Policing vulnerable people

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Pearls in Policing

waakzaam en dienstbaar

Politie
Contents

- Public protection: from topics to clusters
- The two dimensions of vulnerability
- A closer look at contexts
- A matter for the police?
- Tradition and ambition
- Two cases
- Implications for police services & others
- Dilemmas & questions
Public protection: topics

- Rape & sexual violence
- Stalking & harassment
- Radicalisation
- Child abuse
- Human trafficking
- Child sexual exploitation
- Vulnerable adults
- Domestic abuse
- Honour-based violence
- Hate crime
- Forced marriage
- Female genitale mutilation
- Children & young people
- Gangs & youth violence
- Mental health
- Offender-related interventions
## Public protection: clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition or state of an individual</th>
<th>Vulnerable groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Types of crime</td>
<td>Vulnerable places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vulnerability: two dimensions

Attractive target
 +
Low resilience

Contexts:

a. Society at large
b. Everyday environment
c. International environment
d. Media
Contexts

1. Individual
2. Everyday environment
3. Society

International environment
Media
International environment

1. Individual
2. Everyday environment
3. Police
4. Society

Media
## Tradition and ambition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific tradition:</th>
<th>Shared ambition:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>narrow or broad mandate / control or consent / …</td>
<td>social function of policing as indispensable dimension of policing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two cases

Improving the police response to crimes against children

Reporting a crime without fear of arrest
Implications

1. Balance between prevention and criminal investigation; move towards proactive policing
2. Develop better understanding of (the contexts) of vulnerability; localism
3. Engage with other agencies in multi-actor strategies based on a shared goal; focus on what generates the most added value
4. Engage local communities in monitoring and evaluating performance
5. Adequate accountability.
Dilemmas

Budget cuts versus investments
- narrow or broad remit
- engage or withdraw
- coping with (political) pressure

Freedom versus privacy
- against people’s will
- unreported crime
- invading private space
- who determines what is justifiable?

Growing number of agencies / measuring performance and organizing accountability
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