

Crime and the Social Ills which contribute to this.

Welcome:

A very good evening to all of you. Let me start off by saying that there isn't a person in this room who has not directly or indirectly been affected by Crime in one way or another.

According to Wikipedia- "as in various cities crime is very hard to measure. Police figures generally understate crime substantially and can be extremely misleading. Accordingly, recorded crime statistics need to be treated with great caution and have sometimes been shown to show opposite trends to victim surveys or to violence as measured by hospital intake. However, police figures are usually the only available way to gauge local crime. Amidst a growing trend including a 40% growth since 2014. And 47 murders since January 2018."

Crime not only leads to material and immaterial cost for those who have become victimised, but crime also forces local and national authorities to spend billions on the prevention of crime and the detection, prosecution and punishment of criminals. The home office estimates the costs of crime to be between 35 and 60 billion per year for England and Wales. The impact of crime on society is still an underexposed field of interest. It is very difficult to quantify the cost of crime with the economic tools, and especially the benefits since they are in most of the cases non-economic, e.g. health benefits, the benefit of living in a safe area etc

Nevertheless, the fact remains that there is an economic impact related to crime (in both a direct and indirect way).

Crime is a part of every urban society, but it is not always as relevant to urban planners.

Primary economic impact of crime:

In general economists use two types of methods to further categorise the primary costs of crime. The first way is by defining the subject who bears the effects (victims, potential victims, society etc). From an economic point of view, criminal offences can be aimed against:

- Individuals/ households
- the commercial sector/ companies
- the public sector/ society

A second approach of categorising is by breaking down the costs in relation to individual incidents.

This way, the costs of crime are categorised as:

- anticipation of crime- mainly costs of precaution measures to avoid crime such as locks, alarm prevention programs and surveillance.
- Consequence of crime, for instance, loss of property, medical and health care costs, victim support etc.

Secondary economic impact of crime

Crime not only leads to financial or physical damage and prevention costs, but also indirectly influences the local, regional and national economy of a country. Crime acts like a tax on the entire

economy. It discourages domestic and foreign direct investments. On a macroeconomic level crime influences;

- economic growth
- income
- labour force participation
- income spent on security measures and reallocation of resources creating uncertainty and inefficiency.

On a more local and regional level, the following types of impact

- business impact (crime reduces competitiveness of companies and investments
- tourism impact
- impact on quality of life/ social capital
- impact on property value.

Another effect of crime is that residents become less committed to their communities, causing the social fibre of the community to be weakened. An example of the loss of social capital is that residents of neighbourhoods with a criminal reputation are judged to be associated with criminal activities, leading amongst others to stigmas that, for example prevent those people from finding jobs.

Further examples of secondary economic effects of crime:

- the carbon cost of crime
- the opportunity costs of police, rescue and fire department
- moving costs of residents who want to escape from crime levels in bad neighbourhoods

The cost of mental health issues after crime.

Reimbursement of victims by insurance agencies

Costs of white collar crimes

Costs of victimless crimes such as illegal gambling,

Illicit drug crimes

Prostitution etc

On top of that, it is very difficult to quantify subjective costs like pain and suffering.

To say that the cuts generated by this conservative government has not contributed to this surge in various types of crime would be foolish.

If this does not frighten you to the core, then I don't know what will. It is said that unless a person is directly or indirectly affected by crime whether it be a stabbing, shooting, rape, robbery etc. they seem to have the "Its nothing to do with me" attitude.

That way of thinking is exactly why we have not seen a change. Until we all stand up and take responsibility for our homes, neighbourhoods, schools, children etc Nothing will change.

I love the Tesco's add which says "every little help" that has never been truer than in this drastic time that we are in.

Roll call:

1. Steve Frank Navarez-Jara- was the first person to be killed in 2018. The 20-year-old was stabbed on New Year's Day in Islington.
2. Elizabeta Lacatusu- was stabbed in Redbridge on the 3rd of January at the age of 44.
3. Vijay Patel – died after being attacked outside a shop in mill hill on the 6th of January
4. Daniel Fredrick 18 years old stabbed in Hackney on the 8th January
5. Dami Odeyingbo 18 stabbed in Bromley 9th January
6. Harry Uzoka 25 stabbed in Shepherd's Bush 11 January
7. Seyed Azim Khan 26 head injuries his body found in Ilford cemetery 24th January
8. Yaya Mybe 26 stabbed in Stoke Newington 28th January
9. Juan Olmos Saca 39 stabbed in Peckham 29th Jan
10. Lily Mai killed in Haringey 31 January she was not even a year old

I will stop here as the names go on and on but that is our reality as a society.

As I read these names out to you I can't help but think that it's like reading out a shopping list.

I will share a bit of a personal experience with you some of you may know already that myself and my family have been face to face with violent crime which seems to have become the method of choice by criminals looking to inflict injury on person. Last year August 23rd to be exact at minutes to three in the afternoon. An afternoon had it not been for the fact that it was half term I would come to know the personal emotional pain of crime. My husband was stabbed eight times and left bleeding by a known trouble maker \drug dealing thug who felt nothing in arming himself with a huge kitchen knife, standing outside a very local chicken shop planning and demonstrating according to witnessing how he was going to carry out this horrendous act.

I remember that day like it was yesterday but almost a year on and I am heart broken to waking everyday to the news of yet another stabbing, shooting or acid attack.

On that day myself and my family's lives were changed forever, but I had to be strong for them and for that reason with the strength from my faith I was determined not to allow these thugs to impact of daily lives any more. Now the perpetrators are still on the run. The irony of that is they are still very close and very local as we have seen them on numerous occasions since then.

Changing the way, we think:

We all think that criminal attacks will never happen to us until it does. Historically let's look at the number of breaking news story headlines {teen stabbed in???? Or another young person's mother, father, family member talking about how lovely their loved one was. Or the life they could have had. As a mother of five wonderful children two boys and three girls ranging from 17-11 months. I have some level of experience from infancy to teenage years.

The family build up

We would all have loved to have come from the perfect two parent home. Although am about to discuss the importance of ensuring we engage, encourage, motivate, direct and track our children, grandchildren etc every idle moment. I am in no way saying that coming from a single parent home is worse than a two-parent family.

I for one was a single parent for 14 years and if that time showed me one thing is that I had to divide my role as a mother to also becoming to the best of my ability a father figure as well.

How you may ask. well I came from a family of eight, a two working class parents. My father worked until he sadly died from prostate cancer and my mother retired and dedicated herself to supporting her grandchildren.

So, from the start I was at an advantage as a parent I already had strong male role models who I had around my children but from whom I could also emulate that strong masculine nature. Traits I saw in my father then in my five brothers who were very protective and encouraging toward MYSELF AND MY SISTERS.

I grew up under the motto it takes a village to raise a child. Where has this philosophy gone? We all need to take responsibility for our children. Children are like sponges absorbing the good and bad from their surroundings. Although I have seen some children who have come from ugly place develop into beautiful souls.

But that was not just by themselves it could have been a neighbour who took interest, a teacher, an aunt, uncle, carer etc. As a parent I believe sometimes parent obsess over being their children best friend first and forget that the job, the main job is to be a parent which entails, supporting, loving, encourage, screening their friends and persons who they have around them.

Programmes.

Engaging children from young with their communities is key to the prevention of certain crimes, getting young people to adopt a loyalty code to their communities rather than their gangs is key.

What can we do.

Engage with your neighbours, shop keepers, chemist, doctors, pcso's, councillors, MP's, caretakers, postmen and women. This is how we will create the old Village that will raise the child.

Clubs focused on exploring and utilizing the talent of young people. As we all know not every child is an academic, but every child is talented in his or her own way.

There needs to be more invested in project which gives young people their own identities and encouraging their talent whether it be singing dancing, drawing, fixing cars, painting, rapping, story telling etc. We need to support them at every stage of their journey.

So going back to the beginning of my talk lets all pledge from today to do one thing how ever little to start being that change we wish to see in societies.

Thank You
Nichola Goodman