Module Specification

Serious and Organised Crime

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Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Serious and Organised Crime

Module code: UZSYG6-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Serious and Organised crime is a complex area of policing which is resource intense, requires specialist knowledge and skills, and impacts on both local and national levels. Serious and organised crime does not just occur within neighbourhoods, the road networks are often used to facilitate criminality across borders. This module places focuses on the links between serious and organised crime and public protection where learners are introduced to a range of operational

policing issues, relevant legislation and guidance on prevention and disruption tactics.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to provide learners with a detailed overview of the types of common incidents that first responders may attend, including non-crime and crime related incidents, and those incidents that are evolving in nature or are considered as serious and complex crimes.

Provides an overview of key definitions and themes relating to Organised Crime Groups (OCG's), and the types of crimes committed by these groups. Serious and organised crime is often encountered by those in response policing roles and can be directly linked to high profile public protection issues such as adults at risk, child abuse, domestic abuse, sexual offences such as female genital mutilation, kidnap and extortion, modern-day slavery, sex work and prostitution, hate crimes, gun crimes and gangs/youth violence and more.

Explain more prevalent criminal activities that are facilitated by the road network and will evaluate measures taken by the police and partner agencies to prevent and disrupt high-level crimes such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, counterfeit goods, and organised crime groups. Information and intelligence are a key area of focus within public protection policing and in addition to intelligence that is already held on police information databases, learners will discover how a simple vehicle stop where checks have been performed on the vehicle can uncover evidence of criminality that may lead to follow up actions where a suspect or person of interest is arrested, or apprehended, following an incident or targeted/planned operation on the road network.

Provide additional emphasis on road related offences will provide learners with opportunities to review the evidence-base associated with serious road policing offences including the behaviour of young drivers, the causes of death in road-related incidents, social acceptance of serious road traffic offences as compared to other serious offences, and the common causes of road collisions and how they can be reduced. Recording and reporting standards will include the completion of the

STATS19 report, and the associated guidance provided by the STATS20 manual will enable learners to understand the rationale and justification contained in the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) strategy for policing the roads, in addition to discovering the local strategies and initiatives in place to reduce the number of road collisions.

The module aims to break down the complexities associated with victim and witness care and provide an understanding of key terms, distinguishes the difference between a victim and complainant, and explore the definitions of victimisation, poly-victimisation, repeat victimisation, alpha victims and coercion. The range of psychological effects of victim and witness behaviour will highlight to learners the emotions of denial, detachment, anxiety, panic, irritability, minimisation, avoidance, withdrawal, loss of memory, disorientation, and confusion. Explore the impact of re-victimisation on victims and witnesses where they are not dealt with appropriately from the outset of the investigation to the impact of investigations on the investigator when there is empathy fatigue, mindlessness, bias, and stereotyping, and provide opportunities to develop learners additional awareness on the complexities of relationships between investigators, victims, witnesses and offenders.

Set out the requirements of an initial assessment of the situation and suggests considerations for the best approach to deploy as part of a first contact by accurately identifying victims and witnesses and how to apply early considerations around who might be classed as key, significant, vulnerable, or intimidated victims or witnesses. Discuss how to conduct an early needs assessment and refer victims and/or witnesses to appropriate support agencies, how to take an initial account, identify strategies to safeguard, manage risk take any immediate actions that may be appropriate to help reduce further victimisation, and ensure continuity with dealing with victims and witnesses by ensure their safety and protection.

The module will be further supported by learning content based on real life cases and information reported in the media with a strong focus on academic research and literature which has directly contributed to the evidence base where relevant legislation, policies, procedures, and guidance has been produced at both local and national levels.

Outline syllabus: CoP Curriculum:

Public Protection:

6 Analyse potential links between serious and organised crime and public protection issues

6.1 Serious and organised crime definitions e.g. Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)

6.2 Links between serious and organised crime and public protection issues e.g. sexual offences, modern slavery, sex work and prostitution, child abuse

6.3 Disruption and detection strategies

Victims and Witnesses:

2 Understand the complexities associated with victim and witness care

2.1 Key terms associated with victims and witnesses

• Difference between victim and complainant

• Victimisation

• Poly-victimisation

• Repeat victimisation

• Alpha victims

• Coercion

• Vulnerability

• Intimidation

2.2 Range of psychological effects on victim and witness behaviour:

   • Trauma, denial, detachment, anxiety, panic, irritability, minimisation, avoidance, withdrawal, loss of memory, disorientation, confusion etc.

2.3 Impact of re-victimisation on victims and witnesses where they are not dealt with appropriately from the outset of an investigation

2.4 Impacts of investigations on the investigator e.g. investigator fatigue

   • Empathy fatigue, mindlessness, judgement bias and stereotyping

2.5 Relationships between victims, witnesses and offenders

   • The responses and steps to manage these e.g. if victims are an ethnic minority, LGBT+, female, foreign nationals or migrants, elderly, dependent on the offender etc.

• Signs and signals of how relationships between offenders and victims may subsequently develop and change

• Learning that can be obtained from reviews into cases such as serious crime reviews, domestic homicide reviews and disaster reviews, regarding offender and victim relationships

5 Understand the requirements of an initial assessment of the situation

5.1 Accurately identify victims and witnesses and apply early considerations around key, significant, vulnerable or intimidated victims or witnesses

5.2 How to conduct an early needs assessment and refer victim and/or witness to appropriate support agencies, if necessary e.g.

     • Women's Aid

     • Action Fraud

5.3 How to take an initial account from victims and witnesses

• The details required

• Taking victims' and witnesses' concerns seriously

• Support that may be required to enable an initial account to be made

• Understanding and supporting victim needs

5.4 Strategies to safeguard, manage risk and refer the victim care to appropriate specialist agencies/telecoms operators:

     • Victim support

     • Hate crime support

     • Independent domestic abuse advisors etc

5.5 Immediate actions that may be appropriate to help reduce further victimisation

5.6 How to ensure continuity in dealing with victims and witnesses

• Risk

• Safety

• Protection

Response Policing:

2 Review the types of incident and crime likely to be encountered in response policing

2.1 The police's role to protect the public: duty of care

2.2 Types of common incidents that first responders may attend:

• Non crime-related, including

- civil emergencies

- illness in public places

- injury in non-road traffic accidents

- neighbour or business-related disputes

- missing persons

- dangerous incidents e.g. gas leak, house fire, plane crash

- situations where police powers may be required e.g. mental ill health

• Crime-related, including:

- anti-social behaviour (can also be non-crime related)

- burglary

- theft

- assault

- robbery

- domestic abuse incidents

- public order act offences drug related offences etc

2.3 Types of crime:

  • Volume and priority crime

  • Evolving/increasing areas of crime e.g. child sexual exploitation (CSE), human trafficking/slavery, fraud and cybercrime

  • Serious and complex crime e.g. murder, kidnapping, serial GBH, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)

Policing the Roads:

6 Understand the more prevalent criminal activity facilitated by the road network, and how this can be disrupted by effective policing of the roads

6.1 Criminal activity facilitated by the road network:

  • Drug smuggling

  • Human trafficking

  • Child sexual exploitation

  • Counterfeit goods

• Organised crime groups

6.2 Methods of gathering intelligence and information

6.3 Stopping a vehicle and performing relevant checks, using the powers provided by Section 4 of Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984

6.4 Procedures and follow up actions where a suspect, or person of interest is arrested, or apprehended, following an incident or planned operation on the road network

7 Review available prevention and disruption options available, to target criminal activity on the road network

7.1 Impact of organised crime activity at a national, regional and local level

7.2 How criminal activity on the road can be targeted

7.3 How to prevent and disrupt high-level crime on the road network

8 Review the evidence base associated with serious road policing offences, and strategies associated with reducing the number of collisions

8.1 Evidence base associated with serious road policing offences, including:

• Behaviour of young drivers

• Causes of death in road-related incidents

• Social acceptance of serious road traffic offences compared to other serious offences

8.2 Common causes of road collisions and how they can be reduced:

• Content of a STATS19 report

• Importance of interpreting the guidance set out in the STATS20 manual

• The priorities set out in the current National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) strategy for policing the roads

• Local strategies and initiatives in place to reduce the number of collisions

Information and Intelligence:

9 Understand the considerations associated with handling information and intelligence about vulnerable people

9.1 How data about vulnerable people is obtained and handled within the police service

9.2 The role of the intelligence manager in ensuring the intelligence is correctly risk-

assessed and appropriately actioned

9.3 Practices for ensuring that data is stored in the correct manner

9.4 How to ensure information is shared appropriately between the police and a range of other agencies

9.5 How to 'weed out' old and incorrect information and

intelligence

10 Identify relevant qualitative and quantitative intelligence data for producing intelligence/analytical reports and/or products

10.1 Purpose of research and analysis in intelligence

10.2 Sources of appropriate quantitative and qualitative data for intelligence reports/analytical reports, for example:

- Internet Intelligence and Investigation (III)
- Closed source
- Internal/external
- Confidential

10.3 Suitability of data for intelligence purposes, for example:

- Validity
- Reliability (including accuracy)
- Confidentiality
- Availability
- Suitability

10.4 How to analyse and evaluate suitable data and information for analytical products and intelligence collection plans

10.5 How to identify significant features, gaps and unexpected results in the intelligence data

11 Explain the contents of an intelligence collection plan

11.1 Possible contents of an intelligence collection plan, including:

- Terms of reference
- Identification of intelligence gaps and how these could be overcome
- Identification and assessed threat, risk and harm

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will employ a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students are an active part of the learning process, and will be asked to contribute ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange.

While teaching and learning will be predominantly classroom based, appropriate use will be made of online resources and learning environments.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Analyse potential links between serious and organised crime and public protection issues, including disruption and detection strategies.

MO2 Compare the types of non-crime and crime-related incidents likely to be encountered in response policing to distinguish the difference between volume and priority crime, evolving/increasing areas of crime, and serious and complex crime.

MO3 Analyse the more prevalent criminal activities facilitated by the road network, review prevention and disruption options in-line with the evidence base associated with serious road policing offences to promote effective policing of the roads.

MO4 Evaluate the complexities associated with victim and witness care, the requirements of an initial assessment of the situation and considerations for the best approach to deploy as part of a first contact.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 112.5 hours

Lectorials = 37.5 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/0F4A050D-4BE2-5DF0-57A3-DF9C91D44E08.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative assessment for this module will be in the form of a written portfolio.

Assessment part A is a Short Answer Portfolio (200 words each over a range of topics).

The assessment strategy requires learners to engage thoroughly with a range of topics across the module. This will enhance their understanding of the breadth of less common policing issues. Learners will have agency over which topics they include but will be encouraged to write a review of each topic covered as part of the formative learning within the module. As such the summative assessment forms a collective submission of work that should already have been done across the module, in conjunction with timely feedback and classroom-based debate and discussion.

Formative assessment of learning will take place during scheduled teaching building on content taught and independent study tasks. Methods comprise of question and answers, group discussions and debates, in-class knowledge checks, and work products as produced.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Short Answer Portfolio (200 words each over a range of topics).

The portfolio will enable learners to evidence their knowledge of the subject matter across a range of topics covered on the module. As well as subject knowledge the

skill of writing concisely to tight word counts is a key element of the portfolio, in addition to which there should be a clearly defined reference list.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Short Answer Portfolio (200 words each over a range of topics).

The portfolio will enable learners to evidence their knowledge of the subject matter across a range of topics covered on the module. As well as subject knowledge the skill of writing concisely to tight word counts is a key element of the portfolio, in addition to which there should be a clearly defined reference list.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Professional Policing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23