THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY?

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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
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
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
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 an policed