



Karen Evans, University of Liverpool, UK

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY?


Responsibility for crime prevention – a brief history

- 150 years c.p. is the responsibility of the police
- Post-war interventionist state and welfare model
- 1980s 'demonopolisation' of c.p. practice
- Public/private partnerships - Home Office circular 8/84 – crime is the responsibility of the whole community




Community Safety era


Either: The democratisation of community safety and crime prevention – participation of the policed in policing practices



Or: A 'dispersal of discipline' individualising responsibility for crime prevention practice and a rolling back of the welfare model




The 'organising framework' of community safety

- Partnership working
 - Problem-oriented approaches
 - Prevention
 - Harm reduction
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The 2015 election campaign

- Absence of 'law and order' ticket
 - Convergence of opinion and focus on:
 - 'at risk individuals'
 - Decoupling of state from c.p.
 - Increasing role for citizen involvement
 - Promotion of private sector
 - Technocratic solutions
 - Regulation of pre-crime behaviours
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Phases of crime prevention policy – Nick Tilley

1. 1975-90 - validation and professionalisation
 2. 1985-2000 – institutionalisation of crime prevention practices
 3. 1995-2010 – freeing c.p. from public institutional frameworks
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4th phase in crime prevention?

A loss of trust in

- The neighbourhood as a site for change
- The self-governing community
- Public service ethos



Where are we now?

- From community to individual behavioural change
- Dismantling of existing frameworks
 - Courts - Legal Aid withdrawal
 - Probation - Community Rehabilitation Companies
 - Police – a degree of withdrawal of financial and political support



Private sector as driver for change and efficiency



Community Safety futures?

- Market orientation - Payment by results and charging for services
- Public services as income generators
- Technocratic solutions
- Growing dysjunction between policing and policed