

Abstracts Conference

Local Safety Measurement System for Police Efficiency - a proposal to better combat crime, disorder and victimisation in policing globally.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of a possible approach to the tasks concerning better police efficiency in combatting crime and disorder. Especially using the citizens as the main performance indicator. Unfortunately, these approaches are not common in Police Services globally, on the contrary seemed rare.

Every Police Service needs to challenge the present internal paradigm of policing and there are unluckily few deeper concepts of that kind globally. With challenges, I mean a number of factors that influence Police management in general and specifically the delivery of Community Policing.

How do The Police measure performance in the delivery of Community Policing? How do The Police increase the public's influence in Community Policing? Has any Police Service, any examples of using the public's feedback as a main performance indicator for Community policing?

No doubt that a lot of initiatives in the area of public influence has been taken throughout the world, especially in the fields of community policing, however there are few systematically done in a longsighted mindful way. I am going to supplement my hypothesis with concrete police community policing examples from Sweden using the citizens as the main indicator for police performance during 20 years and a small number of illustrations from Albania 2012-2015. I try to contribute with more or less embryonal answers to the questions.

Let's start with Sir Robert Peel's principles, the legendary so called founder of modern policing introduced for almost 200 years ago. Upon close examination of one of the Peelian principles, not only are direct connections to policing in today's world apparent, but often the principles are cited as the basic foundation for current law enforcement organizations and community policing throughout the world.

Reading the principles, we can find, at least to my mind, one of the principles if not totally forgotten, never exercised systematically in Police Services today.

“The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

In my modern reading of Peel means such a mandatory statement that Police services have to methodically measure the volume of crime, victimisation, disorder and disturbances to the peace in suitable intervals. Confidence and trust indicators would preferably be included.

The understanding of the idea has increased that less crime and less disorder are normally a good reviewer of effectiveness of the Police Service. Of course, there are lot of other impacts in society on problems; however performance of Police and Local Governments to reduce crime and disorder are normally suitable for such evaluations, especially in the short run and in local areas.

That's why research and public surveys, rightly done in all aspects, are extremely important as guiding tools for the local work. The research and surveys are the tools to translate visions and strategies into action at the local level, as showed in considerable number of such practices in Sweden.

One of the main goals of the Swedish Police is to increase public safety. However, current police crime statistics cannot be used to find out whether the work of the police has actually had a positive effect on community safety and crime rates. The best known way to learn and study this problem is to use well-established concepts of local public surveys.

It is essential that the purpose of a citizen survey should be clearly defined. In Swedish citizen surveys targeting particular geographical areas the Police normally have chosen to focus on the public's need for police services, the impact of police work on local problems, the social environment in which the police work and the community safety situation. This is the best way for the studies to be an instrument for community policing as these focal points provide the best and most consistent support for local police work. The input provided by the public, i.e. their expert knowledge of problems in their residential areas, helps us to improve local police service.

The Local Safety Measurement System was introduced in Sweden during the period 1998 – 2008. The philosophies behind the system are common in Europe both in private business and in the public sector. The principles are a part of a global concept and ideology; *Recognition of the public as the main stakeholder in public sector performance.*

The Police services and local authorities are not an exception in EU member States. The impacts of the models and current theories are severe, also in police organisations, around the globe. However, it is difficult in all countries and in policing to give all these principles a meaningful practical application.

The primary purpose of the paper is to discuss the comprehensive Swedish experiences developed to 2018 with the intelligence-based working method that enhance operational planning, crime prevention work, reduce exposure to crime, and enhance the prospects of improving safety for all living in the local community.

The working method is tried in both The Swedish Police in many years with great results and the Albanian State Police during the last years. The main instrument is the analysis of the safety situation in local communities by means of respondents living in the local residential areas. After analysing the results, the Swedish Police and The Albanian State Police developed and tailored methodologies for the community policing work in local communities.

The Article will show the major obstacles to be successful, the follow-up system with a particular focus on whether these working methods, collaborative structures and new tools actually increase Police efficiency, reduce exposure to crime, boost safety and lift public confidence in local police work in Sweden and Albania.