**Interviews with police officers**

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|  | **Background** | **Prompts** | |
|  | Can you outline your current role for me please and talk through how you got to this point in your career? | * + - Rank     - length of service * employment history (including pre-police) | |
|  | What were your motivations for becoming a police officer? | * Interest in current role | |
|  | What would you consider to be the most important aspect of your current role? | * Ability to realise/ effect this day to day | |
|  | **Legal consciousness** |  | |
|  | 1. **The practice of investigating cases involving multiple suspects** | | |
|  | What are the most common types of cases that you deal with? | | * Has this changed over time? |
|  | What proportion of serious violence cases involve groups of young people? | | - Has this changed over time? |
|  | Do you tend to see common themes in cases of serious violence involving young people? | | - e.g. profile of those involved /kinds of behaviour engaged in?  - weapons?  - premeditated/ spontaneous  - gangs?  - drugs |
|  | Can you talk me through the process of investigating a typical case of serious violence involving multiple young people? | | * Has this changed over time? * Changed in last couple of years (Jogee)? |
|  | What, if any, constraints (e.g. staffing/money) do you face when investigating serious violence involving multiple young people? | | * Why? |
|  | In the last decade, have you seen any changes in the way the law has been applied by other practitioners to cases of serious violence involving multiple young people? | | * Colleagues * The CPS – charging decision re murder/manslaughter and offers of pleas? * since Jogee | |

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|  | In cases involving multiple young people, how do you go about tracing, identifying and eliminating suspects? | * What resources are used? E.g., Gang matrix, social media * Has this change over time? |
|  | To what extent is it necessary to identify the particular role of each individual, (i.e. whether they are principal/secondary parties)? | * Has this changed over time? |
|  | To what extent do you use the Matrix (e.g. investigations/evidence)? | * How useful is it? |
|  | To what extent do you, and your colleagues, take account of the ‘maturity’ of young people who are involved in such investigations? | * Is this expected? * E.g. for the CPS public interest test? |
|  | To what extent does a police investigation take into account the expectations of the CPS (and any advice they might give in such cases)? In what ways? | * for the evidence/public interest test - E.g. age, culpability, impact on the community, proportionate response. * E.g. advice re the investigation strategy, when to stop the investigation. * Changed over time? |
|  | In cases of serious violence involving multiple young people, how common is it for the CPS to decide not to prosecute individual young people? | - on what basis? |
|  | In your experience, at what stage in the proceedings are pleas typically offered? | * By whom? * On what basis? * Changed over time? * How does this occur? |
|  | Have you ever been disappointed with the charging decision taken by the CPS in a case of serious violence involving young people? In what circumstances and why? | * reduction from murder to manslaughter? * no charge against individuals? |
|  | In your experience, how often do cases of serious violence involving multiple defendants result in: a) acquittal, b) pleas and c) conviction? | * In what circumstances? * Linked to: Ethnicity, Gender etc. * Jury composition * Changed over time? |

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|  | Have you attended court, to give evidence/statement, in cases involving serious violence with multiple young people? | | * Thoughts about it? * Issues with disclosure. |
|  | During these types of cases, how often is gang or gang terminology raised in court? | | * E.g. street names, gang names? * Who tends to use them? * Is it ever challenged and by whom? * Is it used in relation to particular groups of people? |
|  | When you are investigating cases of serious violence involving multiple young people, who do you feel most accountable to and why? | | * e.g. victims, suspects, community, boss, CPS? |
|  | How do you define an investigation of serious violence involving multiple young people as successful? (i.e. what does a ‘successful investigation’ look like to you?) | | * e.g. procedure/ outcome/deterrence /community reassurance/ prevention * Same as other investigations? |
|  | 1. **Perceptions of law** | | |
|  | To what extent do you think the sentences for manslaughter and murder are fair? | * Life sentence for murder? * Understanding of difference between determinant and indeterminate sentence | |
|  | During an incident of group violence, what do you think a secondary party should need to do to be convicted of the principal offence e.g. murder? | * Assisting/encouraging? * Foresee crime? * Be present? * If not the principal offence, any offence? | |
|  | What punishment do you believe a secondary party to murder, for example, should receive? | * i.e. the same as the principal party? | |
|  | What do you understand by the term ‘joint enterprise’? |  | |
|  | How have you come to understand joint enterprise in this way? | * e.g. formal/informal education; direct/ indirect experience | |
|  | To what extent are you familiar with the recent changes in the law related to secondary liability (joint enterprise [in Jogee]? How do you feel about the changes them? | * Foresight as evidence of intention? * For appeals – substantial injustice * Impact? | |
|  | What impact do you think the changes in the law [to secondary liability] will have? | * Prospective defendants * Existing prisoners (appeals) | |
|  | What do you see as the aim or purpose of ‘joint enterprise’(or secondary liability)? | * Change over time e.g. with change in law * E.g. deterrent/ retribution/ incapacitation /rehabilitation | |
|  | How effective do you think ‘joint enterprise’ is in achieving its aim? |  | |
|  | To what extent do you perceive joint enterprise to be fair? |  | |
|  | Are there any aspects of joint enterprise that you disagree with or have difficulties with? | * Examples in cases? * e.g. use of ‘bad character’, ‘spurious associations’, stigmatisation, sentencing? * What changes would you make? | |
|  | **Young people, social relations and violence** |  | |
|  | Who are the young people involved in this violence and can you describe them? | * Age, ethnicity (probe – more BAME suspect/victims than ‘white’?) background. | |
|  | What do you think about young people involved in serious violence? | * Their morality? | |
|  | Compared to when you were young, how would you describe young people’s social relationships today? | * With family and friends/associates * Influence of social media * Drawing on experience of own children/family? | |

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|  | Thinking about the young people involved in the cases of serious violence that you have investigated, how would you describe the kinds of relationships that these young people have with one another? | * ‘friends’, ‘associates’ * comparison to other young people’s social relationships |
|  | Have you noticed any positive aspects of these relationships? | * Care, trust, camaraderie, identity, love, belonging? |
|  | What are the negative aspects of these relationships? | * Fear, violence, arrest? |
|  | Have you noticed any differences in the social relationships of young people? | * From different backgrounds & cultures? * Living in different areas? * Among young men and young women? |
|  | What is the link between Drill music and multi-handed youth violence? | * Music videos |
|  | To what extent do young people’s social relationships influence their involvement in serious group violence? In what way? | * offending when alone versus offending in groups |
|  | During an incident of group violence, to what extent do you think young people assess the benefits and risks of being involved? | * What are those benefits and risks? E.g. *benefits:* respect/kudos, loyalty, financial gain, belonging; *risks:* Violence, loss of kudos, loss of friends? |
|  | When people engage in multi-handed violence do you think they know what is happening and acting with intention to commit or to assist and encourage? | * Why do you think this? |
|  | How easy do you think it is for YP involved in multi-handed violence to withdraw form the situation? (probe for). | Why?  What if situation gets out of hand? |
|  | **Young people’s legal consciousness** |  |
|  | To what extent do you think young people understand the law and legal implications of being involved in serious group violence? | * Understand process/legal rights? * Know actions illegal? * Possible sanctions? * Difference when multi-suspect offence? |

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|  | To what extent do you believe that young people’s knowledge of the law influences how they respond to the police? | * In what way? E.g. ‘play the system’ re legal rights, law? |
|  | Does this effect how you and your colleagues interact with young people? | * On the street? * In the police station? |
|  | How likely is it for suspects to engage in interviews? | * No comment? |
|  | Do you trust the young people who come in as suspects to tell the truth? |  |
|  | What about witnesses and victims? |  |
|  | What are the barriers to them talking to the police? |  |
|  | **Closing questions** |  |
|  | If you were the Met Commissioner, how would you try to reduce serious violence involving groups of young people? |  |
|  | That is the end of the questions I have, is there anything you would like to add anything I haven’t asked you that you think would be of benefit for me to know? |  |

**Thank you for taking part in the interview**