

TILLEY AWARD 2002

Title	The Knowsley Burglary Initiative
Category	Crime Reduction
Priority	Domestic Burglary
Force	Merseyside Police Force
Endorsing Officer	Assistant Chief Constable McPherson
Contact Person	Detective Inspector Nikki HOLLAND & Superintendent Dave SMITH Kirkby Police Station St. Chads Drive Kirkby L32 8RF Tel: 0151 777 6562 Fax: 0151 777 6569 Pager 0800 67 20 67 Gen 163

A Message from your Local Police

We are sorry you have been the victim of a burglary

The contents of this booklet provide practical suggestions for improving the **security of your home and property**

Please take time to read the information contained in this report and act quickly to make your home secure.

Your neighbours have been advised that burglary has occurred in the area. They have been asked to review the security of their homes and to contact the police if they notice anything suspicious;

Think Security

Think Of the Neighbours

This security assessment will give suggestions on how to protect your home and property.

However, you can improve more than just your own home security. You and a few neighbours can have a significant impact upon improving the security of your immediate neighbourhood.

- Meet your neighbours and get to know them.
- Agree amongst yourselves to 'keep an eye out' for each other's homes and property.
- Trust your instincts. If you see something suspicious take a note of it and report it to your local Police (contact number on the back of this booklet).
- Join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, if one doesn't exist start one. Your Crime Reduction Officer will provide you with this information.

strategies for making your home

Contrary to popular belief, most domestic burglaries are committed by 'opportunists'. The criminal picks a house that looks unoccupied, has little or no obvious security and where they think they won't be seen.

Often these are spur-of-the-moment decisions, made when an easy target presents itself, an open door, valuables left on view or other lapses in security.

By taking some time to assess the security of your home and taking positive action to upgrade it and build it into your daily routine, you will greatly reduce the risk of a repeat burglary,

Please consider the following:

1. Landscaping

Don't let your garden provide cover for burglars. Make your home more visible to neighbours, prune back large shrubs, hedges and trees. Place trellis along the top of your fence to make it difficult to climb, Hostile plants such as the berberis variety can be grown alongside the fence for added protection. Chain all expensive ornaments to a strong anchorage point and consider photographing and property marking them,

Garden Sheds and Garages

Your garden shed and garage can be vulnerable, consider connecting both to your house alarm. Chain tools to a strong anchorage point, and mark expensive items with your postcode. This can be done with a UV pen, engraver or house paint. Fit good quality locks to your doors, always keep them locked, and consider grilles on the windows.

3. Lighting

There are several types of external lighting systems:-

Low wattage lights

Some people prefer external lighting that comes on automatically at dusk and stays on all night until dawn.

If low wattage economy bulbs are used these can cost less than 1p per night in electricity.

Floodlights

This type of system uses a sensor which, when it has detected a person in its range, automatically switches on a light. The light is usually a high powered floodlight, but may be any type of lighting unit. The better systems have the sensor in a separate unit from the light. This enables you to have more than one Passive Infra Red sensor or light, linked together in one system.

4. Burglar Alarm

An intruder alarm installed and used properly can deter the burglar. The sight of an alarm box outside a home may discourage thieves. The law now requires that an alarm bell or siren cuts out after 20 minutes. There are two types of alarm (a) monitored, (b) audible. If alarm (a) is activated it will alert a monitoring station who will then either contact the police or a key holder. Alarm (b) just activates the alarm to alert the neighbours. You should pick the alarm which suits your circumstances, Remember an alarm is not a substitute for installing good locks and physical security, but is an additional measure to help reduce the opportunity for crime.

5. Main Doors

All exterior doors should be fitted with at least a five level mortice lock conforming to BS3621. Locks are only as good as the door and frame, make sure they are in good condition. Patio doors and French windows should have relevant additional locks fitted if necessary.

6. Be Keysafe

Keep your keys in a safe place, well away from doors and windows. When you go to bed, set your alarm and take your keys and other valuables upstairs with you. Some burglaries are committed by keys being hooked through windows or letterboxes.

7. Windows

Window locks can be fitted by locksmith, but most types can be fine by anybody who can use a screwdriver

8. Make your property unique

Mark your property with your postcode followed by your house number this devalues your property for the burglar. Use the rear of this booklet to record the items marked. Valuable items should also be photographed. Always record serial numbers of items along with the make, model and colour.

9. Are you in?

Try to make your home look occupied while you're out. Invest in plug in timer for lamps and radios. Tune your radio to a station which has mostly talking.

10. Think Security

A little thought about the security of your home can greatly reduce the risk of you becoming a repeat victim of crime, please consider the advice contained in this booklet and act on it.

**Merseyside
CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 1111
Uniting against crime**

***Thank you for completing this
security assessment***

Forwarding instructions

0 Reporting Officer

Complete assessment and attach centre page to Crime Report

Inputter

*Update the 1CJS that assessment has been carried
out and forward it to Crime Reduction officer*

0 Crime Reduction officer

file report and ensure follow up visit.

BURGLARY DETAILS

Crime Ref. No. (Office use only)

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Time/Date Committed _____

At/From _____

Aggrieved Surname

First Names

Telephone Number

Address

Postcode

1. Has the householder been a victim of crime in the last twelve months?

No Go to No. 2

Yes **Complete details below**

Details of offence

	Offence	Date (or approx.)	Reported to Police? Yes/No
			Yes / No
			Yes/No
4			Yes/No
5			Yes / No
6			Yes / No

2. How many burglary alert cards have been delivered?

3. Has Victim Support been offered and accepted?

No

Yes

4. I understand the Security Assessment and that I will receive a follow up visit in approximately four weeks time. If appropriate, a copy of this assessment will be sent to the relevant Housing Office.

Signature of householder

Comments

FOLLOW UP VISIT

Date of Visit

5. Have any recommendations been carried out?

No

Yes **Complete details below**

6. Was householder happy with Police Service?

No

Yes

Comments

Home Security Assessment

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Officers number

The information and advice given in this booklet is free of charge without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office or the Police take any legal responsibilities for the advice given. This booklet can only give a view on what measures might reduce the risk of crime and there can be no guarantee that the measures will prevent crime.

Present Condition **Consider making changes to items ticked here** **7**

Main Front-/Rear Doors

Comments.....

- Front - solid core? Yes No Solid doors are preferred: the door should be as strong as the lock
- Frame - good condition? Yes No The frame should be as strong as the door
- Front - door viewer? Yes No Door viewers help see who is outside before opening the door
- Back - solid core? Yes No All exterior doors should be solid
- Frame - good condition? Yes No The frame should be as strong as the door
- Front - 5 lever mortice lock? Yes No The lock should be at least a 5 lever mortice BS3621
- Back - 5 lever mortice lock? Yes No The lock should be at least a 5 lever mortice BS3621
- Patio Doors - sliding bolts? Yes No These bolts stop the door being lifted off the rails

Windows

Comments.....

- Window locks on all windows? Yes No The best locks are not connected to window catches
- Louvre windows? Yes No Gluing the slats in place or special locks are recommended
- French windows? Yes No Mortice bolts should be fitted to both doors

Lighting

Comments.....

- Main entry/exit? Yes No The main entry/exit should be well lit
- External lighting? Yes No Good external lighting can deter burglars
- Internal timers? Yes No Are you in?

Alarms

Comments.....

- Burglar alarm? Yes No A DOA burglar alarm is a deterrent
- Activated when going to bed? Yes No Use your alarm when going to bed
- Smoke alarm? Yes No For safety's sake get one and test it regularly
- Garage/Shed alarm? Yes No Give yourself some warning

Property Marking

Comments.....

- Property marked? Yes No Make your property unique
- Inventory list? Yes No This will assist you when reporting to police and insurance

Vehicle Security

Comments.....

- Vehicle fitted with security device? Yes No If you haven't got a security device, get one!
- Device activated at all times? Yes No Even when just paying for petrol

Good Housekeeping

Comments.....

- Keys to house & car away from doors? Yes No Thieves can hook keys through your letterbox
- All valuables taken upstairs? Yes No Don't leave presents for the burglar

***Thank you for completing this
security assessment***

Forwarding instructions

Reporting Officer

Complete assessment and attach centre page to Crime Report

Inputter

*Update the ICJS that assessment has been carried
out and forward it to Crime Reduction officer*

41 *Crime Reduction officer*

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Home Security Assessment

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Present Condition

Consider making changes to items ticked here

Front/Rear Doors

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Front - solid core?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solid doors are preferred; the door should be as strong as the lock
Frame - good condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The frame should be as strong as the door
Front - door viewer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Door viewers help see who is outside before opening the door
Back - solid core?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All exterior doors should be solid
Frame - good condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The frame should be as strong as the door
Front - 5 lever mortice lock?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The lock should be at least a 5 lever mortice BS3621
Back - 5 lever mortice lock?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The lock should be at least a 5 lever mortice BS3621
Patio Doors - sliding bolts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	These bolts stop the door being lifted off the rails

Comments.....

Windows

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Window locks on all windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The best locks are not connected to window catches
Louvre windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gluing the slats in place or special locks are recommended
French windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mortice bolts should be fitted to both doors

Comments.....

Lighting

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Main entry/exit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The main entry/exit should be well lit
External lighting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good external lighting can deter burglars
Internal timers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you in?

Comments.....

Alarms

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Burglar alarm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A burglar alarm is a deterrent
Activated when going to bed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use your alarm when going to bed
Smoke alarm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For safety's sake get one and test it regularly
Garage/Shed alarm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Give yourself some warning

Comments.....

Property Marking

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Property marked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Make your property unique
Inventory list?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will assist you when reporting to police and insurance

Comments.....

Vehicle Security

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Vehicle fitted with security device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you haven't got a security device, get one!
Device activated at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Even when just paying for petrol

Comments.....

Housekeeping

	Yes	No	Comments.....
Keys to house & car away from doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thieves can hook keys through your letterbox
All valuables taken upstairs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't leave presents for the burglar

more advice on **alarms**

Which type of system?

There are two types of alarm systems.

Monitored alarm systems and audible alarms.

Monitored Alarm

A monitored alarm system is similar to a audible system but its monitored 24 hours a day by an approved Security Company.

This type of system is particularly suitable for isolated buildings away from residents, or when you do not wish to rely on the assistance of neighbours.

Audible Alarm

As the title suggests, this alarm when activated will sound an alarm.

This system works well with good neighbours, a policy of looking after each other should be adopted.

Key holders details should be left with the police.

Sit down and think about which system best suits your requirements.

Which alarm company?

If you intend to have a system professionally installed you should:

- Check the address and credentials of the company and see proof of the representative's identity.
- Find out if the company is subject of an independent inspection process and from which organisation?
- Find out if the installation of an alarm is a requirement of your insurance company. If so, is the company acceptable to your insurer?
- See if the company representative can provide a list of police rules for occupiers of premises with alarms and written confirmation that the alarm and company are currently acceptable to the local police for the transmission of alarm messages from new installations.
- Seek written quotations from at least two alarm installers.
- Does the quotation specify that the installation will be to British standard 4737 or BS7042 or if a wire free alarm BS6799?
- Does the company operate a 24-hour callout service and emergency attendance within 4 hours?
- If in any doubt ring your Crime Reduction officer for free impartial advice.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Knowsley

Police 0151 777 6666

Neighbourhood Offices

Kirkby North 0151 777 6552

Kirkby South 0151 777 6553

Prescot/Whiston/Cronton 0151 777 6252

Huyton North 0151 777 6252

Huyton South 0151 777 6253

Halewood 0151 777 6452

Crime Reduction 0151 777 6283

Knowsley Council 0151 489 6000

Victim Support - Knowsley

Kirkby 0151 547 4177

Prescot 0151 493 1557

Huyton 0151 480 8855

Halewood 0151 486 0229

St. Helens

Police 0151 777 6969

Neighbourhood Offices

Rainford, Moss Bank,
Billinge, Senley Green 0151 777 6054/6055

Eccleston, Windle,
Queens Park 0151 777 6052

Blackbrook, Parr &
Hardshaw, Broadoak 0151 777 6152

Haydock, Newton West,
Newton East 0151 777 6154

Grange Park, Thatto
Heath West Sutton 0151 777 6056

Rainhill, Sutton &
Bold, Marshalls Cross 0151 777 6057

Town Centre 0151 777 6046

Crime Reduction 0151 777 6882/6883

St. Helens Council 0151 744 456000

Victim Support - St. Helens

St. Helens West 0151 493 1557

St. Helens East 01925 220 411

St. Helens Central 01744 611166

Knowsley Burglary Initiative

This project was developed in order to reduce crime and disorder across one of Merseysides policing Areas. The idea was to submit a bid to the Home Office for funding to support an initiative that would restructure an Area to support a problem oriented approach to neighbourhood policing, target key crimes and enhance levels of satisfaction and confidence in the service being provided by police officers and support staff in the Area.

After a period of consultation, the Knowsley Area was chosen for the project. As detailed below, Knowsley has many problems in relation to levels of crime and deprivation factors.

The Knowsley Metropolitan Area is one of five of the Merseyside districts and has a population of 154,560 with 60,000 households. The Area covers **33.64** square miles, two thirds of which is green belt and includes the urban areas of Huyton, Kirkby, Stockbridge Village, Prescot, Whiston and Halewood. There are also the villages of Knowsley and Cronton.

Knowsley is a deprived Area being above the national average in several social measures including unemployment, proportion of lone parents, poverty, disability and is well below the national average for educational achievements.

There are a large number of young people in the Knowsley area with over 40,000 residents under the age of 19 years. (29% of the population set against 22.7% nationally)

Crucial to the success of the bid and the project was the fact that it had to have academic rigor in terms of innovation and evaluation. To this end, the Area employed the services of Professor Ken Pease, Dr Michael Townsley and Liverpool University to assist them in the project. Detective Inspector Nikki Holland was appointed the project manager.

The bid secured funding for two years from October 2000 — 2002 at the conclusion of which there would be a full evaluation. The Area Command Team established a steering group, which continues to meet on a monthly basis. The purpose of this group is to review priorities and performance.

The initial strategic assessment completed in the Knowsley Area identified burglary dwelling and auto crime as the key crime priorities. Whilst the project has focused on many aspects of the policing in Knowsley, this submission focuses solely on the reduction of residential burglary.

It is an established fact that once a home has been burgled, the likelihood of a second burglary at the same location increases dramatically (FARRELL & PEASE 2001). Recent research has established that risks also increase in homes on the same street, neighbouring homes and next-door-but-one homes (SHAW 2000; CURTIN et al 2001, JOHNSON and BOWERS in press). Importantly, these incidents share the temporary heightened risk that repeats victims suffer. Thus, they have been dubbed 'near repeats'.

The object of this initiative was to reduce offences of burglary dwelling through reducing repeat victimisation and near repeats. Since repeat victimisation is a feature of high crime areas, preventing further burglary in and around homes already burgled will focus crime reductive resources in areas most suitable for prevention. Despite its position as perhaps the most fully researched risk reduction approach in burglary dwelling many audits and strategies mentioning repeat victimisation, e.g. TIERNEY (2000) found that none of the Crime & Disorder audits in the North East Region mentioned this factor. The approach in Knowsley will be described in terms suggested by the 'Scientific Realism' approach of PAWSON and TILLEY.

CONTEXT

The Knowsley Metropolitan Area is one of five of the Merseyside districts and has a population of 154,560 with 60,000 households. The Area covers 33.64 square miles, two thirds of which is green belt and includes the urban areas of Huyton, Kirkby, Stockbridge Village, Prescot, Whiston and Halewood. There are also the villages of Knowsley and Cronton.

Knowsley is a deprived Area being above the national average in several social measures including unemployment, proportion of lone parents, poverty, disability and is well below the national average for educational achievements. There are a large number of young people in the Knowsley area with over 40,000 residents under the age of 19 years. (29% of the population set against 22.7% nationally)

Our objective for the initiative is to prevent and reduce offences of burglary dwelling and thereby increase levels of public satisfaction and increase levels of public confidence because this is the Force's key objective.

The Knowsley Area experiences 5 or 6 Burglary dwellings per day albeit burglary dwelling offences have fallen over the last three years:

Number Of Burglary Dwellings	Year
2611	1998
2127 (18.5% reduction)	1999
2005 (5.7% reduction)	2000

Our targets:

Target 200112	Force	Knowsley Area
Burglaries per 1000 households	22	16.5
Detection rate (%)	17	14.5

Table 1 below shows the risks of burglary (relative to national rates which equal 1) of households by occupant characteristics. Thus, for example, if anything could be done to reduce the burglaries suffered by young households, it would be productive.

The risk of domestic burglary by household type (calculated from BUDD, 1999):

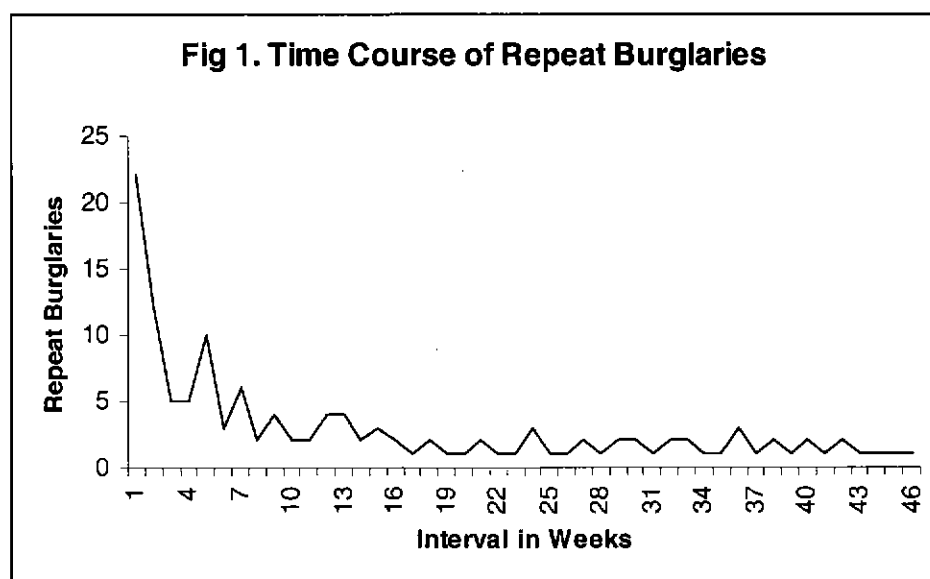
The figures can be multiplied, so that (for example) where head of household is aged 16-24 and is Asian, the burglary risk is $2.71 * 1.77 = 4.79$ the national average. In this way, manageably small high-risk groups can be identified. Many factors relating to susceptibility overlap, for example, low-income households are more likely to be found in poorer urban areas and are likely to have fewer home security measures. When this information is compared to the demographic breakdown of the Knowsley Area it can be seen that many of crime risk factors are present.

Research also examined the 1999 — 2000 data set and calculated the proportion of repeats against the same target (this was done by hand to yield a better estimate of rates of repeats).

Of the 1544 burglaries in the data, 238 involved the same home being burgled more than once (15%) However, far fewer of these are preventable, because this proportion includes the first burglary, which is the trigger for prevention of repeats. Excluding the first burglary in a series leaves 132 (9%) burglaries available for prevention. The most frequently burgled home suffered six burglaries over the period of the data.

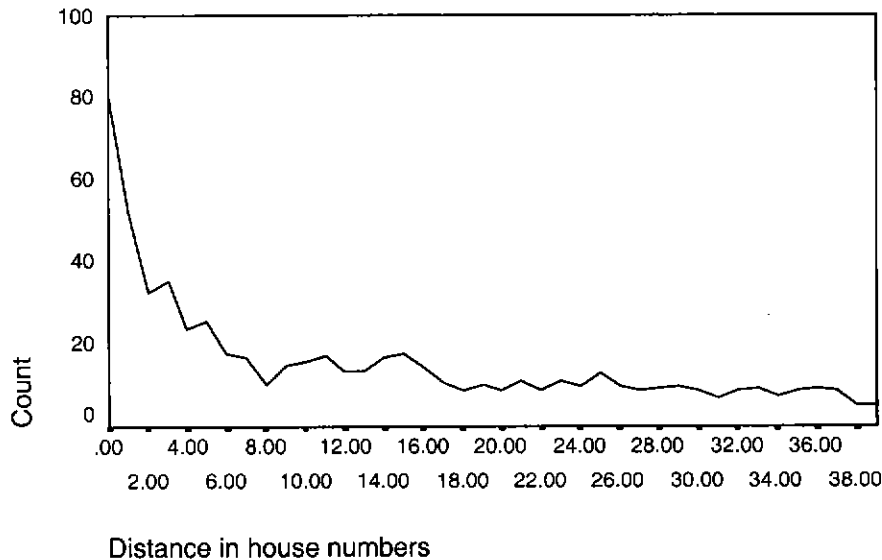
Daily trends in burglary are difficult to isolate and analysis shows that there does not appear to be a favoured time of the week for burglaries. When looking at the type of property stolen, in 50% of cases no bulky items (TVs, stereos, computers, etc) were taken, indicating that those offenders could leave the scene on foot and unencumbered. Whilst it cannot be discounted that there may be multiple offenders for the other types of incidents – where bulky items were taken - it was felt that this is an indication that mobility was not on foot.

Time Course Of Repeat Burglaries



Distance Between Successive Burglaries By House Number

Fig 2. Distance between successive burglaries by house number



This shows the number of burglaries by distance from the previously burgled home. E.g. the first burglary on the street is number 19 and the next is at 17 or 21, the difference score is 2. If it was 21 and then 45, the distance in numbers is 24. All the different scores, thus calculated, are depicted. Analysis shows that 26% of later burglaries on the street occur within a range of plus or minus two of the last burglary on the street. Furthermore, the risk tends to be greater on the same side of the street. Odd to odd and even to even sequences comprise 64% of sequences so that extending protections simply to each home and its neighbour would cover the location of 22% of the burglaries

Looking at the mean and median times between burglaries for repeats at the same address, repeats within four houses and all other repeats shows that repeats to near neighbours happen more quickly than burglaries to other homes in the street

Nature Of Street Repeat	Mean Wks To Next Event	Median Wks to next event
Same number	14	4
Within four	17	9

The above can be distilled into the following: future victimization will be located either at, or close to, locations of previous victimizations. This prediction is most powerful immediately after a burglary and decays with time. The initiative sought to implement a novel way of reducing repeat burglary victimisation and near repeats, i.e. crimes against nearby homes.

in April 2001, Merseyside Police Force was re-organised into a tripartite functional division of Neighbourhood officers, Response officers and Investigators. The greatest danger of this reorganisation is that communication between functions is imperfect. It required a means of addressing the reduction of repeats which also enhanced communication between the people and agencies that are well placed to help remedy the situation. Also, given the importance public reassurance, the initiative looked to convince victims of crime and their near neighbours of police professionalism.

In this context was decided against a graded response according to prior victimisation, preferring to have an approach which appealed to the expertise of response officers on a case-by-case basis.

Knowsley's domestic burglary rate per 1000 households stands nationally 249th out of a possible 376 partnerships, which includes a level of repeats, masked when the data is edited, i.e. ICJS (crime recording system) allows error entries owing to the free text field, which hinders counting. In an exercise using year 2000 data, ICJS underrepresented repeats and the actual rate was three times the number

Merseyside Police had a repeat victimisation policy which incorporated the principles of a bronze / silver / gold three tiered response and Chrysalis Watch (known nationally as 'Cocoon Watch') however, in common with other forces it was honoured in the breach more than the observance. The Crime Reduction Officer (CRO) for the Knowsley Area Constable Simon Thompson developed red coloured 'burglary alert' cards to be distributed as part of 'Chrysalis Watch' to houses three doors either side of a burglary.

In March 2001, sixty burglary victims and their neighbours were re-contacted in order to establish whether the Force Repeat Victimisation Policy was being adhered to. There was only one occasion where police action had been in accordance with the policy in relation to the distribution of the burglary alert cards

The CRO and Detective Inspector Nikki Holland were accountable for repeat victimisation for burglary dwelling in the Knowsley Area. Owing to the deficiencies of internal information systems the CRO had to manually search burglary victims to identify repeats - a process taking three hours each day and six hours on a Monday (following the weekends crimes).

In order to improve this process, a software pack that transported twelve months of data into MS Excel and cleaned the addresses was designed (principally by partitioning the free-ext address field into logical components: street name, street number, etc). The new system was designed so that the previous day's victims were added to the list and automatically checked for appearances in the previous twelve months. If a possible repeat is found an alert is activated. The process now takes the CRO ten minutes each day. This system, a vast improvement compared to the laborious procedure previously used, still contained deficiencies. For example, it did not help with reports where previous crimes had not been reported to or recorded by the police.

During research with Liverpool University, Dr. Shane Johnson and Dr Kate Bowers focused on three issues: same street risk-elevation, same side of the street risk-elevation and next house but one risk-elevation.

The Area Superintendent (Crime Support) Dave Smith suggested that we needed a method to measure the take-up of crime prevention advice by both victims and their neighbours following the issuing of the red cards. He wanted a method that also involved the victim taking ownership of the problem and making the relevant crime prevention type repairs. Dr. Michael Townsley was aware of a scheme that had been attempted in Queensland, Australia, which - in a modified form - could be utilised in Knowsley.

The Queensland Scheme (described in full by National Crime Prevention, 2001) consisted of a brief security survey, to be completed by the response police officer attending the burglary. It consisted of a set of questions about security levels and points of weakness in the burgled home. Alongside each point of weakness the response officer could indicate a recommendation to upgrade. The questionnaire was on pressure sensitive paper enabling the response officer to take a copy leaving the other with the householder as a reminder of

the suggested recommendations, which had been made. The response officer in Knowsley would also distribute a number of 'burglary alert' cards in surrounding homes, alerting householders to the fact of the burglary, suggesting attention to security and providing a contract number from which advice could be sought.

It was anticipated that security updating by neighbourhood officers decreases the number of direct repeats of completed burglaries - possibly offset to some degree by increased attempts.

In Queensland, the initiative was almost immediately of unsuccessful owing to the lack of commitment of response officers. The officers were not supportive of the booklets as they saw it as more work for them with little or no benefit. This was an important issue for the implementation, to win the hearts and minds of the response officers. A great deal of effort was expended after the fact convincing front line officers to complete the booklets. Our approach in implementing the scheme in Knowsley was to communicate the management's desire for the comprehensive completion of the security assessments for all incidents of residential burglary.

When analysing the burglary problem, it was deliberately decided not to look at levels of socio-economic factors as the best indicator of crime (Research Andromachi Tseloni). The best indicator of crime, is the commission of the crime itself. Therefore the location of the last crime to be reported was researched

The social and economic costs per burglary dwelling were also established. The most comprehensive model of costs for crime is Brand and Prices's (2000) "Social and Economic Cost of Crime". They quantified three different types of costs for a range of crime classification:

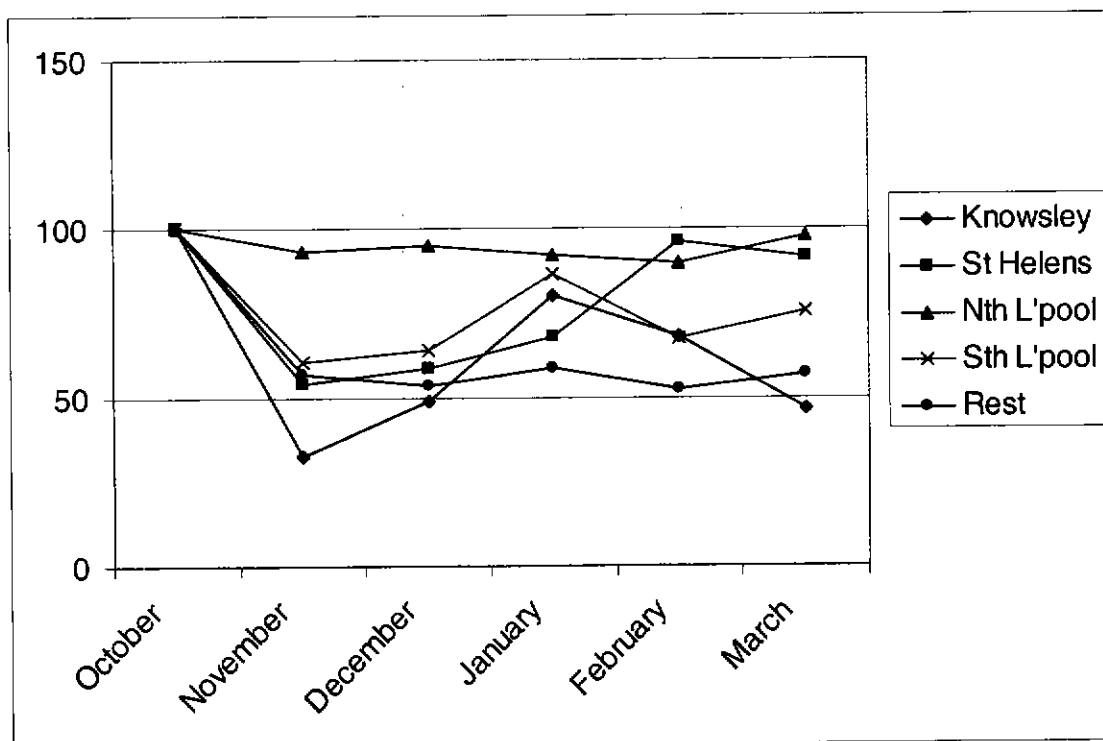
- Anticipation costs i.e. buying alarms, household insurance, etc.
- Consequential costs i.e. loss of income, repairs and replacement of stolen goods.
- Response costs i.e. the Criminal Justice Process.

The total cost for residential burglary using the Brand and Price model is £2300 (comprising £430, £1400 and £490 for each type of cost respectively).

Results

Figure 3 shows the total number of residential burglaries per month for Knowsley, St Helens (the BCU sharing the burglary assessment), Nth and Sth Liverpool areas (the two other BCUs contiguous with Knowsley) and the remainder of the Force. The monthly number of burglaries has been controlled for seasonality by dividing by the monthly frequency twelve months ago. This fraction was then indexed to 100 for the month of October to better gauge the impact of the burglary booklet.

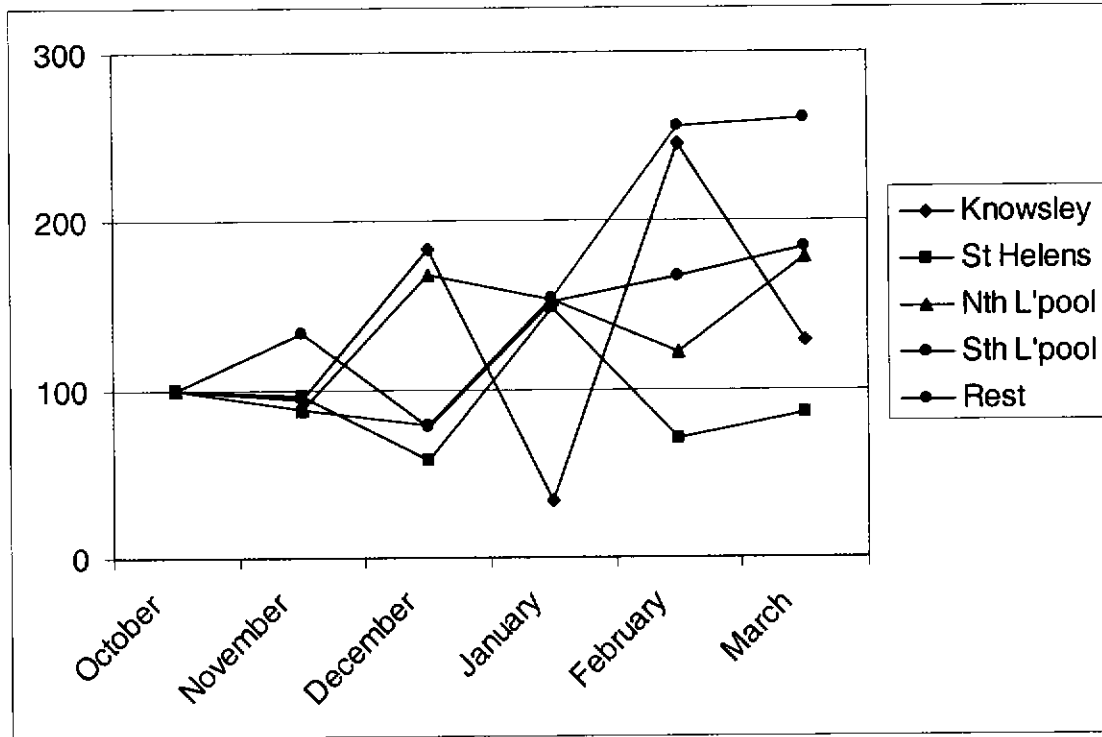
Figure 3 – Total monthly residential burglaries



It is clear that every area except Nth Liverpool experienced a dramatic drop in residential burglary from October to November, once seasonal trends have been taken into account. The area experiencing the largest drop was Knowsley.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of repeat incidents per month for Knowsley, St Helens, Nth and Sth Liverpool and the remainder of the Force. Seasonality was controlled for in a similar way to that of Figure 3 and relative proportions were indexed to 100 in October.

Figure 4 – Proportion of residential burglaries identified as repeats



The rates of repeat burglaries in Knowsley is erratic and shows the largest degree of variation. This runs counter to expected trends given that the mechanism for reduction of all burglaries was the prevention of repeat incidents. Other Areas experienced a dramatic increase in the rate of repeats.

The two results, a large drop in burglaries and a large increase in repeats, is counter intuitive given the proposed mechanism of the burglary assessments as a means of reducing residential burglary.

MECHANISM

The Detective Inspector compiled a comprehensive Burglary strategy that was developed in the SARA format. The strategy developed a comprehensive multi-agency focus on burglary dwelling. Activities in relation to the responses were co-ordinated by the Detective Inspector and they addressed the issue in three stages:

- Establishing links with police departments and other agencies in order to develop a partnership approach and encourage data sharing
- Developing initiatives in order to address burglary from a number of different angles e.g. crime prevention, reduction, detections, etc
- Implementing the activities and communicating successes

Conscious that this scheme primarily affects people who have already been victimized (albeit neighbours are also targeted with burglary alert cards) the CRO sought funding from the Merseyside Chief Constable and High Sheriffs Trust to alert people and prevent them from becoming victims in the first instance. Property Marking Kits were obtained and the CRO and Neighbourhood Officers placed the Area 'Crime Prevention Stand' in high crime areas and marked valuable items and arranged security assessment visits where appropriate. Since June 2001, 400 security marking kits have been issued and 65 premises visited by the CRO

In line with her responsibility for burglary detection rates also, the Detective Inspector divided the Proactive CID Wing, known as the Tasking Team aligning them to each of the six Neighbourhoods. Each pair of officers were then nominated a burglar to target. This entailed becoming familiar with that individual's modus operandi, associates and day-to-day activities. This supported the gathering of evidence of like offences focusing on scene-to-scene matches as well as identifying prolific known offenders – we also recognize the importance of identifying prolific unknown offenders, those individuals who are not known to be operating in the area or not known to the police at all. Two of the most successful offender targeting operations will be highlighted for the purpose of this report:

1. Early in 2001, analysis of burglary dwellings showed a pattern emerging in the Huyton and Page Moss Area. The modus operandi was quite distinct as the burglar excreted in the centre of the living room during the commission of the offence (this act was particularly distressing to the occupier). The Tasking Team tried some foot surveillance (as the property stolen was mostly cash and jewellery, which suggests the burglar, is on foot) but this proved too difficult owing to it being a residential area where the offenders know most people. The team set about disrupting the target by first collating a

thorough profile of the individual in terms of residence, associates and their addresses, locations frequently visited such as pubs and his drug dealer's address and any vehicles used by the target or his associates. This information was used by the Tasking Team to maximise their contact with the individual (for the purpose of stop checks and searches) as well as prioritising investigations into burglaries consistent with the known modus operandi of the individual. After several months, the team got a DNA hit and the target was arrested and charged with burglary dwelling. He refused to discuss other offences and when he appeared at court the following day, he was bailed and continued to burgle houses at a rate of approximately 2 a day. He was rearrested a number of times before he eventually agreed that as the team had charged him with 5 separate burglary offences, he would have other offences taken into consideration. The outcome of the operation was that the individual is now in prison having been charged with six burglary dwellings and twenty-nine other burglary dwelling offences taken into consideration. Although this operation was ultimately very successful, there is information to suggest that the target shared his criminality with other offenders and that now he has gone to prison, his associates continue to burgle in the same Area (albeit not to the same rate).

2. *The other case to be highlighted results from the work of a Scenes of Crime Officer: PC Joe Ward who identified a pattern of crime scenes that related to burglary dwellings during which the burglar prepared and ate a meal at the crime scene. PC Ward gathered footwear impressions, similar striation marks and ultimately obtained a DNA sample. The burglar was a prolific unknown target and the DNA hit showed him to be an illegal immigrant from Chile. As he was of no fixed abode, patrols had to target hotspot areas and he was eventually chased but lost during one of those operations. Again this has not been fully successful, as the individual remains circulated as 'wanted' on the police national computer – albeit the offences of his modus operandi have ceased since he was chased.*

It was decided that the security assessment booklet was the most promising as it had multi beneficial effects:

- Internal integration is enhanced as Response, Neighbourhood and Investigators each have a specific role to play and all of their actions are linked in the process of the burglary booklet.
- External integration is enhanced as the police are working more closely with the local authority to reduce burglary dwellings. A police officer posted within the Local Authority liaises with Housing to ensure rapid repair to high-risk properties.
- In cases where it was judged that the householder could not afford to upgrade their security, assistance would be sought from the CR0 about possible sources of subsidised protection. For example, Help The Aged operate a 'handyvan' scheme for the elderly who will respond quickly to do repairs and fit locks. Also, 'target / hardening schemes' funded by the Safer Merseyside Partnership work in many of the housing estates in Knowsley.

To encourage the response officers to support the initiative, a series of steps were taken. The project manager utilised funding to purchase A3 'leather look' folders to carry the booklets and emphasise their importance. The Local Authority printed the booklets and put 'useful numbers' on the rear. The scheme incorporated the adjacent Local Authority St. Helens as the response officers were a shared resource with the St Helens Area and the project team did not feel that would be appropriate to provide different levels of service to burglary victims.

The Chief Inspector with responsibility for 'Response Policing' John Martin then personally attended all shift briefings to voice his support and commitment to the initiative. The key message was that by giving this advice, Response officers would reduce burglary dwellings and the benefit to them as individuals is attendance at fewer crime scenes

Four weeks later, a neighbourhood officer would attend a burgled home to see which, if any, of the recommended changes had been affected — the spirit of this visit was intended to be constructive.

Finally, compliance with completion of the booklets was measured daily and managers had to present data in relation to its success at monthly Area Performance Meetings (this data was easily retrievable from ICJS by inserting a code to evidence completion of the booklet).

Two hundred folders were purchased at a cost of £6.75 each, total cost £1,360 and printing costs were £5,000 for 10,000 books (5,000 homesafe and 5,000 worksafe booklets).

Further analysis was then undertaken of common features 1 weaknesses that afforded the offender a greater opportunity to burgle for example condition of windows and doors, whether the front door had a view panel, etc. (see frequency table attached). This information was then fed back in two ways:

Firstly response officers were given personal feedback with regards to their personal style. For example, some officers would tick lots of weak points but then vary in which ones they would highlight to be repaired or upgraded. Alternatively, some officers note many security shortcomings but never make a recommendation for improvement — this was fed back to the officers concerned on an individual basis.

Secondly, a 'common weak points' list was prepared for the Local Authority which will be used in relation to Knowsley Housing stock as a whole in order that they can update their security as required by Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. Also, the information will be utilized as a guide in the Planning Office for other forthcoming building developments. And providers of social housing in the hope that they can be remedied in line with Section 17 obligations.

OUTCOME

Response officer visits to burglaries increased in their quality as the series of questions gave them a structured and practical approach to dealing with burglary dwellings. By utilizing the booklet and the red cards, these sensitised response officers to the issues surrounding repeat victimization. The system of Neighbourhood Policing provides ownership at Constable level and the second visit encourages staff to engage with the community. Similarly, the scheme encourages social cohesion in the community as neighbours support each other following a neighbour being victimized.

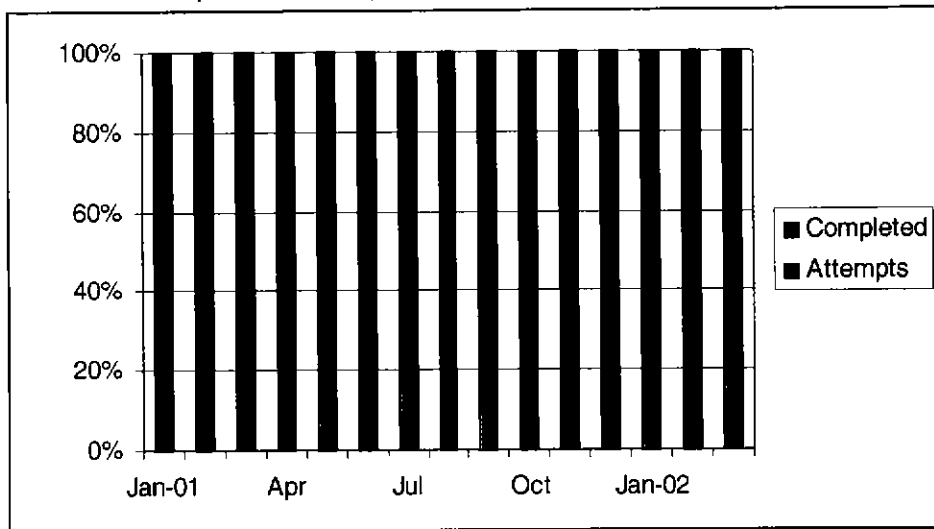
During the six month period since implementation, there have been no repeat burglary against a home where the booklet was issued (compliance with the booklets is 100%) — when comparing this period with last year, some element of repeat victimisation would have been expected. Comparing the six months of the implementation with the same period last year, there has been a decrease of three repeat burglaries (9%) and seventy burglaries overall (14.5%).

In the follow up visits, the reaction of burglary victims was overwhelmingly positive and they stressed their feelings that they had been given a professional service and a reduced fear of revictimisation. Also, 67% of victims have upgraded their security as per the recommendations.

Figure 5 shows the trends in the proportion of attempted residential burglaries in Knowsley over time. It was anticipated that improved security measures should alter the composition of burglaries in favour of attempts.

It is apparent that since October 2001 there has been a slight increase in the proportion of attempts, but this increase is too small to discriminate between random variation and an impact from increased security.

Figure 5 – Mix of attempted and completed burglaries



The Police and Local Authority Crime and Disorder Reduction Group have now made the updates with regards to weak points an agenda item in their decision making meetings. This feedback loop will provide information and focus for the Local Authority, Housing Association and Planning Committee when sanctioning new buildings. They can determine set criteria under Section 17 CDA as previously, the weak points were not known. This continues to be a developmental area.

The National Victim Support Network has recognized the booklets as good practice and Merseyside Police are in the process of adopting the booklet across the entire force and there are planned visits from adjacent forces. (Feedback has been received that the type print is difficult to read for the visually impaired and the booklets are being printed on different paper) The scheme is recognized as being in line with the White Paper on Police Reform, which advocates the reduction of repeat victimization as a way of reducing crime.

There are two main areas that the team wishes to develop in the near future. Firstly to extend the initiative to non-residential burglary – the booklets have been printed for this. Secondly, the Superintendent Crime Support wants the initiative to incorporate vehicle crime so that when an officer completes the burglary assessment, they also give advice with regards to vehicle security.

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Caller Alert!

Please read this card

Be aware that there is a bogus caller operating in your area.

This person is tricking their way into houses and stealing property or money. If you see or hear anything suspicious? This information could be extremely important! If you have any information please contact, The Police on 0151-777-6666

Crimestoppers on 0800-555-111

your call will be dealt with in extreme confidence.

KNOWSLEY POLICE

Don't let them in!!

- Always put the chain on and use the spy hole before you open the door.
- **KEEP THE CHAIN ON**, If you don't know the caller ask to see their identity card and check it carefully, genuine callers won't mind if you close the door while you do this.
- Bogus callers often work in pairs, beware of one person distracting you whilst the other steals your property.
- Beware of bogus workmen who offer to repair your building or tarmac your drive. If you need building work done, get quotes from reputable companies and ask advice from family and friends.
- Some companies operate a password system, i.e., water, gas & electric, contact the local branch for details.

For free confidential advice on any aspect of security, contact your local crime prevention officer on