Community Policing in the United Kingdom

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Introduction

- The UK context
- The re-invention of Community Policing
- Community Policing in the UK
- Existing and future challenges
Background – Structure of UK Policing

- Home Office
- Police Authorities
- 43 Constabularies
- “Tri-partite arrangement”
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

Police Reform

- Public Sector Reform (2001)
  - National standards / Devolution / flexibility / choice
- Police Reform Act (2002)
  - Priority crime
  - Serious and organised crime
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder
  - Citizen-focused policing
  - Neighbourhood Policing
  - Communities to have a greater say in how their neighbourhood is policed

The Reassurance Gap

Recorded volume crime down

Fear of crime up & sense of insecurity increased
The Reinvention Cycle

Enforcement Focus
- Intelligence led squads
- Strong response teams
- Strong detective teams

Demand for greater visibility
- Detection rates fall in priority crimes
- Media criticises performance
- Priority crime rises

Demand to tackle low level crime
- Demands for greater visibility
- Demanded by community policing
- Welcomed and applauded
- Detection rates fall in priority crimes

Police not part of community - demand for community policing
- Political criticisms (esp. during election campaigns)
- Promises to correct failings
- Demand for greater visibility

Community Focus
- Dedicated neighbourhood teams
- Reduced squads, response and detective teams

Detections increase
- Priority crime falls
- Community Policing in the UK

Community Policing in the UK
- Promises to correct failings
- Demand for greater visibility
- Demand to tackle low level crime
- Police not part of community - demand for community policing

Detections increase
Complexities & Challenges

- Violent Crime
- Terrorist Threats
- Neighbourhoods
- Investigation
- Rising Demands
- Public Confidence
- Response
- Proactive
- Organised Crime
- Critical Incidents
- Risk Management

Background to Neighbourhood Policing

- National Reassurance Policing Programme
- Signal Crime
  - Types of crime & disorder that have a disproportionate impact upon perceptions of risk
- Citizen Focus Agenda
  - Fairness and Equality
  - Neighbourhood Policing & Community Engagement
  - Customer Service and Accessibility
The Purpose of Neighbourhood Policing is to deliver the right people, at the right places and in the right numbers to create neighbourhoods that are and that feel safe.

Requirements of neighbourhood policing

- Consistent presence of dedicated teams capable of working with the community to establish and maintain control – to be visible, accessible, skilled, knowledgeable and familiar to the community

- Intelligence-led identification of community concerns – prompt effective, targeted action against those concerns

- Joint action and problem solving with the community and other partners – to improve the local environment and quality of life within the community
10 Principles of Neighbourhood Policing

1. Organisational Strategy
2. Integrated Policing Activity
3. Evidence Based Deployment
4. Dedicated Teams
5. Locally Dependent
6. Public Priorities
7. Collaborative Partnerships
8. Intelligence Led
9. Community Engagement
10. Performance Management
What do we know?

Local Assessment

Research Support

1. Research

7 Stage Neighbourhood Policing Model
Public Perception Survey
Barnsbury Ward – Youth Disorder

Barnard Park (13 Responses)
- Youths throwing bottles at passers-by.
- Youths thought to be involved in petty crime and robberies.
- Underage Drinking
- Riding mopeds around the park and abandoning or setting fire to them.
- Causing noise and litter (including broken glass)

Barnsbury Estate (16 Responses)
- Youths congregating in stairwells where they eat takeaway food and smoke drugs and urinate in lifts as well as graffitting walls
- Intimidating residents and causing harassment by ringing doorbells to blocks.
- Youths riding mopeds on Charlotte Terrace.
- Smashing phone box on Copenhagen St

Richmond Avenue (2 responses)
- Youths causing criminal damage to property.
- Youths letting off fireworks.

Cloudesley Square (2 Responses)
- Youths causing Criminal Damage to parked vehicles.

Carnegie Street (1 response)
Gangs of youths congregating on Canal Path.
Neighbourhood Policing in London – “Safer Neighbourhoods”

- 630 Neighbourhood Teams
- Use of dedicated teams comprising an effective mix of skills and powers
  - 1 x Sergeant (1st line supervisor)
  - 2 x Police Constables
  - 3 x Police Community Support Officers
- “Special Constables” (Shopwatch / campus watch)
- Analysts & researchers
- Safer Neighbourhood Insps

Performance

- Outcomes
  - Fear of crime
  - Concern about anti-social behaviour
  - Satisfaction with local policing
  - Satisfaction that police have identified issues that are a priority for local people
  - Satisfaction that police are dealing with issues that are a priority for local people
- Key Individual Network surveys
- Neighbourhood outputs
Implementation barriers

- Cultural barriers
- Complexity of “neighbourhoods”
- Mission creep
- New forms of leadership are required
- Performance management
- Strategic demands of local policing

Wards where Anti-social behaviour by young people is a priority
Thank You

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