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**Valley Park Prime**

Test Valley Borough Council's Community Safety Team supports and endorses the application of this project for nomination to the Tilley Award. The Council's Community Safety Team includes the Neighbourhood Wardens and the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and the Community Safety Manager. The team worked closely with Hampshire Police and other partners to help create, carry out, and evaluate this project.

Melvin Hartley  
Community Safety Manager

**Project MOONSHINE**

Hampshire Constabulary and Test Valley Borough CDPR

Endorsing senior representatives

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## **SUMMARY- Project MOONSHINE**

### **Scanning**

Complaints and crime data from the local community, parish council and young people themselves identified a reduction in the quality of life and an increase in the fear of crime caused by anti-social behaviour and crime committed against commercial and public premises located around Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, England. The project was effectively monitored and quality assured by a multi-disciplined steering group utilising the S.A.R.A processes.

### **Analysis**

The root causes of the problem were;

#### **Victim**

- Young people with no legitimate area to socialise in a safe environment
- Lack of a cohesive community

#### **Offender**

- Alcohol related offending
- Partners had no funds/resources
- Young people between 12 and 18 years
- Local retailers condoning anti social behaviour

#### **Location**

- Poor environment design of location
- No infrastructure to deter young people from crime
- A magnet for non local young people to commit crime and disorder

## **Response**

The objectives of the project were to reduce in year 1,

- Complaints of anti social behaviour by 25%
- Crime by 25%
- Provide alternative youth provision
- Reduce fear of crime and restore quality of life.

Funding streams/resources were identified from Local Government, Parish Council, Police and the local community. A total of 13 interventions aimed at the underlying causes including;

- The provision of marked carrier bags to identify origin of alcohol
- Enforcement
- Environmental design changes
- Structured youth diversionary activity,
- Youth shelter and mobile youth unit.

## **Assessment**

By achieving these objectives the outcomes Impacted on 6 of the 7 Strategic areas of the Test Valley Community Safety Strategy.

In first year:

- A reduction in offending of 30%
- Reduced incidents by 70%
- Restored policing activity to normal levels
- Improved quality of life
- Improved wider community cohesion
- Managing the expectations and negativity

There was no evidence of displacement associated with these offenders. Wider consequences were identified as transferable good practice for other PRIME projects. Partner's awareness rose regarding the benefits of a problem solving approach.

#### Strengths

- Strong Chairmanship
- Improved partnership working

#### Weaknesses

- Wider use of data for analysis
- Wider use of data for evaluation
- Missed opportunities for community contact through the Schools

This project was identified as 'good practice' by the Home Office Crime and Policing group and saved £76,500 in year 1.

## **PROJECT MOONSHINE**

### **SCANNING**

The nature of the problem was commercial burglary, criminal damage, drugs offences and antisocial behaviour (ASB) being committed by young people. The young people involved were of either sex aged between 12 and 18 congregating in groups upwards of 50 between 3pm and 12mn. They were often intoxicated induced by the consumption of alcohol which made them progressively noisy and disorderly. A particular shop was targeted by youths, as its crime prevention measures were poor allowing the youths to steal alcohol and food. Their presence was disrupting the local communities' quality of life and raising their fear of crime, research suggested there was a distinct need for the provision of services for young people. (appendix 3)

The main areas were in and around the local parade of shops and the Knightwood Leisure centre. The offending and anti-social behaviour resulted in a substantial proportion of police time attending to disperse some youths and deal with calls to apprehend others. There was also a considerable increase in complaints from the local communities to both the police and the local authorities.

A wide ranging scanning process took place from the community, police and partner data and young people themselves.

Time spent patrolling the area was around 30 hours a month, with police overtime running into 25 hours a month. On average costs for policing this location rose from approximately £120 per month to a staggering £5,500. Damage to the Knightwood leisure centre also incurred costs of approximately £11,500.

Once the problem was raised as an escalating problem location by the community beat officer (CBO) the issue was identified as a priority area through the management structure and a problem solving approach was implemented led by the Crime Reduction Officer (CRO) and CBO to deal with it. They had limited problem solving skills at this time but subsequently have received training in this discipline. The CRO was embarking on a MA in community safety

and crime prevention and had just completed a unit on partnership working therefore she was able to apply this knowledge and this was the bases of all the future work. Certainly this was reflected in the lack of knowledge in the importance of ecliptic baseline data gathering of which lessons have since been learnt. The incentive for success was for job satisfaction, to provide a satisfactory service to the public in order to store quality of life.

## **ANALYSIS**

The project initially examined crime data for the Pilgrims Close and Knightwood Community Centre areas recorded between March and August 2002. There was a reluctance to report ASB related crime, due to apathy that the police were doing little to tackle the issues; hence the crimes recorded only represented a small percentage of actual ASB incidents occurring. This was further evidenced through verbal contact with the community when officers undertook targeted patrols and a public meeting attended by over 120 local community members. It became apparent there was a far bigger problem than was being reported. This was further supported by the daily incident logs created by the Community wardens who recorded complaints and incidents on average of 18 per month between August 2002 and March 2003. Acts of drunken behaviour (not necessarily drunk and disorderly; involving loudness and substantial congregation of youths)<sup>1</sup> were reported. A parish counsellor had been contacted with demands to take action. The drop in centre for youths was used as a location to hold a focus group to identify the needs of youths in the community.

At the time the baseline data was collected (March to August 2002), there were on average 30 ASB complaints per month, 6 recorded (ASB related) crimes per month and 36 other crime and disorder act incidents per month. This was creating a negative impact on the community's quality of life. The only response prior to the project was to increase police patrols to improve public confidence however; this only provided short term respite.

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<sup>1</sup> The team defined acts of disorder as "anything that you can think of that would impact on your quality of life without being a criminal offence".

### **Offenders**

This was an affluent area of the South of England, therefore the local ASB offenders had on average a disposable income of £10 at least a night.

### **Readiness to offend**

- Alcohol acted as a disinhibitor to increase the readiness to commit offences. Alcohol was available to youths some of them stealing from a 'soft target' shop, and through supply of alcohol from parents and legitimate purchasers supplying to underage.
- Boredom through inadequacy of local leisure facilities was cited as a common problem. There were play areas for younger children, but no recreational facilities for older youths. The absence of legitimate entertainment encouraged them to spend their sizeable disposable incomes on alternative entertainment, mostly alcohol.
- Some of the migrant used golf clubs and wrenches to cause disruption and damage, and to use in conflicts.
- Mobile phones were sometimes used to draw gang members together.
- Peer pressure also served to initiate those who would not normally engage in ASB related activities.
- Harassment the general public to act as 'forced promoters' to purchase alcohol on their behalf.
- Low staffing levels, poor shop layout and poor quality CCTV in a particular store in effect promoted the theft of alcohol from this particular store.
- Migrant male youths conflicted over the females in the area, fuelling ASB activity.

### **Crime Promoters**

- Local retailers sold alcohol to the youths contrary to the licensing rules. A possible contributory cause was younger, lower-wage workers being poorly supervised and supported, and not receiving the appropriate training.

### **Wider crime problems**

- There was evidence (based on stop and search of youths) of significant use of recreational drugs by youths in the Valley Park area.
- Groups aged 12 and above had been found to be persistent abusers of cannabis and alcohol; although this only affected a minority of this age group in Valley Park. When offenders were found in possession of recreational drugs such as cannabis, the most commonly used excuse for possession was that they thought it had been legalised.

### **Victim**

#### **Significant consequences of the crime problem**

- Young people with no legitimate area to socialise in a safe environment lacked stimulating activities which encouraged them to gather under the shelter of the shops and engage in antisocial behaviour.
- Lack of a cohesive community produced a lack of tolerance towards young people
- The general public's perception of safety had been severely diminished, members of the public felt intimidated by this group.
- Customers were deflected from the row of shops in Valley Park at certain times of the day.

### **Location**

#### **Immediate causes<sup>2</sup> of the crime problem**

#### **Wider Environment**

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<sup>2</sup> Causes are described using the Conjunction of Criminal Opportunity (CCO)– [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/learningzone/cco.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/learningzone/cco.htm). Those judged particularly relevant to this crime problem and its prevention have been emphasised. Where possible these relevant causes are supported by evidence; where such evidence is missing, and the causes are relevant to the interventions, conjectures are identified.

- A raised flowerbed was identified as a problem. The disused flowerbed encouraged littering compounding the problem.
- A specific store adjoining the flowerbed was identified as a focal point for youths gathering and subsequent ASB as it provided light and shelter (the shop had a canopy). The youths assembled here to consume alcohol, often bringing blankets with them.

#### **Resources for committing crime**

- Loose bricks within the flowerbed presented as a tool for use in vandalism.

#### **Crime Preventers**

- It was noted that the level of staffing in some of the local shops was not sufficient to monitor shop theft efficiently when combined with the lack of shop surveillance capacities.

### **RESPONSE**

#### **Initiative**

The overall objective was to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime by a combined 50% thereby reducing the fear of crime, restoring the quality of life and returning long- term sustainability to the area.

#### **Monitoring of performance**

The steering group chaired by the Crime Reduction Officer was supported by key stakeholders. An initial meeting was held to identify what, who, why, where, when and how i.e. a problem profile in order to set up the scanning process of S.A.R.A. Subsequently a series of regular meetings took place to review the S.A.R.A. process. Two public meetings, a focus group with young people and a presentation to the parish council were held which resulted in series of actions.

#### **The main organisations involved in this project were:**

Hampshire Police Force

Test Valley Borough Council / Eastleigh Borough Council

Neighbourhood Wardens

Retailers

Residents Association

Youth Service

Land agents for the shops

Parish Council

Young people

Media

### **Inputs into the project**

There were no stipulated running costs, these were mostly absorbed in routine costs and human resources, the community wardens and volunteers from the community cleaning up the environment. High visibility police officers shifted additional time on their daily duty. The crime reduction officer's time was absorbed into the normal workload. The capital costs of the project mainly concerned the funding of a youth shelter and mobile youth van – this came from a budget of £48,000 which was awarded to the project by the Government Office for the South-East.

### **Interventions**

Underlying the main interventions was the importance of identifying the key ASB offenders and disrupting them through removing the opportunities for offending, the time to cause nuisance and the alcohol generating the nuisance activity.

#### **Intervention 1: Modification of carrier bags**

*Method: Modification of plain carrier bags to branded bags*

*Principles: Reducing readiness to offend (removing supply of alcohol); Deterring and incapacitating crime promoters (shopkeepers) and converting them to preventers; Mobilising preventers (parents); Empowering preventers (police).*

Retailers selling alcohol to youths underage were identified through the seizure of alcohol from youths, supported by CCTV footage from the stores to identify purchaser. CCTV footage was also used to inform the parents of the offending child about the crime problem. The risks were that alcohol was transferred into other branded bags.

### **Intervention 5: Removing a flowerbed from the front of shops**

*Method: Removing the flowerbed from the row of shops and improving the environmental design*

*Principles: Environmental design; Restricting resources for crime; Deflecting offenders from a crime situation; Reassurance*

A flowerbed outside a row of shops was removed. It was reducing the image of the area, not enhancing it. Removing the flowerbed prevented the loose bricks being used as missiles, no longer anywhere where for youths to sit or drop litter.

Bollards at frequent intervals were placed outside the shops both to prevent ram-raiders targeting the shops, enhanced the environment but also prevented the youths from sitting down.

### **Intervention 6: Community clean up**

*Method: Community clean up of Valley Park*

*Principles: Reassurance; Deterrence; Motivating preventers*

The community wardens in collaboration with members of the public and young people cleared up the litter in Pilgrims Close. This boosted reassurance although it is difficult to measure the direct impact, the visible presence of the community wardens the improvement of the environment signified a cleaner and safer place. It also engendered feelings of ownership and augmented collective efficacy/social capital. This action also served the Involvement function of mobilising/ engaging residents.

### **Intervention 7: Youth shelter**

*Method: Youth shelter for local juveniles*

*Principles: Removing offenders from crime situation and from alcohol; Reducing readiness to offend by meeting needs legitimately*

Government Office for the South East funding enabled the project team to install a youth shelter following consultation with youths via the youth service. This provided a personal

space for youths to gather and socialise. This also served to divert youths from hanging around the shops.

From the onset it was emphasised by the police that the shelter was ultimately the property of the youths, and they had to take responsibility for it. If the shelter was destroyed, it would be removed. The shelter did receive graffiti from the youths and this was seen as an acceptable in marked ownership. However where unacceptable language was used this was erased by the police.

#### **Intervention 8: Mobile recreation unit**

*Method: Mobile recreational unit moved to non-hotspot areas to engage youth in diversionary activities*

*Principles: Removing offender from the crime situation*

This was to involve sporting equipment initially but the mobile recreation unit had not been fully equipped at the time of this study, however alternative recreations such as surfing the internet was being considered.

#### **Intervention 9: Arresting/Cautioning of ASB offenders**

*Method: Arresting/cautioning of ASB offenders*

*Principles: Removing offenders from the crime situation; Giving offenders resources to avoid offending (education); Deterrence and discouragement; Mobilising preventers (parents); gateway to the criminal justice system (CJS); gateway to range of youth services*

The police used cautions for the <sup>1st</sup> and <sup>2nd</sup> time ASB offenders, with the threat of arrest if they continued to commit ASB offences. For more persistent ASB offenders the police arrested them and sent them to the youth courts. In either case the police would recommend the youth seek youth service advice. The police showing the offenders' parent's video footage to confirm their child's involvement in ASB boosted this process. This also helped engage this group to tackle their children's offending. Physical conflicts between local and migrant ASB offenders were also dealt with primarily through the arrest of main participants.

Youths often resisted arrest/police contact attempts – using mobile phones to warn of impending approach, and ‘starbursting’, using a local primary school field as an escape route. The youths used bushes in the field to hide behind/in. The hedges in the school field were used to conceal alcohol, so that if the youths were caught they were no longer in possession of it. By the council lowering the height of hedges and bushes and cleaning out rubbish beneath them this made this location less attractive as an escape route.

#### **Intervention 10: Drop in centre for youths**

*Method: Drop in centre for youths*

*Principles: Removing offender from the crime situation*

One night a week, a drop in centre was made available to the local youths as a place to socialise and provided the opportunity for detached youth work and the focus group for youth consultation.

#### **Intervention 11: A healthy living centre for youths**

*Method: A healthy living centre was planned at the leisure centre*

*Principles: Removing offender from the crime situation; Reducing readiness to offend by meeting offenders’ needs*

The leisure centre are planning a healthy living service to youths to offer advice on diet, sexual health and community issues, input from the youth service, connexions and various agencies are anticipated. This intervention remains at the planning stage.

#### **Intervention 12: A forest location as an alternative place for youths to gather**

*Method: A part of the local woods was given over for use by the local youths*

*Principles: Removing offender from the crime situation; Rule setting; Reducing readiness to offend by meeting offenders’ needs*

The Tree Conservation Volunteers Group (affiliated with Test Valley Borough Council) made available to the local youths a portion of a local wood to use as a gathering spot. This intervention was an attempt to forestall the increasing ASB associated with the summer holidays. Ground rules about acceptable were established before the youths were allowed in the designated area. Where these regulations were not adhered to (for example,

unacceptable levels of littering), then encampments that had been built were taken down and the area left as it was originally. After this had been carried out several times, the youths understood they needed to comply with the regulations to retain the encampments.

### **Intervention 13: Disrupting a possible drugs market targeting youths**

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **Outcomes**

The following outputs were achieved:

- Modification of the environment (removal of a flower bed and insertion of bollards)
- • Augmentation and installation of facilities for youths at the leisure centre facilitated by the youth service.
- • Installation of a youth shelter.
- • Designated area of a wood for use as a gathering spot for youths.
- • A mobile recreational unit for supplying diversionary activities for youths.
- Reinforced security measures in a local shop.

### **Risks / Blockages to implementation**

Confusion over borough council boundary lines added confusion in identifying responsibility compounded the existing lack of public confidence and poor vehicle access to problem areas. This was addressed by police officers using bikes, allowing greater mobility allowing them to be more approachable by the public offering greater reassurance.

## Lessons learnt

- Adaptability – coping with limited sustainability of impact. It was estimated the interventions would only be effective for 3-5 years, therefore contained within the exit strategy is a continually monitoring and reassessment process to sustain the project. This may be due to the cyclic nature of fashionable activities for youths i.e. Skate boarding.
- A degree of learning came from what didn't work in the project. This was partially due to the crime prevention through problem oriented approach to crime and disorder reduction partnership methodology.
- Support from the Basic Command Unit Commander was seen as paramount, as it reinforced messages of empathy, caring and commitment, as public confidence was at it lowest.
- Reformed police powers were cited as boosting the project, in particular, Section 59 of the Police Reform Act<sup>3</sup> (granting police powers to retain vehicles) and changes in the supply of alcohol to under 18's in public. (section 1(5) Conviction of alcohol (young persons) act 1997.
- Liaison with local retailers, the licensing officer and trading standards led to the adoption of an over 21s sale policy on the sale of alcohol of the local retailers. This impacted on the possibility of older peer/sibling supply of alcohol to youths.
- Committees involving the general public helped to quell the fear of crime perceived by the local community. Through involving the general public, this enabled the steering group to identify some community champions. Also it proved an opportunity to highlight that the police were part of the wider community and to confirm that tackling the issue wasn't just the police's responsibility – it was the whole community's responsibility.

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/20020030.htm> for the Police Reform Act document – which gives further information on section 59 of the act.

- Information about the project and its progress was fed back to the local multi media, including the resident's newsletter, distribution of 3,500 – this helped to reassure and inform the public. Specific information that was provided which included: good practice, progress and future plans. (see appendix 2).
- Community wardens engaged with the public directly by way of knocking on people's doors and talking about their role and the current projects being run by the police and local council.

#### **Risks/blockages of Involvement in the project:**

The community involvement in the project was managing the conflict between the older and younger members of the community, this centred on the differing needs and lifestyles of these two groups. The project team provided a mediating role to build consensus through highlighting the importance of each group. Hence, mediating between these two groups led to a greater understanding of the differing needs of the two age groups, leading to respect between these two groups. This understanding was further boosted by the older community group attending the opening of the youth shelter, which symbolically functioned as an acceptance and acknowledgement of the youth in the community by this group.

#### **Impact evaluation design**

The Home Office conducted a simple retrospective evaluation to gauge the impact of the battery of interventions brought to bear on youth ASB activity in Valley Park.

The outcome measures were twofold:

- Recorded crime ASB figures and CADA (Crime and Disorder Act) incidents, Several factors constrained the reliability of the evaluation:
- The recorded crime ASB figures included both adult and youth ASB crimes – but it was estimated that youth ASB crime accounted for approximately 80%.
- A longer before-period would have thrown more light on the history of ASB in the immediate area but unfortunately, there was no data available there prior to 2002.
- It was not possible to adjust the analysis of impact for background changes in crime in Test Valley/Eastleigh areas or Hampshire as a whole, as there were differences in data

aggregated at force and district level compared with measurements taken on the local level.

### **Impact evaluation results**

- Recorded crime and CADA incidents in the Pilgrims Close and Knightwood centre both indicate a drop in ASB. Recorded crime fell by 30%, from 74 offences in January-December 2002 to 53 offences in the same period in 2003. CADA incidents experienced a substantial reduction of around 70%, falling from 120 in Jan-December 2002 to 34 in the same period for 2003. (see appendix 1). The graph indicates that ASB recorded crime in Hampshire as whole showed a gentle increase since September 2002. The Valley Park area, in contrast, experienced a sizeable wave of ASB offences and CADA incidents between June to November in 2002. The subsequent falls from November 2002 to February 2003 were equally steep, taking both types of event to below their pre-wave baseline. After February 2003 the CADA incidents remained level until tailing off even further from August to November 2003. The ASB recorded crimes in this area started to rise again moderately in April 2003 and began to fall again slowly in November 2003. The project team felt that increased reporting of the crimes could have come about in 2003 due to improved community reassurance.
- Policing levels have returned to normal levels CBO patrol time less than 3hrs per month.
- Anecdotal evidence from the CBO via the community suggests that the community do not want to move from the area.
- Wardens complaints reduced by 75%
- A shoplifter was detained by two members of the local community suggesting greater community cohesion.
- Regular residents newsletter articles to manage expectations and inform of developments.

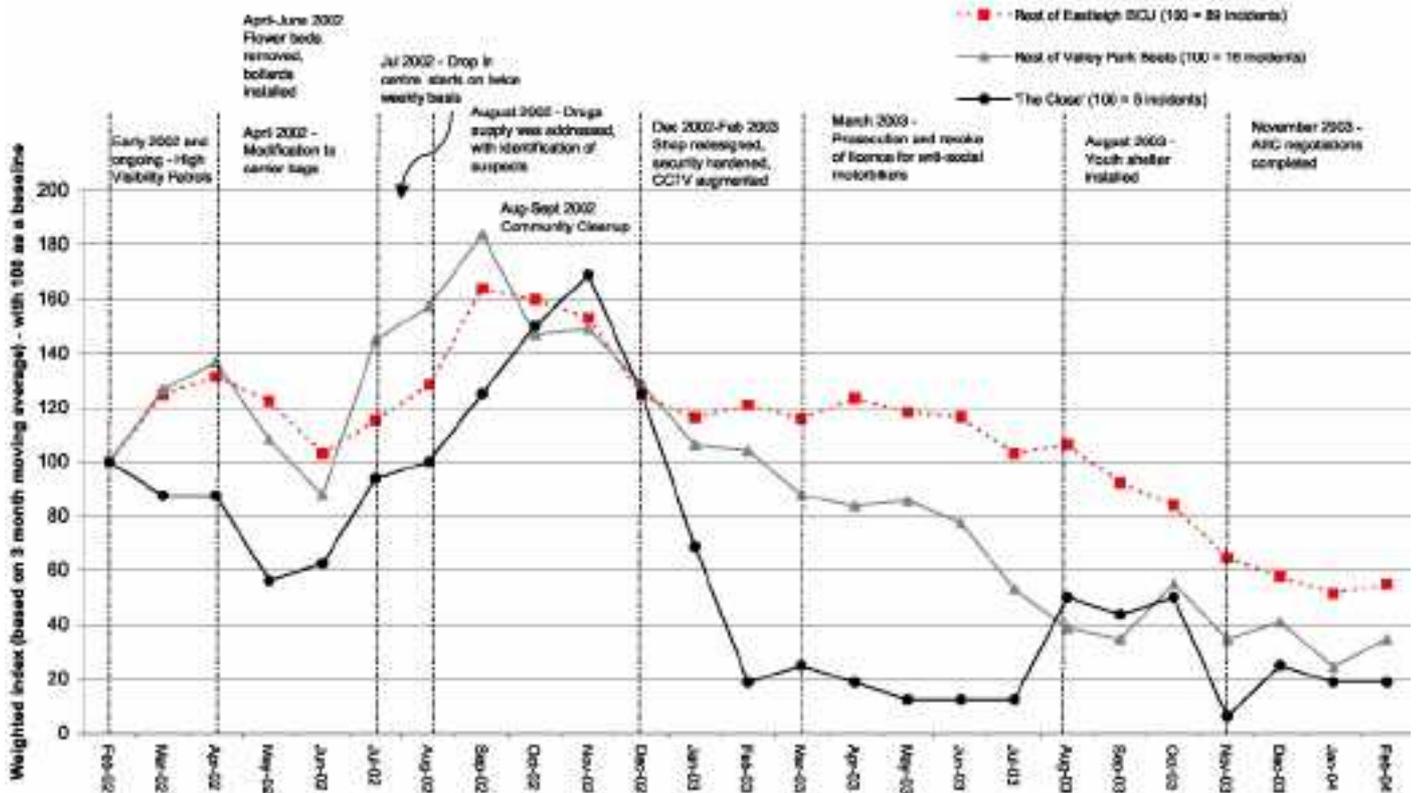
## **Sustainability**

Many shops in the Valley Park were undergoing change in management, so it was essential that new retailers were advised on the previous work of the project. A degree of monitoring would be carried out on new retailers to see if they were complying with the legislation. An exit strategy at the time of this study is being developed.

**Authorship:** This report was prepared by Barbara White, Andrew Kent and Paul Ekblom of UK Home office where referenced

**APPENDIX 1**

**Index of three month moving averages for recorded ASB “CADA” incidents in The Close compared with rest of Valley park beats and Eastleigh**



## APPENDIX 2

### Valley Park Residents Association Newsletter Article

My name is Barbara White and I am your local Crime Reduction Officer employed by Hampshire Constabulary.

As a resident in Valley Park you will almost certainly be aware of the problems involving the young people gathering in and around the ONESTOP shop, Pilgrims Close. Over a period of time there have also been a number of incidents involving criminal damage and burglary, and staff and customer intimidation. That said it is now deemed as a police 'hotspot'. Valley Park is a very pleasant place to live, work and visit, as being a member of the neighbouring local community I am fully qualified to say so. Indeed the Boroughs of both Test Valley and Eastleigh have some of the lowest crime areas in Hampshire and indeed the Country. Nevertheless as your local Crime Reduction Officer it is my intention to maintain community safety, reduce crime further and improve your quality of life.

Therefore I wish to inform you of what action has been started and how we can take things forward with your help.

The basis of all crime reduction and community safety work is a partnership approach with a number of agencies engaged in joint actions, this includes involving the local community and most importantly does include the youths themselves.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April this year the Police, your Community Beat Officer, PC Iain Wilson and myself met initially with a number of key people, i.e. the One Stop management, TVBC Youth Service and Cranbury Estates, the agents for the land around the shops in order to discuss the issues and possible solutions.

So far, we between us have been successful in initiating removal of the flower bed outside the shops to prevent the youths from sitting and dumping rubbish.

The Youth Service have been engaging with the young people via a detached youth worker and she has been successful in identifying some key issues for the young people, in fact they are now using the leisure centre on set occasions to meet and 'chill out' under the guidance of the detached youth workers.

The Police and One Stop Head Office have been successful in dealing with a member of staff selling alcohol to underage young people, improvements in crime prevention measures to the store and a change of management.

The Police have had a succession of enforcement operations over the spring which has resulted in the dismissal of a member of staff from One Stop Valley Park for selling alcohol to an underage person, and a number of young people having alcohol confiscated and their parents informed.

That is just the start! For any long term sustainable changes to occur, medium and long term strategies have to be worked at and put in place, these unfortunately do not happen instantly. In order to build on the foundation of good work that has taken place so far we are now in a position to ask for your assistance, you the local community.

Our aim for the summer is to engage the youth with the assistance of the TVBC detached youth teams in order to divert them away from crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. Encouraging them to access youth social provision such as youth clubs, drop in facilities using a youth shelter, to open up the opportunity for social interactive and learning opportunities, this is seen fundamentally as the key solution in this equation. However to do this important work funding detached youth is always an issue. Funding applications are now in place and being sought with various different sources, however resources come in many forms. If you know of any resources that can contribute to this particular action, if you or your employer feel they can sponsor this initiative or indeed you want to contribute to the wider strategy you are invited to attend the next meeting to be held at ..... or should you wish to discuss the matter with myself or PC Iain Wilson CBO please feel free to contact us at Eastleigh Police Station on 023 8074 5344.

Finally it is important that we keep ourselves informed of the problems so please do keep reporting any incidents and dare I say some of you are the mums and dads of these young people, do you know where your children are and what they are doing?

The summer is fast approaching and we are making a concerted effort on your behalf to address the concerns of you all. I do look forward to either hearing from you, in person or via your Residents' Association, remember it is not just one persons problem.



**CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING**

**FOR**

**DETACHED YOUTH WORKERS &  
THEIR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES**

**TEST VALLEY SOUTH**

**BY**

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**April 2002**

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## **Background**

This is a bid for **£ 87,234.85** from the Community Against Drugs Fund 2002 –2003 in order to facilitate additional detached youth team workers and associated activities including the provision of a suitable vehicle adapted to provide internet access, carry sports equipment and similar, as well as a means to travel the area to meet and engage with local young people. In addition, the bid also covers a request to purchase 2 youth shelters that will be located in two suitable locations.

The provision of youth services for Test Valley is facilitated by the Test Valley District of Hampshire County Youth Service.

The geographical area covers the largest population of young people up to the age of 21 years for the whole of the Borough of Test Valley. TVBC (2002) Romsey Police continue to work tirelessly to address antisocial behaviour and petty crime issues in the rural areas by identifying the root causes and facilitating appropriate short term strategies to deal with them. This has taken the form of community development work to engage the wider community, Police enforcement operations and the appointment of one detached youth worker to work one night a week in several different locations.

This has had a marginal effect, but unfortunately far from eliminating the problem has displaced it. For sustainable effects to take place there has to be medium and long effort within this strategy to have any benefit for all members of the community, essentially young people, if we are to truly see a reduction in crime and disorder.

Identifying the needs of young people, developing relationships with various organisation and agencies in order to address crime and disorder was successfully completed. As from June 2000, the recruitment and introduction of a part time youth work time was implemented. Since the inception of a permanent youth work presence the provision for youth facilities and resources has been growing steadily, and these have established themselves as constant, qualitative and diverse.

That said, one clear area of youth provision which has been identified has been the formation and development of detached and outreach youth work. Since December 2001 two youth workers have been gathering research on rural and isolated locations where it is known young people meet. This research has now helped to identify young people's needs and youth facilities/provisions.

The areas of research took place in North Baddesley, Woodley, Michelmersh, Awbridge, Lockerley and Wellow. Overwhelmingly the assessment of the research analysis is that both young people and communities require and need the support of both detached youth workers and detached youth work projects. In deed the key theme that came out most strongly from young people consulted in Hampshire early last year does indeed support this: -

“Those who were 12 – 14 clearly valued youth provision highly and wanted more of it, through the Youth Service”

Rathbone 2002

The needs of young people in rural locations are no different from areas such as Romsey town or Andover, yet they have to cope with inferior or non-existent resources i.e. transport, youth services and social meeting places.

Issues such as anti-social behaviour by young people have been considered to be the reason for a high proportion of crime, minor theft, vandalism, nuisance and the fear of crime. Reasons given for this are boredom, disaffection and peer pressure. Research has also highlighted that young people who are socially isolated had very little to do and would value some opportunities to access youth social provisions such as youth clubs or some organised activities.

Approaches, which have worked and seen to reduce crime, particularly, in rural areas has been the prominence of detached work teams, offering social, interactive and learning opportunities for young people. Detached teams have also been key players in implementing informal education around issue-based work such as alcohol, smoking and drugs prevention, which can often be seen to lead to crime. In addition, the links they provide between the Police, Parish Councils and community leaders are invaluable.

The urgent need for substantial and effective detached team presence working in the Romsey Police Area has now been identified and this has also been confirmed in the Test Valley Community Services Report, "Rural Social Isolation in Test Valley" (1999)

The lack of substantial detached youth work has clearly had an impact on the Romsey Police Area during the last two years. This can be evidenced with the levels of increased actual crime and crime and disorder reporting up to 50% increase year on year across the rural beats. In fact there was a mean of 50 per month on Eastleigh and Romsey Police Division for 2001 identified in this category, compared to that of 35 per month in 2000, thus a mean increase of approximately 42% over one year. Hampshire police crime data (2001).

The costs to both the Police, the wider community and of course the young people themselves in terms of finance, social integration and cross generation understanding has been high. This will continue to be so unless strategies and interventions are sought to encourage and nurture positive and valued contributions into the communities by young people. The following outputs and outcomes cross cut across all seven actions of the 'Test Valley Community Safety Strategy 2002- 2005'.

### *Outputs*

- To divert young people away from crime
- To reduce petty crime and Juvenile related matters in the rural crime hotspots
- To improve community safety
- To reduce the fear of crime
- To improve quality of life.

### ***Outcomes***

- To continue to identify the needs of young people in rural /isolated areas
- Develop links with young people in areas of limited/nonexistent youth provision
- Encourage and promote opportunities for young people to become fully involved in the development of detached projects.
- Initiate and develop interaction and dialogue between young people and the wider community.
- Confirm that young people are a valued and prominent part of the communities in which they reside.
- Identify long term funding for the provision of detached youth work in The Southern Test Valley.
- Promote the formations of youth forums in areas of isolation
- Reduce the displacement of crime
- Reduce the amount of hotspots.

### ***Deliverability***

The team will be based at “The Youth in Romsey Project” 23, Bell Street, Romsey and will be managed by Hampshire County Youth Service, Test Valley District.

### ***Partnership***

Identified partners for this project will be determined through consultation, but are likely to be from the following organisations:-

- Hampshire County Youth Service
- Test Valley Community Safety Partnership
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Romsey Town Council
- Parish Councils within South Test Valley area
- Community Action Group
- Local businesses sponsorship

## Funding

This is based upon the initial costs of employing a detached team; the following funding is required:

	Capital	Revenue
Youth Shelter x 2	£ 14,028.30 *	
* [Inclusive of VAT and fitting [based on the Viking 18 seats by Base Leisure]		
Workers salaries Full time worker *		£18,708.00
Part time worker x 2 *		£22,950.72

\*[Training, administration and management costs will be met by Hampshire County Youth Service (Test Valley District)]

Mini bus/vehicle and fitted plus equipment £29,548.55\*

\* [The Youth Service will cover ongoing vehicle operating costs]

Setting up costs- training, resources etc £2,000.00

Sub - Total	CaPital	Revenue
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<b>Total</b>	<b>£87,234.85</b>
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Additional funding should be identified for specific projects i.e. sport events, youth exchange visits (including international events), outdoor pursuits, residential experiences and developing local youth councils. Possible two sources of funding could be obtained from Divisional Police Community Safety budget or from The Police Authority.

Resources for a sited project could include funding for appropriate items (music games, arts material, sports equipment).

## Matched funding

Efforts will be made to obtain similar bids from: -

- a South Test Valley Parish Councils
- a Romsey Town Council
- a Local commercial sponsorship
- a GOSE

## Monitoring and evaluation

It is anticipated that this will be undertaken with the following methodology.

- Quarterly returns of police crime and incidents statistics
- ~ Annual Focus groups with the youths and the community

- a Annual Surveys with the youths and the community
- a Regular meetings with relevant partners

## Conclusion

This proposal has identified some areas for discussion in an attempt to provide a platform for developing a substantial, consistent and effective detached youth work team for the Romsey Police Area. Included with the report for consideration is a copy of the guide to Youth Shelters, which gives useful supporting information that strongly advocates their use in appropriate locations. We are currently working with the Community Beat Officers and local representatives to identify suitable locations.

Submitted for your consideration.

Barbara White AsyI

### ***Officer Reduction Officer / Architectural Liaison***

Eastleigh and Romsey Police Division.

Ref: Rathbone A. (2000) Consultation -with young people on drugs and drug use in Hampshire -  
Hampshire Drug Action Team

### Appendix A

### **[Funding bid by Hampshire Constabulary for youth provisions from the Community Against Drugs Fund 2002-2003]**

Further to the original document the following additional comments are made: -

Police records show there has been an increase in number of arrests due to stop checks made by police in response to local issues over the last year; those local issues being an increase in the use of alcohol, drugs, and violence by young people. The current hotspots for reported drug related offences in Romsey Police division are:

- a The Bus Station, Broadwater Rd, Romsey
- a The Romsey Rapids, Romsey
- a North Baddesley
- a Woodley Green
- a Various locations across Valley park

In fact the reported drugs incidents in these locations from 1/6/02 until 30/6/02 showed a 22% increase in the same period for 2001. Crime and Disorder incidents increased by 100%

Evidence to support there is increased drug use in rural areas can be supported with the findings from a survey undertaken by the New forest Community Safety Partnership [2001]. It reported that,

“49% of young people said they had tried illegal drugs or solvents compared to 1998 when 27% said they had”

Asked why do you do drugs?

55% stated boredom

36% excitement or buzz

34% because other friends did it

Furthermore there is suggestion through police intelligence that there is widespread drugs misuse in the Romsey Section area, predominantly, the use of cannabis and ecstasy with increasing experimentation with heroin and cocaine. There is anecdotal evidence that parents are noticing behaviour changes in their young people and there are suggestions by those parents that as a result their adolescents are committing theft to fund an illegal drug habit.

Much of the evidence to support the need for youth provision to prevent them becoming involved in drugs can be found in the recent consultation report conducted with young people in Hampshire; **“Consultation with young people on drugs and drug use in Hampshire”** commissioned by The Hampshire Drug Action Team. Rathbone A. [2002]

However the provision of youth shelters provides a solution that is acceptable to young people, police and local residents, to prevent disaffection. If young people continue to have no place of their own to go to it may increase further the risk of damage that takes place in unsuitable places. This can lead to a climate of antisocial behaviour potentially leading to the start of a criminal record. Youth Shelters allow legitimate access by the Youth Service to young people in order to engage them in other activities and offer help, support and education on drug and alcohol related matters.

In summary, the benefits of youth shelters, in preventing young people from becoming involved in drugs are: -

- It provides a place to go and meet that is non-confrontational
- Allows legitimate access for youth provision by the Youth Service and other agencies.
- Removes a possible first steps to crime and this includes the likelihood of becoming involved in the abuse of alcohol and drugs

Youth shelters will not solve many of the broader issues but is part of the overall package in working to impact on the abuse of drugs and alcohol by young people. They are, however, a very good start.

Barbara White, AsyI. Crime Reduction Officer, Romsey and Eastleigh Police Division.