded individuals, often from marginalized communities, lack access to social and economic resources, making them prime targets for criminal gangs who offer a sense of belonging and purpose (Cox, 2015).

The lack of education and employment opportunities for some, with limited access to education and job prospects, this can push individuals towards gangs. The Centre for Social Justice (2020) notes that

“Educational disengagement and subsequent unemployment increase the risk of gang involvement, as gangs exploit these vulnerabilities by offering an alternative route to success” (Centre for Social Justice, 2020).

It was apparent that lower levels of education are associated with higher risks of exploitation, Smith 2014 stated that “Education disengagement can lead to limited employment opportunities therefore increasing the likelihood of those being involved in criminal activity” (Smith, 2014).

Persons who have experienced history of abuse or neglect are viewed as highly vulnerable. These Individuals with a history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse are more likely to be exploited by gangs. These experiences often result in low self-esteem and a heightened need for acceptance and protection, which gangs exploit (Cockbain & Brayley, 2012).

You must consider such things as peer pressure of those individuals and the need for acceptance with that feeling of them being accepted within society. Adolescents who are influenced by peer pressure and the need to be received by their peers. This psychological vulnerability is exploited by gangs, who often use current members to recruit new ones by emphasizing friendship and loyalty (Pitts, 2008). The human need for social belonging can drive individuals towards gangs, isolation can be a major explanation for the individual to be groomed and exploited.

Factors must be made regarding persons exposure to violence, including violent victimization amongst gang members. Peterson et al (2004) Identified how adolescent gang members between twelve and sixteen years are more likely to experience violent victimization including serious violence whilst being in a gang or prior to joining specific gangs (Taylor et al, 2007).

Young vulnerable people are targeted, especially those who suffer with their mental health and wellbeing due to trauma from characteristics discussed in this essay. Trauma and PTSD are major factors which can be exploited by gang members, peers strongly exploit these psychological aspects by giving them a false sense of belonging within the gang like that of a pseudo family. Policing and communities must examine these vulnerable indicators that are apparent within gang members to get a broader insight of the root causes to young people influenced by gangs. Depression and Anxiety: Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety can lead to poor decision-making and increased susceptibility to gang recruitment. Gangs provide a coping mechanism and a sense of belonging to those struggling with mental health (Thompson & McGorry, 2014).

Beresford and Wood stated the following:

“To tackle gang membership effectively it is vital that we learn to live with the juxtaposition that gang members are violent individuals and also vulnerable victims” (Beresford and Wood, 2016). The gang members themselves need to be recognized as vulnerable and approaches of this understanding is required for this to be policed effectively.

Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforces have been implemented, which work directly with young people in alternative provision settings to offer intensive support from experts, including mental health professionals, family workers, and speech and language therapists. Bringing this wider range of professionals together aims to reduce the risk to these pupils being exploited and entering a life of crime, and helping them move into further education, employment, or training after they finish school (Gov UK, 2024).

The interplay of socio-economic and psychological characteristics significantly influences the vulnerability of individuals to exploitation by criminal gangs in Wales. These factors create a fertile ground for criminal gangs to exploit vulnerable individuals not only in Wales but England too. Addressing these vulnerabilities requires a comprehensive approach that includes improving economic opportunities, enhancing educational engagement, strengthening community and family support systems, and providing mental health services. By targeting these areas, it is possible to reduce the risk of exploitation and build resilience against gang influence. Young people who are most at risk of serious violence or gang exploitation will receive targeted support to keep them engaged in education and attending lessons.

Word count: 941

### **Essay five:**

*Critically assess the effectiveness of options available to reduce re-offending. You may choose a specific type of offence for this answer e.g. domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, knife crime.*

*Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.*

**Word limit:** 1000 words.

Reducing re-offending in domestic violence cases is an essential focus for police officers in Wales. Effective strategies must be comprehensive, integrating legal, social, and rehabilitative approaches. Here, we critically assess the primary options available, including pro-active policing, risk assessment, multi-agency collaboration, offender rehabilitation programs, and victim support services.

Initiative-taking policing plays a key role in preventing re-offending within domestic violence offences and assisting with the high-volume reports of this specific crime. This involves identifying and addressing domestic violence incidents before they escalate. Officers in Wales utilize tools such as the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment checklist to assess the threat level and respond accordingly. Early intervention, including immediate protective measures such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs), can disrupt the cycle of abuse and provide temporary safety for victims (Home Office, 2013). However, while these measures offer immediate relief, their effectiveness is often limited by the temporary nature of protection orders and the challenge of consistent enforcement (Robinson et al., 2018).

DASH and similar risk assessment tools help police identify high-risk offenders and victims, allowing for targeted interventions. Studies have shown that these tools can effectively predict the likelihood of re-offending and inform appropriate responses (Turner et al., 2016). Despite their utility, the accuracy of risk assessments can be compromised by incomplete information and subjective judgment, highlighting the need for continuous training and refinement of these tools (Robinson & Howarth, 2012).

Collaboration between police, social services, healthcare providers, and non-profit organizations is crucial for a holistic approach to reducing re-offending. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) facilitate information sharing and coordinated action plans for high-risk cases. Evidence suggests that MARACs improve victim safety and reduce re-offending rates by ensuring comprehensive support and consistent monitoring of offenders (Steel et al., 2011).

MARACs engage with multiple agencies to assess and manage the risk posed by serious domestic violence offenders. Research indicates that MARACs can be effective in reducing re-offending by coordinating responses and ensuring comprehensive support for victims (Robinson and Tregidga, 2007). However, the success of MARACs depends on the quality of inter-agency cooperation and the resources available.

Thirdly, analysing the rehabilitative programs that are implemented for the perpetrator. Programs like the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVPP) aim to address the behaviour of offenders through therapeutic interventions. Studies suggest that DVPPs can be effective in reducing re-offending, particularly when combined with ongoing support and monitoring (Kelly and Westmarland, 2015). However, the effectiveness varies based on the program's quality and the offender's engagement level.

Another method that could be considered are restraining orders, which are a common tool to prevent re-offending by legally prohibiting contact between the offender and the victim. When combined with electronic monitoring, these orders can be more effective. A Home Office study found that electronic monitoring reduced breaches of restraining orders, which indirectly suggests a reduction in re-offending (Home Office, 2011).

After reviewing a Case Study: Respect Phased Intervention (RPI).

It demonstrated that the RPI in London focuses on a structured approach to rehabilitating domestic violence offenders. Evaluations of this study have shown that participants in the program demonstrate a significant reduction in re-offending rates (Respect, 2020). The program's success is attributed to its comprehensive approach, combining therapy with practical support and the offender engaging in the process.

Pro-active policing involves identifying and addressing domestic violence incidents before they escalate. Officers in Wales utilize tools such as the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment checklist to assess the threat level and respond accordingly. Early intervention, including immediate protective measures such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs), can disrupt the cycle of abuse and provide temporary safety for victims (Home Office, 2013). However, while these measures offer immediate relief, their effectiveness is often limited by the temporary nature of protection orders and the challenge of consistent enforcement (Robinson et al., 2018).

We must not overlook the victim support processes; these are in place and specifically those victims who have been implicated by domestic related offences. The support offered to them are the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). IDVAs provide practical and emotional support to victims, helping them navigate the criminal justice system and access necessary services.

Supporting victims is crucial for breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Services such as counselling, legal aid, and housing support empower victims and reduce their dependence on abusers. The availability IDVAs in Wales has shown to improve outcomes for victims by providing continuous support and advocacy (Howarth et al., 2009). However, resource constraints and uneven distribution of services can limit the accessibility and effectiveness of victim support programs (SafeLives, 2015).

There are other schemes such as sanctuary schemes which modify victims' homes to enhance security, allowing them to remain in their homes rather than relocating. Changing locks, installing CCTV, ring doorbells and security mechanisms to allow for victims to feel safe and in less fear (Gov, 2010). These schemes have shown to provide a sense of safety and stability for victims, which can indirectly contribute to reducing re-offending by disrupting the cycle of abuse and having crime deterrents put in place (Jones et al., 2010).

There are challenges and limitations, despite the availability of these measures, several challenges remain with tackling domestic violence crimes. Limited resources and inconsistent implementation can undermine the effectiveness of interventions. Additionally, cultural, and societal attitudes towards domestic violence can affect the willingness of victims to seek help and the responsiveness of agencies (Hester, 2013). Police forces must ensure that legal measures such as DVPOs and MARACs provide immediate protection and coordinated responses but need to be improved with rehabilitative programs and support mechanisms. Perpetrator programs and the involvement of IDVAs have shown promise in addressing the root causes of offending behaviour and supporting victims. However, sustained success requires consistent application, adequate funding, and societal change to address the underlying issues of domestic violence.

Reducing re-offending in domestic violence cases requires a comprehensive approach that combines pro-active policing, effective risk assessment, multi-agency collaboration, offender rehabilitation, and robust victim support services. While each of these strategies has demonstrated effectiveness, their success is often contingent on adequate resources, training, and inter-agency cooperation. Continuous evaluation and adaptation of these strategies are essential to address the evolving nature of domestic violence and enhance the safety and well-being of victims.

**Word count: 1038**

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