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Assignment 1

Essay 1

Police misconduct is considered improper, unethical, dishonest or illegal activity carried out by an employee of a police force (College of Policing, 2022). Acts of Police misconduct are often highly publicised and scrutinised. Such incidents have negative impacts on not only the potential victims, but the public perceptions of the forces involved (Weitzer, 2002). Such failings inevitably change the way in which a force operates in order to ensure such incidents are avoided in the future. This essay will examine how prominent cases of police misconduct and malpractice have influenced professional policing policies and further evaluate how the public and communities' confidence in police has been increased due to those changes.

Throughout police history there are a number of prominent police misconduct cases that have changed or influenced professional policing policies. An example of such a case is the Lynette White Murder 1988, also known as 'The Cardiff Three'. Three innocent men were convicted and imprisoned for her murder following harsh police interview tactics, that inevitably resulted in false admission by the suspects. It was later argued that the suspects were interviewed by officers who 'wilfully' breached the Police and Criminal Evidence 1984 (Naughton, 2014). Furthermore, years later during the immensely complicated trial it was noted that documents had been improperly handled and were not disclosed to the prosecution service (The Guardian, 2012). Several officers were subsequently dismissed for their misconduct. The case spurred several changes to police interview and disclosure policies. Crime Prosecution Service, 2017 defines disclosure as 'to provide the defence with all material that is capable of undermining the prosecution and/or assisting the defence'. By meeting these disclosure standards, police and prosecution services are meeting the standards required under Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 whereby any person 'has the right to a fair trial' (*Human Rights Act 1998*). It is policy to now record police interviews in line with Code E of the PACE Act 1984 (*Police and*

Criminal Evidence Act 1984). Furthermore, the college of policing outline the required standards of police interview, whereby the interviewing officer must abide by the relevant legislations as well as use approved interview tactics (College of Policing, 2022) This avoids incidents outlined in the Lynette White case 1988. This is just one example of how policies have either been created or changed following misconduct.

Misconduct allegations, such as the wrongful use of force has been at the forefront of public perception. Police policy allows officers to use reasonable force when necessary. Home Office, 2021a stated that the top reasons for officers using force was to protect themselves or others. Furthermore, they detailed that in the year ending March 2018 562,280 use of force incidents were recorded, only 5% of the persons involved were injured as a result. Policy requires officers to be transparent in their use of force and record any incidents honestly in line with the code of ethics. If any incidents or complaints arise from the use of excessive force, officers will be held accountable. Despite having these policies in place, it does not increase public confidence as the public do not understand the realities of police duty, practically in incidents where force must be used (Mourtgos and Adams, 2019).

Along with policies regarding use of force, Body worn video (BWV) policies have been utilised as a way of reducing the number of assaults on police and reduce the need for the use of force. Furthermore, the public's view on BWV policy is largely supportive (Ariel et al., 2016). Sousa, Miethe and Sakiyama (2017) supports this by stating it has been discovered that the use of cameras "influence transparency, improve public trust in police, and enhance police–community relationships". Care et al., 2019 provides quantitative data derived from a public perception survey specifically in relation to the use of BWV. The results concluded that 72-80% of the public agree that they would feel safer knowing their local police officers were utilising BWV. Following this evidence, it could be agreed that BWV policy has a largely positive impact on increasing public confidence.

On a more general scale, forces have a number of internal policies and procedures they must follow as well as the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics 'sets and defines the exemplary standards of behaviour for everyone who works in policing'. Officers

are rightfully expected to act with honesty and integrity along with ten other key principle (College of Policing, 2022). Officers who do not act in line with the code of ethics will be held accountable for their actions. The public can find clarity and confidence in the police service knowing they follow this strict set ethics. Specifically in relation to investigation into police misconduct, policies outline the requirements to investigate locally through Public Standard departments (PSD) and independently through the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) (Home Office, 2021b). Unfortunately, there have been cases where misconduct has taken place at the highest of ranks. IOPC, 2021 stated that public confidence in policing vital. The IOPC, 2021 further informed that "52% of young people were confident the police deal with complaints fairly" in 2022.

In conclusion, several policies have been influenced, changed, or derived from a multitude of misconduct cases over the history of policing. The policies largely increase the community's confidence. Evidence shows that the use of BWV footage has been widely accepted and approved by the public. On the other hand, due to lack of knowledge of the policing role, the community lacks confidence in police in relation to use of force. This could be improved by making such policies available and more known to the public. In relation to internal and independent investigation policies around police misconduct, the public can rest assured that police are required to act in line with a set of standards. Any who fail to do so will be held accountable and even investigated by an independent body, allowing no opportunity for further misconduct by 'cover-up' tactics.

Word count: 992

Essay 2

Serious and organised crime groups, notoriously described in the UK as 'County Lines' have become more prominent than ever (Robinson, McLean and Densley, 2018). They infiltrate communities, habitually target, and abuse the vulnerable, take over their homes and devastate lives to operate. The vulnerable populations such as children and vulnerable adults who are engaged are at the greatest risk of modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, drug addiction, violence, and criminal conviction (Glover Williams and Finlay, 2018). This essay will examine why particular groups are vulnerable to being targeted and further analyse the effectiveness of police practices used to investigate such matters.

Children could be considered vulnerable to being targeted by crime groups. Organised crime groups are renowned for recruiting children and young adults as street level 'drug runners' and 'commuters' (Windle and Briggs, 2015). This population often coming from impoverished areas, being socially excluded or subject to historic or current abuse are seen as impressionable, easy to manipulate and control. They are groomed with the promise of a luxury lifestyle, expensive gifts, and quantities of money they would not usually be able to earn legally. In addition, children are also less likely to raise suspicion or have a criminal record, referred to as 'clean skins' they will not typically be subject to police charge or prosecution due to being minors (SPACE, 2019). By virtue, these collective attributes make them highly vulnerable to being prime candidates of exploitation.

In addition, 'Cuckooing' is when a gang or drug dealer invades a vulnerable adult's home in order to use it as a base to supply drugs through fostering relationships with them. These victims are usually vulnerable due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities, mental health, and drug addiction and less likely to report victimisation to the police (Coomber and Moyle 2017). Moyle, 2019 stated that several drug users struggling to fund their addictions found themselves effortlessly and sometimes willingly drawn into 'running' and granting organised crime groups access to their homes. Their lack of income options and dependencies allowed them to be vulnerable to entering a 'mutually beneficial' relationship and even actively seeking

them on occasions. Furthermore, these vulnerable adults may live a very isolated lifestyle having experienced abuse or neglect. For instance, a common tactic is to target vulnerable females by presenting themselves as a potential love interest. These females who have commonly been subjected to domestic violence are sometimes seeking someone to trust but are unable to protect themselves from violence, coercion, and sexual exploitation when the relationship becomes abusive due to fear and intimidation, therefore making them a sought-after target (Moyle, 2019).

All UK police forces have practices in place to investigate serious and organised crime activity, including the safeguarding and protection of the vulnerable. Using the 4 P's model, the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC) work with UK police in order to 'Prepare, Prevent, Pursue and Protect' (Crown Prosecution Services, 2022). The police use the National referral mechanism (NRM) to identify, assess and support those at risk of being targeted by organised crime groups. Gov.uk, 2022 provides a useful source of information to analyse the effectiveness of the NRM and Duty to notify (DtN). The quantitative data shows that in the third quarter of 2022, 4,586 referrals were made to the NRM. The number of referrals is consistently increasing, suggesting that police are becoming better at identifying those vulnerable to being targeted. Furthermore, the police use several partnership approaches such as early intervention to protect those at risk of being targeted by serious organised crime groups. Evidence suggests that there are several successes through this approach, however the number of active referrals are low due to the relevant information not being provided. In turn, this has led to 1 in 4 referrals being no further actioned (Ofsted, 2022). Overall, the process of identifying vulnerable people appears to be successful, however the failings are found in relation to the initiation and continuation of support thereafter. Home Office, 2020 supports this by arguing that although there has been progression in recognising possible exploitation when dealing with vulnerable people in possession of drugs, these people were still at risk of prosecution. It was further highlighted that more police work was required on raising awareness in communities of serious organised crime and the risks of exploitation.

Civil orders can be put into place to prevent exploiters from certain activities that could result in the further exploitation of others. For example, under part 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, a slavery and trafficking prevention and risk order can be placed upon a person (*Modern Slavery Act 2015*). However, there are limitations with this order. It can only be placed upon a person who has been convicted, cautioned or is evidentially possible of committing an act of modern slavery. Police need to be proactive and identify perpetrators and gather all relevant evidence to successfully obtain and utilise these orders.

In conclusion, a large population of people can be considered vulnerable to being targeted. However, these people are predominantly in similar situations, whether it be living in poverty, having drug addiction, or living isolated lifestyles. People engaged with serious and organised crime groups are trapped between being a victim and committing offences, the real aim is to 'protect, not punish'. The police force aims to achieve this through means such as raising awareness, identify vulnerable targets at the earliest point and consistent information and intelligence sharing with partner agencies and other forces (Oliver and Cockbain 2021). Research shows that several practices currently in use are mostly effective, however there are improvements to be made with regards to referrals, partnership work and raising more awareness to communities.

Word count: 944

Essay 3

Section 325 to 327b of the Criminal Justice Act (2003), established MAPPA; Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (*Criminal Justice Act 2003*). The process was formulated to ensure sufficient safeguarding and public protection from serious sexual and violent offenders. The police, probation and prison service are predominantly responsible for working with other agencies to assess and manage offenders on an individual basis and create effective risk management plans through collaborative work and information sharing (College of Policing, 2022). This essay will assess the role of MAPPA and evaluate the effectiveness of police practices, specifically in relation to public protection involving sexual and violent offenders.

Government legislation highlights that the police and other responsible authorities have a duty of care for the public (*Human Rights Act 1998*). Therefore, MAPPA is a valuable tool for decision making and ensuring statutory responsibilities relating to the management of sexual and violent offenders are carried out effectively to meet said duty of care. On the other hand, the Human Rights Act 1998 also outlines the 'right to a private life', meaning there are limitations to how intrusive responsible authorities can be.

Sexual and violent offenders fall under three MAPPA categories and are managed under the appropriate level using relevant procedures and resources (HM Inspectorate of Probation, 2021). A Criminal Justice Joint Inspection report (CJJI, 2022) concluded that MAPPA was successful in managing offenders at levels two and three to a great degree, however, there have been failings in relation to offenders being managed under level one. The same report shows that the role of MAPPA has been effective in increasing risk management and public protection, whereby additional support and resources have been procured following improvements and multi-agency meetings. Through MAPPA there was an increase of 33% in the number of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders imposed in the UK in 2022 (Ministry of Justice, 2022). On the other hand, CJJI, 2022 noted issues in relation to engagement and information sharing through MAPPA. Furthermore, due to a lack of engagement from other authorities, regular reviews and information sharing

practices were missed. This resulted in the key authorities being unaware of important information, leading to substandard planning and risk management, particularly in relation to offenders who were being released from prison. On one hand, the role of MAPPA is largely effective and has strengths in reducing re-offending and obtaining resources. On the other hand, there are clear barriers to overcome to combat the lack of knowledge and understanding of MAPPA, specifically multi-agency communication and information sharing.

As one of the main responsible authorities, the Police use a number of practices that align with MAPPA guidance to investigate incidents involving violent and sexual offenders. ViSOR; The Violent and sexual offender register was created in 2003 to assist police in identifying, tracking and sharing information about convicted sexual offenders in their force area (Edwards, 2003). McCartan et al, 2017 Produce a report following an online survey conducted with several UK police officers on the effectiveness of ViSOR. The results concluded that that ViSOR was useful in the investigative process of sharing information throughout their force, but the system itself was of a dated functionality, making it difficult to utilise and maintain, this lead to leaving gaps in the manner of which information was input and shared across other agencies and forces. The findings also suggest that the police practice to utilise ViSOR is beneficial in its intended use. Despite this, opportunities to share important information force wide and nationally are often missed. This could be corrected by improvements to the ViSOR system and further staff training. The report outlined the perceived effectiveness of ViSOR from police officers. However, the information was obtained through a small sample size.

Other police practices include the use of several protection and prevention orders. An example of such orders are Sexual harm prevention orders (SHPO) and Domestic Violence Protection orders (DVPO). HMICFRS, 2021 stated police have the relevant powers to request and maintain these orders, however HMICFRS raised concerns in respect of these orders being breached. Following examination of 83 cases of breaches, police failed to act accordingly to identify the breach and further arrest a suspect. This in turn would lead to major safeguarding concerns. Furthermore, in nearly half of these cases police failed to respond to a report of breach in under 24 hours. The orders are a safeguarding measure and are put place

to prevent persons from risk or further harm by restricting the offender (College of Policing, 2022). However, if breaches occur the relevant actions to safeguard members of the public are not always being carried out, leaving the order irrefutably ineffective. This could be greatly improved by further training for front line officers in relation to these types of orders.

Police are required to attend all level one MAPPA offenders in their home address as outlined by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) policing practice. Home visits enable to manage offenders closely, ensuring they are at the address attached to their notification order. This practice also assists officers in investigating into an offender's risk and behaviours, detecting any offences at the earliest point or prior to it being committed (College of Policing, 2022). Nash (2016) supports this by stating the purpose for home visits is to gather 'risk-related' information an intelligence is largely effective. However, Nash explains the difficulties of taking officers out of their usual working area to conduct these visits, especially un-announced visits as police demand is so high.

In conclusion, clear evidence shows that the MAPPA role is successful in obtaining relevant support and order to manage offenders and protect the public. There is, however, a clear need to address the issues in relation to information sharing to avoid missing potentially vital information in investigations. The police have several practices in place to investigate into public protection incidents involving sexual and violent offenders. Similarly, mostly effective, but not without their flaws. Particular attention needs to be given to police actions in response to breaches of orders to ensure the public are safeguarding effectively.

Word count: 1005

Essay 4

Early intervention, also known as early help, is the process whereby support is provided at the initial stages of a problem involving children and young adults (EIF, 2017). The aim is to address issues at the earliest stage possible and provide the relevant support to deter young adults from dangerous behaviour or experiencing poor outcomes and effectively support (NSPCC, 2019). This essay will critically evaluate the impact of early intervention, specifically in relation to young people at risk of becoming involved in gang activity and assess the effectiveness of partnership work to prevent and deter such matters.

Early intervention can be prompted before an offence is committed. It can stem from concerns from parents, schools, social services or even engagement with police based upon a young person's attitude, behaviour, and actions. Ely, Robin-D'Cruz and Jalaoso (2021) state that the labelling young children as 'criminal' can have a detrimental impact. By offering early intervention, the need to criminalise young persons at risk of involvement in gangs is reduced. However, children are becoming involved in violent gang activity from a younger age. Frisby-Osman and Wood (2020) claims that early intervention is more positively impactful on younger children involved with gangs, in comparison to older members. This suggests that demand for early invention is rising, and the need is becoming more apparent in younger children. There is an urgency to address young gang members through early help when they are at an age where they would be more susceptible to it, thus having a better impact on them. Despite this, HM Government (2021) disagrees, claiming that early intervention in the form of deterrence or discipline approaches are ineffective when dealing with youths at risk of becoming involved with gangs. Therefore, making situations and risks worse due to the need for rebellion. This claim is supported by a HM Government, 2011 that stated an analytic review from 2009 concluded there was a 2-8% increase in reoffending following these approaches. However, this information is dated and is likely to have changed considerably in the last decade. The impact of early intervention initiatives appears to be an under-researched topic in the UK. Overall, early identification and intervention has positive and negative consequences. The evidence mentioned suggests that although the aim is to deter

children from gangs and/or crime, early intervention can sometimes impact them in such a way it has a harmful effect, increasing their risk factors.

Early intervention has a positive impact on young offenders and young persons at risk of being involved in gang activity. It has been claimed that early intervention with young offenders acts as 'turning points' that enable them to actively pursue favourable behaviours (Blagden and Perring, 2018). To support this Deuchar, Miller, and Barrow, (2014) notes the paramount of these 'turning points' in offenders positively changing their life course, and inevitably impacting on their desistance of criminal activity. Furthermore, states young males involved with gangs as a form of masculine identity construction have been able to find and utilise alternative methods such as boxing through rehabilitation programmes. This evidence suggests that early intervention has the ability to truly change the course of a young person's life through a shift of mindset and adequate support. On the contrary, Carlsson (2013) disagrees to an extent whereby it is stated that the 'turning points', despite contributing to desistance from gang activity, can put an immense amount of pressure on offenders and young persons. It is further highlighted by Carlsson that they are attempting to live up to new expectations and limitations to which they may not have previously been subject to. This suggests that early intervention can lead to negative outcomes under certain circumstances, having an impact on one's wellbeing and ability to remain engaged. Frisby-Osman and Wood (2020) states that early intervention needs to involve physiological, behavioural, and mental health aspects as it is recognised, they are related to gang involvement.

Furthermore, early intervention uses a partnership approach, taking a number of forms such as home visits, school-based programmes, pathway programmes or mentoring schemes for youths at risk of becoming involved with gangs (EIF, 2017). O'Connor and Waddell, 2015 suggest that the most effective approaches to deter youths from gang involvement were skill-based and family-focused programmes. Bellis et al., 2012 supports this by suggesting skill-based programmes, specifically those that focus on education and employment opportunities have encouraged youth gang members to change their behaviours. O'Connor and Waddell, 2015 support their claim further by suggesting that through family-focused programmes, improvements are to be made to the quality of home life and family relationships,

leading to a reduction in re-offending or becoming involved in gang activity. However, there are limitations to this information as it does not provide specific statistics. The research conducted by Bellis et al., 2012 suggest that partnership initiatives have been successful in preventing and deterring from gang-related activity. However, Ofsted, 2022 claims there are a lack of resources in the areas that require them the most. Furthermore, around one in four referrals did not contain the relevant information regarding the reason for referral. As a result, this leads to a large number of referrals being no further action. This shows that although there have been several success stories, due to lack of resources and accurate referrals the over-all effectiveness of partner approaches may be very few and far between.

To conclude, early intervention has some clear positive impacts on young persons at risk of being involved in gangs. There is success in rehabilitation programmes whereby life-paths have been changed, deterring youths from criminal behaviour. However, these same initiatives can put extra stress on individuals, leading to negative outcomes. It is evident that further support is required to relieve some of the anxieties these young people may face. Furthermore, to keep them positively engaged and lessening their risk of becoming involved in gangs. Although there are several partnership approaches proven to be effective, there are clear improvements to be made. Resources in certain areas are sparse and active referrals are minimal. When these two issues are amalgamated, it results in overall poor level of success on a larger scale.

Word count: 1018

Total word count: 3984

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