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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
CCFs	Crime Combating Forums
CPF	Community Policing Forum
CSVR	Centre for the study of Violence and Reconciliation
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
DoCS	Department of Community Safety
DoCS SCP	Department of Community Social Crime Prevention
DoE	Department of Education
DSD	Department of Social Development
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunode Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ISCPS	Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy
NCPS	National Crime Prevention Strategy
NDMP	National Drug Master Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
NDPF	National Development Policy Framework
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NYC	National Youth Council
NYC	National Youth Commission
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
NYDPF	National Youth Development Policy Framework
NYLS	National Youth Lifestyle Study
NYSP	National Youth Service Programme
NYP	National Youth Policy
OLV	One Less Victim
SAPS	South African Police Service
SAYC	South African Youth Council

SCP	Social Crime Prevention
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNISA	University of South Africa
UYF	Umsobovu Youth Fund
VAWAC	Violence Against Women And Children
VEC	Victim Empowerment Centre
VISPOL	Visible Policing
WHO	World Health Organisation
YCPC	Youth Crime Prevention Coordinator
YCPCC	Youth Crime Prevention Coordinating Committee
YCPD	Youth Crime Prevention Desk
YCPG	Youth Crime Prevention Guidelines
YCPIF	Youth Crime Prevention Implementation Framework

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL ORIENTATION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Social Crime Prevention (SCP) is a government initiative aimed at empowering various communities regarding how to deal with social ills, such as crimes committed by and against children, within their respective environments. It is expected of every government department to participate in this initiative, since it deals with the social conditions faced by children, the youth, men and women, especially under those conditions that relate to criminal activity. This initiative also assists communities with methods regarding how best to handle such challenges. SCP is a unique approach because it places more emphasis on the reduction and elimination of the potential causes of crime. It is an integrative approach, since many role-players are involved, including communities (South Africa, 2011a: 8). The Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy [ISCPS] (South Africa, 2011a:14) allows members of the public to be actively involved in the fight against crime. It further promotes public safety through the provision of education and awareness of crime prevention issues, for example programmes to prevent violence against children, youth safety, school and child safety, and substance abuse. It is also expected of social crime prevention initiatives to be properly coordinated and linked to other measures to address the broader social challenges at community level.

This study commences with the introduction section and provide study background, followed by the problem statement in respect of the envisaged study. The principal research aim and objectives, research questions, study value, delimitation, challenges experienced during this study are outlined in this chapter. The key theoretical concepts consist of 'Social crime, SCP, Community Policing, Crime prevention, and youth.' The chosen research design and methodology for this study, including study location description, the sampling method, data collection and data analysis are discussed in this chapter. This chapter also present the methods to ensure trustworthiness and ethical consideration.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) (South Africa, 1996(a)) mandates the South African Police Service (SAPS) to “create a safe and secure environment for all the people of South Africa,” meaning that this Act plays an integral role in creating opportunities to establish safer communities. The White Paper on Safety and Security (1998a:12) also indicates and prescribes social crime prevention initiatives and acknowledges that crime is committed for various reasons, therefore various methodologies should be applied to prevent crime.

Targeted social crime prevention programmes - of which the police may be only one of a range of participants - that aim to eliminate the causes of particular types of crime in defined localities have been shown to be both successful and cost-effective in reducing crime. Such programmes require careful monitoring and measuring, and must involve key role-players at local level in order to be effective (White Paper on Safety and Security, 1998a:6). The White Paper further prescribes social crime prevention programmes that target the causes of particular types of crime at national, provincial and local level. More generally, such an approach also recognises the impact of the government’s broader economic, development and social policies for crime prevention. The effective delivery of basic services such as housing, education and health as well as job creation thus have a critical role to play in ensuring living environments less conducive to crime. This suggests that greater lobbying, planning and coordination are required at national, provincial and local level, specifically on the question of crime prevention and its links to a wider array of other government functions. These requirements have profound implications for how the Department of Safety and Security and other government departments reorient themselves, conduct their business and reallocate their resources. It suggests renewed concentration on law enforcement within the police service itself. It also requires the involvement of a larger number of new role-players in safety and security (White Paper on Safety and Security, 1998a:7).

The White Paper is further aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) (South Africa, 2015a:7), which states “safety should be measured by the extent to which the most vulnerable in society feel and are safe from crime (and violence) and the conditions that breed it.” The NDP thus also places emphasis on the root causes of

crime. Since the introduction and implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) (South Africa, 1996b) a number of shortcomings have been identified, for example insufficient correlation between the prevention pillars and the actual execution of priority crimes, and an unqualified approach towards the development of national programmes. As a result, the Social Cluster mandated various government departments to develop their specific crime prevention strategies in alignment with the NCPS (South Africa, 2011a:15). The NCPS was implemented in 1996 in order to provide a solid foundation and a set of guidelines to various government departments. Each department is expected to participate in the fulfilment of this initiative. Furthermore, it places more emphasis on crime prevention than relying on arresting and convicting offenders (South Africa, 2011a:8).

The NCPS is a primary short- and long-term programme that is based on a continuous programme of action to be implemented by a variety of departments, in partnership with civil society organisations. It includes the four prevention pillars, namely Criminal Justice System, Community Value and Education, Environmental Designs and Transnational Crime (South Africa, 1996b). Crime prevention has always been a government priority, which culminated in the introduction of the 1996 National Crime Prevention Strategy. This strategy places more emphasis on crime prevention rather than convicting offenders; moreover, it places more emphasis on other means to deal with crime (South Africa, 2011a:8). According to Palmery (2001:3) there is a need for a balance to be found between social crime prevention and law enforcement. Palmery (2001:3) further states that a more proactive approach to crime prevention has to be developed in consultation with the police and the community. Furthermore, the NDP of South Africa emphasises active citizen participation and co-responsibility, especially of youth, in addressing and resolving the root causes of violence and crime (South Africa, 2013a:4).

In addition to the NCPS (South Africa, 1996b) and the White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 1998a), the ISCPS (South Africa, 2011a:8) was developed with the intention to promote united efforts for creating a multi-party understanding and vision on how to combat crime, bringing together concerted interventions within government as key initiatives for social crime prevention. According to the ISCPS

(South Africa, 2011a:13), the Department of Social Development (DSD) was mandated with the facilitation of the development of a framework for the implementation of a social crime prevention strategy. This initiative was aimed at clarifying the different roles to be played by various government departments. Every department that is part of the Justice Cluster was assigned a specific role in the implementation of this strategy. Furthermore, this initiative maximises the participation of communities and civil society organisations in the mobilisation and creation of dedicated social crime prevention teams. It is a set of objectives to curb the effects of the underlying causes of crime, reduce the risk of becoming a victim, raise the safety of the community as a whole, and thus improve quality of life. The ISCPS includes a number of themes as focus areas, among others, child abuse, neglect and exploitation; domestic violence and victim empowerment programmes; dealing with substance abuse; and social crime prevention programmes.

The Gauteng Department of Community Safety (DoCS) is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Social Crime Prevention Strategy in the province. The main pillars of this strategy include programmes to prevent violence against women and children, youth safety, school and child safety, and substance abuse prevention. The rationale for developing and implementing the Social Crime Prevention Strategy was to allow government to counter crime issues. It entails a professional and civil society movement, governed and sustained by the respective government departments, which improves the self-defence capabilities of society (South Africa, 2015a:26). The Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) is one of the programmes implemented as one of the pillars of the Social Crime Prevention Strategy to address challenges regarding youth safety, aiming to encourage and increase the participation of the youth to identify social crime risk factors and subsequently develop social crime prevention strategies in conjunction with the SAPS, DoCS and Community Policing Forums (CPFs).

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Hernon and Metoyer-Duran (1993:82) identify nine elements that should be included in a problem statement, namely clarity and precision, identification of what would be studied, identification of comprehensive questions and key factors or variables, identification of key concepts and terms, articulation of the study

boundaries or parameters, some generalisability, conveyance of the study's importance, no use of unnecessary jargon, and conveyance of more than the mere gathering of descriptive data providing a snapshot. The above-mentioned features provide the context for the study and as a result it spawns questions that the research wishes to respond to.

During 2008, an impact analysis was conducted by the Gauteng DoCS in relation to the activities of the YCPD. The study found that the activities of the YCPD are not sufficiently resourced, poor relationships exist between the SAPS and the CPF, and the leadership structure is a shambles (Impact Analysis of the Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desk Programme, 2013:26). In 2013, the Gauteng DoCS carried out a follow-up study, and similar challenges were detected (Impact Analysis of the Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desk Programme, 2013:26).

According to Youth Crime Prevention Desks (2013), the Gauteng YCPDs are volunteer-based structures based at police stations in the province. The desks encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies for their communities. Recognising that young people in South Africa are a key target group as both victims and perpetrators of crime, the YCPD in Gauteng mobilise and involve young people in interventions aimed at violence and crime prevention. These volunteer-based structures mainly comprise youth between the ages of 18 and 27 and are based at police stations in the province. They encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention activities with relevant stakeholders.

The NDP for South Africa emphasises active citizen involvement and co-responsibility with law enforcement to address and resolve the root causes of violence and crime. The YCPDs are a joint initiative between the DoCS, the SAPS, and CPFs. This programme seeks to address various aspects of crime and its impact on the youth, including (Youth Crime Prevention Desks, 2013):

- Developing cooperative relations between SAPS and youth.
- Assisting in identifying the safety needs of the youth,

- Developing and implementing programmes to address identified safety needs,
- Enabling the youth to act as good citizens and role models,
- Empowering the youth in crime prevention, as well as communication, conflict-resolution, and interpersonal skills.

The core objective of the YCPD programme is for young people to help identify causes of youth violence and crime and to work with other role-players to design and implement relevant social crime prevention interventions. The YCPD members coordinate youth safety activities and projects at police station level. The idea is to work with other youths and youth groups to develop projects that are attractive, sustainable and implementable, and to respond to the specific safety needs of their communities. Initiatives include: sports against crime; prison talks; school talks and debates; school safety desks; motivational talks; substance abuse campaigns and projects; road shows on safety; child protection and crime awareness through public meetings. The YCPDs do not only respond from a crime prevention angle. They also address youth development, seeking to empower young people with skills to become better citizens. In January 2014, South Africa's unemployment rate was 24,1%, with the youth making up a staggering 42% of that total. The NDP recognises that young people have a key role to play in finding sustainable solutions for safer communities. Employment is vital for security, as unemployment is a major driver of crime among children and young adults. The YCPD programme thus strives to equip young people with hard and soft skills for future employability (Youth Crime Prevention Desks, 2013).

The DoCS supports these structures by means of the placement of social crime prevention coordinators who oversee and ensure that there are functional YCPDs in each police station. The DoCS, in collaboration with the youth desks, initiates and runs knowledge forums related to traffic, health and policing to increase awareness of social issues affecting crime. In every police station there is a SAPS coordinator responsible for the overall coordination of all social crime-prevention-related activities, including the youth desk, Victim Empowerment Centres (VECs) and CPFs. These coordinators work closely with the DoCS social crime prevention coordinators. Resources such as office space, transport, stationery and computers are provided by SAPS. In addition, CPFs work with the youth desks to help them

understand crime hot-spots and identify which crimes and social issues must be addressed most urgently. These three partners work collaboratively to guide the youth desks as to which areas to focus on, how best to go about designing a safer environment, and why youth empowerment is critical for the creation of a better and safer South Africa (Youth Crime Prevention Desks, 2013). According to Social Crime Prevention and Promotion of Safety: Youth Crime Prevention Desk (2013), the programme is aimed at:

- Increasing the participation and involvement of youth in crime prevention initiatives,
- Facilitating the coordination of youth programmes at station, cluster and provincial levels via the YSCPD,
- Designing and implementing plans to address youth safety challenges,
- Capacitating the youth with relevant skills to implement projects,
- Addressing youth criminality in the province.

Notwithstanding the introduction of social crime prevention initiatives in Gauteng, such as the YCPD, incidents of crime committed against the youth as well as youth who commit crimes remain very high. The fight against crime cannot be carried out in isolation, but should also focus on dealing with other government departments (SAPS Annual Report, 2011b:59). According to SAPS 2012/2013 Annual Report (South Africa, 2013b:18), an area of serious concern was that the target for the detection rate of crimes against women (18 years and above) and that of crimes against children (under 18 years) had not been achieved. The number of reported complaints involving crimes committed against persons younger than 18 decreased by 3 488 (7,16%) in 2013/14, compared to the 2012/2013 financial year. The number of reported complaints committed against women older than 18 years decreased by 4 020 (2,32%) in comparison to the 2012/2013 financial year. The conviction rate for crimes against persons younger than 18 increased by 1,27%, from 74,04% in 2012/13 to 75,31% in 2013/14, with the main contributors being sexual offences (3,33%) and assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm (2,75%) (Department of Police. Vote no. 25. Annual Report 2013/14:15). According to the official SAPS crime statistics released in September 2014, Ekurhuleni North Cluster contributed 11,5% to sexual crimes and 6,3% to neglect and ill-treatment of

children in Gauteng. The researcher conducted preliminary, informal discussions with SAPS social crime prevention coordinators at three police stations in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster to explore the concept and the guidelines provided by the SAPS on how to implement the social crime prevention strategy, specifically related to the YCPD. Not only has one in two South African youths been victims of crime or violence, but they are exposed to it on a variety of levels in their homes, schools and social lives. Crime is something that affects almost all young people in South Africa in some form or another (Burton, 2006:5 & 6). The National Youth Victimization Survey of 2005 (Burton, 2006:1-5) among young people, aged between 12 and 22 years reported the following findings:

- Approximately 42% of South African children and youth (roughly 4,3 million) were victims of crime or violence during the period September 2004 to September 2005,
- Young people are twice as likely as adults to be victims of at least one crime,
- Children between 12 and 14 years, and youths between 18 and 20 years, are most likely to be victims of crime,
- Approximately 17% of young people were assaulted in 2005. These assaults occurred mainly at school (26%), in the street near shops (21%), or at home (20%). Nine out of ten of the young people that were assaulted knew their attackers, most often from school or elsewhere in the community,
- Nine hundred and seventy three thousand young people were robbed during the 12-month period.

The above statistics illustrate the high levels of violent crime in South Africa that particularly affect young people. The 2008 National Youth Lifestyle Study (NYLS) conducted among 4 391 young people between the ages of 12 and 22 years country-wide explored, among others, the nature and extent of crimes these young people may have experienced, as well as their exposure to violence in the various social contexts in which they live. This study revealed that the high levels of crime and violence experienced by these youths seem to be a reflection of the general disorder and criminality characterising the social environments in which the youth live. Youths are compelled to live in social environments where crime and violence are the order of the day (Burton, 2006:1-5). Continual exposure to these societal

anomalies in the contexts in which socialisation primarily takes place, makes it difficult for children to learn non-violent ways of interacting with others. This – coupled with their personal involvement in risky behaviour such as substance use and engaging in violent behaviour – makes it nearly impossible to elude vulnerability to victimisation. The findings of the NYLS thus point to the need for a multi-faceted intervention strategy aimed at improving child and youth safety in South African communities by addressing the diverse array of factors that put young people at risk of criminal victimisation. Any effort to create a safer South Africa for the country's children and young people would depend on the involvement and continued support of a range of different stakeholders, including government, non-governmental and community-based organisations, parents, schools, communities and the youth themselves (Leoschut, 2009:1-4).

From the preliminary discussions with the SAPS social crime prevention coordinators; the following challenges in the implementation of the YCPD were revealed:

- The SAPS social crime prevention coordinators should serve as a link between the police stations, DoCS and the communities. However, these coordinators' role is duplicated by the functions performed by other officers at station level. Similar functions are performed by sector commanders, reservist coordinators, CPF coordinators, rural safety coordinators and the YCPD,
- Implementation of social crime prevention initiatives, specifically related to the YCPD, at station level are hampered by budget constraints to fund projects as well as physical resource shortcomings. Because of these financial and human resource constraints, training of community leaders in social crime prevention and human rights, school safety, integration of safety plans into local government, and youth crime prevention training are hampered. Due to the lack of training, coordinators are unable to develop, consolidate, prioritise and align youth social crime prevention initiatives and activities with the prescribed national priorities and strategies. These coordinators are further unable to identify focal groups that can assist in youth social crime prevention initiatives as a result of insufficient capacity,

- The training and development needs of most SAPS members have not been addressed, resulting in a lack of understanding of the implementation of youth social crime prevention initiatives and a lack of knowledge and skills regarding how to deal with certain complaints.

Since the Social Crime Prevention Strategy was introduced in the SAPS, no study has been conducted internally to the organisation to assess whether this strategy had yielded the expected results in line with its objectives. Based on the on-going high levels of crime committed against and by the youth, the adverse results from the study conducted by the Gauteng DoCS and the preliminary discussions with the SAPS social crime prevention coordinators caused the researcher to come to the conclusion that a study should be conducted in order to assess the implementation of youth social crime prevention initiatives, specifically related to the YCPD. The identified research problem to be examined in this study will assess the implementation of the YCPD in Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng. The implementation of the YCPD will be assessed in accordance with the set guidelines and procedures as prescribed by the Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy.

1.4 RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to assess the implementation of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng.

The study objectives are as follows:

- To determine whether social Crime Prevention guidelines are complied with as regards the implementation of the YCPD.
- If compliance with the social Crime Prevention guidelines, in realisation of the efficient implementation of the YCPD, can be determined, recommendations can then be made to reduce possible challenges to implementation strategies, and identify measures for improving the implementation of the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster.
- To determine whether the YCPD is achieving its proposed aims and objectives, as mentioned in paragraph 1.3.

- If it is determined that the objectives of the YCPD have been met, the extent to which the youth in Ekurhuleni North Cluster's situation relating to crime can be assessed.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTION

The case study method is ideal when a 'how' or 'why' question is being asked about a contemporary set of events over which the researcher has no control (Gray, 2014:267). Guided by Gray's guideline and in line with this study's aim, the researcher assessed the implementation of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng. The researcher had no control over the activities implemented in the YCPD programme. Consequently, he explored whether the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng had been sufficiently implemented. As a result, the 'how' question was addressed.

1.6 VALUE OF THE STUDY

Once the implementation of the YCPD programme has been explored, the study and its results could benefit the SAPS, DoCS, CPFs as well as YCPD community volunteers who are experiencing challenges in social crime prevention involving youths. Consequently, the SAPS, DoCS, CPFs and YCPD community volunteers will obtain direct evidence of the shortcomings of and challenges experienced in the implementation of the YCPD programme. These entities could thus be guided by this explorative study to resolve the identified shortcomings and challenges in the implementation of the YCPD programme.

Recommendations were made that could guide these role-players regarding how to overcome such shortcomings and challenges in the effective implementation of the YCPD programme, which may have an impact on crime prevention and the associated crimes.

The outcomes of this study could also benefit the South African community, since the identification of challenges and shortcomings experienced by YCPD role-players in the implementation of the YCPD programme could lead to improved youth social crime prevention initiatives at local level.

1.7 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study was confined to the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng. Tembisa is a large township situated to the north of Kempton Park on the Gauteng East Rand. According to the Census of 2011 (South Africa, 2011), Tembisa had a population of about 463 108 (10 819,61 per km). The Ekurhuleni North Cluster comprises nine police stations, namely Tembisa, Tembisa South, Edenvale, Ivory Park, Kempton Park, Norkem Park, Olifantsfontein, Rabie Ridge and Sebenza. The researcher confined the study to the activities of the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster.

1.8 CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED DURING THE STUDY

- Only one station commander made himself available for interviews. None of the other station commanders in the cluster gave their cooperation. They were either busy with their normal duties, attending meetings, or attending crime scenes.
- At various stations in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster there are no functional YCPD desks.
- Various CPF members were not available for interviews since they had other obligations.
- After appointments for interviews had been confirmed with participants prior to conducting the interviews, various prospective participants did not honour the appointments. Follow-up interviews were subsequently arranged, but to no avail.

1.9 KEY THEORETICAL CONCEPTS

The following key theoretical concepts are defined to avoid misconceptions:

1.9.1 Social crime

Social crime means all criminal and violent activities provoked by social factors that create an unsafe society, and prevent the restoration of social cohesion and the social fabric. This phenomenon is present in a society and in areas where there is a general breakdown of social fibre, values, morals and principles, leading to further breakdown in respect and responsibility of citizens and families. In addition, it refers to anti-social behaviour that violates the rules and norms of society and prevents the realization of social cohesion and resilience in families (South Africa, 2011a:11).

1.9.2 Social crime prevention

The White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 1998a:15) defines social crime prevention as all the efforts “to reduce the social, economic and environmental factors conducive to particular types of crime.” Brodeur (1998:87) describes social crime prevention as efforts about uplifting the lives of people.

Social crime prevention is a way of strengthening social cohesion and the social fabric by encouraging and empowering individuals, families and communities to participate in their own development and decision-making. Furthermore, these are all areas that contribute to a safer society by improving individual attitudes and actions, based on respect for the rule of law and shared core values, commitment to maintaining the social fabric, and a healthy, caring and peaceful lifestyle for individuals, families and communities. In other words, social crime prevention means interventions designed to modify the risk factors among individuals or groups of individuals (as opposed to situations or places) by using psychological, sociological or community-oriented measures (South Africa, 2011a:10).

1.9.3 Community policing

The term “community policing” is a philosophy or approach to policing that identifies the independence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in making South Africa safer and more peaceful. This approach aims to establish a lively and equal partnership between the police and the public through which they can determine and implement solutions to crime and community safety issues (Stevens & Yach, 1995:18). “Community policing is the desire to bring policing closer to citizens whose lives and property are supposed to be protected” (Deluca & Stone, 1994:85). It is a concerted effort between the police and the community that identifies problems regarding crime and mayhem, and it includes all elements of the community in the search for solutions to problems (Moolman, 2003:33).

1.9.4 Crime prevention

The White Paper on Safety and Security (1998:40) refers to crime prevention any actions that are taken to decrease, or avert the happening of specific crimes, by altering the conditions that allow it to happen through the establishment of an effective Criminal Justice System. The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by Lab (2004:23), who explains crime prevention as something that integrates the

plans of lessening the actual level of crime or prohibiting further increases in crime. The benefits of crime prevention include (Memory & Aragon, 2001:530):

- Prevention of specific kinds of crimes,
- Mobilisation of residents and proactive problem-solving orientation, and
- Police engagement in the community and a focus on prevention as well as reaction lead to effectiveness.

1.9.5 Youth

Graham, Bruce and Perold (2010:37) highlight the word “youth” represents an assortment of delineations because youth is commonly assumed to be a life cycle characterised by physical, emotional, and social changes. From a Western standpoint it is understood to originate around the period of puberty and end when a young person has matured into paid employment and is establishing a family, whereas from an African perspective it revolves around the age of young people.

For the purpose of this study, the broader definition of “youth” is given preference, that is, young people aged between 14 and 35 years. The National Youth Policy (NYP) of 2009–2014 (South Africa, 2009:12) defines youth as “people between the ages of 14 and 35.” Both the National Youth Policy of 2000 (South Africa, 2000:6) and the National Youth Commission Act of 1996 (South Africa, 1996c:1) also refer to the concept “youth” as young people between the ages of 14 and 35 years. The above-mentioned definitions are not that different from that of The African Youth Charter, because the latter defines the word “youth” as someone between the ages of 15 and 35 years. The definition by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) (South Africa, 2008a:4) is in line with that of the NYP.

The above definitions of the word “youth” cover a variety of personalities from diverse backgrounds, i.e. some are still of school-going age and others are independent and working. The NYP further argues that the 14 to 35 age range is not a blanket, overall standard, and that within this age range, young people can be identified by, among other factors, race, age, gender, social class and geographic location. In addition, the South African justice system does not officially distinguish youth as a class, but it defines youth as being an age between those of children and those of adults, in accordance with international definitions, the South African

Constitution (South Africa, 1996a) and the guiding Children's Act of 2005 (South Africa, 2005). These Acts specify that everyone under the age of 18 is classified as a child, therefore in terms of the law they should be treated like that, unless there is no other option. Some of the guiding pieces of legislation are as follows:

- South Africa endorsed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995. The Convention defines children as human beings below the age of 18,
- The Child Justice Act of 2008 (South Africa, 2008b) addresses issues affecting individuals under the age of 18, although it also caters for older youngsters under 21 who committed an offence as children. It makes provision for a separate criminal justice and procedural system for the identified category of individuals,
- The Correctional Services Act of 1998 (South Africa, 1998b) caters for youngsters between the ages of 14 and 25 who are in conflict with the law. It further specifies that youngsters under the age of 14 are not supposed to be detained while awaiting trial, and that kind of approach promotes a more rehabilitative alternative for dealing with those younger than 26 – although the bulk of deviations and the different sentencing programmes remain aimed at young offenders.

Graham *et al.* (2010), argue that it is difficult to separate “youth” from other age groups, as youth violence is often rooted in early childhood experiences. They observe that some of the most effective measures to address violence are early childhood initiatives, and that it is necessary to take a view that considers issues pertinent to children and the wider society.

1.10 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Welman and Kruger (2005:ix) provides that the purpose of research methodology is to identify and explore a research process to enable the readers to carry out their own studies and find solutions. Bryman (2001:62) views research methodology as essential in an investigation because it includes the elements of data collection, systemisation, processing and explanation.

The following research methodology was applied in this study:

1.10.1 Research approach and design

A qualitative research approach was followed, since this study is exploratory-descriptive in nature and was aimed at gaining an understanding of the experiences of role-players in the implementation of the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. According to Creswell (2009:21), a qualitative study involves collection of various types of empirical material, such as case studies, personal experience, introspection, life stories and interviews, observation, historical interaction and visual arts that explain the routines, problems and meaning of individuals' lives. Qualitative data is based on meanings expressed by means of words and other symbols or metaphors that can be used successfully in the description of groups, small communities and organisations (Welman & Kruger, 2005:191). Stewart (in Mills & Birks, 2014:145) explains that case studies are an omnipresent component of qualitative research used in a wide variety of disciplines to answer many types of questions.

The researcher utilised a case study research design to address the identified research problem. Luck, Jackson and Usher (2006:104) describe case study research as generally accepted as "an intensive, detailed, in-depth study, examination or investigation of a single unit – the case – where the focus is on the specific particulars." According to Stewart (in Mills & Birks, 2014:145), a case study is an exploratory form of inquiry, providing an in-depth picture of the unit of study, which can be a person, group, organisation, or social situation. Stewart (in Mills & Birks, 2014:145) suggests the definition of what constitutes the 'unit,' or case to be studied, is at the discretion of the researcher. From the above-mentioned explanations it emerges that almost anything (a person, groups, organisations etc.) can serve as a case, and cases may be simple or complex. Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2013) assert that these cases should thus occur within a demarcated (the case has boundaries) context, such as a community, a policy, a small group etc. Kumar (2011:127) views the case study design as very useful when exploring an area of which little is known or where one wants to gain a holistic understanding of the situation, phenomenon, group or community.

The specific type of case study design that was followed in this study is an embedded single-case study design. Gray (2014:275) explains that within a single

embedded case study, there may be a number of different units of analysis. In this study, the single embedded case to be investigated is the YCPD programme implemented in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster, but the multiple units of analysis comprise the following:

- The guidelines to the implementation of social crime prevention strategies as laid down by the SAPS/SCPP/ISCPP.
- The perspectives of SAPS and Gauteng DoCS social crime prevention coordinators.
- CPF role-players.
- YCPD community volunteers.
- Youths participating in the YCPD programme.

1.10.2 Methods of data collection

Kumar (2011:127) regards the use of multiple methods to collect data as an important aspect of a case study, namely in-depth interviewing, collecting information via focus groups, etc. Similarly, Punch (2014:122) confirms Kumar's view, stating that one of the characteristics of case studies is the use of multiple sources of data and multiple data-collection methods.

The participants were allowed to freely express their views, understanding, knowledge and beliefs in relation to the implementation and associated activities of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. The researcher considered the following data-collection methods:

1.10.2.1 Focus group interviews

Morgan (1996:12) and (Kumar 2011: 386) express that focus group interviews is a group interview whereby individual members are selected and assembled together to discuss a specific subject matter identified by the researcher and to share their feelings, beliefs and experiences. Focus groups consist of between six and twelve participants. This kind of interview is similar to a dialogue, where participants are allowed to provide detailed answers to specific questions (De Vos, Fouché, Poggenpoel, Schurink & Strydom, 2000:297).

During the focus group interviews, questions in line with the implementation of the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni policing cluster were put to all the participants. The focus group interviews were conducted with CPF members and YCPD community volunteers.

The researcher asked all the participants similar questions with the assistance of an interview guide, with the aim of exploring their feelings, attitudes and experiences related to the activities of the YCPD. The participants' responses were recorded by means of an electronic recording device.

1.10.2.2 In-depth interviews

Koul (1999:175-6) states that an interview is a conversation during which one person elicits information from another person. It is one of the most useful tools for qualitative data collection. An interview is one of the instruments utilised by researchers to collect qualitative information in order to gain an improved understanding of their research problems. In-depth individual interviews were conducted with SAPS SCP coordinators, DoCS social crime prevention coordinators, and a Station Commander.

In-depth individual interviews allow participants to provide comprehensive feedback to issues regarding the research questions at hand. Participants were afforded an opportunity to freely express themselves about their knowledge and beliefs as regards the implementation and activities of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. Participants' responses were recorded by using an electronic recording device (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:149). An interview guide was developed and piloted prior to conducting the interviews and each participant was asked similar questions. To ensure efficient interviews and focus group interviews, the researcher adhered to the following guidelines as provided by Leedy and Ormrod (2005:159):

- The researcher ensured that the interviews were representative of every group of the selected sample, therefore he identified participants who met the expectations of this study and were able to provide their experiences, perceptions and beliefs,
- The researcher identified an environment conducive to interviews, since a quiet place, free from any form of disturbances, is required,

- The researcher ensured that all the participants felt at ease prior to the commencement of the interviews,
- The researcher obtained written permission from the SAPS (Appendix A) and DoCS (Appendix E), and all the participants in the study signed a consent form,
- The researcher implemented only the prepared interview guide during the interviews and nothing else,
- The researcher gave the participants enough time to respond to the questions at hand without putting words in their mouths,
- The researcher recorded the participants' responses verbatim. An electronic recording device was utilised and notes were taken by the researcher,
- The researcher used the responses from the interviews only for the purpose of the study. Participants' responses were not revealed to anyone other than the researcher.

1.10.3 Target population and sampling

Collins *et al.* (2000:147) define population as the whole group of people or set of items and events the researcher intends to study. It is of the utmost importance for the researcher to carefully classify and explain the population and outline the criteria that were used to select and include the participants in the study. The target population for this study consisted of all the role-players who were responsible for the implementation and coordination of the YCPD in Gauteng. These role-players included SAPS social crime prevention coordinators, DoCS social crime prevention coordinators, CPF role-players as well the YCPD community volunteers.

Since it is highly unlikely that the relevant information will be obtained from the entire target population, due to the impracticality of including such a large geographical area in the study, the researcher resorted to using a sample of the target population. A sample is a group of people drawn from the population to take part in the study (Collins *et al.*, 2000:149). Kumar (2011:126) explains that when selecting a case, one usually uses purposive, judgemental or information-oriented sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was the most suitable sampling method to deal with the research aim and research question in this study. This sampling method was based on the judgement of the researcher, and selected participants were deemed

to be the most knowledgeable on the subject under investigation (Bless & Higson-Smith, 1995:106).

The sample for this study comprised 77 participants, including:

- Eight SAPS social crime prevention coordinators from the Ekurhuleni North Cluster,
- One Gauteng DoCS social crime prevention coordinator from the Ekurhuleni North Cluster,
- Thirty eight Ekurhuleni North Cluster CPF role-players,
- Twenty nine Ekurhuleni North Cluster YCPD community volunteers,
- One SAPS Station Commander from the Ekurhuleni North Cluster.

1.10.4 Data analysis

One of the fundamental approaches to qualitative research is the identification of themes, accompanied by the interpretation and use of words as basic tools (Welman & Kruger, 1999). The eventual analysis of the information obtained from the interviews and focus groups was based on the interviewer's records. A voice recorder was used to record all the interviews. During the record-taking process, the interviewer took notes of the participants' responses with a view to writing a more detailed and complete report afterwards. Data analysis is the breaking up of data into more convenient themes, patterns, trends and relationships. The main aim of data analysis is to comprehend the constitutive rudiments of the data gathered by means of examination of the relationship between various concepts and variables. It is also done if there are any patterns or trends that can be identified or isolated, or to establish various themes in the data collected (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche, Poggenpool, & Schrink, 2000:343). The presentation of the analysed data is accompanied by verbatim transcriptions of the interviews and focus group interviews. The researcher used the services of an experienced independent coder to assist with coding of the data in order to enhance the trustworthiness of the findings.

Data analysis followed after the verbatim transcription of all interviews conducted with the participants. The researcher implemented Tesch's approach of descriptive analysis. The data collected for this study was analysed qualitatively by means of

Tesch's eight-step process (Tesch, 1990:142-145), which includes the following steps:

- (i) Get a sense of the whole, pick one document from a prescribed interview, read through it carefully and identify its meaning,
- (ii) select one case, decide what the content is about, and identify the underlying information,
- (iii) make lists of topics that emerge and cluster similar topics together;
- (iv) code the same information to see whether new categories and codes emerge,
- (v) find descriptive words and categories by grouping them together,
- (vi) make a final decision and alphabetise these codes,
- (vii) assemble the data material belonging to each category in one place and perform a preliminary analysis, and
- (viii) record existing data if it is relevant.

The researcher read all the information that was collected and summarised the various points taken from interviews and the relevant literature. The researcher then identified important information and analysed its meaning. All the emerging themes that arose from the literature, as well as the in-depth interviews and focus group interviews were listed, after which similar themes were grouped together. The necessary information was then organised under the different headings and arranged in sequential order. The data analysis was verified with the assistance of an independent coder, whose work complemented the trustworthiness of the findings.

1.11 METHODS TO ENSURE TRUSTWORTHINESS

The responsibility of the researcher also includes ensuring that the findings of the study should be proved without qualms (Rolfe, 2004:304). This means that every step taken during the study process must convince the reader that the results are possible for verification, or are the true reflection of the original data. Rolfe further indicates that qualitative and quantitative studies differ on the basis of the methodology followed to collect data as well as their purpose. For the purpose of this study, the researcher ensured that trustworthiness was in line with the criteria

developed by Lincoln and Guba (in De Vos et al., 2005:351). The criteria are credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability.

1.11.1 Transferability

'Transferability' refers to the extent to which the research results could be used to address similar issues in different contexts, following the same process (Moon, Brewer, Januchowski-hartley, Adams & Blackman. 2016: 3). Qualitative research entails the study of small groups to get data. This means that the data obtained must be thick, rich descriptions that others can refer to when making judgements about possible transferability of findings. The transferability of the findings of this study was ensured by collecting accurate data by way of the verbatim words of participants that are rich with relevant information.

1.11.2 Credibility

According to Denscombe (2007:135), credibility refers to how the researcher will obtain the research result and to what extent the results represent the information obtained from the participants. To ensure credibility, the researcher used triangulation, which involves using different methods to confirm the accuracy of the data acquired. The research must be carried out in accordance with good practice and referring data back to participants to check whether it had been correctly understood, through member validation. Several accounts of a specific aspect also ensure credibility. This is known as triangulation.

1.11.3 Dependability

Dependability refers to the possibility of repeating the research process with the same participants in the same environment as used in the original study and obtaining similar results (Moon et al.: 2016: 3). This entails that complete records must be kept of all phases of the research process, including transcripts, fieldwork notes and data analysis reports. These records must be kept for a specific length of time before they are destroyed. To ensure dependability, the researcher kept stringent records and notes, including interview transcripts, data analysis records and field notes, should other researchers wish to duplicate this study.

1.11.4 Confirmability

'Confirmability' refers to the neutrality of the researcher in the research process. This is concerned with the aspect of objectivity of the researcher and how it can influence the research process and findings (Moon et al., 2016:2). To ensure the confirmability of this study, the researcher recorded the research process in detail for others to follow and to compare the research results.

1.12 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethics represents a certain measure according to which a particular community or a group agrees to standardise its behaviour (South Africa, 2018:6). The researcher complied with the University of South Africa Policy on Research Ethics (University of South Africa, 2016:11-17). As a member of the SAPS, the researcher also adhered to the Ethical Code of the SAPS, in particular articles 70 and 71 of the South African Police Service Act of 1995 (South Africa, 1995:52).

The following ethical considerations formed the foundation on which this study was based. Diener and Crandall (1978), as cited in Bryman (2008:135-143), list the following dimensions of research ethics:

- **No harm to participants**

The safety of the participants was guaranteed, since no one was exposed to any form of risk or harm of any kind. The researcher interviewed the participants in their working environment, which is generally a safe environment, and at no stage were their lives at greater risk than the normal day-to-day risk.

- **Informed consent**

Research participants were fully informed about the research process and its purpose. They were informed that their participation was voluntary, their identities would remain confidential, and that they would be informed of the outcome of the study. Furthermore, the researcher informed the participants of the nature of the research and gave them the choice of either participating or not. Consent forms were provided to all the participants prior to the interviews and were signed, confirming each participant's consent to participate in the research. The researcher furthermore complied with the SAPS National Instruction 1 of 2006 (South Africa, 2006a:4-5) that regulates requests to conduct research in the Service, and that

clearly states that the researcher must not interfere with the duties of members, who have to provide their consent prior to participating in the study without any undue influence.

- **Confidentiality and anonymity**

The identity of the participants as well as the information gathered during the interviews will be kept anonymous and confidential. The researcher assured the participants that all the information they had provided would be treated as confidential. Their responses were not discussed with or shown to anybody except the research team. Furthermore, the participants were informed that any information they provided would not be linked to the participant's name or rank.

In addition, the element of trust was complied with, since in interpretive research and in conducting interviews and using other in-depth data collection methods, trust will develop steadily. The researcher did not exploit this element of trust for his personal gain or benefit, by deceiving or betraying the participants in the study or in its published outcomes.

1.13 SUMMARY

This study is aimed at benefiting the community in the fight against youth crime and violence. The introduction and background to the study were explained. The research problem was covered with regard to the YCPD, including the aims and objectives of the study. The value of the study, key theoretical concepts and the research methodology were defined. The method to ensure trustworthiness was discussed, as well as the ethical considerations. The next chapter provides an overview of social crime prevention as a manifestation of community policing in the South African context.

CHAPTER 2

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUTH SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: A MANIFESTATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the SAPS in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 (South Africa, 1996a:198) is to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law. It is the responsibility of SAPS to work with communities to ensure the elimination of any criminal activities, because without the involvement of communities it would be impossible for the police to address such challenges. The most viable option for the police to achieve their constitutional mandate is to involve communities by means of community police forums.

This chapter discusses social crime prevention as a practical manifestation of community policing. Community policing as a prevention philosophy, characteristics of community policing, the role of community policing forums, social crime prevention programmes, prevention of violence against women and children, alcohol and drug abuse-prevention programme and promotion of safety programmes are discussed in this chapter. In addition, the chapter also provides an overview of the policy framework guiding crime prevention in South Africa.

Firstly, a brief background of crime prevention in democratic South Africa is presented.

2.2 BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE APPROACH TO CRIME PREVENTION IN DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

The Green Paper on Policing argues:

... the rationale behind decentralisation of SAPS policing services applies equally to social crime prevention in the local sphere. Crime prevention initiatives can work only if they are focused on meeting the specific needs and priorities of a particular community, taking into account that crime varies from place to place and requires the development of tailored solutions (South Africa, 2013a).

The first official position to community policing as a recommended approach, style or methodology for policing in a democratic South Africa is found in the Interim Constitution Act no 200 of 1993. In Section 221(1) and (2), the Constitution directed that an act of parliament was promulgated to "... provide for the establishment of community police forums in respect of police stations," which would include the following functions (South Africa: 1993):

- Advancement of accountability and cooperation between local communities and the police,
- Checking the effectiveness and efficiency of the service,
- Guiding the service regarding local policing priorities,
- Assessing the provision of visible policing services, including:
 - the provision and staffing of police stations,
 - reaction to and processing of complaints and charges,
 - the provision of protective services at gatherings,
 - watching residential and business areas,
 - the prosecution of offenders, and
- Requesting enquiries into policing matters in the locality concerned.

The NCPS of 1996 (South Africa, 1996b) placed emphasis on the involvement of various government departments and other role-players in order to improve relations by introducing integrated programmes. Government started recognising crime prevention as a key priority.

According to the White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 1998a), crime prevention is described as:

All activities which reduce, deter or prevent the occurrence of specific crimes, firstly by altering the environment in which they occur, secondly by changing the conditions which are thought to cause them, and thirdly by providing a strong deterrent in the form of an effective justice system.

The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by Tilley and Farrell (2012:240), who describe crime prevention as a broad term that carries many different meanings. Lawmakers, schools, social agencies, medical services and community groups see their actions as fundamental crime prevention activities. When people feel unsafe they tend to put measures in place to safeguard themselves, for example

after a burglary they install alarm systems or burglar bars. Businesses and homeowners spend large sums and engage in many different activities intended to effect crime prevention. The community and tax payers expect quality service-delivery from government. This study confirms that it is practically impossible for the SAPS to conduct efficient crime prevention strategies without active deliberation and cooperation with the community.

The NDP (South Africa, 2011c) reiterates the fact that it is necessary to move away from the narrow law enforcement approach to crime, and progress to identifying and resolving the root causes of crime. It goes further to indicate some societal factors underlying the root causes of crime, for example youth unemployment, poverty, alcohol, and substance abuse. Initially this approach was proposed in the NCPS (South Africa, 1996b) after it was identified that it was necessary to put crime prevention initiatives in place to combat crime.

According to Bruce and Gould (2009:13-14), the interest in social crime prevention came to light after it was revealed that law enforcement alone cannot address all crime issues, and that the community and the police should jointly address crime. The social crime prevention plan received a boost with the creation of an initiative calling itself “Action for a Safe South Africa.” The following areas were covered:

- Investment in early childhood (e.g. through pre-school enrichment programmes, home visitation programmes and parenting support),
- Measures to reduce domestic violence and improve parenting,
- Provision of quality after-school care to learners, and
- Addressing alcohol-related crime by reducing the sale and marketing of alcohol.

Social crime prevention is meant to effectively allow the communities to deal with social issues and address them, in conjunction with the involvement of law enforcement officers. In the following section, community policing as a crime prevention philosophy is presented.

2.3 COMMUNITY POLICING AS CRIME PREVENTION PHILOSOPHY

The goal of community policing is to assess various initiatives as a control measure before crime rises to unacceptable levels. Albrecht and Das (2011) stress the importance of local policing strategies that are based on conceptual framework that identify the goal of policing and provide a road map. Skogan and Hartnet (1997:7) and the Manual for the South African Police Service (South Africa, 1997:22) have identified some of the following goals of community policing:

- The actual root causes of crime are identified and addressed,
- A community policing initiative should be judged in accordance with its achievements, for example crime reduction and communities feeling safe,
- The service provided by the police should be effective, or of an acceptable standard and satisfactory to the community,
- A relationship of trust is of the utmost importance because it will create a formidable partnership in the fight against crime among all stakeholders,
- The police should ensure that South Africans always feel safe,
- The SAPS and the various communities should work together through various forums, as well as analysing and finding remedial actions for dealing with challenges affecting the two groups.

The Gauteng Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006) argues that lack of community involvement in crime prevention initiatives could lead to preventive measures being undermined and as a result the underlying cause would not be identified. Local residents have a better understanding of their safety needs and how best to address them, therefore it is important to allow them to participate in crime prevention initiatives in their area.

The characteristics of community policing are discussed in the next section.

2.3.1 Characteristics of community policing

Stipak (1994:155) explains that community policing promotes the interpersonal relations, joint responsibilities and cooperative partnerships between the police and the communities. The above-mentioned sentiments are echoed by Lab (2004:195), who describes community policing as:

... diverse set of practices united by the general idea that the public need to become better partners in order to control crime, disorder and a host of other problems ... opportunity to engage in problem-solving activities and to develop new partnerships with key elements of the community.

More emphasis is placed on the formation of community partnerships and problem-solving approaches that address the community's needs (South Africa, 1997:1). Pelsler (1999:4) classifies characteristics of community policing as follows:

- **Service orientation**

Trojanawitz and Bucqueroux (1994) view service as something that should be provided to everyone, irrespective of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, income and other factors. The relationship between the police and the community should be improved to the level of a client-centred relationship whereby the community should be regarded as a client who receives quality service that is effective, efficient and satisfying (South Africa, 1997:3). Community mobilisation involves a process whereby it is agreed to meet in order to achieve a common goal (Gauteng Safety Strategy, 2006: 24).

- **Partnerships**

According to Lab (2004:200) partnership policing can happen only when the police and the community work together to identify challenges and solve them together. Community participation and accountability should be in the forefront at local level to prevail (Muller, 2010:12). The above-mentioned statements are supported by Skogan (2004:xxiv) who indicates that partnership policing is more than what one can imagine because it involves the participation of the community and law enforcement working as equal partners. Through consultation, a lot of information can be gathered about the crime issues that affect the community (Gauteng Safety Strategy, 2006). The White Paper on Policing (South Africa, 2015a:14) argues that the focus of the police in South Africa should be enhanced by a firm commitment to give effect to the values and principles of modern policing. Central to this is creating an environment that facilitates building sustained community support and participation.

- **Problem-solving**

Stevens (2003:30) indicates that “problem solving requires a partnership of neighbourhood police officers, other government agencies, residents, business owners and their employees, basically anyone and everyone with a stake in the quality of life of the community.” It is a joint cooperation between the affected parties that involves the identification and breaking down of challenges in order to develop a concrete solution (South Africa, 1997:3). Steven’s sentiments are echoed by Lab (2004:197) who states that the “most important element of community policing is that officers identify causes and contributions to crime.”

- **Empowerment**

“Empowerment refers to the creation of a sense of joint responsibility and a joint capacity for addressing crime, service delivery, and safety and security among members of the community and SAPS” (South Africa, 1997:3). In simple terms, it means that the members of the community and the officers should be prepared to play a meaningful role in the policing forums. The community should be taught to be actively involved in issues affecting their well-being and they should be willing to participate in community initiatives (Palmiotto, 2000:157).

- **Accountability**

According to Kappeler and Gaines (in Peak, Gaines, & Glenster, 2004:170), accountability is viewed as a cordial working relationship whereby the police should provide a service of an acceptable standard to the community, and utilize resources in accordance with the requirements. The police should be responsible in dealing with the challenges facing the communities that they assist. Furthermore, the police should be transparent in carrying out their responsibilities (South Africa, 1997:4). The community has an obligation to participate in police initiatives, including providing information to assist police in their work (Trojanowicz, 1998:1). Community participation is meant to be a platform from which to lobby for ideas from the population; furthermore, various institutions use it as a consultative forum before making crucial decisions (South Africa, 2006).

The following section presents a discussion on the role of community policing forums.

2.3.2 The role of community policing forums

The Gauteng Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006) argues that CPFs have an important role to play in the formation of a strong relationship between the police and the community. It further indicates that this kind of approach was adopted after 1994 to build trust and legitimacy, particularly in the areas where relations between the police and the community are at their lowest level and characterised by conflict. According to the South African Police Act 68 of 1995 (South Africa, 1995), Section 19(1), a Provincial Commissioner shall be responsible for establishing community police forums at police stations and in the province. The cooperative relationship between the SAPS and the local government is governed by Section 41(1) of the Constitution, which states the principles that must be adhered to. It stipulates that all spheres of government and other organs must work together in mutual trust and in good faith to ensure that they achieve a common goal. The White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 1998a) explains that the local government should collaborate with the CPF to achieve the following:

- Jointly setting crime prevention priorities and agreeing upon strategies to ensure their implementation,
- Assisting with the development of targeted social crime prevention programmes,
- Identifying flashpoints, crime patterns and community anti-crime priorities, and communicating with the SAPS and participating in problem-solving,
- Mobilising and organising community-based campaigns and activities as well as the resources required to sustain them,
- Facilitating regular attendance by the locally elected representative at CPF meetings.

The role of the CPF is restricted to a specific policing area, and the members should be involved in policing initiatives within that specific area. The CPFs were formed to assist the police in mobilising civil society and other stakeholders. The cooperative relationship between CPFs and the local government is supposed to be fortified to ensure more effective crime prevention interactions at lower levels (South Africa, 1998a:36). The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by Pelsler (1999:17), who argues that CPFs remain “the most visible expression of community policing.”

The National Rural Safety Strategy (2006:20) as well as Pelsler (1999) identify the mandated functions of the CPF as outlined below:

- Improvement of police-community relations,
- Supervision of policing at local level,
- Mobilisation of the community to take joint responsibility in the fight against crime,
- Promotion of communication between the police service and the community,
- Improvement of transparency in the service and accountability of the Community,
- Promotion of joint problem-identification and problem-solving by the SAPS and the community.

The National Rural Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006) places emphasis on the importance of the participation of CPFs in community projects and initiatives for promoting the community's improvement by addressing socio-economic issues and crime prevention. Social crime prevention sustains the basic tenet that public safety can never be achieved by means of law enforcement only, but by a range of other factors as well.

A detailed discussion of policy framework governing crime prevention in South Africa is presented in the next section.

2.4 POLICY FRAMEWORK GOVERNING CRIME PREVENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

The policy framework for policing states that policing in democratic societies is governed by their constitutional and legal frameworks that define how they must operate. To safeguard an effective service, the police must recognize their role and function in society. Police action must always be motivated by sound knowledge of the police's purpose and involve constant application of the law. This style of policing should be applicable to the way in which the police work and the way they relate and assist the community they serve. Moreover, they should see policing as something that is done in conjunction with the community (South Africa, 2006).

Social crime prevention in South Africa is primarily governed by the following legislation and policy documents:

2.4.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996

The directive of the South African Police Service emanates from Chapter 11, Section 205 of the Constitution of the Republic. However, Section 205(3) of the Constitution summarises the objectives of the SAPS as the following: to prevent, combat, and investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and uphold and enforce the law. The Constitution as the supreme law of this country addresses policing matters in Section 214 where it explains the importance of the formation and regulation of the SAPS. It entrusts the SAPS with the following functions (South Africa, 1996):

- Ensure that there is cooperation between the police and the communities they serve in the fight against crime,
- Form and maintain partnerships between the police and the public,
- Safeguard the safety and security of everyone in the Republic.

The Constitution further makes provision for partnership between the police and the community in the form of CPFs. Chapter 11 of the Constitution addresses policing issues in the new policing dispensation. It specifies the fundamental values that are to be followed in South Africa; moreover, it recognises the basic human rights in tandem with the principles of transparency, efficiency and community policing in the new dispensation. The police service is no longer militarised but demilitarised. The Constitution further provides for establishing CPFs and boards. The board and forums, as created by the Constitution, were meant to facilitate the partnership between the police and the communities in order to deal with crime jointly. These are the structures aimed at enhancing consultation and participation in decision-making within the respective communities.

Furthermore, the board and forums are governed by a written Constitution. These forums are meant to assist the police to:

- Improve the delivery of police service,
- strengthen the partnerships in the community,

- promote joint problem identification and problem–solving, and
- ensure police accountability and transparency, as well as consultation and proper communication between the police and the community.

This Act (the Constitution, 1996) is the supreme law of the Republic and it requires the participation of all the citizens. The Constitution places the responsibility of facilitating the establishment of social crime prevention structures on the police. However, this cannot be done by the police alone. It clearly stipulates that SAPS must involve the broader community in the fight against crime. It further creates a platform for the recognition of social crime prevention forums in communities, hence it encourages the community to initiate projects to address the root causes of crime. It further promotes good relations between the police and the community. This cannot be achieved without the involvement of all the role-players.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy is discussed below.

2.4.2 The National Crime Prevention Strategy

According to Burger (2011:23), the NCPS is one of the brilliant police statements that are not taken seriously. Deterrence efforts have to be directed at victims and potential victims, and not just at perpetrators, as is the case with traditional systems of criminal justice, since potential victims must be discouraged from engaging in activities where they are vulnerable to crime. Crime prevention efforts have to take cognisance of the fear of crime, as well as of actual crime patterns (Rauch, 2002:13). The NCPS (South Africa, 1996b) was based on the premise that the police and other role-players should introduce crime prevention initiatives that are applicable to the policing needs of that particular region. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for SAPS, various government departments, the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to work collectively to combat and prevent crime. Such an action would bring a range of government departments and other role-players together, and it would improve interdepartmental coordination. The contextualisation of crime prevention in government's key economic policy created links between crime and economic development that had not been seen before in government policy. In such initiatives the police should play a leading role, whereas the other stakeholders should be active partners. For the first time, crime

prevention was recognised as a key government priority. The NCPS activated a new strategy for dealing with crime in South Africa. Some of the key concepts introduced were (South Africa, 1996b) as follows:

- Government cannot deal with crime on its own. The institutions of government, on all three tiers (national, provincial and local) must work together and with civil society to reduce crime,
- Law enforcement and criminal justice responses alone are inadequate for addressing crime,
- The criminal justice system cannot operate effectively unless there is better cooperation between the departments that constitute the system, and the integration of their activities,
- Crimes are different, and must be 'disaggregated' if effective prevention strategies are to be designed and implemented.

The above sentiments are supported by Newham (2005:3), who has indicated that the police and the criminal justice system on their own are unable to deal with the root causes of crime. The fear of crime could be addressed by means of a number of initiatives adopted by the police, government and various communities. Doran and Burgess (2012:61) have emphasised that traditional policing models have failed to acknowledge fear of crime; many models now see fear of crime as fundamental to proactive policing and crime prevention.

Community participation can help decrease the fear of crime experienced by inhabitants if citizens are regularly informed about priority crimes, and if crime prevention programmes are effective, efficient and sustainable. Pillar two of the NCPS (South Africa, 1996b) focuses on the reduction of crime by means of environmental design. According to the NCPS, the high incidence of many forms of crime is due to an environment that provides generous opportunities for crime, and where risks of detection or prosecution are insignificant.

The objective of this pillar is to ensure that safety and crime prevention considerations are practical in the development of all new structures and systems, and in the redesign and upgrading of old areas. The overall aim of the NCPS is to

establish a partnership between the police, government departments and other role-players.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy encourages a multi-agency approach in the fight against crime at local level. It calls for the involvement of all governmental organisations, and departments and non-governmental organisations. The significance of this directive enhances the chances of the community taking a leading role in the fight against crime. It further demands that the community itself must lead social crime prevention initiatives because they know the real causes of crime.

The White Paper on Safety and Security is presented in the following section.

2.4.3 The White Paper on safety and security (1998)

According to Burger (2011:81), the White Paper on Safety and Security of September 1998 (South Africa, 1998a, Department of Safety and Security) provides the most relevant and clear direction towards crime prevention. This document was drafted in order to provide a policy framework and a capability for the implementation and coordination of the NCPS. It outlines government's crime prevention framework very clearly. The onus of crime prevention through effective criminal justice rests on all levels of government; all government departments, particularly those engaged in the NCPS and the SAPS.

This policy document can be viewed as a vehicle towards improvement of the safety of the inhabitants of the Republic. It is aimed at ensuring that the incidence of crime in communities is reduced, and it emphasises police accountability and community involvement with crime prevention.

This White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 1998) attempted to strengthen government's policy approach to crime prevention in South Africa. According to Rauch (2002:18) it provides an extensive description of crime prevention. It also indicates all the initiatives that reduce, deter or prevent the occurrence of specific crimes - firstly, by altering the environment in which they occur; secondly by changing the conditions that are suspected to cause them, and thirdly by issuing a strong warning in the form of an effective criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the White Paper (1998) presented a new methodology such as “developmental” crime prevention, aimed at young people and families; “situational crime prevention” and “community crime prevention,” to be targeted in specific geographical areas. It advocated targeted, multi-agency crime prevention strategies focusing on offenders and victims, and the environment in which they live, as well as on the root causes of particular crime types. The key conceptual guidance provided in the White Paper (1998) was that policing (law enforcement) and crime prevention should be integrated and “interlocking.” The White Paper (1998) went further than the original NCPS to define the functions of national, provincial and local government in respect of crime prevention; and placed significant emphasis on a new partnership role for municipalities in crime reduction. The longer-term approach of the NCPS never met the expectations and the envisaged social programmes were not implemented (Du Plessis & Louw, 2005:431).

This policy, namely the White Paper on Safety and Security (1998), represents an overarching policy regarding safety as well as crime and violence, and it articulates a clear legislative and administrative framework to facilitate collaboration and configuration of policies on safety and security issues, including social crime prevention. It facilitates the creation of a sustainable, well-resourced implementation and oversight mechanism that will coordinate, monitor, evaluate and report on implementation of all social crime prevention initiatives. The vision of the policy is to align the NDP with rights and values that are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic (South Africa, 1996a).

The National Development Plan is presented in the following section.

2.4.4 The National Development Plan

The NDP 2030 (South Africa, 2011c) has acknowledged the dynamic population and active, cooperative partnerships with civil society organisations as one of the main elements of a sustainable strategy for citizen safety. The Gauteng Safety Strategy 2014-2019 (South Africa, 2006) argues for the requirement to gradually move away from the enforcement style to a multi-agency approach to address the root causes of crime. It further identified some of the societal challenges that can be linked to criminal behaviour, for example youth unemployment, poverty, alcohol

and substance abuse. The multi-agency approach was highlighted in the 1996 NCPS (South Africa, 1996b), where it was indicated that the causes of crime should be addressed by means of environmental design and focusing on public values and education. It recognises the fact that law enforcement agencies alone are not able to deal with the crime challenges (South Africa, 2015a:22). It further identified five priorities that have to be addressed in order to achieve its vision, namely:

- Strengthen the criminal justice system,
- Make the police service professional,
- Demilitarise the police,
- Build safety, using an integrated approach,
- Enhance community participation in safety

The NDP prioritises safety as one of the critical issues identified in order to achieve the set goals.

In discussing crime, the danger is to focus on policing as the only solution. It is necessary to move from a narrow law-enforcement approach to crime and safety, to identifying and resolving the root causes of crime. To achieve this, South Africa will have to mobilise state and non-state capacities at all levels, which requires an integrated approach, with active citizen involvement and co-responsibility (South Africa, 2011a).

The NDP places the emphasis on the elimination of poverty and inequality in society. In the process, it draws on the energies of its people by promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society. It encourages stakeholders to focus on identifying and overcoming obstacles to achieve improved outcomes. This is fundamental in the implementation of social crime prevention because society itself must take a leading role in addressing the root causes of crime within itself. The significance of the NDP is that it lays a solid foundation for the formation of social crime prevention in society.

The ISCPS is presented in the next section.

2.4.5 Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy

The ISCPS (South Africa, 2011a) defines its vision as “A safe South Africa, safe communities, safe families and responsible individuals.” It also places emphasis on vulnerable groups, i.e. “the poorest of the poor, and marginalised and

disadvantaged groups,” and such groups include children, the youth and older persons. The development of this strategy is motivated by the following factors (South Africa, 2011a:14):

- To promote a comprehensive breakdown and theories underpinning social crime prevention imperatives in South Africa,
- To provide a structure of the six strategic objectives within which government departments and other stakeholders should address social crime prevention,
- To provide services and programmes to vulnerable groups in society and aim to prevent and respond to criminal activities,
- To support and strengthen government departments’ services to fast-track the concept of social crime prevention,
- To curb the effect of the underlying causes of crime and reduce the risk of victimisation,
- To maximise the protection of community safety as a whole, thereby improving quality of life and human rights.

The ISCPs (South Africa, 2011a:39) sets out the following strategic objectives:

- To increase internal and external capacity.
- To ensure equitable and integrated site-based service delivery for local service providers.
- To facilitate targeted, collaborative partnerships.
- To promote sustained institutional mechanisms in communities.
- To improve the social fabric and cohesion within families.
- To ensure investment in prevention and early intervention, with long-term benefits.

The identified objectives can be achieved only by fostering a cooperative relationship among all the stakeholders. The identified objectives cross-cut various government departments (South Africa, 2011a:39).

The ISCPs provides a framework to address the root causes of crime in a focused and coordinated manner, which is the core of social crime prevention. This policy enhances optimal community participation in the fight against crime. The ISCPs

facilitates a targeted, collaborative partnership with the respective stakeholders. The significance of this directive is that it lays a firm foundation for the efficient establishment of social crime prevention initiatives.

The following section presents a discussion on The South African Police Act 68 of 1995.

2.4.6 The South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995

The South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995 (South Africa, 1995) places the emphasis on the importance of the relationship between the police and the community. In terms of this Act, the Provincial Commissioners are delegated with the responsibility to establish CPFs. Such a structure is formed at local level under the leadership of station commanders. Chapter 4 of the Act indicates that for SAPS to achieve its mandate, they should work hand-in-hand with the CPFs to:

- Create and preserve partnerships between the police and the public,
- encourage communication between the police and the public,
- encourage joint problem-solving initiatives, and
- promote collaboration between the police and the public to satisfy the requirements of the public.

The National Commissioner of the SAPS is obliged in terms of Section 11(2) of the SAPS Act 68 of 1995 to develop a one-year plan, outlining the priorities and objectives of policing. The plan offers a framework for the members of the service to deal with the identified aspects and also provides the members of the public with information on what the police want to achieve during the designated period.

This Act prescribes that CPFs, as the sole recognised, consultative policing forums, allow communities to make their policing concerns known to the police. It further provides the CPF with a platform where different structures, including the police and the community, can meet to discuss social crime prevention initiatives.

A discussion of social crime prevention programmes is presented in the following section.

2.5 SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

The Green Paper on Policing (South Africa, 2013a:5) describes the notion of social crime prevention as an “approach to curbing and reducing high levels of crime.” Provision was also made for the development of community-based crime prevention plans, signalling an increased responsibility of local government to combat and prevent crime. The White Paper on Safety and Security (1998) states that the aim of social crime prevention is to reduce socio-economic and environmental factors that encourage individuals to commit crimes. Social crime prevention could also be defined as initiatives intended to reduce delinquency, violence and insecurity. These initiatives imply that there is a necessity for the relevant authorities to scientifically identify and tackle the causal factors of crime.

According to the Gauteng Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006), the escalation of crime calls for the government and the public to opt for effective responses to curb and prevent crime. These responses have historically indicated a shift from exclusively relying on a punishment and law enforcement approach, in favour of the dual approach of law enforcement and crime prevention. This led to the adoption of the social crime prevention approach.

The Gauteng Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006) further indicates that the implementation of social crime prevention initiatives should be guided by the crime triangle model, which is based on the premise that crime occurs if there are an offender, a victim and a place or situation. This implies that in order to prevent crime, at least one of these elements should not be present. This could be achieved by changing the environment in which crime occurs, empowering the victims, as well as by altering the behaviour of individuals to prevent crime and recidivism.

Social crime prevention programmes are deliberated in the following section. The first social crime prevention programme to be presented is the Youth Crime Prevention Desk.

2.5.1 Youth Crime Prevention Desk

The National Youth Policy of 2009-2014 (South Africa, 2009) indicates that:

South Africa's conception of youth development is influenced by the historical conditions that have shaped the country. It is based on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. Youth development therefore determines South Africa's future; hence its development agenda (South Africa, 2009:6).

This programme is aimed at empowering young people regarding the challenges affecting them in relation to social crime prevention issues. All the activities carried out in this environment involve the role of youth in the fight against crime. The SAPS Youth Crime Prevention Guideline identifies certain guiding principles in relation to youth activities (South Africa, 2014:4):

- **Youth mobilisation**

The ISCPS Strategy (South Africa, 2011a:28) refers to Caine (2008), where mobilisation is described as a "capacity and community development process through which local groups or organisations identify needs, develop an outline of an action plan and then implement it." The youth is encouraged to participate in youth prevention initiatives by joining the YCPD (South Africa, 2014:4). Social crime prevention deals with how the police relate to the community and the way in which they communicate with one another. Policing should be viewed as a two-way street (South Africa, 2013a:23). The National Youth Policy 2009-2014 (South Africa, 2009) advises: "raise the confidence of the youth so that they can contribute meaningfully to their own development and to the broader society through youth participation and inclusion."

- **Crime prevention through social development**

According to the SAPS Youth Crime Prevention Guideline (2014:4), more emphasis should be placed on social cohesion, whereby family values are at the forefront of crime prevention. Furthermore, crime prevention through social development strengthens communities and individuals in combating factors that allow criminality, by ensuring that basic needs are catered for. The ISCPS (South Africa, 2011a)

states that this kind of approach involves addressing crime problems by means of empowerment and development.

- **Public education**

Communities should be allowed to participate in youth initiatives, using various platforms, for example door-to-door campaigns, work sessions, public meetings and other forums, where the youth should be in the forefront (South Africa, 2014:4).

The roles and responsibilities of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk are presented in the following section.

2.5.1.1 Responsibilities of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk

Young people should be encouraged to be involved in crime prevention initiatives. One of the functions of the YCPD is to implement projects with other role-players. Some of the key responsibilities as outlined in the SAPS Youth Crime Prevention Guideline (South Africa, 2014:6) are as follows:

- Address social conditions that influence people to commit crime,
- Prevent the occurrence of crime by intervening to improve the environments that facilitate the commission of crime,
- Prevent re-offending by helping with the reintegration of parolees,
- Assist and provide information to young victims,
- Conduct awareness campaigns and encourage a positive lifestyle among young people,
- Address root causes of crime by interacting with young offenders,
- Provide education about human rights in order to allow young people to exercise their basic rights.

In the next section, the formation of the station Youth Crime Prevention Desk coordination committees is presented.

2.5.1.2 Formation of station Youth Crime Prevention Desk coordination committees

According to Markus, Shearing and Wood (2009:145-155), various policing organisations have embarked on a process of reviewing the roles and

responsibilities of the stakeholders. Communities are encouraged to take greater responsibility for their own safety and security (South Africa, 2011a:1). All stations are expected to have committees dealing with youth activities at station level. There are steps that must be taken, as indicated in the Youth Crime Prevention Guideline (South Africa, 2014:9):

- The YCPD coordinator should facilitate annual general meetings by ensuring that youth are invited to attend.
- Volunteers should be elected to participate in various programmes or committees. Additional members can be included in the committees.
- The structure should serve for a period of two years.
- There should be an elected member to represent the station at cluster level and to serve as a cluster coordinator.
- A minimum of six and maximum of eight volunteers will form part of the cluster and provincial coordinating committee.

A more detailed discussion of the responsibilities of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk Coordinators is presented in the next section.

2.5.1.3 The responsibilities of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk coordinator

According to Palmery (2001:1), South Africa is a population comprising mostly young people. The YCPD has the responsibility to champion the safety and development of young people (South Africa, 2013a:9). The Youth Crime Prevention Guideline outlines the following responsibilities of the YCPD coordinator (South Africa, 2014):

- Mobilising or making the youth aware of the programme and involving them to participate in YCPD programmes,
- Ensuring that youth crime prevention is included in the station's strategic and operational plans. This necessitates participation in the station's strategic planning desk,
- Attending the station management meeting, including the station Crime Combating Forum's meetings to obtain information for use in planning YCPD

projects and to ensure the involvement of the YCPD in activities that affect the youth,

- Assisting the station commander with the establishment and maintenance of partnerships with young people that are characterised by commitment, accountability and trust,
- Convening regular YCPD meetings to discuss crime patterns, agree on possible solutions, develop project plans, participate in integrated implementation teams, solve implementation challenges, monitor the progress of the implementation of plans by all the responsible partners, and assess the impact of the activities on the reduction of crime,
- Managing volunteers attached to the YCPD and ensuring the implementation of all youth volunteer programmes at the station,
- Ensuring that the young victims are supported and empowered to prevent further victimization,
- Ensuring that young offenders are referred to the relevant specialists, e.g. social workers, behaviour modification therapists, and other therapeutic intervention specialists.

A discussion of the responsibilities of the station commander in terms of social crime prevention is presented in the following section.

2.5.1.4 Responsibilities of a station commander

According to Hughes (2007:73), community arrangements should be confined to formal consultation in most community safety and crime prevention work. The fighting of crime can never be positive unless it involves the assistance of all formal and informal structures, all residents, and a heightened awareness among individuals of the danger of crime and how they may be involved. Many claim that the police bear the solitary responsibility, others feel that the community bears this responsibility; and some say it is the individual that has the sole responsibility to avoid becoming a victim of crime (Sutton, Cherney & White, 2008:13). The SAPS Act of 1995 (South Africa, 1995) states that SAPS cluster and station commanders are responsible for keeping members under their supervision motivated and focused on daily priorities, for example to reduce crime and eradicate corruption.

The station commander is mandated to attend to the following in accordance with the set guidelines:

- Establishing and maintaining a functioning YCPD in accordance with national guidelines,
- Appointing a station youth crime prevention coordinator responsible for the functioning of the YCPD and programmes in the project,
- Ensuring that all young people are mobilised to work with the YCPD, and assisting with establishing partnerships necessary for the multidisciplinary functioning of the YCPD,
- Ensuring that youth crime prevention is part of local government's Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), the station's strategic plan, and performance plans that incorporate youth crime prevention and address the factors that contribute to vulnerability of young people to crime and violence,
- Advising the YCPD on priorities, for example, anti-crime priorities,
- Recognising the value that can be added by internal SAPS partners to youth crime prevention initiatives necessitates the formulation of SAPS youth crime prevention internal committees. Important internal partners include crime intelligence, the detectives, the reservists, communication officers, etc.
- Appointing a provincial youth crime prevention coordinator responsible for monitoring the functioning of the YCPD and programmes under the project, and for the establishment and functioning of the youth crime prevention coordinating committee,
- Establishing partnerships with academic and other research institutions to assist the province and stations with research on youth,
- Ensuring the allocation of a budget for the implementation of youth crime prevention functions.

The responsibilities of the cluster commander with particular reference to youth crime prevention are presented in the next section.

2.5.1.5 Responsibilities of a cluster commander

The mission of the SAPS is to “prevent and combat anything that may threaten the safety and security of any community” (South Africa, 2011b:1). According to Hughes (2007:38), consultation is the candid and transparent engagement in a spirit of mutual trust between the police and individuals representing the community involved, with the aim of sharing relevant facts and starting by means of mutual participation, with co-responsibility for the common interests of the community concerned. Crime prevention initiatives provide the inhabitants with a greater sense of empowerment in respect of their safety (Palmiotto, 2011:158). Cluster commanders are not exempted from this initiative therefore; they are expected to play a meaningful role, as outlined below:

- Facilitating the establishment of station YCPDs responsible for preventing youth offences and victimisation in each police station’s area in its province,
- Ensuring the operationalising of youth crime prevention projects,
- Appointing a cluster youth crime prevention coordinator responsible for monitoring the functioning of YCPDs and programmes under the project.

For the police to sustain its focus on community-oriented policing, added emphasis must be placed on building strong, locally-based leadership.

The following section presents a discussion on the prevention of violence against women and children.

2.5.2 Prevention of violence against women and children

The Domestic Violence Act, Section 1(viii) of 1998, (South Africa, 1998c: 2) contends that:

... physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and psychological abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, entry into complainants’ residence without consent where parties do not share the same residence, any other controlling or abusive behaviour towards a complainant that may cause or is intended to cause harm to the safety, health or well-being of the complainant.

The responsibilities of government departments are, however, to deal with children, youths, men and women facing difficult conditions, specifically those that relate to

criminal activity. The focus area is to deal with the underlying causes of delinquency, violence and crime, rather than reacting to symptoms and emergency needs (South Africa, 2011a:8). The police play a crucial role in ensuring that law and order is maintained in communities (Verma, 2005:1).

The offenders in domestic disputes may be affected by psychological, biological and social factors that contribute to their hostility and lead to physically violent relationships. Crime and violence are perpetuated in two kinds of cycles. The first cycle is the most immediate and obvious demonstration, for example, when someone is provoked, he reacts with violence. Boys are often socialised from an early age to use violence as a strategy to deal with victimisation and by the time they become men, it is often ingrained and habitual (South Africa, 2011a:17). The prevention of domestic violence plays an important role in breaking the cycle of crime and violence, because it will prevent violence from being normalised by individuals (South Africa, 2011a:26).

The following section presents a discussion on the alcohol and drug abuse prevention programme.

2.5.3 Alcohol and drug abuse prevention programme

According to Geldenhuys (2012:25), alcohol and drug abuse, harassment between partners, unemployment, poverty, psychological disorders, unrealistic expectations, and monetary/sexual demands are some of the main causes of violence and abuse in communities. Minnaar (2004:12) asserts that from 1994 South Africa has been used as a transit country for drugs such as Mandrax, Ecstasy, heroin and cocaine. The solid upsurge in drug demand has caused an increase in drug prices, resulting in a lucrative drug-trafficking business (Kelley, 2006:17).

... the Southern African development region is being increasingly used as a conduit for illicit drugs destined for international markets ... illicit drug trafficking generates large financial gains and wealth, enabling transnational criminals and organisations to penetrate, contaminate and corrupt the structures of governments, legitimate commercial and financial business at all levels (Van Heerden, 2014:1).

Successful prevention, reduction and treatment of substance abuse not only relieve poverty, but also reduce other evils, such as crime and violence that are part of it.

Prevention and reduction of substance abuse also contribute a great deal to the prevention and reduction of interpersonal violence, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and unnecessary deaths on the roads caused by driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (South Africa, 2011a:29). The regulation and outlawing of drug trafficking as an international crime have been applied only in the last century (Fichtelberg, 2008:205). Venter (1998:185) argues that the rise in drug trafficking to South Africa can be attributed to stricter laws focusing on decreasing the smuggling and drastically improving control at airports and harbours in Europe and America.

Furthermore, alcohol and drugs not only act as drivers of crime or violence, but also make victims more vulnerable to such acts and cause people to lose their inhibitions and engage in all kinds of risky behaviour, including unprotected sex. Alcohol consumption is deeply entrenched in South African society (South Africa, 2011a:29). Gelbrand (1998:175) argues that the rising drug-trafficking problem in South Africa will leave the country susceptible to exploitation by international drug syndicates.

Alcohol abuse usually gives rise to numerous other negative social impacts, for example large numbers of school-age adolescents misusing alcohol leads to absenteeism, academic failure, increased likelihood of drug abuse and risky sexual behaviour. The net result is a constant stream of unemployed, unskilled, dependent young people, with few prospects outside a life of crime, or a crippling dependence on already stressed families and communities. There is, therefore, an urgent requirement for the DSD to address alcohol abuse as part of any successful community programme aimed at social uplifting or addressing violence and crime reduction (South Africa, 2011a:29). The revised South African National Drug Master Plan 2013-2017 (South Africa, 2013c:2), based on the work of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Alcohol and Substance abuse, led by the Department of Social Development, sought to address the huge challenges facing the country regarding aspects of substance abuse. The criminal justice system in South Africa should adopt multi-disciplinary and multi-modal protocols and practices for the integrated diagnosis and treatment of substance abuse. Treating offenders with respect could make new offenders learn from the others' experiences (Bayse, 1995:19).

The following section presents a discussion of the promotion of school safety programmes.

2.5.4 Promotion of School Safety Programmes

According to Leoschut (2006:1) a school setting is the ideal site for criminal victimisation of young people between the ages of 12 and 22 years. School-age children are displaying signs of anxiety, apathy, impulsiveness, quick tempers, and disobedience, which are indicators of troubled emotional lives. School is the place where children spend up to two thirds of their waking hours. It is one of the two most significant spheres of influence in the development pathways of children. Safe schools contribute to the development of positive social skills, healthy relationships among peers, and between children and adults, sound educational outcomes, positive self-esteem, and a sense of identity and attachment (South Africa, 2011a:33).

Yet many schools are not safe places. Violence in schools can take many forms. Most commonly, violence refers to incidents of physical altercations that make it onto the radar of authorities, parents and the media (Burton, 2006:4). In reality, however, violence comprises a range of dimensions, such as physical violence (including corporal punishment), sexual abuse, youth gangs, use of weapons, harassment, stigmatisation, or any of the above, on the way to or from school, on the playground and even in classrooms. Much of the attention is focused on high-profile incidents involving weapons, which result in hospitalisation or some form of medical treatment (South Africa, 2011a:33).

As family structures break down and children become more isolated, the roles of public schools should be adjusted in accordance with the times (Taylor, 1994:12). In violent and hostile external environments, school could also serve as a refuge and a place of safety for children. Conversely, the school could serve as an environment where negative behaviour is learnt, condoned and perpetuated. This includes behaviour such as bullying (both psychological and physical), drug and alcohol use, and fear and distrust. Exposure to direct and secondary victimisation or to violence has a number of negative consequences for most children. These could include depression, poor self-esteem, disturbed eating patterns, lack of

concentration, anxiety, sadness, feelings of isolation, fear, feeling humiliated by their experience, and/or developing an aversion to school (South Africa, 2011a:33).

Furthermore, specific educational and learning problems are more likely to be encountered in such circumstances. These include serious numeracy and literacy problems, inability to complete class assignments, poor performance in the classroom, e.g. in tests and examinations, high level of absenteeism and dropouts, and a general lack of motivation to succeed in school and beyond. The second level of impact is the risk of negative behavioural outcomes for the child. Children and young people who are exposed to violence at a young age are themselves more likely to engage in anti-social, criminal and violent behaviour as they grow older (Grottfredson, 2001:34). Exposure to crime at a young age is one of the most reliable predictors of anti-social behaviour, particularly when linked to association with delinquent peers and a lack of adequate role models. While most of the emphasis on violence within schools is on the experience of learners, educators are often as much affected, although the outcome may be slightly different. Educators are themselves both victims (direct and secondary) and, at times, perpetrators of violence within schools. In violent schools, in particular, many educators fear attending school, are unable to exercise any form of discipline in their classroom, and the quality of teaching is negatively affected (South Africa, 2011a:34).

2.6 SUMMARY

In this chapter, in an effort to understand the roots of youth social crime prevention, a number of topics were discussed, for instance the introduction, background and characteristics of community policing. This chapter also traced the regulatory framework and the role and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the implementation of the YCPD. The SAPS deliberately identified social crime prevention as one of its responsibilities. The SAPS is active in various social crime prevention programmes, which contribute to public awareness and police outreach for community cooperation in the fight against crime. The SAPS is moving in a specific direction by ensuring that the root causes of crime are identified in conjunction with other role-players and are attended to expeditiously. Since the introduction of social crime prevention, the police's primary responsibility is to ensure that the real causes of the problem are identified and addressed.

The next chapter focuses on youth development and social crime and violence in South Africa.

CHAPTER 3

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents factors that influence the activities of young people in relation to youth crime and violence. It also explores various issues that affect the youth in their communities, hence attempting to understand the factors that influence young people to be involved in unlawful activities. These factors are reflected upon, including their root causes. It is increasingly recognised that young people are central to issues of crime and violence, in particular.

There is a growing concern that young people are both victims and perpetrators of violence and crime. In addition, young people suffer much higher levels of crime victimisation than adults (Ward, Van der Merwe & Dawes, 2012). They are also often the perpetrators of violence against other youths and the population as a whole. The issue of violence against and by the youth is receiving growing attention in the media, and it is increasingly acknowledged that there will be a grave cost to government and to society if youth issues are not addressed. This chapter addresses the main factors that affect young people in their environments. Moreover, this chapter provides a diagnostic overview of youth violence and youth development in South Africa. The following focus areas will be covered:

- a brief background to youth activities,
- definition of the concept youth in the South African context,
- youth crime and violence in South Africa,
- forms of youth crime and violence,
- exploring factors influencing youth criminality,
- social and environmental causes of crime,
- risk factors,
- other causes of youth criminality,
- control measures for the youth and juvenile delinquency,
- youth development platforms,
- fundamental principles of youth development,

- youth development institutions in South Africa,
- challenges or failures of youth development institutions.

This chapter commences with a brief background of youth development in South Africa.

3.2 BRIEF BACKGROUND OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Since 1994, issues affecting young people in South Africa were initially expressed primarily in three documents, namely the National Youth Policy (NYP) of 2000 (South Africa 2007a:1), developed in 1997, the National Youth Development Policy Framework (NYDPF) (South Africa, 2002), as well as the second-generation NYP of 2009-2014 (South Africa, 2009:2). The first NYP of 2000 was never officially adopted, but formed the basis of the development of the NYDPF, which was adopted in 2002. This covered a period of five years, ending in 2007. The NYDPF had been reworked into the 2009-2014 issue, which was adopted by government in 2009. The NYP of 2009-2014 laid a foundation for integrated youth-focused policy and programming. The policy emphasises the importance of placing young people at the centre of national development initiatives, both as a beneficiary of development and as active participants. The policy is based on the principle of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and liberal values. It calls for an integrated approach that focuses on the holistic development of young people. It also highlights the necessity for various aspects of public policy to function synergistically to provide youth, particularly those outside of the school, political and economic mainstream, with the knowledge, skills and values they need to make appropriate choices. The policy rests on four pillars, namely (NYP, 2009-2014):

- Education,
- Health and well-being,
- Economic participation,
- Social cohesion

Youth criminality exists in every community in the Republic. However, various studies exploring criminal victimisation have mostly been narrowed down to the

viewpoints and involvement of adults. The discourse pertaining to young people and crime has largely centred on young offenders. Only in recent years have researchers become concerned with the escalating exposure of young people to both violent and non-violent forms of victimisation (Ward *et al.*, 2012:23). Jobson (2011:11) states that the NYP of 2009-2014 (South Africa, 2009) outlines critical factors for the development of young people; however, when it comes to its implementation, there are few tangible mechanisms to ensure the proper implementation of policy recommendations.

A presentation of youth crime and violence follows.

3.3 YOUTH CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Youth crime and violence is a societal problem that affects everyone, including young people.

3.3.1 Contextualising youth crime and violence

According to Graham *et al.* (2010:38-39), youth violence can be defined as the involvement of youngsters, whether as victims or perpetrators, in events concerning the threat or use of physical force in circumstances of personal, intercommunal or other encounters with crime. Such violence could be carried out with or without a firearm, and might or might not end in physical injuries or the demise of a person. This description concentrates on the physical characteristics, and suggests some degree of criminality or socially intolerable behaviour. Leoschut (2006) argues that the concept of violence is extremely broad, ranging from physical and psychological injury, to socio-political discrimination and structural forms, among others. The World Health Organisation (WHO), for example, defines violence as:

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation (Etienne *et al.*, 2002:05).

Violence is concerned with the application or threat of physical force against an individual that could give rise to unlawful action, whether severe or not and whether with or without a firearm or other weapon. The seriousness of the violence could be connected to violations of the person or be likely to cause serious physical pain,

injury or death (South Africa, 2007b). The above definition is supported by the ISCPs (South Africa, 2011a:11), which describes violence “as a physical force exerted for the purpose of violating, damaging, or abusing.”

The above-stated explanations confirm that non-physical forms of attack and abuse could also have a profound effect on the victim. The explanations furthermore acknowledge the international approach, which demonstrates that defining violent outcomes solely in terms of injury or death restricts our understanding of the full impact of violence on individuals, communities and societies (South Africa, 2007b). The World Health Organisation (WHO) report on youth violence also recommends classifying violence according to types or categories. It distinguishes four ways in which violence may be imposed, namely physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as insufficiency or lack of resources, which could lead to violence, i.e. be the cause of it. It went further and divided the general definition of violence into three often-overlapping sub-types. It includes the following (Etienne et al., 2002:6):

- Self-directed violence, which includes self-abuse and suicide,
- Interpersonal violence, which refers to violence that happens between individuals. This violence includes family and close-partner violence, as well as between unconnected individuals who are known or unknown to one another. This category includes random acts of violence, rape or sexual assault by strangers, and violence in institutional settings such as schools, workplaces, prisons and nursing homes,
- Collective violence, which refers to violence committed by groups or states in support of particular social agendas.

The WHO report on youth violence also adopted the broader definition of violence, but focuses on interpersonal violence. Both self-directed and collective violence are issues in South Africa, but interpersonal violence is generally more common. Given the dynamics, the reasons for interpersonal violence and collective violence are often different from those driving self-directed violence, and require different types of interventions. The emphasis here is on those reasons associated with interpersonal violence. This report concerns itself with the types of violence that cause physical or psychological injuries (Etienne et al., 2002:6).

The ISCPs (South Africa, 2011a:10) refers to the definition of crime as explained in the NCPS, which refers to crime as:

... the breach of rules or laws for which a governing authority can ultimately make a conviction, by means of mechanisms such as the criminal justice system, an act or omission prohibited and punishable by law or any act punishable under the criminal code, whether or not it has come to the attention of the police (South Africa, 1996b).

Crime occurs mainly as the result of multiple adverse social, economic, cultural and family conditions. To prevent crime it is necessary to have an understanding of its root causes. These are multifaceted and interconnected, but can be reduced to three main categories, namely economic factors/poverty, social environment, and family structures (The root causes of crime, 1996). However, Palmery and Moat (2002:4) argue that stringent execution of the law, together with harsh criminal justice and sentencing systems have been unable to reduce crime noticeably and has led to rising rates of incarceration at great cost to governments.

The ISCPs (2011:17) cites Simpson (1996) and Du Plessis (2001), who argue that crime and violence are unintentionally preserved in two kinds of cycles. The initial cycle is the greatest instantaneous and obvious demonstration, e.g. when somebody is triggered, he tends to respond in a violent manner. Teenagers in most cases socialise at an early age and sometimes practice violence as a tactic to deal with victimisation, and by the time they are grown-ups, violence is deep-seated and habitual. Fagan (1995:20) argues that youths brought up in fragmented families by violent parents were most likely exposed to such behaviour, or they have observed conflict and violence between their parents. Omboto, Ondiek, Odera and Ayugi cite Prior and Paris (2005), who state that various observations indicate that most youths participate in criminal activities because of the lack of cohesion within their families, which forces them into criminal actions for survival. Leoschut (2008:1) stresses the fact that it has been established that youngsters are at higher risk of being victimised than adults. Some of the violence that occurs against children in schools takes different forms, for example physical attacks, verbal aggression, and sexual violence.

Berg (2007:10) states that from the legal point of view, irrespective of how disgraceful, ethically outrageous, or deviant an individual's act may be, it is not

technically a crime unless explicitly defined as such in a criminal law. Berg further cited Sutherland and Cressey (1994), who identified the following four factors that represent the classic definition of crime:

- Political control accepts it. The state assumes the role of accuser or the party bringing forth charges. Murder, for example, is no longer a crime against a person, but against the state,
- It must be precise. The crime and the punishment are explained unambiguously.
- The law is uniformly applied, that is, equal punishment and fairness to all, regardless of an individual's social position,
- The state is the legitimate body to administer punishment,
- There is a strong link between reducing risk and building resilience or resistance. However, it is generally believed that this is not an accurate measure and that youth crime is far more prevalent than recorded crime suggests. Both police-recorded crime statistics and national surveys of the victims of crime show that the types of offences most often committed by young people, for example violence and stealing vehicles, have risen dramatically over the same period (The root causes of crime, 1996.)

The Country Assessment on Youth Violence, Policy and Programmes in South Africa (2012: 28) indicates that solving crime and violence among the youth involves a wide-ranging, multi-prolonged attitude that addresses a range of aspects driving violent and criminal behaviour. Youngsters cannot be the only players, since the prevention of criminal behaviour requires the involvement of various people, namely parents, teachers, principals and other role-players to help these youngsters to discover themselves and experience personal growth. Becroft (2009:2) argues that the behaviour of youth offenders is different, which implies that their offences have different causes, therefore the solutions to their offences are also different. Palmery and Moat (2002:4) emphasise that a person's choice to commit crime is caused by a range of multifaceted and intersectional social, personal, and environmental factors. In addition, Palmery and Moat further indicate that the prevention of youth criminality/violence should begin at an early age.

The following section presents a discussion on the forms of violence and crime.

3.3.2 Forms of violence and crime

The Draft White Paper on Safety and Security (South Africa, 2015a:13) states that there are high levels of crime in South Africa, especially violent crimes. According to Prior and Paris (2005:5), who cite Muncie (2001), "Crime occurs when a specific act as proscribed in law is committed; an act may have harmful consequences and be regarded as morally reprehensible, but if it is not so proscribed then a criminal offence has not been committed."

According to Leoschut and Burton (2009:1), youngsters who commit crime are seen to be doing so as the result of a range of factors that emanate from their individual and various social environments. Every member of society should take full responsibility for their actions. An understanding of the root causes of crime and violence cannot and should not be seen as a way to liberate oneself from personal liability. Nevertheless, members of society have an obligation to act responsibly to address those conditions that obstruct healthy development and could become the breeding ground for crime. Becroft (2009:3) argues that the more risk factors a youngster exhibits, the more likely he/she is to commit crimes; however, the presence of only one risk factor is unlikely to lead a young person to commit crimes. Some of the factors are direct causes of youth offences, for example bad relationship with parents.

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation Annual Report (2007) identifies violence most commonly committed by the youth as outlined below:

- Assault is associated with quarrels, rage and domestic violence. These include offences such as murder, assault, Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), common assault and others,
- Rape and sexual assault, including indecent assault and others,
- Robbery and other violent property crime. These are linked to offences such as murder, aggravated robbery (primarily involving robbery of civilians in public spaces but also including vehicle hijacking, residential robbery, etc.), common robbery and others.

Graham et al. (2010:69), argue that distinguishing acts of violence from each other is also convenient for separating them in terms of the seriousness of the violence

involved. An act of criminality such as robbery may therefore involve grabbing a bag from someone and running away, or it may involve threatening a victim with a firearm, and perhaps killing him, perhaps because he attempted to repel the robbery, or did not cooperate with the robber. Instances of violence can therefore be distinguished from each other, not only in terms of the conditions in which they happen, but also in terms of what might be seen as the degree of violence.

The following factors concerning incidents of violence were identified (Graham et al., 2010:69):

- Whether someone is killed in the incident,
- Whether someone is intimately violated (raped) and/or physically injured, including the nature of the injury. Injuries tend to be much more severe where weapons are used, particularly firearms,
- Whether or not the violence is part of a pattern of victimisation, for instance domestic violence, which is sometimes characterised by repeated acts of violence in an ongoing relationship,
- The number of perpetrators involved in the act of violence – this would apply particularly in incidents of rape by groups of men,
- When victims are tortured, such as where someone is subjected to extreme pain over a prolonged period. Some robberies in South Africa in recent times have been characterised by torture – in some incidents, this is apparently when the perpetrators suspect that the victim is withholding information about where money, firearms or other belongings are located on the property,
- When the victims are children, disabled or elderly people, or otherwise ‘vulnerable’ in one way or another. For instance, some victims suffer much more from trauma (post-traumatic stress) or other negative psychological consequences as a result of violence than others. This is not only related to the nature of the violent incident itself, but also reflects character traits of the victim (one of which might be that the person is already traumatised as a result of previous incidents of victimisation).

The social and environmental causes of crime are presented in the next section.

3.4 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES OF CRIME

Becroft (2009:2) argues that there are environmental, social or biological factors that point to those individuals who are likely to commit crime. These individuals display severe behavioural problems from a very young age, as early as two years old. Their lives show noticeable signs of being subjected to multiple hostile influences, including family dysfunctionality. Prior and Paris (2005:5) cite Muncie (2001), who argues that although crime is a challenged concept, from a legal point of view, it "... occurs when a specific act as proscribed in law is committed; an act may have harmful consequences and be regarded as morally reprehensible, but if it is not so proscribed then a criminal offence has not been committed." Defiant behaviour, on the other hand, is not defined in terms of individually proscribed behaviours but rather a set of general conditions; a specific individual act may legally be deemed 'anti-social behaviour' when it meets those criteria. Explanations of the phrase 'anti-social behaviour' in political and legal circles include the following, according to Prior and Paris (2005:5):

- The type of conduct that can hurt other people, excluding direct family members,
- The person is persistent, stubborn and determined (it has to be serious and happening over an extended period) and also unrepentant,
- Such anti-social behaviour does not constitute disobedience of criminal law,
- Children and youths show these signs and later commit criminal offences, and
- This behaviour starts as a minor matter, but as time goes on the person's conduct becomes severe and justifies the use of formal, legal interventions.

The ISCPS (South Africa, 2011a:11) cites National Consultative Workshop (2010) that argues:

... all criminal and violent activities provoked by social factors create an unsafe society, and prevent the restoration of social cohesion and social fabric. This phenomenon takes place in a society and in areas where general breakdown of social fibre, values, morals and principles exists, leading to further breakdown in respect and responsibility of citizens and families. In addition, it refers to anti-social behaviour, which violates the rules and norms of society and prevents the realisation of social cohesion and resilience in families.

Palmer and Moat (2002:2) state that the youth represented the leading group of victims of violent crime; and they are also the common criminal offenders. However,

it is difficult to find evidence about youth offenders and the motives behind the commission of their crimes. Moreover, the SAPS do not make public the youth crime statistics in terms of age, and the only visible sign of youth involvement in crime is the high number of young people who are in custody as a result of their criminal behaviour. The youth commit different kinds of crimes for various reasons; they do not specialise. They commit some of the following crimes, namely:

- Violent crimes such as robbery, assault, rape/sexual assault and car hijackings,
- Property crimes such as theft of personal property, or burglary.

Youth resilience is discussed in the next section.

3.4.1 Youth resilience¹

Graham *et al.* (2010:47), cites Burton, Leoschut and Bonara (2009), who emphasise that youth resilience should be defined as being “factors that diminish the potential to engage in particular behaviour; more specifically, these factors provide a buffer between the exposure to risk factors and onset of delinquent or criminal involvement. Youth criminality and anti-social behaviour can be seen as the result of a combination of factors emanating from individual circumstances as well as various social environments where the youths were brought up. Law enforcement on its own is unable to address the scourge of crime. Offenders commit crime for various reasons, for example; social, personal and environmental factors (Palmerly & Moat 2002:4). The National Youth Violence Victimization Study (2006:20) argues that crime and violence experienced by many South Africans signify the physical and psychological well-being of our youth. Likewise, it disrupts young people’s personal sense of safety since crime and violence permeate the social environments that are typically thought of as places of safety for them. Different factors emanating from the social setting within which young people live heighten their susceptibility to criminal victimisation. The more risk factors a child or a young person is exposed to, the more likely it is that he or she will commit offences. It is possible that only one incident could be sufficient to have a negative influence and trigger bad behaviour by the youngster, but it is not very likely that it would

¹ The author would like to point out that although the literature uses the term ‘resilience’, he is of the opinion that ‘resistance’ is a clearer, more descriptive term to describe the situation where youths refrain from engaging in criminal activity, in spite of being exposed to certain risk factors.

automatically lead to criminal behaviour. However, some of the risk factors, for example poverty or conflict between parents, are more direct causes of offending, but at population level, the best information we can produce is a study of risk factors for offending, and an understanding that the more risk factors a person is exposed to, the more likely he/she is to commit crimes (Becroft, 2009:4). The youth could achieve tremendous progress in life if they received the necessary guidance from entities such as schools, youth-serving agencies, faith organisations, community governance, business, juvenile justice system and more. From this perspective, youth development can be seen as an important field of youth work, founded on the belief that young people are best able to move through their developmental stages when they are supported across all sectors of the community (Mentoring Resource Centre, 2007:2). Burton et al. (2009:xv), and Becroft (2009:3) identified a range of resilience factors that should be enhanced at different levels. The most common resilience factors frequently identified include the following:

3.4.1.1 Individual factors

Burton et al. (2009:7), state that individual risk factors, including hyperactivity and imprudent conduct, could possibly signify the initial onset of destructive and other problem behaviour. However, at the opposite end of the spectrum, resistance/resilience to problem behaviour is characterised by the following factors:

- An intolerant attitude towards disobedience,
- Having a sense of purpose,
- Personal belief in a positive future,
- Ability to act independently,
- Sense of control over one's environment,
- The ability to empathise with and care for others,
- Problem-solving skills,
- An enduring set of values, and
- The ability to be resourceful.

Becroft (2009:5) argues that most youngsters display problematic conduct at different phases of development, whereas some exhibit behaviour that is not appropriate for their age. However, youngsters who develop behavioural disorders

often come from families with social, economic and family problems. The above-mentioned sentiments are endorsed by Paris and Prior (2005), citing the Youth Justice Board (2001), Rutter et al. (1998), Farrington et al. (1990), and Hawkins *et al.* (1998), who identified a series of influences emanating from three key behavioural indicators that predispose the youth to both the inception and continuance of delinquent behaviour. They are as follows:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),
- Impulsivity,
- Cognitive Impairment

3.4.1.2 Education risk factors

According to Becroft (2009:5), the school plays a crucial role in the lives of young people, as it does not only equip them with the academic skills to achieve success and happiness, but promotes self-confidence as well. In addition, it also encourages post-school attitudes and skills that could foster their personal growth and create a sense of security. Youngsters who were unable to go to school have a bigger chance of exhibiting offensive and anti-social behaviour. The school environment is one of the crucial areas where youngsters spend most of their time away from home and has a momentous influence on their psycho-social development (Leoschut, 2008:2). The above-mentioned thoughts are also supported by Pagan (1995:18), who emphasises that youngsters who dislike schooling and their educators are generally regarded as being unwilling to participate in school initiatives, and they are likely to exhibit defiant behaviour. Omboto *et al.* (2012:20), argue that education and training could play a vital role towards youth development. Parents and guardians should maintain a positive attitude by collaborating with each other and assisting their children, while they are enrolled at institutions of higher learning. Individuals without education will never know what is required of them by society, yet illiteracy is no defence in the eyes of the law. Graham et al. (2010), argue that the school is the second-most important socialising agent in the life of a youngster. Palmery and Moat (2002:14) are of the view that school safety ought to be a priority in South Africa, because a good-quality education is one of the fundamental platforms that will ensure that young people develop resilience/resistance against criminality. Omboto et al. (2012:20), emphasise the idea that young people at

learning institutions must partake in sports and other extracurricular activities, which will deter them from getting involved in strikes and other destructive activities.

Palmerly and Moat (2002:4) further argue that the involvement of young people in social bullying could have its origin in harsh discipline in the family environment. Leoschut (2008:1) states that young people living within communities characterised by crime and violence usually have a good chance of being exposed to violence themselves in future. As a result it is not surprising to find that many of the learners participating in school violence had personally observed incidents of interpersonal violence between individuals in their own environments. Leoschut and Burton (2009:67) refer to a statement by the late former Minister of Education (Kader Asmal) who indicated that young people should attend school in an environment conducive to provision of the necessary protection against physical and emotional harm, and of support for those who suffer harm outside the school environment, if one is to be successful in achieving educational goals. As a result of providing a viable environment for schooling, violence, criminal activity, bullying and vandalism in schools could be eradicated. A functioning school is a true community in its own right, and an essential centre for the wider community's social and cultural needs and interests. Palmerly and Moat (2002:6) argue that although education is outside the scope of local government, it provides a space where young people can be consistently and easily reached in order to implement criminality prevention programmes. Partnerships between municipalities and schools are necessary for effective youth crime prevention. Prior and Paris (2005:25) cite Rutter et al. (1998), who assert that the school appears to pressure the youth to refrain from delinquent behaviour, therefore the value of that influence should be determined. Palmerly and Moat (2002:18) emphasise that sports and recreational activities could produce the desired results if incorporated into holistic after-school programmes.

3.4.1.3 Gender resilience

The number of female offenders has increased over the past few years, but males are much more likely to commit crime than their female counterparts. Crimes committed by male offenders commonly involve aggression (The root causes of crime, 1996:6). Palmerly and Moat (2002:28) additionally argue that violence against women is entrenched in South African social life and in the socialisation of both boys

and girls in South Africa. Gender violence (rape, and sexual, physical and emotional abuse) is part of the differences that exist between men and women, and it is gradually becoming a feature of youth crime in South Africa. It starts when a person is still in early adolescence, therefore meaningful and positive prevention programmes should be introduced at an early age. There are some programmes that have criminalised gender violence without looking at how it may be prevented. According to Palmery and Moat (2002:28), some of the common features of gender violence reduction programmes include the following:

- Define the violence against women and understand the different kinds of gender-based violence,
- Change the attitude of the youth towards sexism and the growing awareness of the myths about gender violence,
- Learn non-violent relationship skills such as communication and dealing with anger,
- Identify community resources for victims of gender violence, such as shelters, counselling services etc.

3.4.1.4 Family risk disorder

The ISCPs (South Africa, 2011a:10) defines a family as “a group of people living together and functioning as a single household, usually comprising parents and their children,” whereas the DSD Draft Green Paper for Families (South Africa, 2011d: 7) describes it as “the core of society, which is integral to the general well-being of individuals in relation to their psychological, emotional, physical, spiritual and economic needs.” The above-quoted sentiments are supported by Graham et al. (2010:109), who maintain that a family is the most influential, pleasurable environment for youngsters, and that it should be noted that it is where different things are learned. Becroft (2009:5) argues that children who develop behavioural deficiencies commonly come from households where they are subjected to many sources of social, economic and family disadvantages on a daily basis. It is not the presence of only one explicit problem, such as poverty, that determines a hostile outcome, but rather the accumulation of many adverse factors. The similarities between the backgrounds of young people with conduct disorder, and those who can be classified as ‘life-course persistent offenders’ are so prominent, it is thought

that almost all life-course persistent-type offenders have conduct disorder. Fagan (1995:6) states that the offending conduct of youths has its roots in the habitual deficiency in parental love, and that it goes back to the early beginnings of the child's life. The connection between parents, not just the association between mother and child, has an important effect on every young child. Youngsters respond to fighting parents by defying authority, crying, hammering other teenagers, and being much more rebellious than their peers.

According to Leoschut (2006:10), the family environment is the principal socialising agent where youngsters are taught about tolerable and deplorable conduct. Youngsters who are continuously exposed to violence within their homes observe and view it as the best way to resolve conflicts. Some household characteristics contribute towards the violent behaviour displayed by children in communities. Violence was not only pervasive in the communities in which these young people lived, but also infiltrated their familial environment (South Africa, 2005:30). Becroft (2009) supports the above-stated sentiments, indicating that families play a very important role in the shaping of a child's risk for future anti-social behaviour. Progressive households can afford a happy foundation during the development of their children. Equally, a poor family environment is a breeding ground for anti-social behaviour and offending. Some of the factors that can contribute to deviant and anti-social behaviour include the following: experiences of violence, neglect, poor bonding, and poverty.

Palmer and Moat (2002:5) contend that collaboration between various role-players such as the local government, provincial departments of social development and welfare and NGOs that focus on social development, employment creation and poverty reduction is necessary in order to make a concerted effort to improve the domestic situation and eradicate the circumstances that may inspire criminal or abusive behaviour. A nurturing and responsible approach in the parent-child relationship is a strong deterrent to delinquency. In contrast, parent-child relationships that are characterised by emotional and physical punishment may encourage delinquent behaviour (Palmer & Moat, 2002:20). The responsibility for prioritising the youth extends beyond the household environment because of the involvement of communities and society. Nevertheless, dysfunctional family

environments contribute to future delinquency. These conditions include parental inadequacy, parental conflict, parental criminality, lack of respect and responsibility, abuse and neglect of children, and family violence (The root causes of crime, 1996:6). The household environment is the prime socialising agent where youngsters are taught how to differentiate between right and wrong. In addition, these youngsters seek protection from their parents or any other senior members in the family (Leoschut, 2006:10).

Palmerly and Moat (2002:08) reiterate the fact that constructive parenting and loving families, where admiration and warm interpersonal relationship are a standard, act as shields to protect youngsters against partaking in criminal activities. The Green Paper on Families (South Africa, 2011d: 28) stresses the idea that the household environment will always be the core of its members' well-being, from the time of birth until death. In addition, the family is considered to be the foremost institution in society that plays a vital role during socialisation, development and maintenance. Moreover, the family environment remains the foundation of human civilisation, because of its ability to instil society's values, norms and morals.

The Green Paper on Families (South Africa, 2011d: 20) also emphasises that the household set-up is under threat and is unable to play its critical role in socialisation, nurturing, care and protection effectively. Various civil societal forces such as the high levels of poverty and inequality, high unemployment, particularly among the youth, crime, absent fathers, former spouses and/or partners who prevent fathers from playing an effective role in the lives of their children, domestic violence, and the high number of orphaned and vulnerable children are acutely prominent in South Africa, due to the weakening family structure. In addition, youngsters commit crime because they are influenced by various factors related to their household environments, for example parents who are unable to provide in the basic needs of their children. Moreover, children who grow up in a stable and supportive environment show positive signs of good behaviour. Prior and Paris (2005:22) cite Farrington (2002), who remarks that a family environment enhances the protection, closeness and warmth of a social connection with parents or carers, and that it has been acknowledged as a vital protective factor.

3.4.1.5 Abstinence from substance use

The misuse of alcohol and substances is commonly connected to unlawful behaviour. A number of criminals were found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they committed the alleged offences. The consumption of alcohol from an adolescent age could lead to higher conviction rates in adulthood (The root causes of crime, 1996: 7). However, drug-abuse prevention programmes, which could contribute positively to the well-being of the youth, should be introduced. In addition, the provision of places of safety in problematic drug areas where young people can be safe from the influence of drug sellers in the community has proved to be working well. The above-quoted sentiments are supported by Graham et al. (2010:11), who state that substance abuse is a contributing factor to youth involvement in violence. The use and abuse of substances are regarded as instrumental in lowering the inhibitions, thereby increasing people's tendency to participate in violence. Palmery and Moat (2002:7) cite Straker and Moosa (1996), who state that crime prevention programmes have to be developed to help young people. It is also necessary that the perceptions that certain young people are destined to commit crime should be eliminated, because these perceptions intensify marginalisation and a feeling of estrangement among the youth. Where young people adapt despite exposure to high-risk conditions, their capability to endure and flourish has been attributed to the following three causes:

- Personal qualities, such as intelligence, self-esteem or good interpersonal skills,
- An earnest, receptive and accountable family setting, and
- Peer or adult support.

The National Drug Master Plan (South Africa, 2013c:33) indicates that a number of South Africans drink alcohol most of the time during weekends. It is assumed that in a neighbourhood where there is a high level of alcohol consumption and drug abuse, most individuals are involved in criminal behaviour, and the youth may be aware of who the culprits are, in their communities (South Africa, 2005:22). The National Drug Master Plan (South Africa, 2013c:73) identifies the following factors that must be addressed for the Plan to make a positive impact, namely:

- South Africans who have a value system in terms of which they reject out of hand the use of dependence-forming substances,
- South Africans who have the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to combat the substance abuse problems,
- A strategic approach to substance abuse that involves prevention, treatment, after-care and reintegration into society, as a means of enabling the population to deal with the problem,
- A strategic approach that involves the balanced integration of demand-reduction, supply-reduction and harm-reduction,
- A measured level of substance abuse in the country that is less than that of generally accepted international norms, and that decreases annually until the country is free of substance abuse.

Palmary and Moat (2002:31) are of the view that the challenge is that few drug addicts are enrolled in rehabilitation centres, and as a result, problematic young offenders end up doing community service in the time they are supposed to be undergoing a rehabilitation programme.

3.4.2 Victimization

Palmary and Moat (2002:6) state that research has established that youth offenders were once victims of violence or abuse when they were still youngsters. Children who at some stage were affected by violence may reconcile with the idea that violence is a normal way to express disgruntlement, and that it is a way of escaping from their social and economic conditions. The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by Leoschut and Burton (2009:3), who argue that youngsters who have never been exposed to any form of crime are more likely not to commit crime in their entire lives. The Gauteng Safety Strategy (South Africa, 2006:15) maintains that there is a sizeable number of the high-risk target groups in the various age groups, namely young people that have dropped out of school, are in trouble with the law, or have been victims of crime. Young people who encounter crimes similar to those their adult counterparts experience also experience crimes that specifically happen to young people and that are related to their development period. There is an incorrect assumption that the victimisation of adolescents is less severe than that of adults. Nevertheless, various studies found that adolescents are two to three times

more likely than adults to be victims of violent criminal activities (South Africa, 2005:01). Youngsters who are affected by crime are likely to report such incidents within the family environment (Leoschut, 2006:10).

3.4.3 The reflection on Neighbourhood factors, sports and recreation for crime prevention

According to the National Youth Policy (South Africa, 2015b:24), the participation of young people in sport and cultural events builds a strong, dynamic citizenry, brings about a sense of self-importance, and adds to social and economic change. Omboto et al. (2012:20), argue that work and recreational activities should be balanced because young people should be made aware that they must take responsibility for their actions at all times, even when socialising with their peers. In the process, their participation in extramural activities will contribute to crime reduction, because some crimes are committed out of boredom. Palmery and Moat (2002:12) argue that one of the primary ways in which criminality among the youth can be prevented is by means of adequate supervision and providing environments where young people are not left on their own for long periods. Provision of sports and recreational facilities is a crime prevention tactic on its own, although it has shown diverse outcomes. These facilities should be included in overall crime prevention initiatives, for example, after-school care programmes, if law enforcement agencies are to decrease any form of criminality. In places with a high level of crime, recreational facilities can also be utilised for early prevention of gang membership by presenting the youth who are at risk of joining gangs with an alternative to gang life. At those centres, the youth could acquire a number of skills, for example conflict resolution, job skills, sports and recreation, and community service. The services identified above could be integrated into the existing early-childhood development and after-school programmes, if the young people's safety is ensured during their participation (Palmery & Moat, 2002:16).

3.4.4 Interaction with non-delinquent peers

Becroft (2009:6) defines peer risk factors as "the problem that may arise when a young person associates with a friend who is already engaging in offending or other anti-social behaviour." Graham et al. (2010:111), maintain that youngsters who associate with peers who are violent are at danger of becoming entangled in

violence themselves. That kind of relationship could become a breeding ground for anti-social behaviour, where the likelihood increases of a youngster committing a criminal activity. The harmful influences emanating from their peers can be found in life-course-persistent offenders, since these offenders are inclined to have a profound influence on other young people, and would commit crimes with or without anti-social peers. The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by Pagan (1995:19) who states that peers, while socializing with others, gradually learn to exploit the people of their own community, and increasingly become involved with delinquent companions, as they grow more familiar with them.

The Report on Interrogating Youth Development in South Africa (Jobson, 2011:21) states that young people will recognize the importance of their participation in youth initiatives when the results become obvious. Youth development should never be addressed in isolation, but has to be a continuous process that will be dealt with as a process of cumulative development of responsibilities, self-development, social capital and initiative.

Control measures to prevent youth and juvenile crime are presented in the following section.

3.5 MEASURES TO CONTROL YOUTH AND JUVENILE CRIME

Omboto et al. cite Richards (2012:20), who indicates that putting youthful offenders behind bars may not deal with the kind of factors that caused their recorded crimes. In most cases it becomes merely the removal of these youths from their dwelling areas. Richards identifies the following measures that can help reduce the rise in the number of young people involved in criminal activities: (i) creation of wealth should be top priority and (ii) employment opportunities should be created by both the government and private entities for youths of employable ages.

Omboto et al. (2012:20), are of the opinion that parents must take responsibility for their children up to the time when they can stand on their own feet. This involves providing for their children's material needs and giving them moral guidance. Many parents have abandoned their original role and have left it to the movies and advertising agencies to run their children's lives. Parenthood should be taken more

seriously, thus parents must not be too busy to know and monitor the activities of their teenage sons and daughters.

Religious leaders should reach out to the youth and involve them in religious activities, since a God-fearing young adult will not get into criminal activities, since he/she will realize that it is a sin before God. The National Youth Policy (2015:12-23) cites the resolution of the Commonwealth Charter (2005), which emphasises creating societies and prioritising youth empowerment to develop their creativity, skills and potential as productive and dynamic members of society. This charter targets three strategic programmes that could keep youngsters away from juvenile crime. The following action plan was developed:

- Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihood: This will give youngsters an opportunity to gain the necessary skills to be self-employed,
- Youth Work, Education and Training: Youngsters should be empowered with the relevant professional skills to prepare them for the challenges ahead,
- Governance, Development and Youth Network: The programme will encourage youth to participate in the process of policy-making.

Youth development platforms are presented in the next section.

3.6 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLATFORMS

According to the Mentoring Resource Center (2007:1-2), youth development can be defined in its broadest sense as that it “refers to the stages that all children go through to acquire the attitudes, competencies, values, and social skills they need to become successful adults.” The National Youth Policy 2015-2020 (2015:4) maintains that South Africa’s concept of youth development is influenced by the historical circumstances that have shaped the country and its democratic goals. The policy is founded on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. Youth development will determine South Africa’s future and should be at the focal point of its plan. Edelman, Gill, Cornerford, Larson and Hare (2004:3) echo the above-quoted sentiments by indicating that youth development is viewed as a process through which young people become proficient or acquire mature competencies that are necessary to be successful and that

enable them to overcome challenges. As children grow, they go through a number of developmental phases, during which they attain a set of personal skills that help them face the problems and prospects ahead. The challenges experienced by young people will make them stronger over time, and they will be able to stand against any form of destructive forces. The youth's capability to progress without any form of hindrance is dependent on the support and backing they get from the people and establishments around them. Whitlock, Polen and Green (2004:1) highlights that youth development is a considered approach with the focus on practices for appealing to the whole population by assisting young people to succeed in their endeavours. In addition, it builds on traditional youth-service approaches by stressing long-term, efficient approaches for enhancing the qualities and personalities desirable in the youth through the establishment of environments that support their developmental requirements and dimensions.

The National Youth Policy 2015-2020 (South Africa, 2015b:4) maintains that youth development in South Africa should take into consideration the historical background that has characterised the nation and its democratic values. This historical background is based on the assurance of social and economic fairness, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. The development of young people in South Africa will definitely determine the future of the country and the lack of development should be top of government's agenda, as identified in the NDP.

The Report on Interrogating Youth Development in South Africa (Jobson, 2011:14) has identified youth leadership as the modern prerequisite in the field of youth civic engagement and development, and that it is topping the agenda in championing youth leadership. Youth development is a challenging subject to deal with because leadership programmes that differentiate between life-skills and leadership training are regarded as trivial. The Country Assessment on Youth Violence, Policy and Programmes in South Africa (2012:20) states that the policy framework regarding the youth has over a period of time called for the all-inclusive development of young people, but in practice government's focus has been on incorporating young people into the economy, primarily through skills development and training. The best evidence of the ingenuity of the youth development platforms was the National

Youth Service Programme (NYSP), which intended to include unemployed youth in government service, while providing them with assistance to increase their employability, providing them with skills and also providing them with a platform to gain experience, which would be a good starting point. The establishment of economic opportunities for young people is now the mandate of the NYDA, whose key performance area comprises initiating, facilitating, implementing, coordinating and monitoring interventions aimed at reducing unemployment. The NYDA is mandated to guide and facilitate youth development programmes in South Africa. It has sound development programmes to augment youth employability. The NYDA is also expanding its attention to include social cohesion, and could potentially play a key role in facilitating commitment to this matter. The Country Assessment on Youth Violence, Policy and Programmes in South Africa (2012:2) argues that the following shortcomings were acknowledged in legislation, policies and programmes for young people in the development and support of youth:

- There is very little in the way of legislation or policy that specifically addresses youth, or issues pertinent to violence,
- There is a particular gap with respect to adult youth in conflict with the law,
- There is insufficient emphasis on crime prevention. South Africa has in place progressive legislation to address the socio-economic drivers of crime and violence, in the form of the NCPS, but this has not been implemented. This represents a lost opportunity, in this case for a proactive, integrated, multi-sectorial response to crime and violence in South Africa as a whole,
- As with the legislative framework, there is a gap in programming when it comes to older youth. The bulk of the youth-oriented programmes focus on children or adolescents. Few of the programmes target young adults, or address the needs and challenges encountered by young people in their late teens and early twenties,
- There is also a shortcoming in the range of programmes. Government programmes tend to focus on economic empowerment and offender-related initiatives. Few interventions occur at the family level, or link the home and school environment. There is little emphasis on creating supportive post-school options or opportunities for youth to explore their talents and potential. There is also a dearth of interventions to support young people who have experienced

violence and victimisation - a key oversight, given the association between victimisation and the perpetration of violence,

- Several NGOs run innovative programmes that address some of these gaps. However, funding constraints and a lack of integration between governmental programmes represent significant challenges to collaboration between government and civil society, as well as efforts to holistically address the drivers of violence.

Additionally, the NYP 2020 was developed to advance an environment that permits the young people of South Africa to maximise their potential. There are policies that are mindful of the worldwide economic difficulties and distress, and that identify mechanisms that will act as agents of change to address challenges and achieve a positive environment in South Africa. For the objectives of the policy to be achieved, the state will be required to partner with all sectors of society, including the SAPS. The following objectives were outlined (South Africa, 2015b:5):

- Combine and integrate youth development into the normal government policies, programmes and the national budget,
- Reinforce the ability of key youth-development institutions and ensure integration and coordination in the delivery of youth services,
- Build the capacity of young people to enable them to take charge of their own lives by developing their capacity for knowledge, securing their future, and realising their potential,
- Cultivate a culture of patriotic citizenship among young people and help them to become responsible adults who care for their families and communities,
- Foster a sense of national cohesion, while acknowledging the country's diversity. Also inculcate a spirit of patriotism by encouraging visible and active participation in the various youth initiatives, projects and nation-building activities.

A discussion of the fundamental principles of youth development is presented in the next section.

3.7 THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The NYP 2015-2002 (South Africa, 2015b:3) argues that it is necessary that a specific youth policy be developed in order to deal with the increasing level of youth unemployment in the country. Young people should be given the necessary support and gradually be assimilated into society. The National Youth Development Policy Framework (South Africa, 2002:2) stipulates the following desired outcome:

Integrated, holistic and sustainable youth development, conscious of the historical imbalances and current realities, to build a non-sexist, non-racist, democratic South Africa in which young people and their organisations not only enjoy and contribute to their full potential in the social, economic and political spheres of life but also recognise and develop their responsibilities to build a better life for all.

According to the Statistics South Africa (2011) census, the youth makes up 41,2% of the entire population. The NDP (South Africa, 2011c:98) maintains that it is to the country's advantage provided that most of the youth are skilled and employed, and contribute positively to the economy and society. However, the problem that the country is facing is to translate the demographics into action, because failure to do so poses a serious danger to social, political and economic stability. The National Youth Framework (South Africa, 2002:8) states that an incorporated, all-inclusive and workable methodology is required, whereby youngsters and their organisations not only contribute their efforts to the social, economic and political spheres of life but also benefit society as a whole. The Mentoring Resource Centre (2007:1-2) has indicated that there are basic principles of the youth development approach that are referred to as the "five Cs." Edelman et al. (2004:12), emphasise that accomplishments that nurture fruitful youth development have become the basis for youth agendas. In the past, various models were invented with the sole aim of assisting specialists to implement youth development in their respective sectors, most of which had related principles, goals, and tactics. Youth development institutions have a comprehensive objective of serving youth and ensuring their healthy development to adulthood. The majority of young workers and teachers envisage economic freedom, intellectual and social capability, personal fulfilment, and physical and psychological comfort as noteworthy measures of youth development. The five key requirements for the development of young people are

equally important for their transition from adolescence to adulthood. This model is branded as the “Five Cs”:

- **Competence:** Positive view of one’s actions in specific areas, including social, academic, cognitive, and vocational,
- **Confidence:** The internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy, a positive identity, and belief in the future,
- **Connection:** Positive bonds with people and institutions - peers, family, school, and community - in which both parties contribute to the relationship,
- **Character:** Respect for societal and cultural rules, possession of standards for correct behaviours, a sense of right and wrong (morality), spirituality and integrity,
- **Caring or Compassion:** A sense of sympathy and empathy for others.

The objectives, as illustrated in paragraph 1.4 above are aligned to the objectives of the YCPD, as outlined in the Impact Analysis Report of the Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desk Programme (2013:9), namely:

- To increase participation and involvement of youth in crime prevention initiatives,
- To establish, promote and maintain youth participation in the fight against youth criminality and the promotion of skills and development of young people in Gauteng,
- To develop strategic programmes and projects aimed at the eradication of common challenges facing young people in the province, i.e. substance abuse, lack of skills and education, unemployment etc,
- To source and provide priority information to the CPF, the DoCS and the SAPS to ensure effective policing, arrest and conviction of criminal elements,
- To collaborate with government institutions, business and private stakeholders to formulate extended and sustainable youth programmes that will address the development of young people in the YCPD,
- To form a stratum of all youth formations to create a network that will work together various youth programmes aimed at youth safety, personal development and vocational commitments,

- To identify challenges, analyse them and chart campaigns aimed at addressing the root causes thereof (example: schools safety challenges, teenage pregnancy etc.).

The above-mentioned objectives are complemented by the guidelines to a functional youth social crime prevention desk as outlined in the Impact Analysis Report of the Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desk Programme (2013:10). Some of the following challenges were identified, such as resource allocation, issues of governance (leadership), effectiveness of training, effectiveness of the youth desk in executing its activities/projects, the relationship of the youth desk with the SAPS and the CPFs in their specific precincts, as well as membership.

The Integrated Youth Development Strategy of South Africa (South Africa, 2011e:30) maintains that the youth must be given significant opportunities to reach their ability; furthermore, the youth should be positioned at the centre of the developmental agenda. The Mentoring Resource Centre (2007:1-2) also places emphasis on the idea that youth development principles and practices should embrace many community initiatives. As a result of their participation in various initiatives, young people are bound to gain from such services. Moreover, youth development calls for the involvement of all sectors of society because people from different backgrounds are brought together for a common goal. Whitlock *et al* (2004) places emphasis on the importance of positive youth development, where a framework that guides communities is developed in order to organise services and prospects, and also supports young people to reach their full potential. Positive youth development is a step in the right direction because it opens doors for the youth. Communities should embrace youth development. The National Youth Policy 2015-2020 (South Africa, 2015b:8) identifies the following principles related to youth development:

- Accessibility: Youths of all backgrounds should have access to the resources for their complete development,
- Responsiveness: Various civil society institutions should respond positively to the needs and challenges affecting young people,

- Holistic: Youngsters from different backgrounds should be encouraged to participate in initiatives so that they may gain the necessary all-inclusive knowledge, skills and experience for smooth transition to adulthood,
- Integration: Various stakeholders should be encouraged to participate in youth development interventions,
- Diversity: All youngsters from different backgrounds should be accommodated in youth initiative,
- Non-discriminatory: Youngsters of different age groups, gender, race, sexual orientation, disability (as protected in the Constitution) must participate in such initiatives,
- Sustainable development: The future of our youngsters should never be compromised and they should be allowed to maximise their potential and capabilities by addressing the challenges ahead,
- Transparency: Youth institutions should conduct their business in a transparent and responsible manner,
- Participation and inclusion: The youth must be enabled to participate freely in youth initiatives by sharing information, creating opportunities and allowing them to participate in the process of decision-making for their own growth,
- Social cohesion: Youngsters should be involved in democratic and nation-building initiatives that encourage togetherness,
- Youth service: Youngsters should be involved in programmes that promote patriotism and skills programmes that enhance learning and service,
- Redress: Youth initiatives that address the challenges of the past should be promoted through equitable policies, programmes and resource allocation,
- Focus on strength and positive outcomes: Rather than taking a deficit-based approach, communities should intentionally help young people build on their strengths and develop the competencies, values, and connections they need for life and work,
- Youth voice and engagement: Youths are valued partners who should have meaningful decision-making roles in programmes and communities,
- Strategies that involve all youths: Communities must support and engage all youth rather than focusing solely on “high-risk” or “gifted” youths. Communities

do, however, recognise the need to identify and respond to specific problems faced by some youths (such as violence or premature parenthood),

- Community involvement and collaboration: Positive youth development includes but reaches beyond programmes; it promotes organisational change and collaboration for community change. All sectors have a role to play in making the community a great place to grow up in,
- Long-term commitment: Communities must provide ongoing, developmentally appropriate support that young people need during the first 20 years of their lives.

The following section presents a discussion of prominent youth development institutions in South Africa.

3.8 PROMINENT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The National Youth Policy (South Africa, 2015b:7) states that it is necessary for young people to participate in youth initiatives that respond to their needs. It lays the foundation for integrated youth-centred programmes, based on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. According to Edelman *et al.* (2004:1), effective youth initiatives are the ones that concentrate on the broader development and programme components that support youth development. The NYP (South Africa, 2015b:9) identified the youth development institutions that could play a meaningful role in the lives of young people, as described in the sections below. These institutions are developed to strengthen youth development in the country. Each has a role to play and their mandates are different but they collaborate with one another.

3.8.1 South African Youth Council

According to the National Youth Development Strategy 2007/08-2011/12 (South Africa, 2007b:7), the South African Youth Council (SAYC) is described as a voluntary civil society youth council that represents the welfare and ambitions of its various affiliated organizations. Its members are drawn from political youth and issue-based organizations. It represents various memberships that provide a

competitive advantage in serving as the “voice of the youth,” and combining differing opinions into a mutual programme for youth development (South Africa, 2015b:15).

3.8.2 National Youth Development Agency

The National Youth Policy (South Africa, 2015b:15-16) explains the NYDA as an NGO that represents the interests of young people from different backgrounds. The proclamation of the NYDA Act (South Africa, 2008a) established the National Youth Development Agency through a unification of the National Youth Commission and the Umsobovu Youth Fund. The aims of this agency are as follows:

- Initiate, design, coordinate and monitor all programmes working to integrate young people into the economy and society in general,
- Promote a uniform approach to youth development by all organs of state, the private sector and NGOs,
- Establish annual national priority programmes for youth development,
- Promote the interests of the youth, particularly young people with disabilities,
- Guide efforts and facilitate economic participation and empowerment, and the achievement of excellence in education and training.

In addition, Graham et al. (2010:18), identified a variety of developmental programmes to address the issues that contribute to the susceptibility of the youth and their involvement in violence as victims or perpetrators. The following programmes were identified:

- Gender-specific training programmes regarding domestic and sexual violence could focus on gender awareness, empowerment, human rights, children’s rights and the effects of domestic and sexual abuse,
- It is necessary to promote civic engagement and youth development opportunities to foster the vibrant associational life of young people. This should be supported by creating the social, political and economic conditions that encourage this form of social capital,
- Investment in socio-curricular activities such as sport, arts, cultural activities and service opportunities is required to enable young people to actively explore their

skills and knowledge, as well as their own potential by means of participation in the YCPD,

- There should be a focus on the empowerment of young people through the development of life skills, professional skills, assertiveness and coping strategies.

A discussion of the challenges experienced by youth development institutions is presented in the following sections.

3.9 CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS

According to the National Youth Policy 2015-2020 (South Africa, 2015b:9), a negative perception exists among young people, where youth development organizations are portrayed as having failed in their mandate to uplift the lives of young people. This negative perception exists because of the environment of continued high level of youth joblessness and uninspiring graduate employability, the continued Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infection rates among young people, the continued high rates of drop-outs from school and higher-learning institutions, the high rates of violent crimes committed by young people, teen pregnancy, and the general poverty experienced by young people, including those with jobs.

The reasons for the lacklustre performance among youth development institutions are summarised as follows (South Africa, 2015b:10, & Graham *et al.*, 2010:16):

- Fragmentation and lack of clear mandates, resulting in duplicated responsibilities and focus areas. Integration without coordination also leads to disorganised and time-wasting duplication of efforts. There appears to be a considerable overlap between the mandates of the National Youth Council and Youth Directorate in the Presidency that appears to have continued between the NYDA and the Youth Directorate,
- Lack of cohesive coordination of existing programmes and implications for accountability, monitoring, evaluation and assessment of implementation programmes,

- Lack of capacity. The NYDA was set up to be the main driver of youth programmes, but it does not have sufficient capacity. The programmes it runs are not optimally visible or accessible, and its high salary bill affects the funding available for programmes. Many of the NYDA offices are not fully operative (in August 2014, only 44% of the offices were functioning at full capacity). In addition, the agency's reputation is yet to recover from its poor organization of the 17th World Youth Festival in 2010, which it administered on behalf of the presidency,
- Sustainable funding is a continued constraint for many organisations, particularly those working at community level,
- The ability to attract and retain good staff is also a challenge, particularly since working with vulnerable young people may result in burn-out for qualified professionals and volunteers,
- Very often, organizations work in an environment in which there is a lack of awareness, and inappropriate or poorly coordinated policy frameworks that are supposed to guide their work and enable them to obtain commitment from all sectors,
- Youth structures may be perceived as being partisan and are often ill-equipped to champion youth issues effectively.

The National Development Plan 2030 (South Africa, 2011c:9) proposes initiatives that can address the above-mentioned challenges. The following solutions were identified:

- Expand Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges' enrolment by about 25%, and increase graduation by about 75%. Develop community safety centres to prevent crime, and expand the role of state-owned enterprises in the training of artisans and technical professionals.
- Capacitate school and community sports and recreation programmes and encourage a healthy and positive lifestyle.
- Capacitate youth programmes and introduce new community-based programmes to provide youth life-skills training, entrepreneurship training, and opportunities to participate in community development programmes.

3.10 SUMMARY

There are various reasons for youth offences; however, it is difficult to state with confidence what causes youth crime and violence because clearly there are a number of contributing factors at the structural, community and individual levels that place young people at greater risk of getting involved in crime or becoming victims. Youth offences are not instigated in accordance with a precise, straightforwardly identifiable list of reasons, but by the existence in a young person's life of numerous factors. When dealing with offending youths, the best possible approach is to identify the respective risk factors related to the offences, and address the mediations that could either decrease those risks or escalate them.

However, violence increases in the later part of life, during adulthood. Young people who first developed a violent behaviour pattern during childhood, intensify their viciousness during adolescence. Young people are involved in youth offences because they see it as a way of attaining the admiration from their peers while enhancing their own sense of self-worth, or declaring their independence from adults. Usually, offending youths will slow down when the person enters adulthood and assumes adult characteristics. Crime is a result of a variety of adverse economic, cultural and family conditions, and to address it, it is necessary to first identify the root causes. Quality education, caring and steady parenting, and robust community and social engagements will increase the youth's resilience to offending.

Youth development is a necessity for the preparation of young people in every society to participate in community initiatives in the fight against youth crime and violence. The involvement of young people in various youth programmes could assist with reducing youth violence. The challenge to sustainable youth development and the well-being of young people is caused by the inability to meet their basic needs. However, the development of a comprehensive life skills programme could play a crucial role because it would provide our youth with the required skills and knowledge. In addition, the involvement of all the role-players in youth initiatives could serve as a motivating factor when dealing with youth issues.

Chapter 4 provides a presentation and discussion of the findings. The presentation, analysis and integration of the qualitative data are presented and discussed in accordance with the evolving themes and subthemes.

CHAPTER 4

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The thrust of this study, therefore, is to explore ways in which young people could be encouraged to be active participants in the fight against youth crime and violence, and to work with other role-players to design and implement applicable social crime prevention interventions. Some of the most effective measures to address violence are early childhood initiatives that are necessary in order to deal with issues pertinent to children and the broader society (Graham et al., 2010). The idea is to encourage other youths and youth groups to develop projects that are attractive, sustainable and implementable, and to respond to the specific needs of their communities. Initiatives include: sports against crime; prison talks; school talks and debates; school safety desks; motivational talks; anti-substance abuse campaigns and projects; road shows on safety; child protection, and crime awareness by means of public meetings. The Youth Social Crime Prevention Desk does not respond only from a crime prevention angle, but also addresses youth development, seeking to empower young people with skills to become better citizens. The right of young people to have their voices heard is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, so that every young individual is protected when forming opinions about their own matters that affect them.

The following presentation and discussion of the research findings address these objectives through the analysis of text, using open coding in accordance with Tesch's approach of descriptive analysis, as per paragraph 1.10.4. Verbatim quotes² are incorporated. In this chapter, interpretation of the qualitative data (focus group interviews and in-depth individual interviews with participants, as discussed in paragraphs 1.10.2.1 and 1.10.2.2 of Chapter 1) is presented and discussed by means of themes to illustrate achievement of the aim and objectives of this study (as discussed in paragraph 1.4).

² Being verbatim, accounts of the narratives of the participants, the input presented in this chapter contains largely unedited text, and the author is acutely aware of the many errors, which have been left as is, in accordance with the requirements.

The results from the interviews are presented in the following section.

4.2 RESULTS FROM THE INTERVIEWS

In the following section, the researcher discusses the themes that emerged from the in-depth individual interviews conducted with social crime prevention coordinators from the DoCS, SAPS social crime prevention coordinators and an SAPS Station Commander, as well as themes that emerged from the focus group interviews conducted with representatives of the CPF and the YSCPD volunteers. Table 4.1 below provides a summary of the emergent themes, categories and codes emanating from participants' responses.

The central storyline that emerged from all the participants' responses revealed that the YCPD Programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng exhibits the following shortcomings:

- It lacks adequate implementation,
- Understanding of the aims and objectives and the responsibilities of the YCPD programme varies from different stakeholder perspectives. Most participants experienced that the youth and communities were involved in the YCPD programme. There are, however, different beliefs about the benefits or the impact derived from these programmes. Awareness is created via various approaches, thus most participants have to some degree been oriented to the programme's aims, objectives and expectations. By developing their skills, the youths are being empowered. Communication and monitoring among the various role-players in the implementation of YCPD take place but is mostly informal and not optimal, and there is no evidence of evaluation. In addition, challenges are experienced in the fulfilment of the directives, and areas for improvement have been identified for the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng.

A discussion of emergent themes, categories and codes emanating from the data analysis is presented in the following sections.

Table 4.1 below provides a synopsis of the emergent themes, categories and codes emanating from the data analysis.

Table 4.1: Emergent themes, categories and codes emanating from the data analysis

Central storyline		
<p>The YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng lacks adequate implementation. Understanding of the aims and objectives and the roles and responsibilities of the YCPD programme varies from the different stakeholder perspectives. For the most, the youth and communities are involved in the YCPD programme. There are, however, different beliefs about the benefits or impact derived from this programme. Awareness of the YCPD is created by means of various approaches. Most participants have to some degree been oriented to the programme aims, objectives and expectations. In most cases, empowerment through skills development is available to the youth. Communication and monitoring take place but is mostly informal and not optimal. There is no evidence of programme evaluation. In addition, challenges are experienced in the fulfilment of the directives of the YCPD, and areas for improvement have been identified for the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng.</p>		
Theme	Category	Code
Participants' understanding of the aims, objectives, roles and responsibilities of the YCPD programme	Mandate to ensure (Gauteng) safety, to focus on young people, while addressing safety concerns of the communities	Promotion of youth safety
		Support the greater initiative
		Assist the police
		Assist and guide youth
		Recruitment of new members
		Assist in administrative duties
		Address youth problems: active involvement and rising awareness
		Peer education
		Crime Prevention initiatives
Involvement of communities and youth	Youth desk - all welcome	Foreigners excluded
		Involvement through action plans
		Communications and social media
	Benefits or impact derived from these programmes: variable perspectives	It works, yet unsure how or why Some participants felt that the programme did not work Others perceived the programme to be effective

Theme	Category	Code
		Fills a void and extends a helping hand
		Access to government services
		Providing job opportunities
		Building of job-related skills: different views Acquiring skills (such as computer, interpersonal and problem-solving skills) but unable to cross- contextualise the use
	Conflict with the law: separate programme	Reduces crime-related activities
		Referred by the Department of Correctional Services
	Awareness is created through various directives	Involvement rather than rejection
		Operational documents
		Unit directives
		CPF constitution
Orientation to the programme aims, objectives and expectations	Campaigns	
	Present for some (youth)	
Empowerment through skills development	Existent for some (youth) For others such as coordinators there is none	Through stakeholder involvement
Communication, monitoring and evaluation of programmes	Programme of action	Attend plenary session
	Documents governing YCPD activities	Changing membership has negative influence
	Stakeholder involvement assists with guidelines	
	Mixed communication mediums (mostly informal in nature)	Communication between coordinator/s and role-players
		Communication with youth desk

Theme	Category	Code
		Communication between youth desk and others: Group SMSs and WhatsApp
		Meetings/gatherings
		No reports expected from youth desk, yet some do provide reports
	There is a degree of monitoring but often not optimal. No formal evaluations.	Monitoring by means of registers
		Monitor by being present
	Mentoring takes place at meetings	.
Challenges experienced in the fulfilment of the directives	Programmes and approaches are dated	
	Management strategies: Diverse views	Vested interests and infighting Collapse of structures
	Clusters perceived as not all functioning efficiently: issues of commitment and collaboration	
	Issues of sustainability	
	The scope of the work	Coordination with other initiatives/departments to obtain resources and capacity-building enterprises
	Other duties (may) retract from the focus of this directive	
	Lack of formal training: not experienced by all as detrimental to the execution of the directives or programme Induction workshops CPF constitution	
	Year plans Deviation from yearly plans	Perceived understanding of roles and responsibilities
	Lack of guidelines or standardisation (seen as a norm and not necessarily negative)	

Theme	Category	Code
	Lacks appropriate coordination to address social challenges, due to the range of the work and poor communication. CPF, however, felt differently; some partial coordination	
	Issues of control: CPF as the 'mother body' acting as the 'godfather'	Under resourced
	Communications not standardised but fluid, mostly in the form of meetings	
	Issues around volunteerism and self-directedness/ownership	
	Matters of relationships with coordinators/units (operational and functional relationship between the coordinators, DoCS, CPF and the youth desk): varying views and degrees of cooperation, room for improvement	
	Lack or decline of knowledge forums	
	Personal risk and safety of members	
Recommendations	Decrease clusters/stations in order to cope with workload	
	Identification by coordinators and desks to identify and initiate new programmes	
	Appropriate resources	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and consumables
		Self-defence
		Transport
		Office space

Theme	Category	Code
		Nourishment when working extended hours
	Autonomy	Independent financial funding and budgets
	Ownership and involvement by youth	Acknowledgement and recognition
		Capacity-building by means of induction and training for all stakeholders - possibly via internships
		Recreational tools and activities
		Developmental/career pathways
	Identification as YCPD	
Improving relationships	Workshops: Focused	
		Improved communication
	Including and fostering relationships with relevant stakeholders	Including parents
		The community
		School principals

4.2.1 Participants' understanding of the aims, objectives, and responsibilities of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk programme

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Do you have a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme?”

The purpose of this question was to determine participants' familiarity with the purpose of the YCPD programme. The key role-players in the implementation of this initiative have the responsibility to empower all the stakeholders to ensure that this initiative is a success. It is necessary for the role-players to understand the aims and objectives of the YCPD initiative in order to positively contribute to the programme and for it to have the required impact.

It became clear during the focus group interviews that the participants in the study seem confused and disoriented, because they presented diverging views and have a different understanding of this initiative. In response, one of the SAPS social crime prevention coordinators startlingly demonstrated total uncertainty as to what this initiative is all about "... *the knowledge that I have I do not think I have got the whole information.*" Another participant responded by saying "... *I am familiar but I am not sure of the fundamentals of the YCPD and CPF.*" The different understanding of this initiative among participants signals a serious problem, since even some of the YCPD volunteers were not familiar with this initiative "... *some of them happen to be part and parcel of the youth desk in Pretoria; they are aware of what is expected of them and there are others who came in who are not aware of what is happening.*"

In contrast to SAPS participants' understanding of the aims of this initiative, YCPD volunteers indicated that they have a limited understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. One YCPD volunteer responded as follows "... *I do not think we have {a} thorough understanding because we have never had an introduction or a workshop.*" It is evident that there are differences in terms of understanding the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. Those participants within a functioning structure of the CPF and other role-players seem to have a better understanding. It emerged during the interviews that the station commander understood the importance of the establishment of the YCPD programme.

The station commander responded as follows "... *yes I do ... when the CPF was formed I was told that there is a need for youth desk to be part and parcel of the organisation.*" The varying responses by the participants indicate that there is a requirement for awareness and education about the importance of the YCPD programme at station level in order to ensure that it is successfully implemented.

It would be impossible for the police to deal with the problem of youth crime and violence alone, without the involvement of other stakeholders. The scourge of youth crime and violence can be addressed only with the participation of the community. The participants who are actively involved in the activities of the YCPD are the ones with a better understanding of how best to implement it.

In view of the comments by the participants, it is obvious that the successful implementation of the YCPD can be achieved only through the involvement of all the role-players. The YCPD supports the mandate of the DoCS, which is to ensure that the province is a safe place to live in.

4.2.1.1 Mandate to enhance safety in Gauteng

The mandate of the DoCS is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (No. 108 of 1996), Chapter 11, Section 206 and the SAPS Act (No. 68 of 1995), Chapter 2. The Gauteng DoCS has a vision of ensuring that Gauteng is a safe and secure place to live in. It is also stated in the Strategic Plan 2010-2015 that the mandate of the Department is to ensure effective supervision of the province's law enforcement agencies, and that it should also take a leading role in ensuring that all people in South Africa are and feel safe. That can be achieved only by means of the following:

- Effective implementation and promotion of appropriate social crime prevention initiatives,
- Educating and empowering citizens on issues of public safety and coordinating community safety initiatives,
- Coordination of efforts and programmes in the criminal justice system,
- Improving and strengthening relations between the police and communities, and
- Determining community policing needs and priorities in keeping with the provisions of Section 206(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The YCPD is one of the programmes that have been initiated by the DoCS to ensure that Gauteng is a safe place to live in, by involving young people in the fight against youth crime and violence. During the interviews, the DoCS coordinator demonstrated that he understood very well the mandate of the department, therefore in his response he confidently remarked that “... *as a department we have a mandate to ensure Gauteng is safe.*” In light of the above, it shows that the DoCS' coordinator is well aware of what the department stands for. However, some of the other role-players who should assist in the implementation of this initiative do not understand its aims and objectives.

- **Promotion of youth safety**

The Gauteng DoCS took a decision as far back as 2006 in respect of the best possible ways to reach communities to inform them about the activities undertaken by the department. The adoption of the Gauteng Provincial Safety Strategy was undoubtedly necessary in order to improve interaction with various stakeholders. This strategy is intent on improving the criminal justice system, with a focus on policing, promoting social crime prevention through government, and enhancing institutional capacity and community participation (Budget statement 2 – 2008/2009, vote 10: Community Safety). It has been widely publicised that most of the crimes in South Africa are committed by young people. This could be one of the reasons why the DoCS has introduced the YCPD initiative to target the youth.

The YCPD programme is a volunteer structure based within police stations and it encourages young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth crime and violence, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies. The DoCS coordinator was eloquent on the position of the department with regard to this initiative, and the need to convey the message to the community at large. He remarked as follows; “... *the promotion of youth safety, this is how we mobilise young people against crime. We make sure that there is peer-to-peer education.*” The CPF members also knew the role that they were expected to play in the implementation of the YCPD, and they responded as follows: “... *helping the police to reduce if not fighting crime.*”

It is therefore necessary for the DoCS to adopt a workable strategy that will guide the department on how to effectively convey the messages to the various role-players. It is also vital to encourage the community to participate in initiatives that are meant to address youth crime and violence committed by and perpetrated against young people. It is crucial to have a communication strategy in order to reach more young people and other role-players so that they can participate in the activities of the YCPD.

- **Support the greater initiative**

The support of the YCPD signals good intentions because where there is willingness there will be progress, and the outcome will automatically be positive.

The success of this initiative, i.e. to achieve its intended objectives, is dependent on the support of all the role-players.

The CPF, as the key structure at station level, is willing to see this initiative succeed. The CPF has demonstrated that they are aware of the role they are expected to play in support of the YCPD programme, and remarked as follows: *“Since we are the mother body of the station and the youth is our baby and I think it is our objective to support their project and campaigns and awareness activities.”* Any support by any stakeholder in this initiative would benefit the project at large, since such support would focus on the dissemination of knowledge and any other action that would assist the project to prevail. The above-quoted sentiments by the CPF signal positivity: *“... the aims {is} to help police, I can say is working hand in hand with the police.”*

For the YCPD to make the necessary impact, all the role-players should play a significant role by participating in the activities of the YCPD. In fact, the support of all the stakeholders in the implementation of this initiative is necessary for it to prevail. The stakeholders’ understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD is necessary for the latter to play a meaningful role.

- **Assist and guide the youth**

As far as the YCPD is concerned, it is very important that all the role-players involved in the implementation should work together and play a meaningful role in the fight against youth crime and violence. This is an initiative that requires the involvement of everyone. The YCPD programme provides young people with an opportunity to participate in the fight against youth crime and violence at station level; however, they should be provided with the necessary assistance to do so, therefore it is of the utmost importance for all the stakeholders, such as the CPF and other-role players, to assist and provide guidance. Without the backing of all the role-players, this initiative cannot see the light and it is bound to fail.

For this initiative to prosper all stakeholders involved must assist in that regard. The CPF is willing to play that part, *“... helping these young people to guide them and give them the right way for tomorrow.”* Participants from the CPF went further, emphasising the need to guide the youth:

... and if you check the cause of doing that we cannot blame unemployment, we can just blame it to substance abuse that is taking part at Ivory Park, so us as CPF our responsibility is to bring them on board to empower them in any way that they should know that tomorrow can be a better day than today, we motivate them that is never too late, even if may be to the way you want them to be, you will never know what tomorrow things can turn up to be to the way you want to be, you will never know what tomorrow holds for you. So we try our best to make sure that we guide them, we show them that harmful substance will destroy their mentality. It will destroy them physically, they may be the way they want to become tomorrow.

Another CPF participant remarked that through their participation in this initiative they will be playing a meaningful role in the fight against crime “... *the aim is to help the police, I can say is working hand in hand with the police.*”

The majority of the participants have acknowledged the necessity of working together in addressing youth crime and violence in the community. The role played by various stakeholders should serve to assist and guide young people during the implementation.

- **Recruitment of new members**

For any structure to carry out its mandate successfully, it should engage on a continuous recruitment drive whereby new people will be brought into the system. The recruitment of new members is necessary for an initiative—such as the YCPD because the new recruits will bring fresh ideas and vibrancy. Every stakeholder in the implementation of this initiative should play their part in line with the aims and objectives of YCPD.

One of the YCPD volunteers remarked as follows: “*If you can check he is my little brother, I recruited him because I don’t want him to be part and parcel of what is happening, he will do the same as he will recruit another one he knows, the same as my {fellow} colleague.*” As stated above, new people should be allowed to join to ensure the continuous existence of this initiative. The quality of the new recruits should be such that they are up to the task because some of their duties are crucial. They are expected to perform various functions at station level, including administrative duties. One participant remarked that “... *will be assisting with writing affidavits to the people who are in need of affidavits.*”

For any initiative to exist for a meaningful period, new recruits should be given an opportunity to participate freely without any interruption. That should increase the chances of such an initiative achieving its intended objectives.

- **Addressing youth problems: Active involvement and rising awareness**

It is necessary for all the role-players to form an effective partnership. There is very little that the youth desk volunteers could achieve without the involvement of other role-players, therefore the knowledge and skills of other role-players in the implementation of the YCPD are important. It became clear during focus group interviews that the participants acknowledge the involvement of everyone in the fight against youth crime and violence in our societies. As a result, young people must play a leading role in youth initiatives because they know of all the issues affecting them. Other role-players should play a supporting role in the implementation process. The reality of the matter is that without the involvement of young people in the fight against youth crime and violence, it would be impossible to address it.

The DoCS coordinator remarked: “... *the aims and objectives of the YCPD as a structure we need to identify the problem which is faced by the youth within our community and after we identify them we need to address them with the community and the police raising the awareness.*”

The above sentiments are supported by the CPF members: “... *to address problems of youth issues.*” The YCPD volunteers themselves have shown that their participation in the fight against youth crime and violence is important, “*Yes, most of the time the community use to call police here and we usually go with them to attend such cases, where the community are complaining that police are not working and staff. So we specifically giving them the members and refer to people whom they*”

The role-players must accept responsibility for a reduction in and prevention of youth crime and violence in our societies. A holistic approach by all the role-players will ensure that they are aware of where and how they can assist each other in the fight against youth crime and violence. All the role-players support a partnership approach in the implementation of the YCPD, and as a result, the aim and objectives of this initiative could be achieved.

- **Peer education**

The YCPD can be effectively implemented only when all the role-players understand what is expected of them. Young people as the main target of this initiative should know exactly which role to play. Through their active involvement, youth volunteers should influence other young people to participate, and in the process, peer education will be taking place. They learn much faster when they see other young people doing something and they feel challenged. Peer education is necessary in the implementation of the YCPD because young people can easily influence one another. This could be viewed as a super-effective way of sharing information on different platforms, especially by young people. It draws on the ability that young people have to influence their peers. It could place young people in the role of educators for the very same task of addressing youth crime and violence.

The YCPD volunteers are familiar with the impact of peer education. One youth volunteer remarked: *"... as peers will be able to challenge our fellow youth members because we know what we are facing on daily basis."* Peer education can be perceived as a powerful tool to influence young people to take a leading role in their communities. Another SAPS coordinator said: *"On Thursday we will be having a youth dialogue here at the hall, where every youth is invited in order for them to come."* During dialogues, that is where young people interact with one another.

From the above discussion it is evident that peer education is a powerful instrument that could influence other young people to be involved in the YCPD. It is also clear that while the participants acknowledge the importance of peer education, it should be extended to all the projects where young people are involved. In light of the above, it illustrates that there is an agreement that peer education is a powerful contrivance that can be utilised to influence other young people to be actively involved in the fight against youth crime and violence. Through peer education, the aims and objectives of this initiative could be achieved.

4.2.2 Involvement of communities and youth

The answers to the following questions gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

- 1. “Does the YCPD encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies for their communities?”**
- 2. “According to you, does the YCPD sufficiently allow members of the public to be actively involved in youth crime prevention programmes?”**

The purpose of these questions was to determine whether young people and other community members participate freely in the activities of the YCPD.

The active involvement of various role-players in the implementation of the YCPD can be achieved only through collaborating with all the other role-players. Community and youth involvement in the fight against youth crime and violence is a collective action, whereby local people initiate the action, set the agenda, and work towards a defined common goal. Without the active participation of the community, their ability to contribute positively towards this initiative will be undermined. Their participation could destroy any barriers and increase awareness regarding youth crime and violence. Community participation could be used as a tool to achieve the aims and objectives of this initiative, and this has been proved to work very well on other projects in the past.

4.2.2.1 Inclusivity of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk

For the achievement of the aims and objectives of the YCPD, all young people from all walks of life should be allowed to participate, irrespective of their background. The youth desk is a structure where young people take a leading role in addressing issues of youth crime and violence. This structure is meant to encourage young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth crime and violence, and collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies for their communities. The main pillars of this initiative are school safety, substance abuse prevention, and the prevention of violence against women and children. The idea is to work with

other youth and youth groups to develop projects that are attractive, sustainable and implementable, and to respond to specific safety needs of their communities.

The DoCS coordinator has indicated that this structure is meant not to exclude anyone: *“... youth desk is a community structure and everyone is welcomed, of course each and every member of the community who wants to participate is welcomed and is allowed.”* The above sentiments were supported by participants from the CPF *“... this is a community structure meaning it includes everybody.”*

One YCPD volunteer provided a different view from the ones above: *“... because as youth desk we having youth age restrictions so we can allow people to participate on crime prevention according to the age.”* This sentiment indicates that there is an exception to the rule because not everyone is involved in the activities of the youth desk, due to age restrictions. In support of the above statement, the DoCS coordinator remarked that: *“Everyone is involved except foreigners.”*

The YCPD is an initiative designed to accommodate young South Africans of a particular age, excluding foreign nationals. The YCPD is meant only for South Africans and no other person from outside the borders of this country is allowed to participate. This initiative is meant to attract young South Africans, under the age of 35 and without a criminal record.

- **Involvement through action**

All the role-players are expected to contribute positively in the implementation of this initiative, which involves a series of physical and mental confidence-building activities designed to highlight individual participation that will increase youth involvement and teamwork among YCPD volunteers. Through their involvement, all the role-players will contribute to the continuous improvement and ongoing success of this initiative.

The DoCS coordinator remarked as follows: *“... there is a plan of action they need to develop, that program of action emanating from what was observed in their communities and the causes thereof.”* The above sentiments are complemented by the SAPS coordinator who stated *“Yes, they do even last year there was a market, they also make pamphlets, there is Where they will be writing messages on banners and everything which will attract youth, and people invited to come over so*

that we able to tell them what is it all about.” The above statements by the DoCS and the SAPS coordinators are strengthened by the CPF members who stated that *“The social crime prevention coordinator, gave us a calendar of all the activities planned for the year, and we are incorporating that calendar with the CPF calendar, so that we can join those efforts together with youth desk, when they have planned activities.”* The YCPD volunteers are able to initiate projects themselves in support of this initiative *“Last year we had a march against nyaope and we also make, a youth got talent initiative and we were doing the school talks and issuing pamphlets.”* There is an expectation that role-players must develop a plan in the fight against youth crime and violence. For the success of this initiative, the various role-players must play their part in ensuring that the community participates in whatever initiative the role-players introduce.

- **Communication and social media**

The majority of young people who participate in the activities of the YCPD are social-media fanatics. The use of social media platforms is good for achieving the aims and objectives of this initiative. Social media is a group of online communications that allow users to participate, offer feedback, receive information and share ideas. It is a powerful instrument that can distribute a message within a short period. At present, communication through social media plays a very important role in the success of any initiative. Young people of today use social media to communicate on a daily basis and they take a leading role in the use of this medium of communication. It also forms a central part of how society at large communicates. Messages to young people can easily be passed on via social media.

The DoCS coordinator remarked as follows: *“Young people are encouraged to use this social media platforms so that it becomes easy to communicate with them and talk about their problems in their problems in their communities and possible solutions to those particular causes and young people encourage other young people through social media.”* He went further to state *“Ekurhuleni North Cluster we are running this programme called “HASH TAG EK SÊ Safety.”*

The above sentiments are supported by the YCPD volunteers themselves, who indicated the following: *“eksê my voice, it is the use of social communication like, if*

someone is affected by crime how do we communicate that ... it is different stakeholders but the DoCS is the one that provides people that participate.”

In modern-day society the use of social media is fashionable because everyone relies on it either to receive or pass information to the next person. This platform is mostly utilised by young people. As a result, it is necessary to allow the role-players to use this medium of communication in the implementation of the YCPD. From the discussion above it is clear that the social media platforms represent a powerful communication tool among all the role-players.

4.2.2.2 Impact derived from the Youth Crime Prevention Desk: Various perspectives

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“What is the impact of YCPDs on crimes involving the youth in terms of the YCPDs’ current efficiency and functionality?”

The purpose of this question was to determine the impact of the introduction of the YCPD programme.

A critical understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative involves the implementation of formal rules, following guidelines, understanding roles and responsibilities and other associated factors in the fight against youth crime and violence. The introduction of the YCPD could have a positive impact in the lives of all people, whether involved in the programme or not. In fact, this initiative could benefit the community at large, if successfully implemented. Participants were asked what impact the YCPD has on youth crime and violence. It has emerged from interviews that participants had the following mixed feelings:

- **Reactions of participants regarding the impact of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk**

The participants in the implementation of the YCPD reacted differently because of the impact that the YCPD is making in their respective areas. All the participants involved in this initiative do not believe that it is yielding the expected results as yet; however, there are some positive signs. As a result, participants expressed diverse views.

One of the YCPD volunteers remarked the following: *“Somewhere, somehow, we can’t just say yes or no, somewhere it really works. It is working ... trouble makers they are part of us, they came and join us after they have seen that what we are doing we are trying to help them find their way ... they are getting the message.”* This statement by the participant illustrates that the YCPD is yielding positive results. However, the CPF participants presented an opposing view on the impact of the programme: *“No, I don’t think it succeeds, from my own opinion, it does not succeed, in the sense that if it succeeded we won’t be having this type of issues that we are having or dealing with, like the nyaope guys, because most of the youth are involved in those kind of things.”* The above-quoted sentiments are supported by the station commander who stated that *“... I could not see what the impact they did is ... but I want to believe that whatever they did there went well according to the information that I got.”*

The SAPS coordinators perceive this programme as effective because some of the YCPD members provide them with valuable information that is helpful in the fight against youth crime and violence: *“... because some of the information we get from them that we use to address them, youth are the ones who get a lot of information.”*

It appears from the responses from participants that the implementation of this initiative was not effective, since there are various shortcomings, leaving room for improving the implementation of the YCPD. At stations where the coordinators and youth volunteers are committed, there are positive signs that the programme could benefit the community. The perceived shortcomings of the impact of the YCPD that a number of participants experienced could be attributed to the participants’ lack of a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative.

- **Fills a void and extends a helping hand**

If the YCPD programme is implemented in accordance with the proposed aims and objectives, it could close the gap that exists when young people do not participate in the fight against youth crime and violence. It is expected that young people should occupy that space in the community. The YCPD programme’s contribution cannot be ignored, since various communities rely on this initiative. The YCPD should also play a crucial role in the fight against crime in general.

The DoCS coordinator explains: *“The youth desk now have occupied that space, such that it has become a helping hand to communities to say look, we know what we are facing, we know the problems the youngsters are dealing with and we are here to help.”*

The introduction of the YCPD as a programme is meant to influence young people to participate in the fight against youth crime and violence. Their involvement would benefit society as a whole because young people are the ones with information about what crimes are committed within society and by whom. If young people could take a firm decision to participate in this initiative, the fight against youth crime and violence could be effectively addressed.

- **Access to government services**

The participation of young people in the activities of the YCPD provides them with the opportunity to be involved in government initiatives. The YCPD is one of the initiatives that government sponsors.

It has emerged that YCPD volunteers have access to government services through their participation in the implementation of this initiative, which is complemented by the DoCS coordinator, who remarked as follows: *“... so the benefits is that particularly young people are able to access this government services.”*

The above sentiments are supported by the CPF members, who explained *“... in youth desk we empower communities in terms of jobs.”* However, some YCPD volunteers provided a different view, because according to them, the YCPD is not active at their stations. The youth volunteer responded as follows: *“... [The YCPD programme] is absent.”*

The DoCS coordinator went further, emphasising a need for YCPD volunteers to initiate projects that will benefit them: *“There are some youth desk that have sufficiently provided that platform to young people to acquire skills to actually go and fend for themselves ... in other youth desk, for example, youth desk in Moroka, they went and approach Outsurance to give young people this motor biking skills.”*

The above sentiments are echoed by a CPF member who stated: *“Youth Desk will be awarded with a certificate of appreciation and recommendation for the work they have done through the year ... only that.”*

It appears that young people who have taken this initiative seriously are benefiting from it; however, stations that are not familiar with the aims and objectives of this initiative are missing opportunities to assist the youth to become involved in other government initiatives and expose these youths to government resources.

- **Acquiring skills by participating in the Youth Crime Prevention Desk programme**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Have you been empowered with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and coordinate youth-related initiatives?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether role-players have acquired skills by participating in the YCPD programme.

Due to their participation in the implementation of this initiative, young people are expected to acquire a range of skills because of the various activities that take place at station level. The YCPD is a youth programme that provides young people with a range of other skills, such as communication skills, interpersonal skills, computer skills and problem-solving, which could be utilised beyond the work environment.

One youth desk volunteer reacted as follows: *“When it comes to communicating it can help us and also team building. Working as a team it is another thing that we have learnt. Like myself and my chair here, who are the ones who are busy with computers, when I came here I know that there is Microsoft Word, there is this and that. I have learnt them here at the station.”*

The above statement is echoed by a CPF participant who stated: *“The other skills is problem solving skills, because you will be attending some cases where the police or whoever who is involved in that thing, while busy solving the problem and then you gaining the skills of how to solve or how to talk in a good manner.”*

The above remarks are strengthened by the DoCS coordinator who indicated that *“... youth desk like I said ... also come up with programmes that seeks to empower young people in terms of information where business are concerned and also what we call, bring in people who will workshop young people of job opportunities.”*

It appears that stations with a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD initiative are benefiting from it, since youth volunteers have acquired various skills that they have gained in the process; however, stations that have not successfully implemented the YCPD have not achieved skills development among the youth. One station commander indicated that *“... as I said it is only one month old.”* In this instance there is nothing that the youth desk has done as yet.

- **Reduces crime-related activities**

The YCPD is a platform for young people to participate in crime-fighting initiatives. The participation of youth in crime-fighting initiatives brings new ideas on how to combat youth crime and violence in communities. This initiative succeeds in bringing young people into the system, and in the process they contribute positively towards the fight against crime in general.

One CPF participant indicated: *“Learners don’t always go to school with their dangerous weapons, so it was prevented by school search, they knew that if you take this with us to school it may happen that the Youth Desk and police might be visiting the school.”* The YCPD volunteers agreed with these sentiments and commented: *“The learner was cut with a scissor, but since youth [desk] conducted searches, they no longer carry scissors’, zero tolerance.”*

The SAPS coordinator concurred with the above-quoted sentiments and indicated that *“... most young stars who are doing drugs are starting to see whatever we are doing through the youth.”*

It appears that there has been a reduction in some of the offences committed by young people because of the introduction of the YCPD Programme. Furthermore, the reduction of certain crimes illustrates that if YCPD are implemented properly at all the police stations within the cluster, it could positively contribute in the fight against youth crime and violence.

4.2.2.3 Inclusion of youth in conflict with the law

It emerged during the interviews that there is a certain category of young people who are automatically excluded from the activities of the YCPD because of their past conduct. Such young people find themselves in conflict with the law. This refers to anyone under the age of 18 who comes into contact with the criminal justice system as a result of being suspected or accused of having committed an offence. The YCPD does not accommodate young people who have criminal records; however, there are other programmes where these youths are provided the opportunity to be enrolled.

The DoCS coordinator remarked the following: *“We have a program called Youth in Conflict with the Law. So young people who want to be part of the youth crime prevention or form part of this youth safety program, but then they have a criminal record, there is a separate program that we will run with them, we call Youth in Conflict with the Law. Not necessarily part of the youth desk.”* This is an initiative by DoCS but it works in cooperation with other governments departments. The DoCS coordinator further commented: *“We get them through the Department of Correctional Services, they give us information as to the parolees in a particular area and we identify these people and then we work with them.”* Through this initiative, young people in conflict with the law are afforded an equal opportunity to influence and educate other young people as regards their importance in the involvement in the fight against crime and youth violence: *“We take them to schools, they motivate young people.”* The DoCS coordinator further stated: *“If you could see they have a criminal record, use them in this kind of manner rather rejecting them entirely because they still have a role to play in ensuring that the community is safe.”*

This indicates that every young person has a meaningful role to play in the fight against youth crime and violence. Stations are encouraged to influence young people to get involved in the fight against youth crime and violence in large numbers. This is a clear example that everyone is necessary in the fight against crime, irrespective of their social standing.

4.2.2.4 Creation of awareness

Awareness refers to the ability to directly know and perceive, or having the knowledge and understanding of something that is happening. Awareness of the YCPD addresses the public's level of understanding of the YCPD, as well as the way information about this initiative was communicated to various structures or stakeholders. Raising awareness is critically important because it explains issues and disseminates knowledge to people in order to help them make informed decisions.

The YCPD volunteers stated the following: *"We are going to do awareness projects such as drug awareness campaigns."* Awareness is guided by various official directives and guidelines as the DoCS coordinator indicated: *"The aims and objectives are clearly stipulated in all operational documents."*

However, a CPF member suggested that although official documentation creates awareness of his responsibilities, stakeholders not closely associated with the police may not experience sufficient awareness of the YCPD: *"So I think it will be better for us ... I think the thing that is guiding us is the Constitution as the mother body how should we perform our duties on the daily basis."* Another YCPD volunteer illustrated how awareness campaigns by the YCPD could be conducted: *"we are going to do awareness projects such as drug awareness campaigns."*

The above-quoted statements are complemented by the SAPS coordinator who stated that *"Yes, we recently had an event with the CPF together with the DoCS where we were doing door to door, it was a drug awareness to make community aware of the hijackings and robberies that are happening in our area, so by then that is when we are at some point try to recruit even youth to come and be part of us."*

It appears from participants' responses that creation of awareness about the YCPD has not been communicated thoroughly. This initiative should have been publicised effectively to ensure that all the role-players receive the message clearly, including the aims and objectives of this initiative. All the role-players should have been engaged in a joint campaign to ensure that the right message was successfully imparted to the community at large. Awareness campaigns to create

responsiveness to the YCPD are critically important because the YCPD is a platform that is meant to explain the aims and objectives of this initiative to ensure its successful implementation.

4.2.3 Orientation of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk programme

For successful implementation of this initiative, all the role-players should be well-informed about the aims and objectives, and their expectations should be addressed. It is highly unlikely that this initiative could succeed without the proper orientation of role-players who will participate in the implementation process.

One of the YCPD volunteers shared his positive experience getting familiarised with the YCPD as follows: *“Constable X is the person who support us most of the time. Even Sergeant Y as a coordinator, he is the person who is helping us telling about all the duties and the aims that needs to happen at our structure.”*

It appears from the comments above that some SAPS coordinators are aware of what is expected of them in the implementation of this initiative. It further illustrates that these coordinators are hands-on and as a result, serve as motivation to other role-players. The familiarity of these coordinators with the YCPD programme furthermore illustrates that if the coordinators are familiar with the aims and objectives of the initiative, they are in a more favourable position to orient and motivate other role-players to partake in the programme. Should a coordinator’s knowledge and understanding of the programme be sufficient, it could contribute to effective implementation of this initiative.

4.2.4 Empowerment through skills development

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Does the YCPD succeed as a skills development platform by providing the youth with the opportunity to acquire skills required by the job market?”

The purpose of this question was to determine the kind of skills acquired by YCPD volunteers during their participation in the YCPD.

It emerged during interviews that that YCPD also serves as a platform for young people to acquire the skills required in life. It deals with providing skills for young

people in the fight against youth crime and violence. This programme should be used as a vehicle for young people to acquire skills that will improve their abilities. The participants had different opinions on this matter - some experienced growth from participating in the YCPD, while others disagreed

One YCPD volunteer stated: *“Last year we were doing the campaign that is OLV, which is ‘One Less Victim’ empowerment ... we have been trained on how to talk with the youth and how to deal with the youth ... we were facilitating at schools.”* Other YCPD volunteers echoed the above participant’s sentiments as follows: *“We were doing ‘Life is a Choice’ from (South African National Council on Alcoholism) SANCA ... how to deal with youth who are in use of drugs.”*

Another CPF participant responded as follows: *“We can say no and yes at the same time because every year we have a programme where youth desk will be awarded with a certificate of appreciation and recommendation for the work they have done through the year, like it is happening.”*

However, it is interesting that in contradiction to the above-mentioned youth volunteers, a crime prevention coordinator experienced no skills development, since there are no interventions in place to develop skills to empower other role-players: *“There is not even a course.”* The above-mentioned sentiments are complemented by the DoCS coordinator, who responded as follows: *“No it will depend on vibrancy of the crime prevention youth desk.”*

From the above-quoted responses it is evident that skills development among the youth, as an outflow of the YCPD within the Ekurhuleni North Cluster, is more successful in certain areas than in others. The majority of the youth volunteers participating in this initiative, however, experienced skills development, though it seems that crime prevention coordinators experience no empowerment by providing skills to the youth volunteers.

4.2.4.1 Stakeholder involvement

During the implementation of the YCPD, it is necessary for the DoCS to partner with various NGOs with a similar mandate in order to address the issues of youth crime and violence in communities. It must be acknowledged that there are various NGOs that could play a critical role in the empowerment of young people.

One youth desk volunteer illustrated his experience of stakeholder involvement as follows: *“We got it from [interacted with] [SAPS] Victim Empowerment [section] and then we were in partnership with Phomolong Centre and then Khulisa.”*

By working hand in hand with various stakeholders, the aims and objectives of the YCPD could be realised. It is recognised that NGOs have a meaningful role in the fight against youth crime and violence. The cooperative involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders working in association with each other is equally important to enhance the YCPD programme.

4.2.5 Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Youth Crime Prevention Programme

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“According to you, are the activities of the YCPD continuously monitored, evaluated and communicated?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether the YCPD is continuously monitored and evaluated to ensure that this initiative is effectively implemented.

Communication is a powerful instrument used among role-players during the implementation of the YCPD. Effective communication is critically important during the implementation of programmes, such as the YCPD, because it will ensure that correct information is transferred to everyone involved. Effective communication furthermore clarifies role-players' responsibilities and how these people relate to one another.

In addition, the activities of the YCPD should be continuously monitored and evaluated to ensure effective implementation on ground level. In response to the above question, the DoCS coordinator stated that *“... so the only way to monitor*

this programme if I am not part of them, is through our sittings because we need to be part of their meetings, that is the only time I will get time to monitor progress and monitor structure itself.” In support of the above-quoted response, one SAPS coordinator responded that *“every activities that they are involved I must be part because they are initiated by me ... I do not allow them to do things in the name of the youth desk.”*

The above-quoted sentiments are complemented by the CPF participants, who indicated that *“youth desk are supposed to have their own meetings, whereby they will sitting together as youth and everything is put in the table ... so monitoring comes there at that meeting.”* The above statements are strengthened by the YCPD volunteer: *“It depends on the programme, when we get here, we brief each other, for the last time about what should be done.”*

Monitoring and evaluation thus involve the supervision of programme activities to ensure that the activities of YCPD are achieving the intended aims and objectives of the programme. Monitoring and evaluation of the YCPD are crucial for identifying challenges during implementation and to address such challenges timeously in order to ensure successful implementation of the programme. The absence of an efficient monitoring and evaluation plan to track and assess the results of this initiative renders the programme unlikely to achieve its required results. All this must be initiated by means of a concrete action plan, developed by the custodian, in consultation with all the role-players.

4.2.5.1 Programme of action

A programme of action refers to a series of events that should have been planned prior to the implementation of YCPD. Without a workable programme of action, success during the implementation of this initiative is doubtful.

A DoCS coordinator experienced an ambiguous programme of action and cautioned that for the YCPD to prevail, a concrete action plan is needed: *“... a program of action [is needed].”*

The above-quoted statement is supported by the YCPD volunteers acknowledging that a clear vision among all role-players is necessary for successful implementation of the YCPD. From the response of the youth volunteers it became evident that

although certain documents concerning implementation are in place, the contents of these documents are vague and had to be supplemented with clearer action plans: *“There was a need for us to develop a document that will supplement the Constitution of the CPF that will speak directly with things that were not necessarily expressed in the constitution of the YCPD.”* Another youth volunteer acknowledged that he was not adequately familiar with the action plan of the YCPD and should take additional steps to empower himself to become acquainted with the programme’s action plan: *“I would have to attend a plenary {meeting}.”*

The responses of the participants illustrate shortcomings in the action plans of the YCPD that led to uncertainty among role-players during the implementation of the YCPD. These shortcomings further illustrate the failure by the custodians of the YCPD to effectively formulate, communicate and implement an unambiguous action plan, which led to insecurity among role-players. It is thus not surprising that the majority of the participants lacked a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative, since it lacked a clear action plan.

- **Changing membership influence programme reach**

The failure to develop and communicate a concrete action plan to empower all role-players involved in the YCPD impacted negatively on the majority of youth volunteers involved. Without a feasible action plan, many youth desk volunteers’ participation within the YCPD structures was short-lived. It furthermore came to light that the YCPD does not have personnel-retention measures in place to efficiently manage new members joining the YCPD and old members leaving the programme.

In support of the above-mentioned statement, a DoCS coordinator remarked the following: *“Youth desk every year there are new people some they change coordinator so currently many of them they do not have that document [document informing role-players of personnel-retention and communication details] they do not know it and we should make it a point that annually we give them that document, chances are next year there will be new people perhaps new coordinator who knows.”*

The above-quoted sentiments are supported by YCPD volunteers who are negatively impacted as a result of inefficient administration of the retention of

personnel on management level, which in turn leads to operational challenges: *“Ja, even the management also ... we do not have upper structure of youth desk, even at cluster level ... the DoCS do know the challenges for the youth in the stations. They just appointed a coordinator without any structure, when you need something you must call the province before they direct you from the station, we do not go via cluster.”*

It should be taken into consideration that for any new project to succeed there must be a programme of action that should be followed throughout the implementation in order to reach as many participants as possible. Such an action plan should be conveyed to all the role-players. It appears that the YCPD was implemented hastily, with the consequence of a high turnover of personnel that in turn led to youth volunteers leaving the programme because of a lack of motivation to continue participating. The responses from the participants illustrate that the YCPD lacks a retention and personnel turnover strategy, as well as a succession plan to retain experienced role-players for the sake of continuity. The efficiency of the coordination of the YCPD is also questionable.

4.2.5.2 Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is the process by which an organisation involves people who may be affected by the decisions it makes, or who could influence the implementation of its decisions. It represents the importance of the involvement of various role-players in the implementation of the YCPD. The successful implementation of the YCPD requires the participation of role-players from various backgrounds, including a number of government departments.

The DoCS coordinator emphasised the significance of stakeholder involvement and the lessons learnt from such engagements as follows: *“DoCS and [Department of] Social Development and [Department of] Education that is where sometimes, where we were talking you have to grab something every time I learn something from others.”* The DoCS coordinator further signified the absence of formal programmes to strengthen stakeholder engagement activities; however, government departments involved in the YCPD programme engage with one another. *“... there was no formal training or capacitation programme that was undertaken, however,*

... we work closely with as far as youth safety is concerned, for an example ... there is government cooperation ... which also harbours interest in youth safety and is a partner of the department [of Community Safety] on issues of youth safety."

It emerged during interviews that participants regard the involvement of all the role-players in the implementation of the YCPD as necessary. Efficient stakeholder engagement could be achieved via a well-coordinated channel of communication and the introduction of a platform where all stakeholders could regularly engage on issues concerning the YCPD. The establishment of regular stakeholder engagement would strengthen relationships among role-players in realisation of the aims and objectives of the YCPD.

4.2.5.3 Mixed communication media

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

"From your experience, do formal, standardised communication procedures exist between SAPS social crime prevention coordinators, DoCS social crime prevention coordinators, CPF and Ekurhuleni North Cluster YCPD community volunteers?"

The purpose of this question was to determine whether efficient communication media are applied by various stakeholders in the implementation of the YCPD.

It emerged during the interviews with participants that no prescribed form of communication existed during the implementation of the YCPD programme. Mixed communication media refer to a combination of non-standardised communication methods used by role-players involved in the YCPD during the implementation of the programme. If an identified communication medium is effective, it delivers a clear message to the audience; however, if communication is not well-managed, it could create confusion among role-players that in turn could render communication inadequate.

The DoCS coordinator confirmed that informal communication methods were used, as opposed to formal communication methods: *"We just communicate informally."*

- **Communication between coordinators and other role-players**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes: *“Are the SAPS YCPD coordinators an efficient link between police stations, DoCS/CPF’s and communities?”* The purpose of this question was to ascertain whether SAPS YCPD coordinators create effective and sustainable links between all role-players.

The DoCS coordinator serves as the central point where information regarding the YCPD is disseminated to the various stations in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. The SAPS crime prevention coordinators at station level are responsible for communication at station level.

The DoCS coordinator sketched how communication between the DoCS and police stations should ideally have taken place for further escalation to other role-players: *“It is a program that I plan to undertake and I want plenary meetings that would include all the role players, I will talk to the Vispol Head [Visible Policing division] so that it gets to the social crime prevention coordinators so that I ‘cc’ CPF.”* However, it emerged during the interviews that role-players use their own methods of communication that are most appropriate to their circumstances, in the absence of clear communication guidelines.

Participants from the CPF indicated that they primarily communicate with role-players via cellular phones and per telephone: *“... the CPF normally we communicate through WhatsApp with other stakeholders, we communicate normally with telephones.”*

The YCPD volunteers indicated that they usually follow communication channels via the station commander: *“If it is youth desk that is specifically required and there is a programme somewhere else outside their community of their policing precinct it will be taken to their station commander.”* Another youth volunteer stated that they primarily use cellular phone messages to communicate: *“... we use sms’s, we sms them whenever we having an operation”*

Another youth desk volunteer confirmed the use of cellular phone messages to communicate; however, not all youth volunteers can participate in this communication since not all of them have cellular phones or enough data to

participate: *“as youth we have got a group chat on WhatsApp, to those who are fortunate enough who have.”*

The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by the DoCS coordinator, who confirmed that the primary method of communication between the DoCS coordinator and the youth volunteers is via cellular phone messages; however, meetings also take place to communicate issues of concern: *“I am in their WhatsApp group on daily basis, where there is a need we do communicate, whatever they need to do, or they have in mind, share ideas over the WhatsApp group ... we meet also at the station to discuss issues of their concern.”*

From the responses during the interviews it appears that there was no formal method of communication during the implementation of the YCPD programme, since the respective role-players communicate differently. Non-standardised communication among role-players could have contributed to the inefficient implementation of this initiative, since a programme of this magnitude is bound to stumble in the absence of efficient communication. As a result, a standardised means of communication between role-players is necessary.

- **Gatherings**

Regular gatherings involving all YCPD role-players will provide them with opportunities to engage with one another. These gatherings should serve as a point of departure for the successful implementation of this initiative, because all the role-players would convene in a central place. Such gatherings also serve as a platform where critical issues regarding the YCPD are discussed. It is therefore important for all role-players to partake in such meetings.

Based on the feedback from participants during the interviews it appeared that the various role-players hold meetings in accordance with their individual schedules and do not necessarily meet collectively as YCPD role-players. It further appeared that these meetings represent the only opportunity to obtain feedback regarding the activities of the YCPD for the purposes of monitoring the programme.

One CPF participant summed it up as follows: *“The youth desk meeting whether it becomes weekly meetings, executive meetings, that is where we have to monitor*

and report on progress and plan ... so the only way to monitor this programme, if I am not part of them, is through our sittings because we need to be part of their meetings, that is the only time I will get time to monitor progress and monitor structure itself.” In addition, it emerged that youth volunteers do meet; however, they are not always able to meet because of the long distances between them, therefore they also engage via cellular phone: *“There is always a plenary before, we call each other (on the cell phone) and we sit in the board room for plenaries. Even if we have something we sit down and plan, we are also using the cell phone because we are living far from one another.”*

It also emerged that youth volunteers alternatively meet during the broader CPF meetings: *“... all the youth desk we get them from sectors when we attending the executive meetings or the broader forum meeting.”* Some role-players attend meetings on a monthly basis, according to a CPF member: *“With CPF we go meetings of the broader forum meetings.”*

It appears from the responses received that role-players generally schedule meetings to suit themselves, without the inclusion and participation of other role-players in the YCPD programme. As a result, such meetings are held without considering an integrated role-player approach, but are focused only on the particular group of role-players. This approach of working in isolation could result in deviation from the aims and objectives of the YCPD, as well as challenges with regard to monitoring the programme.

- **Reporting by youth volunteers**

Effective reporting of programme activities could facilitate the realisation of the programme’s aims and objectives. However, conflicting reports among role-players emerged from the interviews in respect of reporting on the programme activities.

The DoCS coordinator indicated that since youth volunteers participate in the YCPD programme on a voluntary basis, these volunteers are not required to provide feedback reports: *“So youth desk are volunteers, I do not expect any report from them.”*

However, CPF members involved in the YCPD are held accountable to provide reports. One of the youth volunteers confirmed that regular reports should be

submitted to report on programme activities: “... we have to bring our reports. To put it inside that youth desk they have done this and they did this on this certain date ... is being monitored because each and every time when we are doing also monthly returns or quarterly returns we have to submit everything that we have been doing.”

From the discussion with the role-players, it appears that reporting on the activities of the YCPD programme is inconsistent. As a result, questions arise in terms of the accountability of the role-players. A lack of accountability among all role-players in respect of reporting could jeopardise the aims and objectives of this initiative.

4.2.5.4 The degree of monitoring YCPD programme activities

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“According to you, do the YCPD activities succeed in fulfilling the need for a multi-faceted intervention strategy aimed at youth safety in the Ekurhuleni North cluster?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether YCPD activities ensure investment in youth crime prevention and early intervention, with long-term benefits.

The degree of monitoring of programme activities refers to the supervision of YCPD activities to ensure that these activities meet the programme objectives and performance targets.

It emerged from the interviews that the DoCS coordinator regularly receives the required information from role-players regarding the programme activities. It is, however, unsure how this information is acted upon to monitor progress: *“I do get that information at this time at this date they will be in this place doing this and that and for that reason.”*

It is necessary for the custodian to take full ownership of monitoring the YCPD programme in order to identify challenges and manage such challenges for the programme to produce the required outcomes. Effective monitoring of the activities of the YCPD programme could minimise the identified challenges.

- **Monitoring by using attendance registers**

Various forms of monitoring of the activities of the YCPD could be applied to accomplish the desired outcomes of this initiative. One of the instruments employed to monitor the implementation of the YCPD programme is an attendance register, which is one of the tools that are used to monitor the activities of all the role-players who are involved in the implementation of this initiative.

Responses from the youth desk volunteers illustrated that their participation in the YCPD programme's activities is continuously monitored by means of an attendance register prior to them performing field work: *"The first thing that we do we sign the register so that everybody can be monitored, how many people we having in order for us to go to the field."*

- **Monitoring by coordinators**

The presence and involvement of YCPD coordinators is essential for the implementation of this initiative.

It emerged from the response by the SAPS crime prevention coordinator that it is crucial to be part of all the programme activities in order to monitor the activities of role-players regarding the successful implementation of this initiative: *"Every activity that they are involved I must be part because they are initiated by me ... because I do not allow them to do anything alone by the name of the youth desk because I do not want to answer those questions you find that one of our members is involved in criminal activities."* The above remarks are complemented by the YCPD volunteer who stated *"... our coordinator, who makes sure every day that things are going to plan."* The above-quoted sentiments are supported by the station commander who states that: *"I think at the station the fact that we do talk to each other about the programmes, the social crime prevention official does inform me if there are some programmes to be attended to and we do communicate"*

It appears from the responses that the SAPS coordinators do their work and ensure that they fully participate in the initiatives of the YCPD. This participation also serves the purpose of a monitoring role. Furthermore, it illustrates the commitment of the SAPS coordinator in the execution of YCPD programme activities. Furthermore, it

illustrates a sense of accountability by the SAPS coordinator, and in the process enhances the commitment and motivation of the youth volunteers.

4.2.5.5 Mentoring of Youth Crime Prevention Desk community volunteers

Mentoring refers to a one-on-one relationship in which an experienced person provides guidance and support to YCPD volunteers. The primary purpose of the mentoring relationship is to help develop the YCPD volunteers.

It emerged during the interviews that YCPD volunteers are given certain responsibilities in support of the mentor in order to develop their skills. In addition, it became known that sufficient room for independent decision-making is provided to YCPD volunteers as part of mentorship. The SAPS coordinator responded as follows: *“Youth desk they are supposed to have their own meeting, whereby they will be sitting together as youth and everything will be put in the table ... this one, two, three is happening and this is not supposed to be happening and what need to be happening, so now mentoring comes there at that meeting.”*

The above-quoted statement is supported by another youth desk volunteer who indicated that there is something they gain out of their participation: *“As for me following my career, I think like being working hand in hand with the police officers day by day, I know how to handle people at meetings, get them to listen as would be following like that.”*

The mentoring of YCPD volunteers is essential to enable them to be of assistance in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme.

4.2.6 Challenges experienced in the implementation of programme directives

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Do you experience shortcomings and challenges in your effort to effectively implement the YCPD?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether factors exist that hamper the successful implementation of YCPD.

Challenges experienced regarding fulfilment of the implementation of directives of the YCPD programme refer to the barriers to carrying out the programme's mandate. It is important to assess possible risks prior to the actual implementation of the programme. It emerged during interviews that participants experienced challenges during the implementation of the YCPD programme. In responses to this question, the following shortcomings and challenges were identified:

4.2.6.1 Programmes and approaches are outdated

It emerged during interviews that some of the projects of the YCPD are old-fashioned and do not speak to the youth. It must be borne in mind that young people are energetic, therefore the projects should interest them. Outdated projects could demotivate young people and prevent them from actively participating in the fight against youth crime and violence. It is thus of the utmost importance to introduce programmes that will motivate the youth to participate in this initiative. The DoCS coordinator acknowledged the need to modernise the youth crime prevention programmes: *“Most of their programmes are backward, are conventional, are old, there is a need for us to modernise their programmes.”*

It appears from the responses that youth crime prevention programmes should be inviting and serve as motivation to young people so as to attract and retain them to partake in such initiatives. The implementation of the YCPD should be characterised by the introduction of programmes that are of interest to young people in order to attract more youths to participate.

4.2.6.2 Management strategies

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“From your experience, how would you describe the management of the YCPD?”

The purpose of this question was to determine how role-players experience the management of the YCPD programme.

There is a requirement for a common strategy in order to reach common objectives. This is one of the ways to achieve the required goals and objectives. It was found that various stakeholders have their own strategies for the implementation of YCPD.

The DoCS coordinator stated: *“Youth desk is supposed to manage itself, it is supposed to have an executive and unfortunately we no longer have, it is very difficult to have executives.”*

The above statement is, however, contradicted by the YCPD volunteers: *“for now is well managed, even if we are not trained, those people like most of them are new recruits of which they don’t know much of youth crime prevention desk.”* The above statements are disputed by the CPF members: *“we are satisfied, I will say that because whatever comes up they inform us, they let us know.”*

The above-quoted sentiments by the participants demonstrate that the situation differs from station to station, and there are those who are satisfied with what is happening in their surroundings.

- **Vested interest and infighting**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“From your experience, how would you describe the operational/functional relationship between the Station Commanders/SAPS coordinators, DoCS coordinators and YCPD volunteers?”

The purpose of this question was to determine the working relationships among role-players.

The main objective for the introduction of an YCPD programme is to address the issue of youth crime and violence in communities. That is why it is necessary to guard against any interest that is contrary to that objective. If someone has a vested interest in something, he/she has a very strong motive for acting in a particular way that is contrary to the goals and objectives of the programme. The DoCS coordinator states: *“So CPF is managed through offices of social crime prevention coordinator, so you have different individuals within the police station that have vested interest in the functioning of the youth desk, such as that they themselves they fight amongst*

each other, and that have a negative impact on the youth desk. ... you will find that youth desk have now split, there is that falls with the CPF, there is that group that fall with the social crime prevention so it is a problem."

The above sentiment is supported by the remarks of the station commander: *"... people are not interested because they thought may be part and parcel of youth desk they want to be given a stipend."*

It appears from the discussion above that individuals with vested interests hamper the successful implementation of the YCPD. This poses a serious danger to the successful implementation of the YCPD because individuals without the interest of this initiative cannot take it anywhere. For the actual realisation of the aims and objectives of the YCPD we need people who understand the aims and objectives of this initiative. The YCPD is an initiative that requires individuals who are committed to the cause in order for it to prevail. In addition, for an initiative of this magnitude to realise its objectives, only committed individuals should participate.

- **Collapse of structures**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“According to you, do functional YCPDs exist at each police station in the Ekurhuleni North cluster?”

The purpose of this question was to ascertain whether YCPD structures are operational at all police stations in the cluster.

The collapse of structures refers to a situation where effective functioning of the YCPD structure is hindered as a result of role-players' personal preconceived objectives, subsequently leading to failure to meet the programme objectives. Such actions are detrimental to the fight against youth crime and violence. The collapse of the YCPD in some stations disturbingly signals danger against the prevention of youth crime and violence.

The DoCS coordinator remarked as follows: *“look at first there were proper apparatus and systems that they are managing the structure, but they have since collapsed, you have now short cuts in managing this structure, people manage it*

through emotions like I have said my biggest problem specific like the CPF suffocating the life out of the youth desk”

It emerged during the interviews with the DoCS coordinator that some well-established YCPD structures collapsed over time, due to individuals’ self-centred motives. It should be borne in mind that a thorough understanding of and commitment to the implementation of an initiative is crucial for the successful implementation of any initiative. Actually, people without the necessary interest and commitment to execute the activities of the YCPD are a hazard to the programme as a whole. In addition, it is advisable to ensure that role-players with the right attitude towards this initiative are encouraged to become part of it, or else the structures will continue to fail their mandate. To avoid the total collapse of the YCPD, all the role-players who are involved in the implementation of this initiative must subscribe to its core values, and also ensure that all their activities are aligned with the achievement of its aims and objectives.

4.2.6.3 Clusters perceived as not functioning efficiently

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“From your experience, does the YCPD in Ekurhuleni North cluster function optimally?”

The purpose of this question was to establish role-players’ experience regarding the functionality of the YCPD programme.

The offices of the cluster commanders are the key administrative point for all the projects that are implemented at any station. In fact, it is the responsibility of the respective cluster commanders to ensure that any projects implemented at station level are managed appropriately, and that challenges are sufficiently addressed. However, it appears that cluster commanders play an insignificant role in the implementation of the YCPD programme. Certain YCPD programmes are not functioning at the required level, for various reasons.

The DoCS coordinator commented as follows: *“You have other youth desk that you will have three or four people that are there as part of youth desk and which is not*

necessarily as per the standard of the youth desk because it needs to have a fully fleshed executive of ten people. And a constituency membership base. But then you have other police stations where there is no youth desk at all, but where there is a youth desk and executives it is only few and counting among them, Ivory is exemplary of all the youth desks at Ekurhuleni North. It is well run, you know why, it is mainly because the coordinator is committed.”

The above sentiments are supported by the SAPS coordinator who stated: “No, I have never communicated with any other and I am not aware of any other cluster or neighbouring stations about the youth desk.”

It appears that the office of the commander in the Ekurhuleni North cluster did not take a leading position in the implementation of the YCPD. Consequently, certain police stations are administering the YCPD without a functional structure. For the successful implementation of the YCPD, cluster commanders should take a leading role, ensuring sufficient capacity and uniformity of this programme at all the police stations in the cluster when it comes to the implementation of the YCPD. Without the support of the relevant powers, the aims and objectives of the YCPD could not be fully realised. The cluster commander’s office oversees all the stations within the cluster; however, in certain cases, no SAPS coordinator was appointed to monitor the activities of the YCPD.

4.2.6.4 Issues of sustainability

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Does the YCPD continuously develop and implement programmes to address the identified safety needs of youths?”

The purpose of this question was to establish whether the YCPD programme constantly introduces implementable, attractive and sustainable programmes.

Sustainability of the YCPD refers to its ability to be maintained at a certain level or rate for it to meet its objectives. After its establishment there was an expectation that it should be preserved in order to ensure that its aims and objectives would be

realised. The YCPD should meet its own needs without compromising the ability of the future activities that involve young people.

The DoCS coordinator remarked as follows: *“Look the establishment part of the youth desk is very easy, it is the sustenance of it that is, establishing a youth desk does not take time, I can go to Sebenza tomorrow get social crime prevention and where can we find this people and go there and mobilize that and talk to them, bring them to the station and make sure that I do 1, 2, 3. Maintaining and sustaining these young people because they are not part of the structure, making them to come and join is easy.”* It further appeared that there are confusion and uncertainty among role-players at certain police stations after the establishment of this structure resulting in some recruits abandoning the YCPD.

In light of the above, it is clear that there is a definite challenge when it comes to the sustainability of this structure. The above-quoted sentiments illustrate that there is a lack of commitment and dedication in the implementation of this initiative by some role-players at certain stations. It is also a reflection on the calibre of role-players recruited to join this structure at certain stations. Without the commitment of every person involved, the aims and objectives of this initiative would never be realised, promoting the unsustainability of the programme. It is the responsibility of the custodian of this initiative to ensure that the role-players fully understand why they are involved. Furthermore, it has to be emphasised that the custodians of this initiative, in consultation with everyone involved, should know and understand their roles and responsibilities regarding the implementation of the YCPD.

4.2.6.5 The scope of work

The YCPD can be effectively implemented when all the role-players fully understand what is expected of them, and that they should perform their work in line with the aims and objectives of the YCPD. It follows that the responsibilities of all YCPD role-players should be clearly described and include the programme objectives, expected deliverables, time-lines and products.

The DoCS coordinator commented: *“I am expected to deal with 38 police stations and establish 38 youth desks and coordinate them ... the scope of our work is very huge and at times we are expected to deviate from that particular scope, it is a*

challenge” One SAPS coordinator indicated that he is responsible for additional responsibilities other than youth desk duties: “... *I am doing domestic violence, social crime prevention and I am also a reservist coordinator.*”

The above-mentioned sentiments are confirmed by the CPF participants, who also stated that the work is too much for some of the role-players to perform: “*Ya, ya. They are unable to do that*” In light of the above, it is evident that it is impossible for the DoCS coordinator to effectively coordinate the functions of the YCPD in the cluster because of the excessive workload he is expected to perform that is further hampered by additional responsibilities assigned to him. It appears that the DoCS coordinators are faced with unfavourable conditions because they are unable to perform to the best of their abilities as a result of being overburdened by their workload. It is therefore necessary for the custodian to conduct a feasibility study to assess how the work overload could be addressed in order to enhance the functioning and activities of the YCPD.

- **Coordination with other stakeholders**

There is a requirement for efficient coordination of the implementation of programme activities as regards other stakeholders that are involved. Efficient coordination addresses the process of organising people or groups to work together effectively in the implementation of an initiative. Such efficient coordination of activities performed by various stakeholders enhances transparency of the activities.

The DoCS coordinator stated: “*Government cooperation, ... which also harbours interest in youth safety is a partner of the department on issues of youth safety. It is assisting with resources and so on.*” The above statement is endorsed by CPF participants, who state: “*I think, what if relevant stakeholders like us dealing with youth from school ... Department of Education ... need to be brought on board.*”

Coordination of programme activities among role-players is an important instrument for the successful implementation of this initiative. Efficient coordination could improve working relations and cooperation among these role-players, eliminating those who function in isolation without the involvement of other stakeholders.

4.2.6.6 Additional duties of role-players divert the focus of the YCPD

Other duties performed by role-players refer to additional tasks or responsibilities assigned to the role-players outside the scope of their YCPD responsibilities. It appeared from the interviews with participants that they are held responsible for additional tasks other than their YCPD activities.

The DoCS coordinator remarked as follows: *“I’m not going to lie, they do ... you are requested to do things one, two, three not necessarily linked to youth programmes, I will also do crime prevention programmes where I do not necessarily target youth, also women, men and community as a whole.”*

The above-mentioned statement is complemented by the SAPS coordinator who stated: *“Sometimes it does [additional duties impact negatively on the activities of the YCPD in general], because you find that the aims that you want to achieve are not achieved because you only work on what you think is in line and what is needed by the SAPS at that time here at the station.”*

These sentiments are emphasised by the DoCS coordinator, as follows: *“At times you will feel like you are a general worker as much as the youth work consumes the larger chunk of my work, what I’m supposed to be doing, but the only one there are also MEC’s ad hoc projects, [from] time to time you are requested to do things one, two, three not necessarily linked to youth programmes where I do not necessarily target youth also target women, men and community as a whole.”*

The SAPS coordinator agreed with what the DoCS coordinator had expressed: *“I am doing social crime and communication sometimes, I am posted at the sectors and doing patrols.”*

It appears that the role-players who are involved in the implementation of the YCPD are given additional responsibilities outside the scope of the YCPD, and that fact impacts negatively on the implementation of the YCPD activities. It appeared that role-players’ interest and focus towards achieving the aims of this initiative diminished because of the added pressure of their additional responsibilities.

- **Lack of formal training to execute directives**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Have you received guidance, training, leadership or mentorship interventions on how to accomplish the aims and objectives of the YCPD?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether training had been provided to the stakeholders before the implementation of the YCPD programme.

The lack of formal training refers to the situation where role-players were not provided with any training prior to the implementation of the YCPD programme. Before the actual implementation, all the role-players should have been provided with a document describing a structured approach on how this initiative should have been implemented. It appeared from the interviews with participants that role-players were not provided with any basic skills training on how to go about implementing the activities of the YCPD programme.

The DoCS coordinator acknowledged the lack of training interventions regarding the YCPD programme. Interestingly, the coordinator does not regard the absence of training as an obstacle: *“Lack of training in that specific field does not necessarily have an impact on my work and the impact that I have to be effective on the community at large.”*

The SAPS coordinator confirmed the absence of formal training interventions resulting in ‘in-service training’ as time goes by: *“I have never attended any training, I just learned since 2009.”*

The YCPD volunteers further emphasised the lack of formal training prior to the implementation of the YCPD, and thus relying on in-service training: *“About that [formal training] we never ... have we been taught while we are busy participating in the awareness campaigns in our stations and in our community. Like school searches, we have been told about school searches.”*

In addition, the CPF participants also placed emphasis on the lack of training: *“I am not aware of any guidance of training ... it is only induction workshops.”* In respect of the lack of training, one social crime prevention coordinator remarked: *“when I*

start doing social crime prevention I was not trained and I am just picking up here and there.”

It appears from the response above that participants overwhelmingly agree that no formal training was provided before the implementation of the YCPD programme. It is thus not surprising that many role-players were unable to follow through with the aims and objectives of this initiative, because of the lack of a proper foundation through training. Had role-players been provided with efficient training prior to the implementation of the YCPD, the programme activities would have been implemented more successfully. In the absence of training, role-players do not understand what is expected of them, and how to execute programme activities efficiently, thus rendering the goals of the initiative unachievable. The lack of training for role-players could be a major contributing factor as to why many role-players have abandoned this initiative. It therefore does not come as a surprise that some of the role-players seemed disoriented, because they were unsure of what exactly was expected of them. Role-players with inadequate knowledge and skills cannot produce the best results. It is therefore of the utmost importance to provide role-players with sufficient, standardised training in order to implement this initiative in a uniform way throughout the cluster.

4.2.6.7 Annual plans

The annual plan refers to the calendar that the role-players are expected to follow for a period of 12 months in the implementation of this initiative. The annual plan provides details concerning the dates and times of when YCPD events will take place. This plan is derived from the organization’s five-year plan, and the station plan strives to achieve the bigger plan. The annual plan thus details the activities of this initiative for a particular year.

The CPF participants confirmed the existence of annual plans: *“both structures also have the year plans that guide them on programmes and projects that they embark on.”*

The above-mentioned comments are supported by the DoCS coordinator; however, it appeared that annual plans are not necessarily a coordinated effort, since

individuals also compile their own annual plans: *“We do plans as a unit or as an individual.”*

It further emerged from the response from the DoCS coordinator that it is normal for role-players to deviate from the annual plan when unforeseen circumstances arise: *“Most of the times we tend to deviate, we know that crime is something that arises now and at times we need to promptly respond to something that happens now and you will be required to do that and deviate from your annual plan.”*

It further appears that all the participants have annual plans that have to be followed towards the achievement of the aims and objectives of the YCPD. Planning is an important mechanism that must be utilised during the implementation of the YCPD programme because the respective role-players have their own plans and goals for achieving the overall objective of the programme. As a result, the respective role-players should work in unison to harmonise the various activities in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the initiative.

- **Participants’ understanding of their roles and responsibilities**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“Do you have a comprehensive understanding of your role and responsibilities as Station Commander/YCPD coordinator/volunteer?”

The purpose of this question was to determine YCPD role players’ familiarity with their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the YCPD programme.

This sub-theme deals with role-players’ understanding of their roles and responsibilities in terms of the YCPD programme. For the successful implementation of the YCPD, role-players must be fully aware of their responsibilities and the roles they are expected to play towards the achievement of the aims and objectives of this initiative. Should these roles and responsibilities not be fully adhered to by all role-players, the inconsistency could hamper implementation. This means that there must be clear guidelines regarding the steps that have to be followed. All role-players have a crucial role to play in the implementation of this initiative

The DoCS coordinator acknowledged the importance of clear roles and responsibilities: *“It is very much important that I own that space, I occupy that space to identify my work in the midst of other government work in Ekurhuleni.”* The CPF participants demonstrated that they know what this structure is established for: *“... basically is there to address problems of youth issues with our experience.”* The above-stated sentiments are supported by the SAPS coordinator, who stated *“... what I understand is that we engaging youth around the community to do the youth desk and the issues affecting the youth around our policing area and then making use of them to deal with the issues that are affecting young people.”*

One YCPD volunteer further commented: “Yes, I think is to take out young people from the streets ... and assisting the community in terms of crime.”

It emerged during interviews that the DoCS coordinator is fully aware of what is expected of him as the custodian of this initiative. He should take a central role in the realisation of the aims of the YCPD programme. This is a positive step in the implementation of the YCPD, because it could eliminate misunderstandings with other role-players such as the CPF, who should play their part by providing guidance to youth desk volunteers. By ensuring that all role-players understand their roles and responsibilities, the relations between them would be strengthened because any form of confusion would be eliminated. The DoCS coordinator should set an example by ensuring that everyone involved in the implementation of YCPD clearly understands his roles and responsibilities.

4.2.6.8 Guidelines and standardised processes

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“According to your knowledge, are there specific guidelines or instructions that you are expected to abide by when performing your duties as YCPD coordinator/volunteer?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether guidelines exist that the role-players are expected to follow during the implementation of the YCPD programme.

Standardisation of processes refers to the procedures for setting up systematic activities that are executed consistently as per the set criteria. Standardisation is an attempt to impose operational and administrative uniformity, ensuring that all the role-players implement the YCPD activities in a similar fashion. Guidelines serve as a set of predetermined principles that each role-player should adhere to during the implementation of this initiative.

It appeared from the response of the DoCS coordinator that he was not aware of standardised procedures or guidelines to assist role-players to implement YCPD activities. This participant further confirmed that as a result of the lack of standardised processes and guidelines, every coordinator does not necessarily follow similar procedures when performing YCPD duties: *“Over and above that manner in which we conduct our work there is no specific guideline or standardised way of doing things ... there are five of us that are doing this youth programme and I can tell you in as much as there are more similarities in this work, but there are also different ways of doing.”*

The above-stated sentiments echo those of the YCPD volunteers: *“... document or guideline ... no, I don't think ... we just use the constitution of the CPF.”* In addition, one DoCS coordinator emphasised the significance of clear guidelines and standardised operating procedures, calling for such procedures to be implemented by all role-players: *“I have always said, can we have a standardised way that will guide us when we do one, two, three ...”*

A SAPS coordinator furthermore confirmed the absence of guidelines to assist with the implementation of programme activities: *“I was not provided with anything that used as a guideline.”* Similarly, YCPD youth volunteers confirmed the non-existence of YCPD programme guidelines: *“no, we don't have any guidelines.”*

It appears from the responses by all the participants that they are in agreement that there is no guiding document directing them in the implementation of the YCPD programme. Because of the lack of guidelines, there appears to be confusion and difficulties experienced by participants. It is thus not surprising that a number of the YCPD youth volunteers departed from this initiative as a result of the prevailing uncertainty and confusion. Consequently, there is a dire need for clear guidelines

and standardised operating procedures. Standardised guidelines for successful implementation of the YCPD programme are necessary because the process has to be monitored throughout to ensure that the aims and objectives of this initiative are realised. Furthermore, it will set a standard for all the role-players to conform to.

4.2.6.9 The lack of appropriate coordination to address social challenges

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“In your opinion, is the YCPD programme appropriately coordinated to address the youth’s social challenges at community level in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster?”

The purpose of this question was to assess whether the YCPD programme is coordinated in such a fashion that it facilitates successful addressing of the youth’s social challenges.

The lack of appropriate coordination among the various stakeholders involved in the YCPD programme impacts negatively on the implementation of this programme. Participants expressed various points of view regarding the coordination of this initiative.

The DoCS coordinator rightly acknowledged operational challenges and time constraints hampering him to sufficiently coordinate police stations’ YCPD activities. Interestingly, this participant attempts to make a significant impact at the few police stations that he manages to visit, which results in the total neglect of others that he cannot visit due to time constraints: *“I’m going to be honest with you, some of the stations are suffering, some of the stations they don’t see me in at least 4 to 6 months but at times you will have particular stations keeping you busy such as that other police stations you won’t have time to visit some.”* Logic and common sense will dictate, you can’t have impact in all 38 police stations, rather choose and bite what you can chew and make an impact.”

In contradiction to the DoCS coordinator, a few CPF participants experienced the coordination of the YCPD programme as well-coordinated: *“They are well*

coordinated because normally they are with Sergeant X, he is always monitoring the projects, whenever the youth are doing their programme or campaigns they are including the CPF members and the patrollers, so that is why I'm saying they are well coordinated."

In contradiction to the above CPF participants, another CPF participant explained that since the coordination of the YCPD is not well-coordinated, CPF members interact with role-players other than those at SAPS cluster level: *"We work with other community leaders, some of our CPF members, we never called any cluster no... it is not well coordinated ... because of poor communication."*

In light of the above-mentioned responses, it is evident that efficient and comprehensive coordination in the implementation of the YCPD programme is hampered by shortcomings and challenges. It appears that the major lack of coordination results from insufficient human resources in the form of YCPD coordinators. The lack of coordination furthermore creates gaps in the acquisition and distribution of information, with the result that various role-players act in isolation. This in turn results in the ineffective utilisation of YCPD resources, and that in itself causes missed opportunities. The objectives of the YCPD could be achieved by implementing an accountability coordination system for efficient management of information. Poor coordination of the YCPD programme has negatively affected its successful implementation. In areas where there is a lack of coordination, a decrease in productivity is experienced, processes are complicated, and the completion of activities is delayed. Systematic integration of a process that will result in accountability is required for effective implementation of the YCPD. However, for the aims and objectives of this initiative to be realised, proper coordination is required in which the custodian of this initiative will take a central role to ensure that the YCPD is well-coordinated and information properly distributed.

4.2.6.10 Questions of control: CPF as the 'mother body' acting as the 'godfather'

Control in this case refers to a situation when one group of role-players feels that it is necessary to exercise supervision over another group of role-players and to take command of any situation.

It appears from the response of a DoCS coordinator that the members of the CPF want to prescribe the activities of the YCPD, without allowing the youth volunteers an opportunity to introduce youth initiatives: *“They [CPF] want to stifle programmes, they will choose what programmes and when they do it and they would want everything to start and ends with them and that for me that delays programmes and there are young people who want to work but legislatively and constitutionally most of the things have to go via the CPF as the mother body.”*

It emerged during the interviews with the DoCS coordinator that the CPF as the structure responsible for any community activities at station level is not doing justice to the YCPD activities. It must be taken into consideration that the YCPD as a structure is an autonomous body with the mandate to ensure that the challenge of youth crime and violence is addressed. The CPF as the mother body is required to provide guidance in the implementation of the YCPD. The YCPD should be allowed to run its affairs freely under the guidance of the CPF, and in close cooperation with youth volunteers, to the benefit of the community as a whole. The CPF should desist from gate-keeping because it would hamper successful implementation of the YCPD, and in the process, the aims and objectives of the initiative would not be achieved.

- **Insufficient resources**

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme and its subthemes:

“In your opinion, are the YCPD sufficiently resourced in terms of financial and human resources?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether there are sufficient supporting resources to facilitate successful implementation of the YCPD programme.

Insufficient resources refer to an inadequate supply of financial and human resources. It appears from the responses of participants that sufficient resources have not been made available for the effective implementation of this initiative. In addition, it appears that internal power struggles contribute to limiting the acquisition of resources.

A DoCS coordinator explained the resource constraints as follow: *“No, the youth desk is not resourced, the unfortunate part like I have said they are unable to fund raise for themselves. When they have to fund raise they must go through the CPF, many times the CPF does not play ball.”* In agreement with the DoCS coordinator, a SAPS coordinator confirmed the lack of resources experienced by the YCPD: *“... lack of the fact that resources around this station, so now you cannot perform.”*

It became known overwhelmingly from the interviews with the participants that the YCPD is not sufficiently resourced. There is no way that the aim and objectives of this initiative could be realised without the required resources. Before the actual implementation took place, the custodian should have conducted a feasibility study to determine the type of resources required for the smooth implementation of this programme. Failure by the custodian to address the issue of resources has contributed towards the non-achievement of the objectives. It is advisable that sufficient resources be made available for the successful implementation of the YCPD.

4.2.6.11 Non-standardised communication methods

Non-standardised communication methods refer to informal, flexible, unofficial methods of communication used by role-players when they officially communicate with one another. Communication occurs in a casual, fluctuating manner in which information is exchanged spontaneously between two or more persons without conforming to the prescribed set of rules.

The DoCS coordinator confirmed that he employs a non-standardised approach when communicating with role-players: *“Communication it has not been something that has been rigid ... I communicate with the social crime prevention coordinator because I know under them they still have the youth desk so it is either the Vispol [Visible Policing division], to the chairperson of the CPF, Chairperson of youth desk so that the message gets to all relevant structures that are required depending on of course what require concerning my correspondence of communication.”*

CPF participants responded that they mainly communicate by means of meetings: *“We attend our executive meetings, board forum meetings, with station managers*

at large including the social crime prevention ... if the youth have a programme/project to be run/done we are informed at our meeting, if there is something we have to do, there is a way we communicate, we inform them on time we need assistance of our youth."

A SAPS coordinator went further, to emphasise that the way they communicate, *"we contact each other because we happen to have the cluster chairperson under the social crime prevention, so there are activities that are taking place, we do contact them and also with the CPF, we do sit with the CPF chair desk here at the station."*

It emerged during interviews with participants that communication among role-players is fluid and not standardised. Participants mostly relied upon meetings that were called among themselves by the role-players. Informal methods of communication pose a serious threat because confusion could develop among the persons involved. There is a chance that the message could be misinterpreted. Informal communication is subject to mistakes, because there are no official rules to be followed. To avoid the confusion that could result in misunderstanding, it is important that communication should be formalised during the implementation of the YCPD.

4.2.6.12 Volunteerism and self-directedness/ownership

Volunteerism is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of the community as a whole outside one's immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without any expectation of financial gain. However, there are obstacles that could affect volunteers' performance and responsibilities.

It appears from the response of a DoCS coordinator, that certain role-players regard volunteers as a liability, since these voluntary assistants do not want to be prescribed to by other role-players. *"Volunteerism is a burden, if you are going to tell volunteers do this, do that you will always have them leaving the structure at some point that the ownership goes to them and our role goes to that of support role, so that the programmes are determined by themselves."*

The SAPS coordinator explained another dimension that he has experienced working with YCPD volunteers. It appears that volunteers lose interest in actively

participating in the activities of the YCPD shortly after they have been accepted into the programme, since they regard participation in the programme to be intended for the unemployed only: *“The challenge is when they get employed they no longer participate, they don’t think we still need them, they think is for those who are unemployed.”*

It further emerged from explanations of the DoCS coordinator that once YCPD volunteers realise they would not receive any financial gain by participating in the programme, a number of them do not return to further participate: *“Immediately you tell them that they are volunteering, they won’t get anything they disappear.”* The SAPS coordinator stated that volunteers are regularly not available to participate in the activities of the YCPD programme, since a number of these volunteers are employed: *“I can say most of the members are not here on a daily basis some are working.”*

It appeared from the interviews with the participants that there is a serious challenge in respect of the implementation of the YCPD because the programme is primarily dependent on volunteers; however, most of these volunteers do not understand the concept of volunteerism. The YCPD programme is a community-oriented structure that should be occupied by young people without the expectation of any reward, since it is to the benefit of the community. An initiative such as the YCPD programme is created to attract young people to participate in activities against youth crime and violence in their communities. Prospective and current volunteers should realise that by participating in the YCPD they contribute towards the reduction of youth crime and violence in their communities. Through their participation, young people would also gain skills that will personally benefit them, and it also promotes the quality of human life. However, the most suitable volunteers without any ulterior motives should be recruited to participate in this programme to the benefit of the community.

4.2.6.13 Professional relationships among role-players

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme:

“Does the YCPD develop cooperative relations between SAPS/DoCS/CPF/volunteers and the youth?”

The purpose of this question was to determine whether the YCPD cultivates supportive relationships among the-various role-players.

Professional relationships refer to an association between role-players who interact with one another in building a working connection with each other, with the shared objective of jointly addressing the challenges of youth crime and violence in the community. Such a relationship also addresses the level of cooperation that allows for successful implementation of the YCPD programme. In order to strengthen these relationships between role-players there must be mutual trust and transparency in the implementation of the YCPD. Everyone involved must be committed to the cause.

It emerged from the response of a DoCS coordinator that professional relationships between role-players vary considerably in the various areas. It further came to light that some of the relationships are so dysfunctional that the chances of reconciliation seem slim: *“it varies from station to station, many stations we have like a relationship that have coordinators that are passionate and love their work. But with other stations you will struggle ... many of the stations I won’t even go there, coordinators are problematic and I hate going to superiors.”*

In contrast to the DoCS coordinator, the CPF participants presented a more positive outlook of the relationships among stakeholders: *“We can’t say there is good relationship ... I think the partnership is there.”* In addition, another CPF participant explained that though relationships exist between role-players, there is room for improvement: *“The relationship is there, it is not up to scratch, but is improving daily because we do communicate on issues of concern and I think is growing though we are not up there yet.”*

One YCPD volunteer experienced healthy relationships among these volunteers and their local SAPS coordinators: *“... they are so supportive ... especially our*

station ... they are the ones pushing us, you know what guys, this is what you should do, this is what we expected of you. They are most supportive."

It further appears from the response received from a SAPS coordinator that positive relationships exist at his particular police station: *"Up to so far it is very good, because each and every project or awareness they also involved even the station commander is giving the support, most of the meetings they attended even the awareness, so I don't see a problem up to so far."*

It appears from the responses by the participants that the relationship between the role-players differs from one environment to the next. For the YCPD programme to produce the required results, the relationship among the role-players has to be improved, as failure to do so would result in an inability to achieve the required results. Relationships should be cemented to ensure that the aim and objectives of the YCPD are realised.

4.2.6.14 Lack or decline of knowledge forums

The answers to the following question gave rise to this theme:

"Does the DoCS, in collaboration with the YCPD, initiate and present knowledge forums to increase awareness of the youth's social issues that are affected by crime?"

The purpose of this question was to determine the existence of knowledge forums used during implementation of the YCPD programme.

The lack or decline of knowledge forums deals with a situation where information-sharing platforms are no longer available for role-players to meet and discuss matters of common concern. These platforms convene all the role-players to discuss the dynamics of the YCPD for the successful implementation of the programme.

It emerged from the response of the DoCS coordinator that no efficient platform exists on which to share information: *"... no efficient link."*

It further emerged from the responses of the YCPD volunteers that knowledge forums are in effect non-existing, with the result that no planning can take place “... so nobody has a document that state meetings plenary of Ivory Park, yearly plenary of Ivory park from January to December, so we cannot plan ... we fail to provide them with relevant guidelines so let us take the blame, so they know nothing about our plans.”

A SAPS coordinator, however, reported opposing experiences: “I see other stations in the cluster, they are engaging them too much, not in my station, I do not know.” It further came to light from the responses of the CPF participants that information-sharing platforms do exist; however, these platforms are not convened as regularly as in the past: “Ja, they are doing even if it is not enough like before.”

It transpired during the interviews with participants that knowledge forums no longer exist at certain police stations, whereas at other police stations these forums are functional, though not regular at a number of police stations. Frequent knowledge forums attended by all role-players are necessary for the effective implementation of the YCPD activities, since the platforms allow role-players to communicate challenges experienced, and share ideas as well as successes. Knowledge forums should thus be revived, creating space and opportunities for role-players to effectively communicate and collaborate on matters of common concern.

4.2.6.15 Personal risk and safety of role-players

Personal risk and safety refer to the exposure of role-players to any form of risk and danger during execution of the YCPD programme activities. Certain inherent risk factors are associated with this initiative, because of the nature of the YCPD activities involved.

From the responses of the YCPD volunteers, it transpired that they are regularly intimidated by those community members who oppose the YCPD: “We find this people who threaten us to quit ... I will find my life in danger, so that’s where like I get threatened or intimidated.”

It appears from the interviews with the YCPD volunteers that they are continuously threatened by criminal elements of the community who oppose the activities of the

YCPD during the performance of community campaigns. As a result of the intimidation, YCPD volunteers cannot optimally explain the aims and objectives of this initiative to such members of the community. However, YCPD volunteers in certain areas, as a result of their commitment and dedication, remain steadfast in the execution of YCPD programme activities, and attempt to reach as many youths as possible, within their means. Measures should be implemented to enhance the safety of YCPD volunteers and other role-players.

4.2.6.16 Identification and initiation of new programmes

The identification and initiation of new programmes address the role that should be played by all role-players in the identification and introduction of new YCPD programmes in their various areas, in line with the aims and objectives of the programme. The responsibility rests with the various communities to identify programmes that are suitable for their respective environments, since crime preventive and awareness requirements differ from one police station to the next. In addition, YCPD volunteers, in consultation with other role-players, should identify programmes that will attract more youth volunteers to participate in this initiative.

The DoCS coordinator recognised that additional programmes should continuously be identified: *“What needs to happen going forward in the youth desk through myself, identify programmes that are going to be undertaken?”*

It emerged during the conversation with the DoCS coordinator that YCPD volunteers should take ownership of the YCPD programme activities and take a leading role in identifying programmes that are relevant and will benefit the particular community. It is the responsibility of the local community, in consultation with all the stakeholders, to ensure that youth crime and violence are addressed. However, the type of programmes that are initiated should be inviting to young people.

4.3 SUMMARY

This chapter presents and discusses the findings of the emergent themes as well as their subthemes. The participants’ responses to the in-depth interviews and focus group interviews are presented and discussed by means of developing themes and subthemes to explore the outcomes of these interviews. A description of each theme and subtheme enriches the contextualisation of such themes and their subthemes.

Participants' responses to the questions are furthermore supplemented with verbatim replies from participants.

The next chapter presents an interpretation of the research findings.

CHAPTER 5

INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the interpretation of the research findings. The findings of this study were interpreted in a manner that others would be able to make sense of. The interpretation of the data focuses on providing clear explanations, based on the data analysis. The results and findings in the existing literature in respect of research studies will either confirm or contradict the researcher's own interpretation (Mouton, 2011:109). Interpretation also means taking into consideration the contending justifications or interpretations of one's data and displaying what levels of support the data provides for the ideal interpretation. The above-mentioned sentiments are complemented by Neuman (2011:509-510), who states that the interpretation of the collected data will be converted into research findings, and the literature studies will either support or oppose/contradict the findings.

The interpretation of the findings commences with an outline of each emergent theme, which is highlighted and accompanied by the relevant literature sources, as indicated in Chapters 2 and 3. The main purpose of the interpretation of the findings was to arrive at an understanding of the implementation of the YCPD programme.

An overview of developing themes is discussed in the section that follows.

5.2 OVERVIEW OF EVOLVING THEMES

A number of themes were acknowledged during data analysis, indicated in Chapter 4. The identified themes were structured and discussed in this chapter. It has emerged from the interpretation of the findings that the YCPD programme has not been effectively implemented in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster, consequently the researcher explored answers to the factors impeding the proper implementation of this initiative. One of the basic questions posed to the participants probed their understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. The participants' responses to this question were generally uninspiring because a major element of a lack of understanding and disillusionment pertaining to the aims and

objectives of the YCPD programme came to the fore. The primary themes, which emerged from the data analysis, as presented in Chapter 4, are as follows:

- Understanding the aims and objectives of YCPD programme;
- Involvement of communities and youth in YCPD activities;
- Youth empowerment through training, communication, monitoring and evaluation of programme activities; and
- Challenges experienced in the fulfilment of directives constitute the remainder of the chapter.

The following section presents a discussion on the participants' understanding of the aims and objectives of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk Programme.

5.2.1 Participants' understanding of the aims and objectives of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk programme

Data collected indicates that a number of the participants did not sufficiently comprehend the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. It is therefore necessary that participants gain a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative for it to succeed. The implementation of new initiatives does pose challenges if the new developments are not well-understood by all the role-players. The expectation is that before a new initiative is implemented, key role-players should be familiar with all aspects thereof. In addition, it is important to have a common understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative in order to work together as a collective to attain those aims and objectives. The process of ensuring that participants understood the aims and objectives of this initiative should have been guided and established by means of unambiguous implementation guidelines provided by the custodian. According to the SAPS implementation guidelines, for example, there are certain guiding principles that should be followed in relation to youth activities. All parties involved in the implementation of the YCPD programme are expected to have a thorough understanding of the guidelines for the implementation of this initiative, even before the actual implementation takes place. However, it is the responsibility of all the role-players to familiarise themselves with such guidelines. Moreover, it is also the responsibility of management to ensure that role-players are empowered with sufficient knowledge and skills for proper implementation of this initiative. If role-players are not adequately empowered,

confusion and insecurity are bound to occur and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to understand what is required from all the role-players.

From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, all participants have a different understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. Participants' responses painted a bleak picture and indicated a lack of understanding of the aims and objectives of this very important initiative. Some participants suggested that there are role-players who are closely involved in this initiative but are totally unaware of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme. Some participants who are familiar with the aims and objectives of this programme have indicated that they were willing to assist those not familiar with the programme's aims and objectives. It was surprising to learn that not all the key role-players are familiar with the aims and objectives of the programme. This lack of knowledge among certain role-players could be an indication of insufficient communication of the programme's aims and objectives, or a lack of buy-in by role-players.

The literature review of the activities of the YCPD programme, as presented in Chapter 2, clearly illustrates that this initiative is aimed at empowering the youth to withstand the problems affecting them in relation to social crime prevention issues. All activities carried out in this environment involve the role of the youth in the fight against youth crime and violence. The NYP of 2004-2014, as presented in paragraph 2.5.1, further explains that South Africa's concept of youth development is influenced by the historical conditions that have shaped the country. It is based on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. Youth development determines the future of South Africa, hence the development agenda. Caine (2008), as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1, reveals that mobilisation has to do with capacity and community development processes through which local groups or organisations identify needs, develop an outline of an action plan and implement it. The youth is encouraged to contribute to youth crime prevention initiatives by joining the YCPD programme. In agreement with Caine (2008), the NYP 2009-2014 further states that involvement in such initiatives raises the confidence of the youth so that they can contribute meaningfully to their own development and to the broader youth society.

All the role-players should be familiar with the role they are expected to play in support of the fight against youth crime and violence. All role-players involved in this initiative should have been furnished with the basic knowledge and understanding of the aims and objectives of the programme. From the participants' perceptions regarding their understanding of the concept of the YCPD, as discussed in Chapter 4, participants have expressed mixed feelings as regards their understanding of this initiative. The implementation of new initiatives understandably brings about uncertainty and could be a challenging process, especially if the aims and objectives of such initiatives are ambiguous. It is therefore very important to ensure that all the role-players should have prior knowledge of every step of the implementation process that will be undertaken. However, it appears that the implementation of the YCPD programme was not characterised by clear communication of the aims and objectives to facilitate efficient implementation. Failure by the implementers to consult and empower all role-players has resulted in confusion and lack of commitment and understanding of role-players. In contradiction to the majority of the participants, it further appears that the DoCS coordinator, as the custodian of this initiative, was sufficiently knowledgeable regarding the aims and objectives of the programme, which explains why he was able to enlighten the researcher about the aims and objectives of YCPD. However, the role-players responsible for the implementation of the programme at station level were left wanting. These role-players did not satisfactorily comprehend what the YCPD programme is meant to achieve.

The implementation of new initiatives always poses a challenge if not properly communicated and managed. It appears that the relationship between the DoCS coordinator and the SAPS crime prevention coordinator has shortcomings, since not all police stations are equally familiar with the aims and objectives of the programme. It further appears that some police stations have been neglected by the DoCS coordinator for various reasons. It is logical that the DoCS coordinator focused more on those police stations that illustrated support for the programme. However, it must be acknowledged that it came to light that a huge burden was placed on the DoCS coordinator in terms of physical and human resources, hindering the successful implementation of the YCPD programme.

The following theme discusses the involvement of communities and youth in the YCPD programme.

5.2.2 Involvement of communities and youth in YCPD activities

It is important for the community and the youth to be fully involved in the fight against youth crime and violence in support of the implementation of the YCPD programme. However, all role-players' involvement should be clearly defined and understood to eliminate any uncertainties. Without the active involvement of the community in the activities of the YCPD programme, the fight against youth crime and violence could not be addressed effectively. The community should therefore play a central role when it comes to crime prevention initiatives because they are the eyes and the ears of the police (Palmiotto, 2000:88). According to Brown (2000), the community addresses crimes that they are concerned with by working together and canvassing everyone to be involved. This means that the community must participate in crime prevention initiatives within their areas, by means of partnerships, for their own safety.

For the successful implementation of the YCPD, every young person should be allowed and encouraged to participate in the activities of the programme. The establishment of the YCPD is a practical manifestation of community policing where young people are encouraged to be in the forefront of the fight against youth crime and violence. The YCPD is a community structure where everyone is allowed to participate freely. The literature review of the role of CPFs, as presented in Chapter 2, outlines the role that the community plays in strengthening the relationship between the police and the community. The NCPS (1996), as discussed in paragraph 2.4.2, clearly states that the police and other role-players should introduce crime prevention initiatives that will be suitable for the policing needs of a particular area, and they should work together to address such issues. In addition, Leoschut (2009), as discussed in paragraph 1.3, specifically states that any effort to create a safer South Africa depends on the involvement and continued support of various stakeholders. The above-stated sentiments are strengthened by the NDP (2011), as discussed in paragraph 2.4.4, and acknowledge the dynamic

population and active, cooperative partnerships as some of the key elements of the sustainable strategy for citizen safety.

Muller (2010), as discussed in paragraph 2.3.1, states that community participation and accountability should be at the forefront at the local level for it to succeed. Furthermore, it is important to facilitate initiatives to involve young people in crime prevention and awareness within their communities, through the YCPD as a youth structure specifically designed for them. The above-mentioned comments are complemented by the work of Palmiotto (2000), who argues that the community has to be taught to participate in issues affecting them, and they must be willing to be involved in community programmes. Their participation involves the sharing of information with all the role-players, which means that there should be an understanding of what is expected of them. Young people should be consulted and their views heard and considered.

From the participants' perceptions, as discussed in Chapter 4, all youths are encouraged to participate in the YCPD programme because this structure is a community-oriented structure. Skogan and Hartnet (1997), as discussed in paragraph 2.3, emphasise that there is a requirement shared by the police and the community to work together in dealing with issues affecting them. The National Youth Policy (2000), as discussed in paragraph 1.9.5, refers to the concept of youth as people between the ages of 14 and 35 years of age. However, there is a certain category of young people who are excluded from participating in the YCPD initiative; young South Africans in conflict with the law and foreigners are not included in the programme. There is no clear explanation as to why young foreign nationals are not allowed to participate in this initiative. In this case, foreign nationals are seen as not part of the community, and that in itself creates its own problems. In addition, youths who have been found to be in conflict with the law are not allowed to participate in this initiative, but there is a separate programme called "youth in conflict with the law" that addresses their needs.

It is important to ensure that youth in all communities participate in the YCPD programme. The rights of young people to have their voice heard is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, stipulating that every young person is protected as regards forming opinions of their own in matters that affect them. The

participation of young people in YCPD initiatives is crucial and usually involves a long-term vision implemented in programmes like this one. These kinds of programmes are key, because they encourage and provide young people with the opportunity to contribute meaningful inputs in the fight against youth crime and violence. The above-stated sentiments are addressed in the SAPS Youth Crime Prevention Guidelines, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1, where it is indicated that the activities of the YCPD allow young people to be involved in the fight against crime.

In addition, social media could also be utilised to influence young people to participate in initiatives that address youth crime and violence in communities. Social media is a powerful instrument that could influence young people in different ways. For the message about this initiative to easily reach young people, social media should be considered as one of the platforms that could be used to convince young people to participate. The Green Paper on Policing (South Africa, 2013a), as presented in paragraph 2.5.1, addresses youth mobilisation with regard to how the police and the community relate to one another and the way they communicate with each other. It is easier for young people to communicate with their peers through social media, including the discussion of possible solutions to the problems that affect them.

In addition, there are certain projects in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster that are managed by means of social media that encourage the youth to get involved, for example, “*Hash tag eksê*” and “*Ek sê my voice.*” Through the youths’ participation in social media initiatives like these ones, young people are enabled to share ideas on how best to address the challenge of crime affecting them. Social media is one of the key communication platforms to communicate with young people if one wants them to heed the call.

From the participants’ perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, the participants were encouraged to use social media as a form of communication in the implementation of the YCPD programme. Although social media is an informal mode of communication, young people respond positively because it is convenient and technology-driven. Young people must take a central position on issues affecting them.

Through their active participation in the YCPD programme, young people are bound to reap certain benefits. Furthermore, it is important for all the role-players to understand that their participation in the YCPD programme has benefits that would impact positively in the country as a whole through the elimination of youth crime and violence. However, from the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, it appears that the participants had mixed feelings, because some acknowledged that there were benefits that could be derived from this initiative, whereas others disagreed. By simply acknowledging the benefits that would follow the successful implementation of this initiative, some of the role-players would make an effort to play a meaningful role throughout the process. Lab (2004) states that partnership-policing can happen only when the police and the community work together in identifying challenges and solving them together. No project could succeed without the commitment of the key players, in this instance the youth. Some participants felt that this initiative is not achieving anything, while some are unsure of what benefits this programme produces, and other participants perceive the initiative to be effective. It is unfortunate that some role-players are confused about the benefits this initiative could produce. According to the Manual for the SAPS (1997), as referred to in paragraph 2.3, the goals of this kind of initiative should be judged based on their achievement, for example, crime reduction and communities feeling safe. Had the aims and objectives of this initiative been communicated more effectively, increased programme participation could have been facilitated.

From the participants' perception, as discussed in Chapter 4, it has to be taken into account that by meaningfully engaging in the YCPD, the key role-players will gain various skills and a sense of empowerment, and in the process the fight against youth crime and violence could be enhanced. The YCPD is giving young people the opportunity to develop the ability they need to become people who can influence their communities while simultaneously fighting youth crime and violence. The ISCPS (South Africa, 2011a), as discussed in paragraph 2.4.5, clearly states that a programme like this one could maximise the protection of community safety as a whole, and in the process improve the quality of life. These sentiments are complemented by the Youth Crime Prevention Guidelines (2014), as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1.1, which indicates that such programmes prevent the occurrence

of crime by intervening to improve environments that facilitate the commission of crime. In addition, programmes such as the YCPD also provide young people with the opportunity to gain job-related skills, for example interpersonal, computer and problem-solving skills.

In addition, young people could be encouraged to participate in this initiative via government departmental directives. From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, it is indicated that through governmental directives, the custodian of the YCPD could direct and inform all the role-players as to how best to successfully implement the YCPD. No initiative could be implemented properly without the necessary guidelines and directives that inform the facilitators of what is expected of them during the implementation process. The document recounting the responsibilities of the station commander, as presented in paragraph 2.5.1.4, clearly states that the functioning of the youth desk should be arranged in accordance with the national guidelines. The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by the guidelines on the responsibilities of the YCPD coordinator, as outlined in paragraph 2.5.1.3, indicating the necessity for incorporating the activities of the YCPD in the police stations' strategic and operational plans. Community involvement in youth social crime prevention initiatives has the potential of having a positive impact on the lives of many. For the YCPD programme to succeed, strategies should be developed to ensure increased and continuous participation of the youth. These strategies should be developed in such a way that the programme attracts young people and inspires them to take ownership of the YCPD. Empowerment through skills development is discussed in paragraph 5.2.3 below.

5.2.3 Empowerment through skills development

The implementation of the YCPD should serve as a platform for young people to acquire various skills that could be applied in future, even outside this programme. For this programme to be seen as providing young people with the required skills, it should be presented to the satisfaction of the majority of young people who participate in it. There are various ways in which young people could acquire skills and knowledge by means of their participation in an initiative such as the YCPD. The National Youth Policy (2015), as discussed in paragraph 3.6, clearly states that it is necessary to capacitate young people to enable them to take charge of their

own well-being by enhancing their knowledge and skills in order to realise their potential. The National Youth Development Policy Framework (2002), as discussed in paragraph 3.7, states that an incorporated, all-inclusive and workable approach is required, whereby youngsters and their organisations not only enjoy and contribute their abilities in the social, economic and political spheres of life, but also distinguish and advance their tasks to build an all-improved life for all. The above-stated sentiments are complemented by Whitlock et al (2004), as discussed in paragraph 3.6, who emphasises that youth development is considered an approach with the focus on practices for appealing to the whole population by assisting young people to succeed in their endeavours.

Youth empowerment by means of skills development should be viewed as the process where young people are encouraged to participate in the activities of the YCPD in order to assist in the fight against youth crime and violence, and through their involvement, would acquire the required skills that will benefit them in life. The YCPD programme is an appropriate platform for young people learning to engage with various stakeholders, including the broader community. Within the YCPD structure there are various forms of youth empowerment that could assist young people to grow in life. Youth empowerment by means of skills development aims to improve the lives of young people through their participation in social crime prevention initiatives. Edelman et al. (2004), as referenced in paragraph 3.9, places emphasis on the accomplishment of the objectives of the YCPD that nurtures fruitful youth development that has become the basis of assistance in youth agendas. He further states that youth development has a comprehensive objective of serving the youth and engendering a healthy evolution to adulthood.

Stipak (1994), as discussed in paragraph 2.4, explains that community policing promotes interpersonal relations, joint responsibilities and cooperative partnerships between police and the communities. For this reason, youth participation and commitment in the YCPD programme are essential. The necessary care should be taken during the implementation of YCPD, including the establishment of functional structures within clusters. More young people should be encouraged to participate in the activities of this structure because they will gain the necessary skills and knowledge required in life.

It appears that the custodians of this initiative have not done enough to facilitate maximum participation of young people in the YCPD programme. Although NGOs participated in the development of young people, it was not enough because the message did not reach all the youth, thereby restricting participation and development to only a few individuals. However, there is hope for improvement if the custodian takes this initiative to another level and fully engages with the broader community, and also ensures that the right message gets to the right people on time.

This theme concentrated on how young people could acquire skills through their involvement in the implementation of the YCPD, and it will be followed by communication, monitoring and evaluation.

5.2.4 Communication, monitoring and evaluation

For successful implementation of the YCPD, a clear action plan is required that should be communicated explicitly to all the role-players. The implementation of this initiative should be characterised by a transparent channel of communication to avoid any negative influences, and also include development of clear instruments that will be used to assess all the activities that will take place during the implementation. This theme provides in-depth information on how communication, monitoring and evaluation should take place during the implementation of the YCPD programme. Effective communication, and continuous monitoring and evaluation of programme activities are key elements for the successful implementation of this initiative.

Judging by the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, they reacted with mixed feelings on how they communicated with one another because responses varied from one role-player to another. Communication during the initial implementation of this initiative was mainly informal and problematic, where role-players decided on the best possible way for them to communicate among themselves. It further appears that there was no clear guideline on how monitoring and evaluation should have been carried out. Various role-players could not even comprehend what monitoring and evaluation of this initiative were all about.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996 Section 205(3), as discussed in Chapter 2, states that CPF boards and forums are meant to assist the police to ensure that there are police accountability and transparency, and consultation and proper communication between the police and the community. It was expected of the custodian of this initiative to have prioritised a formalised channel of communication to ensure effective communication between all role-players. Effective communication is a key element to the success of the YCPD. The National Crime Prevention Strategy (1996), as discussed in paragraph 2.4.2, emphasises that the criminal justice system cannot operate effectively unless optimal cooperation exists between the departments that constitute the programme, and integration of their activities.

The above-mentioned sentiments concur with those of Trojanowicz (1998), who stresses that the community has an obligation to participate in police initiatives, including providing information to assist police work. Effective communication is thus an important factor for YCPD activities to prevail. It would have been ideal if a consistent form of communication had initially been developed and adhered to for the successful implementation of the YCPD programme. However, as a result of the absence of or ineffective communication, various role-players implemented informal forms of communication that they considered suitable. These informal communication channels, however, created confusion between formal and informal communication. Informal communication among role-players seems to have become the primary method of communication. Standard methods of communication are thus required in order to distinguish between formal (official letters) and informal communication (such as WhatsApp) so that role-players can respond to any such communication received. It appears that the custodian of this initiative has failed to implement effective and unambiguous communication channels, with the result that the YCPD programme is characterised by poor communication and lack of proper monitoring and evaluation systems.

The shortcomings experienced in terms of communication, monitoring and evaluation significantly hamper the achievement of the programme's aims and objectives. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of programme activities have the potential to identify challenges experienced. Section 11 of the Constitution of the

Republic of South Africa (1996) deals with the establishment of CPFs and boards that will facilitate the partnership between the police and the community in order to deal with crime together. These structures could enhance consultation and participation in decision-making in the respective communities, thereby promoting sustainable institutional mechanisms in communities (Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy, 2011).

The SAPS Act 68 of 1995, as discussed in paragraph 2.4.6, stresses the importance of strengthening partnerships between the community and the police. It further promotes collaboration between the police and the public to work together towards achieving their common goal. According to the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, the office of the cluster commander was given the responsibility to supervise the activities of the YCPD at station level, but it is failing to fulfil its obligations as required. According to the responsibilities of the cluster commander, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1.5, it is clearly stated that cluster commanders are responsible for the appointment of a SAPS cluster youth crime prevention coordinator responsible for monitoring the functioning of the YCPD programme. It appears that cluster commanders have failed to carry out their responsibilities as per the requirements of the implementation of this initiative, resulting in the breakdown of communication between most police stations and cluster level. The cluster commander's office is responsible to monitor and evaluate all the activities of the YCPD programme at station level. It appears that the YCPD structure largely existed only at station level, without the support of the cluster office. This lack of support at cluster level significantly hampers the optimal operation of the YCPD.

From the onset of the YCPD programme, a formal communication strategy should have been clarified as to how role-players should engage with one another, including the way in which the whole programme would be monitored and evaluated throughout its lifespan. For effective monitoring and evaluation of this programme, it should have been incorporated in the year plan of the YCPD, in which all stakeholders would have been made aware of what was expected of them. In addition, a clear multidimensional communication strategy and time-lines should have been introduced to inform all the role-players when and how feedback should

be provided. The communication strategy and time-lines should have been reviewed regularly for adjustment where necessary. However, the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster has been characterised by poor communication.

The ideal would have been if all the role-players had received first-hand information by means of an effective, formalised channel of communication. Failure to communicate effectively had a negative impact in the implementation of this initiative.

The next theme interprets the challenges experienced in the attempted fulfilment of the YCPD programme directives.

5.2.5 Challenges experienced in the fulfilment of YCPD programme directives

The custodian's inability to successfully implement the YCPD could be attributed to various reasons. It appears that there were, among other things, poor understanding of this initiative, non-commitment of certain role-players, and a lack of proper planning and consultation with role-players. Consequently, various role-players did not commit themselves to the YCPD, as a result of the prevailing uncertainty.

The literature discussing the YCPD, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1, clearly stated that this initiative intends empowering young people as regards the challenges affecting them in relation to youth crime and violence in their communities. Palmery and Moat (2002), as discussed in paragraph 3.4.3, indicate that young offenders can be restrained by means of proper supervision, so that young people are not left without anything to do because they could be exposed to wrongdoing. The above-quoted remarks support those of Edelman et al. (2004), who state that effective youth initiatives are the ones that concentrate on the broader development and programme components that support youth development. Where there are no proper direction and guidance, progress would be hampered, and confusion and uncertainty are bound to reign.

From the majority of participants' perceptions, as discussed in Chapter 4, it appears that the participants were faced with serious setbacks, because there was no clear programme of action to be followed in the implementation of this initiative. A large number of participants further perceived the implementation of the YCPD as outdated because of the type of programmes that were initiated. The above-mentioned sentiments are in sharp contrast with the aims and objectives of the YCPD, as discussed in paragraph 3.8, where it is clearly stated that the programme is founded on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and distributive and liberal values. It emerged that the implementation of YCPD was not as smooth as intended, because it had to be run without a functional executive structure. In fact, the implementation of the YCPD was characterised by poor management and a lack of clear direction and guidance. These shortcomings are contrary to the guidelines for the formation of station youth crime prevention coordination committees, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1.2, which prescribes that volunteers should be elected to participate in various programmes or committees, and the structure should serve for two years.

A major concern in the implementation of the YCPD is the youth desk's inability to manage its own affairs. This is a serious dilemma because there is no entity that could survive without managing its own activities. Participants lamented the difficulty of running the affairs of the YCPD because of infighting among role-players. In fact, the implementation of this initiative gave rise to the participation of opportunists, namely the CPF, who had a vested interest in the functioning of the YCPD and wanted to control the resources and programmes. The CPF is expected to mobilise and organise community-based campaigns and activities, as well as the resources required to sustain them. The non-functional YCPD structures that existed at a number of police stations gave rise to additional challenges being encountered during the implementation of the programme. Foremost, the YCPD programmes implemented at police stations were not yielding the desired results because they lacked creativity and innovation. The youth need programmes that they can identify with; however, it appears that the activities of the YCPD were largely not of interest to them. The Green Paper on Policing (2013(a)), as mentioned in paragraph 2.5.1.3, remarked that the YCPD is mandated with the responsibility to champion the safety

and development of young people. However, the programmes introduced in the implementation of this initiative were conventional in nature.

Moreover, the shortcomings, as explained above, could partially be attributed to the SAPS coordinators' limitations in managing and facilitating the successful implementation of YCPD programmes. The responsibilities of the SAPS coordinators, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1.3, clearly stipulate that it is expected of these coordinators to manage the affairs of YCPD youth volunteers and to ensure the implementation of YCPD programmes at station level. However, different management strategies were applied at the respective stations within the same cluster, resulting in the vested interests of certain role-players leading to infighting, and the collapse of YCPD programmes at some police stations. Had the SAPS coordinators abided by their responsibilities, as stipulated in paragraph 2.5.1.3, and convened regular youth crime prevention meetings to discuss challenges affecting the functioning of this structure, a number of these shortcomings could have been addressed.

From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, the office of the cluster commander failed to take the leading role in ensuring that stations under their supervision fulfil their roles effectively. It appears that the members in the office of the cluster commander did not take their roles seriously in the implementation of this initiative. The responsibilities of the cluster commander in terms of the YCPD programme are outlined in paragraph 2.5.1.5. One of the cluster commanders' responsibilities is to facilitate the establishment of station youth desks to address youth crime and violence at station level. However, it seems that the cluster commander's office was not optimally fulfilling its responsibilities in this regard, thus displaying inadequate leadership and commitment towards this programme. They did not collaborate fully with the YCPDs and failed to appoint a cluster coordinator to serve as a link to ensure that the intended activities of the YCPD were properly carried out. Moreover, a number of station commanders failed to comply with their YCPD responsibilities at station level, as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1.4, as they are expected to establish and maintain YCPDs at station level. Consequently, various YCPD programmes at police stations lack coordinators to manage the daily affairs of the youth desks. The absence of SAPS coordinators at

station level contributes to enthusiastic youth volunteers abandoning this initiative due to not receiving the necessary guidance to carry out their activities.

Another major concern that hampered the successful implementation of the youth desk in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster is the excessive workload placed on the DoCS coordinator. It transpired that the scope of responsibilities this coordinator is expected to fulfil is unreasonable, since he is expected to solely coordinate YCPD activities at all the police stations in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. It follows that the DoCS coordinator's burden of being overloaded with duties results in neglect of YCPD programmes at various police stations. In turn, the youth lacks the introduction of new projects and ideas. To add to the DoCS' problems, some role-players are burdened with additional responsibilities, other than their duties at the YCPD, resulting in YCPD responsibilities becoming secondary and difficult to fulfil.

From the participants' perceptions, as discussed in Chapter 4, it transpired that the majority of SAPS coordinators complained that they have additional responsibilities, making it practically impossible to be hands-on with regard to youth desk issues. It is evident that these additional responsibilities assigned to SAPS coordinators impact negatively on the activities of the YCPD. In addition, the additional responsibilities allocated to SAPS coordinators result in negative feelings among the coordinators that they are all-purpose employees and not able to take full ownership of YCPD programmes. The National Youth Policy (2009-2014), as discussed in paragraph 2.5.1, stresses the importance of raising the confidence of young people in order for them to contribute meaningfully to society. The White Paper on Safety and Security (1998) further emphasises mounting of community-based campaigns and activities, as well as obtaining the resources required to sustain them.

The literature review regarding education risk factors, as discussed in Chapter 3, highlights the importance of education in the lives of people. Another critical setback for the successful implementation of the YCPD programme is the lack of the required knowledge and skills of a number of role-players to enable them to implement programme activities. Omboto et al. (2012), as discussed in paragraph 3.5.1.2, state that individuals without education will never know what is required of them. Palmery and Moat (2002) argue that education provides a platform where

people can be reached consistently and easily to implement crime prevention programmes. To aggravate the difficulties associated with the implementation of the YCPD, all the role-players were not provided with the necessary guidelines, resulting in disorganised implementation. The ideal implementation would have been preceded by awareness and training campaigns. It is almost impossible for an initiative to succeed without the role-players having proper guidelines and knowledge of how to implement such an initiative.

The White Paper on Safety and Security (1998) states that there must be a clear, stated direction geared towards prevention of crime. However, in the implementation of the YCPD it appears that there was no clear direction to follow. From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, the majority of participants were without a clear plan to follow for the implementation of this initiative. A large number of participants were thus forced to respond to circumstances beyond their control. Albrecht and Das (2011), as discussed in paragraph 2.3, stress the importance of local policing strategies that are based on a conceptual framework that clearly identifies the goal of policing and provides a road map to achieve such goals. Given the identified challenges and shortcomings discussed above, it is not surprising that the YCPD programme largely failed to achieve its aims and objectives.

The literature review in respect of the characteristics of community policing, as discussed in paragraph 2.3.1, promotes interpersonal relations, joint responsibility and cooperative partnerships between the police and the community. However, in the implementation of YCPD there was a lack of appropriate coordination to address social challenges, due to the wide range of challenges and shortcomings, including insufficient communication to role-players. In addition, the White Paper on Safety and Security (1998), as discussed in paragraph 2.5, emphasises the necessity of jointly resolving crime-related problems, and agreeing upon strategies to ensure implementation of such strategy. These sentiments are echoed by Lab (2004), who states that partnership policing can take place only when the police and the community work together to identify challenges and solve them together. In support of the above-mentioned authors, Hughes (2007), as mentioned in paragraph

2.5.1.4, emphasises that community involvement should be confined to formal consultation in most community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

The fact that there was no proper coordination, communication was poor, and that there was a lack of adequate consultation between the custodian and the majority of YCPD role-players has resulted in uncertainties in the implementation of this initiative. Coordination is a critical element in the implementation of any initiative, because it involves consultation and communication, aspects that are critical for its success. Failure by key role-players to properly coordinate this initiative has resulted in the fragmentation of the programme during implementation.

An overview of the literature in respect of the goals of community policing, as described in Chapter 2, clearly outlines reasons why the police and community should function in unison to address crime in conjunction with CPFs. Section 41(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa stipulates that all spheres of government and other organs must work together in mutual trust and in good faith to ensure that they achieve a common goal. The above-mentioned sentiments are supported by the National Crime Prevention Strategy of 1996, discussed in paragraph 2.4.2, which confirms that the government cannot deal with crime on its own. The institutions of government should collectively work together with civil society to address crime. What is more, a misconception about volunteerism exists among a large number of YCPD volunteers who have preconceived expectations; however, when these expectations are not met, these volunteers leave the programme without any notice. It follows that it is necessary to instil a sense of ownership, belonging and passion among volunteers of the YCPD.

A good relationship among all parties involved in the implementation of the YCPD is one of the critical factors for it to be effectively implemented. Nevertheless, relationship challenges between role-players do exist. Participants reported varying views and degrees of cooperation among themselves. Section 206(3)(c) of the Constitution of South Africa stipulates that each police station is required to promote good relations between the police and the community. The YCPD is one of the platforms that could enhance relations between the youth, the police and the community at large. Palmiotto (2011:85) is of the opinion that relations between the police and the community affect the entire community.

According to the Policy Framework and Guidelines for Community Policing (1997) it is important to create sound relationships of trust among the police and stakeholders at large, since such trust will form a cornerstone for effective relations between role-players. Once the relationship of trust has been established, commitment by all the role-players will be enhanced. However, it appears that relationships among YCPD role-players at the respective police stations vary. Palmiotto (2011:86) confirms that relationships can be bad, indifferent or good, depending on the attitude, action and behaviour of every member of the police, both individually and collectively.

For successful implementation of the YCPD programme, a well-established relationship should exist between role-players. Research has indicated that where there is no trust among role-players, there is unnecessary tension. However, a sound relationship between the police and the community is a long-term objective in order to assist the police and the community in identifying and providing solutions to problems together (Oliver, 2004:31-33). The YCPD programme requires that the police, youth, the whole community and all the other role-players should work together to ensure that this initiative succeeds. Inadequate relations between all the role-players involved in this project weaken the ability of this initiative to reach its objectives. Attempting to fight crime without first developing relationships with the community is fruitless (Moore & Stephen, 1991:2). Furthermore, it is acknowledged that it is the responsibility of all role-players to ensure that the YCPD is a success due to their cooperative relationship. A quality relationship between the police and the community is a prerequisite for effective community relations (Radelet & Carter, 1994:50). Social crime prevention requires a cooperative relationship between all role-players involved in its implementation. An effective relationship between the police and the community will enhance communication between all the stakeholders (Burger, 2011:100). Close collaboration between role-players is required for implementation of the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster to succeed.

From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, it was revealed that there was no knowledge forums during and prior to the implementation of this initiative. However, the majority of the participants have acknowledged that there were supposed to be knowledge forums where role-players could share ideas

and best practices on how best to make this initiative succeed. If the police are to serve the public effectively, a constructive working relationship must exist between the police and the greater community (Emsley, 2007:235). According to the White Paper on Safety and Security (1998), as discussed in paragraph 2.4.3, CPFs could assist the police to mobilise and organise community-based campaigns and activities, and to acquire the resources required to sustain them.

Inherent dangers are associated with most police initiatives because police work is considered a risk. From the participants' perceptions, as presented and discussed in Chapter 4, it was revealed that during the implementation of the YCPD programme, volunteers were exposed to personal risk and danger. According to Section 205(3) of the South African Police Services Act, the objective of the police is to "prevent, combat, and investigate crime, to maintain law and order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law." The SAPS alone cannot achieve this mandate without the assistance of communities. From the responses provided by the participants in the implementation of this initiative it emerged that rogue elements in communities threatened YCPD volunteers to not participate in police initiatives. Police officials need the support and assistance of their communities (Oliver, 1998:24). Without the involvement and assistance of the community in the implementation of the YCPD, it will be impossible for it to succeed. Partners who are working together in the fulfilment of the policing mandate should do so in conjunction with the police (Jones & Newburn, 1994:46). It is important for local communities to become partners in the implementation of the YCPD. Partnerships in crime prevention and community safety initiatives have become increasingly important, given the simultaneous failure of traditional policing (Hughes, 1998:92).

5.3 SUMMARY

This chapter interpreted the findings and evaluated the developing themes and accompanying subthemes. In addition, literature was presented in support of each theme and associated subthemes, to accentuate the importance of these identified themes.

The next chapter summarises the study, presents a conclusion and provides recommendations.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a summary of the study and the conclusions drawn regarding the aspects that hamper the successful implementation of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. Based on the findings, recommendations are made in respect of how to improve the implementation of the YCPD. These recommendations address all the aspects gathered from the empirical study. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews and focus group interviews with individuals who are closely involved in the implementation of this initiative in order to obtain their views, opinions and perceptions of the activities of the YCPD.

6.2 SUMMARY

Chapter 1 begins with the introduction of the rationale for the study that was undertaken, namely an assessment of the implementation of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. Furthermore, the background to the study was given. A comprehensive problem statement was delivered, clearly presenting the problem to be researched. The presentation of the research aim and the objectives of this study followed and explained the intentions of the study. The aim of this study was to assess the implementation of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng. In addition, attention was given to the value of this study and its envisioned results, followed by an explanation of the demarcation of the study. Consequently, key theoretical concepts fundamental to this study were defined to provide a common understanding of their meaning. Subsequently, the research methodology was presented and discussed, which clarified the particular steps that were taken to address the research problem, namely whether the implementation of the YCPD was carried out according to the set guidelines and processes. The methods to ensure trustworthiness, as well as ethical considerations applied in this study, concluded the chapter.

Chapter 2 presented an overview of youth social crime prevention in South Africa as a manifestation of community policing. This overview included a brief background of crime prevention in democratic South Africa. Community policing as a crime prevention philosophy as well as the policy framework governing crime prevention in South Africa were also presented. The chapter concluded with an overview of prominent social crime prevention programmes in South Africa.

Chapter 3 consisted of an overview of youth development and social crime and violence in South Africa. This overview included a brief background of youth development in the country. In addition, youth crime and violence in South Africa as well as the social and environmental causes of crime provided insight into these phenomena to place the current study within the conceptual and theoretical perspective, as well as to obtain an in-depth understanding of the real causes of youth crime and violence. Moreover, control measures for youth and juvenile crime were presented, as well as youth development platforms available for young people and the fundamental principles of youth development. This chapter concluded with an outline of the fundamental principles of youth development, followed by a discussion of youth development institutions in the country and the challenges these institutions experience.

The aim of the data analysis, presented in Chapter 4, was to gain an improved understanding of the data obtained. This aim was realised by means of the analysis of the relationship between concepts, constructs and variables, the identification and isolation of patterns and trends, as well as the establishment of emergent themes and subthemes. The data obtained from the individual and focus group interviews with participants were illustrated and described. Each evolving theme was initiated with an explanation, which was further enriched with direct verbatim accounts of the participants' responses. This chapter concluded with a critical reflection on each theme and subtheme.

In Chapter 5, the results of the analysis were interpreted and measured against the comprehensive body of literature, as presented and discussed in Chapters 2 and 3. The identified emergent themes and subthemes provided the basis for the structure of this chapter. These themes are:

- Participants' understanding of the aims and objectives of the YCPD programme;
- Involvement of communities and youth in YCPD activities;
- Empowerment through skills development;
- Communication, monitoring and evaluation; and
- The challenges experienced in the fulfilment of the YCPD programme directives.

The discussion of each theme presented was substantiated by the inclusion of various literature sources, as described in Chapters 2 and 3. This chapter furthermore included the perspectives of participants that were integrated to form a comprehensive interpretation of the findings.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM THE FINDINGS

The findings made in this study require recommendations on how the implementation of the YCPD programme could be improved. In an empirical study, the value of the recommendations focuses on aspects deduced from the study. The challenges and shortcomings in the implementation of the YCPD programme were identified and recommendations proposed, derived from the findings made in this study.

Figure 6.1 below illustrates the Youth Crime Prevention Implementation Framework for the effective implementation of the YCPD programme. The framework that developed emanates from the research findings.



Figure 6.1: Youth Crime Prevention Desk Implementation Framework

6.3.1 Recommendation regarding the ratio of coordinators versus police stations to address workload

A favourable working environment is necessary for any organisation because it facilitates optimal productivity of role-players, which leads to improved service delivery. During the implementation of the YCPD, the DoCS failed to understand the negative impact that unrealistic workloads have on role-players. An effective working environment is necessary in order to achieve good results in terms of efficiency, productivity and outcomes. Productive organisations value the well-being of their employees and as a result, there will be improved productivity and work satisfaction.

For the successful implementation of the YCPD, the DoCS should have considered carefully the responsibility of the DoCS coordinator as the driver of this initiative. The responsibilities of the DoCS coordinating the Ekurhuleni North cluster as a whole, comprising 38 police stations, are impractical. It is thus not surprising that there are police stations where the coordinator has very seldom visited, or has not visited at all. Although the DoCS coordinator coordinates only one cluster, the management of each police station's activities is unrealistic, and the coordinator is expected to be closely involved with each initiative by interacting with role-players.

Obviously, the DoCS coordinator's failure to reach all the role-players will negatively affect the implementation of this initiative. As a result, the aims and objectives of this initiative could not be realised. The scope of responsibilities of this coordinator should be taken into consideration; therefore it is recommended that additional coordinators should be appointed as deputy coordinators to every cluster to work closely with the coordinator. It is further recommended that the coordinators should be persons with a passion for working with young people, in order to improve the functioning of this initiative. The role of the DoCS coordinator is critical for the implementation of the programme. When the coordinator is overburdened with responsibilities, the implementation of this initiative will be jeopardised. The role that the coordinator plays should be revised in order to ensure that young people get the necessary attention that they deserve as young people.

6.3.2 Recommendation regarding the allocation of resources

For the successful implementation of the YCPD, a great deal of groundwork has to be done, including the provision of the necessary human and physical resources. The outcomes of this study indicate that the custodian of this initiative did not provide adequate basic resources that are required for the implementation of this initiative, although the role-players were trying their best to ensure that it succeeds. Constraints regarding resources partially contributed towards the poor implementation and functioning of this initiative. The constraints resulted in role-players feeling neglected and demotivated, and that they were not receiving the necessary support and encouragement from the YCPD during the implementation process. This resulted in a lack of creativity to initiate new initiatives that in turn resulted in some YCPD volunteers leaving the programme.

Without the provision of the basic resources during the implementation it would be impossible for the programme to be successful. It follows that the custodian of this initiative neglected to pay attention to the major contributing factors, such as inadequate office space, lack of transport, lack of basic skills and understanding of the aims and objectives of this initiative. The inadequate provision of the necessary resources thus negatively impacted the programme's implementation.

The DoCS as the custodian of this initiative, in consultation with the SAPD, should provide the necessary physical and human resources for this initiative to start bearing the required results, which is the fight against youth crime and violence. However, prior to the programme's implementation, a needs assessment should have been conducted to identify the required resources for successful implementation. It is therefore recommended that all the basic resources should be made available as a matter of urgency at all the police stations in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster. It is also recommended that executives of the YCPD should be paid a stipend that would cover their transport and food on a daily basis, as part of the drivers for the successful implementation of the YCPD.

It is further recommended that YCPD volunteers be equipped with sufficient office space and the required ICT equipment. This will motivate them and make them realise the importance of participating in the implementation of the YCPD. It is highly recommended that all YCPD volunteers should undergo state-sponsored self-defence training to obtain the necessary skills for the execution of their duties.

6.3.3 Recommendation regarding the autonomy of the YCPD programme

The YCPD is a youth structure affiliated to the CPF, which is the mother body responsible for all community initiatives at station level. This structure is responsible for the fight against youth crime and violence committed by and against the youth in South Africa. All activities of the YCPD should be aligned to the Constitution of the CPF. In this case, the role of the YCPD depends solely on the activities of the CPF.

It is recommended that the YCPD be given the status of an autonomous structure in terms of independent funding and budget. Young people are adventurous and there are certain projects that they would like to initiate, but such projects are not of interest to other role-players such as the CPF. It is further recommended that the YCPD should have separate management and control systems, independent of the CPF, to monitor their activities. Autonomy is the degree to which the YCPD will be able to operate independently from the CPF, consequently allowing the YCPD to determine how their projects should be managed. By allowing the YCPD to be

autonomous, the implementation of this initiative will benefit, because it will be able to initiate projects and fund them without the CPF approval.

6.3.4 Recommendation regarding ownership of and involvement in YCPD activities

For an initiative such as the YCPD, all the role-players should be encouraged to take full ownership of the programme in order for it to succeed. It is also critically important for all role-players to understand the importance of their role and appreciate their positions in implementing this initiative. If the latter is to achieve its aims and objectives, all role-players should cooperatively participate in all the activities of the programme. Each role-player brings unique and critical capabilities, skills and experience to the programme, and without their active involvement it is unlikely that the aims and objectives of this initiative could be achieved. The various role-players in the implementation of the YCPD have different roles to play, and all their contributions are valuable for the success of this initiative, therefore they should present a united front. Real ownership requires that all the role-players should actively contribute to the success of the YCPD in an accountable and transparent manner. Through their active involvement all role-players will gain an increased understanding of what is expected of them.

It is recommended that all the role-players should be acknowledged and afforded the recognition they deserve in the form of certificates and monetary awards in order to encourage them. Hard-working individuals should realise that their dedication and commitment have paid off.

It is further recommended that YCPD volunteers who are dedicated to the programme should be rewarded with internships that will serve as motivation and encouragement to other prospective volunteers to join this programme. Internships would also provide these volunteers with the necessary work-based experience that is required for the job market. The DoCS, as the custodian, together with the SAPS, should ensure that the welfare of the YCPD volunteers is taken care of. All YCPD role-players of the Ekurhuleni North Cluster should be seen as partners by demonstrating their active involvement in the implementation of the YCPD for the benefit of the whole community.

6.3.5 Recommendation for the identification of YCPD volunteers

The members of the community should be able to identify members of the YCPD. The identification of YCPD volunteers would create exposure and awareness of the programme, and therefore the DoCS should play the leading role. The YCPD should become a brand that is well known and respected in the community as regards the fight against youth crime and violence in our society.

This important structure for the youth should distinguish itself from any other initiatives that were designed to address crime against young people. Therefore, it is recommended that the YCPD volunteers should be provided with branded material, such as identification cards, T-shirts and reflector jackets by the DoCS, in conjunction with the SAPS, who will then be able to identify them in their daily responsibilities and associate the role-players with the programme. Identification of YCPD volunteers will convey a positive message to the community, indicating ownership and commitment to those interested in this initiative, and in turn stimulate interest among the youth in the activities of the YCPD.

6.3.6 Recommendation for improving relationships among role-players

The YCPD programme was identified as a viable community-oriented initiative in the fight against youth crime and violence in communities. As a result, the community itself is encouraged to take ownership of this initiative. The police and the community should strengthen their relationship in order for the aims and objectives of this initiative to be realised. Sound relationships among all role-players are necessary for successful implementation of the YCPD. Role-players should have a passion for taking part in YCPD activities that would spontaneously lead to good working relationships among role-players. The absence of sound relationships between role-players hampers the realisation of the aims and objectives of this initiative.

The custodian of this initiative must take a leading role in ensuring that workable relationships and trust between the role-players are established. Sound working relationships can be achieved only through the cooperative participation of all role-players in community initiatives, therefore the custodian should take a leading role in ensuring that role-players at all levels are involved in community activities. All

role-players at the YCPD in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster should regard themselves as active partners of the YCPD. Furthermore, YCPD meetings should be held more frequently and attended by all the role-players to facilitate improved relations. A unified YCPD could reduce the community's negative perceptions of this initiative. Cooperation among role-players could be strengthened further by means of improved communication and consultation that could in turn lead to improved police-community relations. In order to accomplish the aims and objectives of YCPD, the custodian of this initiative should take full ownership by ensuring that all the role-players function as a united front.

It is recommended that the custodian of this initiative must develop a transparent communication strategy and a development plan for all the role-players. It is further recommended that organising of initiatives, such as sports events, should be jointly carried out by all role-players to assist in bringing people closer together. It is further recommended that the role-players should initiate and implement joint projects.

6.3.7 Recommendation regarding communication of YCPD activities

Effective communication should form the basis of the implementation of the YCPD to avoid any misunderstanding between role-players. The implementation of the YCPD must be communicated properly to all the role-players to avoid ambiguity. When an initiative such as the YCPD is not well-communicated, confusion and misunderstanding are inevitable. Communication regarding YCPD activities should be improved by means of formalised channels to avoid conflicting messages and to facilitate transparent communication among-role players. It is also recommended that information in respect of YCPD activities should be publicised on local radio stations and in local newspapers.

6.3.8 Recommendation regarding YCPD training and development interventions

Role-players were not adequately empowered with the required skills and knowledge of how to implement this initiative effectively. Skills and knowledge are two of the basic requirements for successful implementation of the YCPD. The failure to empower all the affected role-players has negatively contributed to a lack of understanding that resulted in an unstable implementation process. Training is a

powerful instrument that could have provided all the role-players with the required knowledge and skills to implement YCPD activities.

It is therefore recommended that regular training should be provided to all role-players involved in the implementation of YCPD at all levels. As a result, role-players would be encouraged to increase their commitment, and consequently, their level of understanding of how this initiative should be implemented will also increase. As a result, incoming YCPD volunteers would find a solid foundation that could only benefit the programme.

The development of role-players should focus on basic needs, such as dealing with youth drug addicts, youth offenders, problem-solving, chairing of meetings, minute-taking, communication, decision-making, as well as team management, mentoring and coaching. Development is a way to empower people to perform in accordance with the required standards. Training is necessary to ensure correct selection and development of role-players for the implementation of the YCPD, which will ensure that role-players acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for them to be effective in the execution of their daily responsibilities. Appropriate YCPD volunteers should be recruited by employing a rigorous selection process, including background checks to eliminate criminal elements from the YCPD structure and to ensure that prospective volunteers would be suitable for the programme.

In order to follow through on the implementation of this initiative there must be a realistic, ongoing and transparent development programme in place. This could be achieved by adhering to the custodian's vision that includes proper, high-level planning in the form of the application of a timeous, effective and sustainable human and physical resources development plan.

6.4 CONCLUSION

This chapter contains a précis of Chapters 1 to 5, followed by recommendations as to how the implementation of the YCPD programme can be improved. This study is important, since it explores and describes the implementation of the YCPD programme in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster in Gauteng. Consequently, this study signals the existence of several areas of paradox between policy and practice, as the developed themes and subthemes point out. Notwithstanding the development

of youth social crime prevention initiatives in South Africa, much remains to be done, as the recommendations suggest.

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8. APPENDIXES

8.1 APPENDIX A: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE LETTER OF APPROVAL

G.P. 6 000-1223

SAPS 21

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIEDIENS



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

Private Bag / Privaatsak X 87, BRAAMFONTEIN, 2017

Reference Verwysing	3/34/21/2015000077)
Enquiries	Lt. Col. Peter
Navras	SAC Linda Ludzani
Telephone Telefoon	(011) 274-7529
Fax number Faksnommer	(011) 647-9189

OFFICE OF THE
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
GAUTENG

2016-05-03

- A. The Provincial Head: Legal Service
S A Police Service
GAUTENG
- B. The Deputy Provincial Commissioner: Operational Services
S A Police Service
GAUTENG

APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH: AN ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION DESK IN TEMBISA: MAJ. F HLUNGWANI

A+B: For your recommendations.

1. Attached herewith is an application of Maj. F. Hlungwani to conduct research within the South African Police Service.
2. The application has been evaluated by the Provincial Research Office (Strategic Management) as per attached Annexure and found to be in compliance with National Instruction 1 of 2006: Research.
3. In the opinion of the Research Office, the research will assist the South African Police Service to understand and value the importance of Social Crime Prevention initiatives in their respective communities. It will also assist to improve police-community relations by ensuring that they work together in the fight against crime.

Permission is hereby granted to the researcher above to conduct research in the SAPS based on the conditions of National Instruction 1 of 2006 (as handed to the researcher) and within the limitations as set out below and in the approved research proposal.

This permission must be accompanied with the signed Indemnity, Undertaking & Declaration and presented to the commander present when the researcher is conducting research.

This permission is valid for a period of Twelve (12) months after signing.

Any enquiries with regard to this permission must be directed to Lt. Col. Peters or SAC Linda Ladzani at PetersNS@saps.gov.za / Ladzanim@saps.org.za.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS / BOUNDARIES:

Research Instruments:	Interviews (Semi-structured) Collecting data General Observation
Target audience / subjects:	Social Crime Prevention coordinators / Sector Commanders / Sector team member / CPF members / Vispol Head / Station Commander / Youth Social Crime Prevention Desk
Geographical target:	Ekhuruleni North Cluster
Access to official documents:	No

 LT. GENERAL
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER: GAUTENG
DS DE LANGE
2016-05-26

8.2 APPENDIX B: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA ETHICS APPROVAL LETTER



COLLEGE OF LAW RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: 26/07/2016

Reference: ST 11

Applicant: F. Hlungwani

Dear F. Hlungwani
(Supervisor: Prof. J. van Graan)

DECISION: ETHICS APPROVAL

Name	F. Hlungwani
Proposal	An assessment of the youth social crime prevention desk programme
Qualification	MTech

Thank you for the application for research ethics clearance by the College of Law Research Ethics Review Committee for the above mentioned research. **Final approval is granted.**

The application was reviewed in compliance with the Unisa Policy on Research Ethics.

The proposed research may now commence with the proviso that:

1. *The researcher will ensure that the research project adheres to the values and principles expressed in the Unisa Policy on Research Ethics which can be found at the following website:*

http://www.unisa.ac.za/cmsys/staff/contents/departments/res_policies/docs/Policy_Research%20Ethics_rev%20app%20Council_22.06.2012.pdf

2. *Any adverse circumstances arising in the undertaking of the research project that is relevant to the ethicality of the study, as well as changes in the methodology, should be communicated in writing to the College of Law Ethical Review Committee.*



University of South Africa
Pretorius Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392, Unisa, 0003, South Africa
www.unisa.ac.za

8.3 APPENDIX C: EDITOR'S DECLARATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

28 July 2018

I, Naómi AC Schulze, an independent language practitioner, hereby declare that I was requested to carry out the language editing in respect of a thesis written by Mr Freddy Hlungwani (student number 35859695).

The title of the document is "AN ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTIONDESK PROGRAMME," which is submitted in accordance with the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY in the subject POLICE SCIENCE at the University of South Africa.

I duly completed the task and the document was submitted to Mr Hlungwani via e-mail. The author was unfamiliar with the Track Changes facility therefore he received the working document containing the tracking, as well as a document in which changes had been accepted. I take no responsibility for any alterations and/or errors that were introduced to the document after I returned it to the author. The author will make arrangements to have the document formatted by a professional typist.

A copy of this declaration will be dispatched to the supervisor, Professor JG van Graan.

(Mrs) NAC Schulze

PO Box 14694

0140 LYTTTELTON

Telephone: 012 664 2265

8.4 APPENDIX D: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Do you have a thorough understanding of the aims and objectives of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk?
2. Have you received guidance and training, and have you been part of leadership or mentorship interventions on how to accomplish the aims and objectives of the YCPD?
3. Do you have a comprehensive understanding of your role and responsibilities as Station Commander/YCPD coordinator/YCPD volunteer/South African Police Service coordinator?
4. From your experience, how would you describe the management of the YCPD?
5. According to your knowledge, are there specific guidelines or instructions that you are expected to abide by when performing your duties as Station Commander/YCPD coordinator/YCPD volunteer/SAPS coordinator?
6. Are YCPDs in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster sufficiently capacitated (internally and externally) to provide integrated, site-based services at local level?
7. Have you been empowered with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and coordinate youth-related initiatives?
8. In your opinion, is the YCPD Programme appropriately coordinated to address youth social challenges at community level in the Ekurhuleni North Cluster?
9. From your experience, do formal, standardised procedures exist for communication between SAPS social crime prevention coordinators, DoCS social crime prevention coordinators, Community Policing Forum and Tembisa YCPD community volunteers?
10. According to you, do the YCPD activities succeed in the need for a multi-faceted intervention strategy aimed at youth safety in the Tembisa cluster?
11. Do you experience shortcomings and challenges in your effort to effectively implement the YCPD?
12. According to you, does the YCPD sufficiently allow members of the public to be actively involved in youth crime prevention programmes?
13. According to you, are the activities of the YCPD continuously monitored, evaluated and communicated?

14. In your opinion, are the YCPDs sufficiently resourced in terms of physical and human resources?
15. From your experience, how would you describe the operational relationship between the Station Commanders, SAPS coordinators, Department of Community Safety coordinators, CPF and YCPD volunteers?
16. Does the YCPD encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies for their communities?
17. Does the YCPD continuously develop and implement programmes to address the identified safety needs of youths?
18. Does the DoCS, in collaboration with the YCPD, initiate and present knowledge forums to increase awareness of youth social crime issues?
19. Are the SAPS coordinators an efficient link between police stations, the DoCS coordinators, CPFs and communities?
20. What is the impact of the YCPD programme on crimes involving youths in terms of the programme's current efficiency and functionality?
21. Does the YCPD succeed, as a skills development platform, providing youth the opportunity to acquire skills required by the job market?
22. From your experience, does the YCPD in Ekurhuleni North Cluster function optimally?

8.5 APPENDIX E: GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: LETTER OF APPROVAL



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, SOUTH AFRICA
OFFICE OF THE HOD**

64 Prichard Street, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa Tel: +27 11 689 3600 Fax: +27 11 689 3650

Enquiries : Duxita Mistry
Telephone : (011) 689-3786
Cellphone : 0828852950
Email : duxita.mistry@gauteng.gov.za

**Mr F Hlungwane
SAPS Division: HRD
Pretoria, Gauteng**

APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH WITHIN THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SAFETY


Dear Mr Hlungwane

Permission is hereby granted for you to undertake research within the Department of Community Safety, Gauteng on 'An assessment of the implementation of the youth social crime prevention desk in Tembisa'. The following conditions apply to permission being granted:

1. The anonymity of the potential participants is guaranteed
2. No identifiers will be made available
3. Permission for the interviews granted must be obtained from the targeted individuals, and
4. The findings and recommendations must be provided to the senior management team prior to finalization of the research report.

You may contact the Provincial Secretary, Ms Millicent Kewuti, underwhom the programme Social Crime Prevention falls to introduce the research. Her contact details are 011689 3738 and her Personal Assistant is Ms Cindy Mabula who can be reached on 011689 3711. Alternatively, you may email them on Millicent.kewuti@gauteng.gov.za or cindy.mabula@gauteng.gov.za

Kind Regards


Ms. Yoliswa Makhasi
Head of Department
Date: 06/04/16