

Bulletin No.80a 1/06/05

# The REALITY of antisocial behaviour AND violent crime in the UK.

When researching the causes of such behaviour we came upon a book entitled **'Without Conscience' by Professor Robert D. Hare.** This work describes the disturbing world of Psychopaths. Dr Hare catalogues the lifestyles and behaviour arising from the secondary symptoms of the disorder for numerous cases/individuals. He does not really adequately précis the information for the use of those involved in dealing with the consequences of the machinations of psychopaths which is occasionally for all of us and very often for those in the law enforcement/legal professions. The other major issue, as with all behavioural debates, is what is the balance between genetic and environmental factors determining the complete individual. We have attempted that précis here as a starting point and alarm call.

What biologically is special about the psychopathic brain? The Areas of the Brain that generate what we describe as empathy, sympathy, conscience and those 'good' feelings that cement family and community relations and in so doing limit/confine our behaviour **are defective or inactive**. These defects are clearly seen on the EEGs of psychopaths when given suitably specific verbal stimuli .... equivalent to the polygraph lie detector. Dr Hare briefly mentions this potentially precise & quantitative technique BUT does not develop the principle. Instead he concentrates on his '**Psychopathic Checklist**' which is highly subjective and open to distortion by the 'subject' see below.....

### Key Symptoms of Psychopathy

#### Emotional/Interpersonal

#### Social Deviance

- glib and superficial
- egocentric and grandiose
- lack of remorse or guilt
- lack of empathy
- deceitful and manipulative
- shallow emotions

- impulsive
- · poor behavior controls
- need for excitement
- lack of responsibility
- · early behavior problems
- adult antisocial behavior

Recently, an ex-con offered me his opinion of the *Psychop-athy Checklist:* he wasn't too impressed! Now middle-aged, he had spent much of his early adult life in prison, where he was once diagnosed as a psychopath. Here are his responses:

- Glib and superficial—"What is negative about articulation skills?"
- Egocentric and grandiose—"How can I attain something if I don't reach high?"
- Lack of empathy—"Empathy toward an enemy is a sign of weakness."
- Deceitful and manipulative—"Why be truthful to the enemy? All of us are manipulative to some degree. Isn't positive manipulation common?"
- Shallow emotions—"Anger can lead to being labeled a psychopath."
- Impulsive—"Can be associated with creativity, living in the now, being spontaneous and free."
- Poor behavioral controls—"Violent and aggressive outbursts may be a defensive mechanism, a false front, a tool for survival in a jungle."
- Need for excitement—"Courage to reject the routine, monotonous, or uninteresting. Living on the edge, doing things that are risky, exciting, challenging, living life to its fullest, being alive rather than dull, boring, and almost dead."
- Lack of responsibility—"Shouldn't focus on human weaknesses that are common."

### How often does this mental deficiency occur in the population?

Conservative estimates are 1 in 125 (in the USA), which is similar to that of schizophrenia, a much less dangerous but very debilitating mental disorder. This would equate to over **5000 individuals in North Wales' population of 660,000**. The distribution within age ranges will be as for the whole population, i.e. **20% or 1000 will be children under 16!**.



Source: 2001 Census Area Statistics © Crown Copyright 2001 All rights reserved InSite © CACI Limited, 2008 All rights reserved 08 Jan 2008

## How does the condition and it's sufferers manifest itself in the community?

There appears to be a continuous and ever rising number of criminal acts and incidents, which epitomise the attitudes described as psychopathic tendencies listed above. These acts range from violent homicide and rape to property crimes, vandalism and a wide range of aggressive and anti social behaviour. **Pointless and mindless** are often used to describe these acts by the communities exposed to them.

The development of the Psychopath ... We understand that the condition is congenital and permanent and currently untreatable. (but eminently worthy of a massive investment in Research into it's detailed causation and treatment by genetic engineering!). The PPP believe that the developing psychopath's final condition will be significantly affected by their environmental influences. The more opportunities for their tendencies to be expressed the more extreme will be their end point. A child in a school where bullying is endemic in the culture will revel in that culture and likewise for a child brought up in a criminally and/or sexually dysfunctional 'family'.(another ramification of the Jesuit Philosophy!). Thus the continuous erosion of all forms of discipline in the home, school, work place, armed forces and society in general has exacerbated the severity of the psychopath's impact. Conversely positive environmental influences limit their activity and they may become more subtle con men, cold, clinical & often corrupt ladder climbers in politics or Industry but still a malign and destructive influence. Robert Maxwell comes to mind as do many others!

If we look at the numerous oppressive regimes past and present from the Mafia to Hitler, Stalin and Mau .. they have all been dependent on psychopaths to do their dirty work even if the figure heads were not Psychopaths themselves......given the opportunity they always rise to the occasion. We appear to be lucky in one respect in that they are equally destructive of each other as was apparent in the above regimes!

We must stop giving them the opportunity to fulfil their destiny and corrupt the rest of our young people in the process. Do we really think the developing psychopaths in our towns and villages are going to cringe and wilt under a barrage of yellow cards and ASBOs!?