Module Specification

Creating Change in the Criminal Justice System

Version: 2025-26, v3.0, 05 Feb 2025

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Creating Change in the Criminal Justice System

Module code: UZSYGA-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

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. It considers 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 explores complex challenges for policing, such as the development of youth gangs, community engagement and police legitimacy. Learners will 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. Students will consider how these challenges can be managed using evidence-based approaches which capitalise on the growing level of research into social issues, crime and their impact on operational policing and decision making. The module provides learners with opportunities to critically compare and challenge existing approaches and develop alternative, holistic solutions based on a sound understanding of the problem.

Outline syllabus: Relevant learning outcomes as specified in the applicable College of Policing National Policing Curriculum.

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

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/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) 2023-24

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

Professional Policing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

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

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

Applied Criminal Justice {Top Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26