

‘Essay one:

How have past instances of police malpractice and misconduct influenced modern professional policing?

Support your answer with relevant evidence drawn from academic sources. **Word limit:** 1000 words.

In this essay, I will research how past instances of police malpractice and misconduct have influenced modern professional policing.

Malpractice can be defined as ‘an act or continuing conduct which does not meet the standard of professional competence’ (The Free Dictionary , n.d.). Malpractice may occur due to ignorance, negligence or intentional wrongdoing which results in the failure of a standard of conduct or professional standard of care. In turn, this may result in injury, damage or loss.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines misconduct as ‘unacceptable or bad behaviour by someone in a position of authority or responsibility’ (Cambridge University Press 2023 , 2023).

Professional policing is outlined by the Code of Ethics, a model created by the College of Policing who are the professional body for policing. The model is a decision-making framework which ‘sets and defines the exemplary standards of behaviour for everyone who works in policing’- (College Of Policing , 2023)–It sits at the heart of all policing decisions, reinforcing the values and standards which should always be used. It encourages/enforces/supports the use of professional judgement, ensuring that all actions and decisions made by police officers are ethical.

The police hold an important role in society ‘as the core duty of the police service is to protect the public by detecting and preventing crime’ (House of Commons Library , 2023). The police act as a visible symbol of law and order who can use various powers to help the public and detain offenders who show a threat to the rest of society. This meaning, the public depend and rely on not only police presence but police action, to protect them from any harm.

How the public view the police is crucial as the ability for police to operate effectively ‘depends on the consent and support of the general public’ (The Conversation, 2021). Without the public’s trust and support of the police, investigations can prove to be difficult. For example, obtaining statements in order to charge offenders with the offence they have committed becomes more challenging if witnesses are not willing to cooperate with police. In 2020, statistics showed that 75% of the British public had trust in the police and confidence that they were doing a good job. This statistic has drastically fallen and in 2022 and has dropped to 53% (YouGov, 2022).

It is important to explore how and why there has been a drop in the number of people who have trust in the police force. To consider one example between the drop of the figures, in March 2021 the saddening case of Sarah Everard came to light in. PC Wayne Couzens, an officer in the in the Metropolitan Police Force, London, brutally kidnapped, raped and

murdered 33 year old Sarah Everard. PC Wayne Couzens 'severely damaged public trust in the police, and their ability to 'police by consent' (The Conversation, 2021). In this incident PC Wayne Couzens abused his position of power, which caused widespread fear that other police officers may conduct themselves in the same manner. The act of one police officer has created perpetuated a negative outlook on policing across the world, lowering the trust the public have in officers and their ability to care for and protect the public.

During the investigation of this case, it was found that Couzens had been linked to a separate incident which had not been noted in the process of his vetting. In 2015 Kent Police received a report of an 'alleged indecent exposure' (BBC, 2021).

Couzens was not named as the suspect, but the vehicle involved was identified. That information would have been enough to establish that Couzens was the owner. Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner, Nick Ephgrave, further stated 'One of a number of checks that forms part of the vetting process may not have been undertaken correctly when he joined the Met' (BBC, 2021). This mistake has not only been detrimental to the Metropolitan police, but has also had a negative impact on policing worldwide. Therefore, failure to vet officers correctly poses a risk to public perception of the police, as it leads to the employment of officers who are not the honest, trustworthy people that the public expect and deserve to have protecting them.

This incident of malpractice and gross misconduct has impacted the changes that must be put in place in modern professional policing, and influenced this change to happen immediately. The Metropolitan Police released a statement regarding the incident stating 'We want the public to have confidence in our vetting and are taking extra measures to ensure our processes are the best they can be and address any potential weaknesses' (BBC, 2021). In this statement they also proposed various ways to improve and to ensure that all officers are honest to regain the public's trust by publishing a 'New Action Plan' (Metropolitan Police, 2021). This action plan will prioritise action against violent and sexual predatory offenders by tackling violence against women and girls. In addition to this they also proposed the appointment of 'Baroness Casey of Blackstone' (Metropolitan Police, 2021) to conduct a review of the standards and conduct in order to rebuild public trust. The review will examine the standards of professional policing, recruitment, vetting and other processes to 'effectively reinforce the standards' the public should expect.

To conclude this essay, this instance of police malpractice and misconduct by former Police officer Couzens has impacted the way the public view police officers in general. One officer has created an outlook on all officers, inciting a generalised image of misuse of power, negligence, and intentional wrongdoing. The mistakes made in past policing have heavily impacted and created important changes in how modern professional policing is today. These instances of unacceptable and abhorrent behaviour from officers in a position of authority have influenced public trust and how heavily modern policing relies on the public in order to complete their service with honesty and integrity.

Essay two:

How does media coverage affect policing strategies in relation to public protection incidents? Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Word limit: 1000 words.

In this essay, I will research into how media coverage affects policing strategies in relation to public protection incidents.

Media is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as 'the main means of mass communication' which is typically shown through publishing, broadcasting or on the internet. It describes the ways that data and information can be shared through various channels of communication. While researching the term 'Media' it is linked to another term known as 'Mass media'. This meaning, information and data being shared with a 'large number of people' (Market Business News, 2021) this can be done via any form of broadcasting to share information worldwide. Another form of media which is widely used today is social media. This term is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as platforms created to ensure that users can 'share content or to participate in social networking' (Oxford Dictionary, 2023).

Policing strategies are created by police forces to target certain areas in order to manage and prevent crime. There are several different strategies for different problems which rise in our communities and these strategies are in place in attempt to reduce them. South Wales police have created a 'Crime Plan 2022-2026' as a strategy in an attempt to reduce crime in their force. This plan which is said to be at the 'heart' of South Wales policing has been created as an 'early intervention and prompt, positive action to help prevent problems before they escalate' (South Wales Police, 2022). Another strategy and plan put in place by South Wales Police is their 'Supporting Victims and Witnesses' strategy for 2021- 2026. This was created to put victims first and to protect the vulnerable, support victims and 'help protect people from becoming victims in the first place' (South Wales Police, 2021). Dame Vera Baird, the Victims commissioner in England and Wales stated that the strategy 'provides clear purpose and direction, focusing the police and partners on the delivery of vital services and support to communities' (South Wales Police, 2021). These policing strategies like many others have been created in the public's best interest to ensure their protection and support.

Providing Public Protection is one of the main roles of a police officer as it is their duty to protect life and limb. Public protection is at the forefront of policing, and we can see this in the South Wales Police 'Victim and Witnesses' strategy which outlines the importance of protecting vulnerable people and providing them with the support that is needed (South Wales Police, 2021). In addition to this, we can look at the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement, also known as MAPPA. MAPPA is the process through which various agencies such as the police, the Prison Service and Probation work together to 'ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders' (UK GOV, 2015). This allows offenders to be managed, reducing the risk of them re-offending and protecting the public and victims from the possible threat they show to the public.

A good relationship between the Police and the Media is vital. Working with the media to communicate to the public can 'help solve crimes, bring offenders to justice and keep communities safe' (College of Policing , 2021). It can also give the public insight into what the police are doing and why they are doing it. The Media is a very powerful way of distributing information and data as it can be accessed easily on a day to day basis. What we see on our TVs, what we read in our news papers and what we see and read online is all managed by the media. It is said on average 3.8 Billion people have access to the media and what information is shared via that platform (World Economic Forum , 2021).

This is shown in the ongoing case of Nicola Bulley. Detectives of Lancashire Police are currently investigating the disappearance of the 45 year old woman who was reported missing on the 27th January 2023 (BBC NEWS , 2023). This case has been shared worldwide on various media platforms and Lancashire Police are using this to their advantage by asking for witnesses to come forward in the investigation. The force has used their good relationship with the Media to share the face of Nicola Bulley, in an attempt to find her and solve their investigation.

However, this case has already been broadcasted worldwide and has been shown to be a popular topic on social media accounts such as Twitter and Facebook. On these sites, some account holders have their own conspiracies to what has happened to Bulley. For example it has been shared that many members of the public have different theories and speculations on her disappearance and have bombarded Bulley's family with hate comments. In an attempt to stop the conspiracies so that the investigation can run smoothly, Lancashire Police stated 'The speculation and abuse on social media aimed at some people who are merely assisting our enquiry is totally unacceptable' (Express News, 2023).

To conclude this essay, it is clear that the police must share a good relationship with the media as they cover a number of police investigations. The media provide many advantages of broadcasting incidents to allow the police to collect as much information as possible to complete their investigations. Although the media is a great way to distribute information, especially in cases like the disappearance of Nicola Bulley, it can also hinder many police investigations. This can happen due to public protection. It is crucial that victims and witnesses are protected in certain cases and their identity kept anonymous in order for the police to carry out the investigation smoothly. In addition to this, identity can be kept anonymous to protect the witness or victim from any further harm. The witness care strategy is designed to 'protect and victim from intimidation or harassment' (college of Policing , 2020) from the offender and associates of the offender.

994 words

Essay three:

How effective is early intervention in preventing young people from offending, or re-offending? Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies.

Word limit: 1000 words.

In this essay, I will be writing about how effective early intervention in preventing young people from offending, or re-offending.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines 'intervention' as the action of becoming 'intentionally involved in a difficult situation' (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023) in an attempt to prevent it from getting worse or to improve it. In addition, early intervention can be carried out in order to prevent a 'difficult situation' from arising in the first place.

Offending is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as being 'guilty of a crime' (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023) or doing wrong, or an act which is against the law. Likewise, the term re-offending describes someone who has previously committed a crime and proceeds to 'commit another crime' (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023)

The Youth Justice System in Wales is responsible for 'sentencing and working with young people under the age of 18 who have committed a criminal offence' (University Of South Wales, n.d.). The system also practices early intervention with young people whose behaviour is problematic in an attempt to help and support them before they enter the formal court system. The Youth Justice System work closely with the Youth Justice Board who together, with their many responsibilities surrounding the prevention of young people committing crimes have set a system that ensures they are trialled fairly. The Youth Justice Board is aiming to help young people build on their strengths so that they can use them for good and to make a 'constructive contribution to society' (UK GOV, 2021). This form of early intervention is effective as it will prevent offending and reoffending in young people, thereby creating safer communities with fewer victims.

In line with the youth justice board there are other ways police forces are implementing early intervention in children and young adult's lives, such as employing school liaison officers. Police school liaison officers are officers who attend schools and colleges in their local working area, who share information with young people surrounding the law, 'focusing on crime prevention and reduction' (Dyfed Powys Police, 2020) issues which are considered the police's area of expertise. School liaison officers explore the importance of understanding law by outlining different offences and the effects committing offences have on the community. Police officers being present at school and visible to students has reduced demand associated with anti-social behaviour. By being visible, officers create a good relationship with students and young people, and often deal with ongoing issues within schools. This is shown in the positive statistics shared by the youth justice board who have stated that from 2020 – 2021 there was a '17% decrease in the number of children cautioned and sentenced' (UK GOV, 2021) and a '3.6% decrease in the reoffending rate (UK GOV, 2021).

In addition, there are many other effective ways that the government has worked in partnership with police forces to reduce the number of young people who commit crimes and

to put an end to reoffending. For example, the CAPRICORN framework is a 'collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending by children' (UK GOV, 2019) created in 2019 by the UK Government. The framework works in partnership with a multitude of organisations such as police forces across England and Wales, schools across the country, youth offending teams, local authorities, and other local multi-agency partnerships. CAPRICORN sets out a framework to help local authorities prevent young people offending and re-offending, by looking at 'upstream' (UK GOV, 2019) prevention to prevent youth violence and offending and 'downstream' (UK GOV, 2019) prevention to reduce youth re-offending.

CAPRICORN's main focus is to 'prevent young people offending and re-offending' (UK GOV, 2019). Within the CAPRICORN framework 'upstream prevention to prevent youth violence and offending' refers to early intervention by police, schools and other organisations in order to give young people the best start in life by addressing the root causes of offending. This includes factors such as promoting good mental health and 'preventing drug and alcohol problems' (UK GOV, 2019). The 'downstream prevention to reduce youth reoffending' focuses on factors which will discourage youths from re-offending by introducing programmes like 'peer mentoring' and 'building life skills' (UK GOV, 2019). This can be fulfilled by working alongside youths with the aim of securing employment, providing nurturing environments and ensuring access to education.

There are many partnership agencies working alongside the police who work towards early intervention in young adults, preventing offending and re offending. But there are also strategies used by the police force which have proven positive results in reducing re offending such as Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice has been defined by the CPS as a 'process through which parties with a stake in a specific offence collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future' (CPS, 2023). Restorative justice is a voluntary process which brings victims and individuals who have committed a crime into communication to address harm. It can be done in several situations and is used often as a way of preventing young offenders from reoffending in the future. This is shown in a statement given by the director of the charity 'WHY ME?', Lucy Jaffe who stated 'Offending behaviour often starts young, and by the time people are fully mature they can be trapped in a spiral of crime which they see no escape from. Restorative Justice can help young people to appreciate the real-life consequences of their actions and divert them away from committing crime.' (Why Me?, 2023).

To conclude this essay, it has shown by research that early intervention is effective in preventing young people from offending, or re-offending. There are number of different strategies used by police forces across Wales and England who work alongside partnership agencies in order to tackle the percentage of young people committing crimes and re-offending. These strategies have helped reduce the number of crimes committed and it is clear to see by the statistic released in 2021 the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System had 'fallen by 20% since the previous year' (UK GOV, 2021).

1005 words

Essay four:

Are partnership approaches the most effective means of rehabilitating offenders? You must use academic research, rather than personal opinion, to support your answer. You may make reference to relevant case studies.

Word limit: 1000 words.

In this essay I will be analysing whether partnership approaches are the most effective means of rehabilitating offenders.

Cambridge Dictionary have defined the term rehabilitation as the 'process' of returning to a good way of life, or in an offender's case the process of helping someone return to a better life 'after they have been in prison' (Cambridge Dictionary , n.d.)

'Offender' is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as a person who is 'guilty of a crime' (Cambridge Dictionary , 2023) or has done wrong, or carried out an act which is against the law.

In the year 2019 the UK Government released its 'National Partnership Agreement' created for employment and welfare support in custody and the community. The partnership is built from the Ministry of Justice, His Majesty's prison and Probation Service and the Department of work and pensions. The partnership was created to join these services and set out 'the way in which the partners will work together in England and Wales' (UK GOV , 2019). In addition to this, the partnership will work towards, jointly driving the rehabilitation of offenders, and reducing re offending. This will include ensuring prisoners have proper access to the 'right training and support during their time in custody' (UK GOV , 2019) and providing access to retaining an ID and access to bank accounts so that prisoners being released back to the community can apply for jobs easily. In line with the National Partnership Agreement, Prisoners Minister Robert Buckland stated 'by working together, we can ensure offenders leaving prison have the support they need to turn their backs on crime for good' (UK GOV , 2019) conveying his hope that this plan will be an effective form of rehabilitation for offenders.

The National Partnership agreement follows the launch of the Education and Employment Strategy. This strategy allows greater autonomy to grant Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) to offenders following a rigorous risk assessment. This will allow offenders who are released back into the community 'more opportunities to work and train with employers while serving their sentence' (UK GOV, 2019) and increase their chances of securing an immediate job on release. It has shown since this strategy was released over '230 businesses' (UK GOV, 2019) have joined, offering employment to those who have been released on license.

One of these businesses who are offering employment to offenders, released on temporary license is PRET A Manager. PRET A Manager are an international sandwich shop franchise chain who currently have approximately '421' (Statista, 2022) stores across the UK. The franchise, being a part of the ROTL strategy employ inmates who have been released back into the community and those who are on temporary licence. The inmates will receive minimum wage for their work and the potential to be taken on board for full time work once they've completed their sentence.

Likewise, Halfords, a motoring and bicycle retailer, is another business who has taken part in this strategy and have stated, "as the UK continues to battle high reoffending rates, with 83 per cent of former prisoners remaining jobless a year after release, the UK's biggest cycling retailer is encouraging other businesses to follow suit and open up to the possibilities of an increase in the talent pool, lowering the cost of reoffending and contributing to safer communities for all (INews, 2019)." Halfords have taken a step further and are providing training and opportunities for those in custody. Upon their release, inmates working with Halfords can go on to pursue a 'three-year technician programme' (INews, 2019) this will, in time, award them with an Institute of Motor Industry NVQ3 and diploma. The retailer have stated that they believe 'the more productive people are whilst in prison, the more they can learn and the better their chances of succeeding once they leave' (Retail Gazette, 2019).

Independently from partnership approaches to the rehabilitation of offenders there are also independent charities which work towards releasing offenders into the community. One example of these charities is 'Recycling Lives'. Recycling Lives are an independent charity with an aim of 'reducing reoffending by supporting men and women into stable housing and employment' (Recycling Lives , n.d.) after being released from prison, back into the community. Recycling Lives support men and women in prisons across the UK to reduce reoffending rates. By engaging them in meaningful work to help offenders to develop skills, confidence and resilience ready to secure a good job and stable housing on release. Within the charity they have a multitude of teams working together, recruitment, mental health, housing, rehabilitation, and education. It has shown that the charity have reduced reoffending rates to less than '5%' and improved employment rates more than '80%' (Recycling Lives , n.d.). The charity are also supported by His Majesty's prison, John Hewitson HMP stated, 'The structure Recycling Lives has in place, coaching and mentoring offenders, is invaluable (Recycling Lives , n.d.).'

To conclude this essay, from research, it is clear that both partnership and independent approaches are effective means of rehabilitating offenders. Whilst partnership approaches provide an easy route towards rehabilitation, from starting education within prison to providing employment when released it is an effective way to ensure that offenders return to a better life. Partnership approaches also provide offenders with a multitude of housing opportunities working alongside social services and housing teams. On the other hand, independent charities such as Recycling Lives also provide a multitude of teams within one charity to support those released back to the community. With their professional networks, they provide structure and connect released offenders with 'training providers, employers and housing providers for wrap-around, structured support' (Recycling Lives , n.d.). Lastly, offenders and offenders released on temporary license have various support in place once they have left prison , it is a choice whether they rehabilitate through partnership approaches or independent approaches.

974 words

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