



Module Specification

Creating Change in the Criminal Justice System

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Creating Change in the Criminal Justice System

Module code: UZSYGA-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School 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: Creating change in the criminal justice system involves an understanding of the key, social, political, and strategic drivers that impact upon contemporary response policing. This module provides a broad understanding of how response policing has needed to adapt to a reduction in police numbers, increasing financial constraints, while maintaining the trust and confidence of the communities they serve, and the evolving nature of incidents of crime facilitated by the use of digital technology and its impact on society.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module provides an overview of the impact of social and political change upon response policing and offers a broader appreciation and recognition on how response policing has adapted to a reduction in police numbers due to burnout, natural retirements, issues with resourcing, and growing financial constraints. Issues such as current policing awareness of social/community issues, cultural/socio-political influences and change are examined with a key focus on data contained in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL reports into police effectiveness.

The module outlines the reforms required to enable the police service to fulfil its primary functions whilst exploring the impact of resourcing demands on policing. Key themes include doing more with less money and fewer officers, increasing and different demands such as the impact of mental health and social issues, technical/digital crime, extremism, staffing levels, abstractions, availability, and maintaining morale when faced with the extent and pace of change.

The module brings the developing issue of youth gangs to the forefront and measures the effect they have on vulnerable people. This provides further insight into the psychology of a vulnerable person or persons at risk of harm which may make them more attractive as targets for youth gangs, either to victimise, or recruit into the gang. The Module highlights strategies and tactics for disrupting such activities and encourages learners to debate why there is a historical mistrust of the police by some sections of society and contrast how historical mistrust can manifest itself in confrontations. The module contains case studies of high-profile cases where such confrontations have taken place and the measures used to reduce tension while improving trust whilst recognising the value and importance of community tension indicators and intelligence. Community engagement on police legitimacy, and the measure of engagement on community confidence in the police also feature within the module.

The module highlights key stakeholders that promote effective community engagement such as partner organisations, groups, individuals, the police, and the

typology and influences on community partnerships that may provide opportunities to formulate effective community engagement strategies. The module re-enforces the aims and benefits of community engagement, explains the pros and cons of different methods of engagement, and describes the value how problem-solving activities can influence future communities and how they are policed. This includes defining the role of social media, communication and marketing methods while recognising the importance and value of information provision/sharing.

Evaluating the impact of potential challenges to community policing and the future role of the community constable directs the module to explore the impact of financial constraints, competing priorities, resourcing challenges and expectations, the ability to continue to deliver community policing in its present form, advances in technology and, changing crime types and patterns. The effects of how these impact on the future role of community police constables and the special constabulary highlight the need for those who work within the Criminal Justice System to evolve their knowledge, skills, and adaptability to changing needs and priorities.

Improved research capabilities in specialised fields have provided the benefit of a greater understanding of sociology and criminology and the affect they can have on operational policing and decision making. By reviewing crime initiatives such as the Kirkholt Burglary Projects, and the Jill Dando Institute the module provides learners with opportunities to critically compare and challenge pre-determined concepts and policing models and encourages a holistic approach when considering possible solutions and describes how to justify decisions based on a sound understanding of the problem.

Outline syllabus: CoP Curriculum:

Vulnerability and Risk:

13 Analyse the developing issue of youth gangs targeting vulnerable people, or people at risk of harm

13.1 Psychology of a vulnerable person or person at risk of harm which makes them an attractive target for youth gangs

13.2 The effect it has on the vulnerable person

13.3 Situations which vulnerable people may be subject to or find themselves involved in

13.4 Strategies and disruption tactics that could be employed

Criminal Justice:

11 Evaluate how the diversity of individuals and society impact on the criminal justice system

11.1 How the diverse nature of society impacts upon the criminal justice system; the importance of valuing diversity and inclusion

and the necessity for integrity and fairness across all criminal justice system matters

11.2 How socio-economic, mental health, diversity issues can impact on individuals progressing through the criminal justice system

12 Explain the importance of effective partnership collaboration with respect to offender rehabilitation

12.4 The importance of effective partnership collaboration with Police and Crime Commissioners, partners and wider agencies

Response Policing:

15 Understand key social, political and strategic drivers impacting upon contemporary response policing

15.1 Impact of social and political change upon response policing

15.2 How response policing has adapted to a reduction in police numbers and growing financial constraints

15.3 Analysing and reporting on issues such as:

- Current policing awareness of social/community issues
- Cultural/socio-political influences and change

17 Explain strategies for how those involved in response policing can remain effective in an increasingly challenging environment

17.1 PEEL reports into police effectiveness

17.2 Reforms required to enable the police service to fulfil its primary functions

17.3 Potential impact of resourcing demands on policing:

- Doing more with less money and fewer officers
 - Increasing and different demands e.g. mental health and social issues, technical/digital crime, extremism
 - Staffing levels, abstractions and availability
 - Maintaining morale when faced with extent and pace of change
- 17.4 How response policing can deal with challenges posed by issues of resourcing

Policing Communities:

6 Analyse why key incidents/events have had a damaging effect on the willingness of communities to engage with the police

6.1 National and local incidents

6.2 High profile cases which have affected the community relationship with the police

6.3 Rationale for negative outcomes

6.4 Balancing key causation factors

8 Evaluate the role of community policing in fostering and maintaining community cohesion

8.1 Why there is a historical mistrust of the police by some sections of society

8.2 How historical mistrust can manifest itself in confrontations

8.3 High profile cases where such confrontations have taken place

8.4 Measures to reduce tension and improve trust

8.5 Use of community tension indicators

8.6 Impact of community engagement on police legitimacy

8.7 Impact of engagement on community confidence

9 Understand the key principles of effective community engagement

9.1 Identification of key stakeholders:

- Partner organisations
- Groups
- Individuals
- Police

9.2 Typology and influences on community partnerships

9.3 How to develop an effective community engagement strategy:

- Aim and benefit(s) of community engagement
- Pros and cons of different methods of engagement
- Using community engagement to identify and prioritise problem-solving activity
- Role of social media, including communication/marketing methods
- Importance and value of information provision/sharing

10 Evaluate the impact of potential challenges to community policing and the future role of the community constable

10.1 Potential future challenges and opportunities:

- Financial constraints
- Competing priorities
- Resourcing challenges/expectations
- Ability to continue to deliver community policing in its present form
- Advances in technology
- Changing crime types and patterns

10.2 Future role of community police officers and special constabulary:

- Evolving knowledge and skills requirements
- Adaptability to changing needs and priorities

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 Assess key social, political, and strategic drivers impacting upon contemporary response policing and describe how those involved in response policing can remain effective in an increasingly challenging environment.

MO2 Analyse emerging sociological and criminal issues in the UK and how vulnerable people, or people at risk of harm become attractive targets.

MO3 Analyse key incidents/events that have had impacted on the willingness of communities to engage with the police by examining key community policing principles, identifying challenges and the importance of community cohesion.

MO4 Evaluate the benefits that a greater understanding of sociology and criminology can have on operational policing and decision making by reviewing specific initiatives relating to crime prevention.

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](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4EDC1828-DC1C-B5EF-45BB-C0E39F89C3F0.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4EDC1828-DC1C-B5EF-45BB-C0E39F89C3F0.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The summative assessment will be a 20-minute Job interview/promotion presentation.

Future gazing and preparing students to enter the workplace or continue their current development, the assessment requires students to prepare for a job interview based on what changes you would make to 4 key areas in their organisation. These should relate to existing or emerging issues, organisational strategies, priorities, risk management and fostering good relations with the public and present your findings to an interview panel (consisting of teaching staff) and reflect an emerging issue

identified by the student. During the interview/presentation, students will be required to evidence their policing investigation and research skills by justifying their position, a written reference list should also be provided at the conclusion of the presentation or interview.

Formative assessment of learning will be provided during scheduled teaching activities, taking part in discussions, debates and questions and answers during taught sessions. Additional formative support will be provided in study skills workshops on research, literature reviews, creation of abstracts, referencing, and utilising UWE Library services.

Assessment tasks:**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: 20-minute Chief Officer job interview Presentation based on what changes you would make to 4 key areas in your organisation. These should relate to existing or emerging issues, organisational strategies, priorities, risk management and fostering good relations with the public.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 20-minute Chief Officer job interview Presentation based on what changes you would make to 4 key areas in your organisation. These should relate to existing or emerging issues, organisational strategies, priorities, risk management and fostering good relations with the public.

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

Applied Criminal Justice {Top Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25