

Crime and Disorder Partnerships Beacon Case Study

Authority Name: Middlesbrough Council

Overview of Authority

Middlesbrough is a relatively small and compact unitary authority, facing the problems of most inner city areas. Elected on a mandate of 'safer, cleaner streets', the mayor set a clear political direction and focus on community safety. Realising this vision has meant developing a sustainable approach at the strategic (CDRP), tactical and operational levels. An intelligence-led and performance managed system of accountability has driven Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act requirements through the Authority and enabled real 'here and now' partnership working.

Given that resources will remain scarce, tangible results have been achieved by working SMARTER NOT HARDER.

This involves daily collaboration between council/police/fire

The 'Active Intelligence Mapping' tool aligns council operations to the National Intelligence Model and facilitates joint tasking and deployment.

What has been achieved?

14% reduction in all crime

20% reduction in house burglary

31% reduction in theft of motor vehicles

40% reduction in theft from motor vehicles

2 hour target for removal of abandoned, untaxed cars

1,000 untaxed cars removed in one year

The initiative has been developed on 3 levels –

- *Our strategic partnership*
- *Our tactical partnership*
- *Our operational deployment*

Stage One

This was building a truly robust strategic partnership, with its own brand and dedicated staff. Reliance on partners who have other commitments within their own organisations requires a supporting infrastructure. This provides analysis, research, financial support and marketing and media skills. It is far more than a virtual partnership, and with links direct to the community and to the local strategic partnership, is firmly connected to reality. The crime and disorder reduction partnership not only supports participants but also directs them to evidence led action and then wraps around this a framework of performance management.

Stage Two

Recognising that the three year cycle of audit, strategy and action plan was simply not dynamic enough to drive down crime as quickly as was needed, to react adequately to emerging trends, or to enable preventative measures to be planned on a 'here and now' basis. A tactical partnership was therefore needed which brought to gether council, police and fire services under the Active Intelligence Mapping system.

Stage Three

A service was created which brought together traditional public protection functions (environmental health & trading standards) with CCTV, anti-social behaviour enforcement, action on litter, graffiti, fly posting, abandoned cars, complemented by a 70 strong team of street wardens. The enforcement foundation for the department has been crucial to its success.

Service Delivery Tips

Vision & Strategy: An intimate knowledge of the problems faced and true partnership is required to tackle them.

Consultation: In order to tackle the community's priorities effectively, it is vital to address the underlying causes of crime and disorder. Therefore action plans should be designed to target victims, offenders and locations.

Partnerships: Partners must assume 'ownership' of problems, then gain mutual benefit from joint problem solving.

Actions: These should be in accordance with an intelligence led control strategy with clear accountability

- At CDRP level the partnership should have a support infrastructure
- At tactical level modern technology should be used to integrate data from police, council and fire
- At operational level, joint working should become standard practice

Outcomes: Significant reduction in crime and fear of crime can be achieved with existing resources by 'working smarter'.

User/customer satisfaction: It is important to engage with residents in a number of ways to test out the level of satisfaction around the delivery of key services. Some examples that Middlesbrough has undertaken include:

Community consultation

Themed surveys: Residential street prostitution survey

Voiceover Citizens Panel.

Police authorities' established hard to reach focus groups have been accessed, in order that the views of gays, lesbians, minority ethnic representatives, disabled, prostitutes, young people, travellers and older persons may be heard and considered.

A community engagement framework and toolkit has been developed to provide partners with comprehensive guidance on consultation

Learning Activities

Joint open day with Stockton and Darlington planned for 6th October 2004

Authority Contact details

Sian Bunn, Beacon Co-ordinator

Phone: 01642 727 132

Email: Sian_Bunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk