

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

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Members of the Tilley Award Judging Panel
c/o Tricia Perkins
Crime and Policing Group
Room (246A), Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

Your Ref:

Our Ref: **CM/JC/WAC**

Please Ask For: **Ch Insp Clay**

Direct Dialling: (01452) 33

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Date: **28/05/03**

Dear Members of the Tilley Award Judging Panel

It gives me great pleasure to endorse the enclosed Tilley Award submission from Inspector David Evans, under the Crime and Disorder Reduction Category.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Inspector Evans on the telephone number provided.

Yours sincerely

C Mackey
Assistant Chief Constable

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

THE TILLEY AWARD 2003 (CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION)

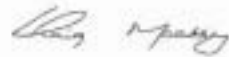
PROJECT TITLE: OPERATION KING

CATEGORY: CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION

ENDORISING CHIEF OFFICER:

**Mr Craig. T. Mackey, Assistant Chief Constable (Support), Gloucestershire
Constabulary**

Signature.....



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TILLEY AWARD 2003 NOMINATION – SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE:- OPERATION KING

During the summer months of 2002, one area of Hucclecote INA experienced a distinct rise in anti-social behaviour. A specific group of youths wreaked havoc on the local community, causing criminal damage to the church, school, shops and gardens and causing general disorder offences in an area that had not witnessed anything like this before.

A process of scanning and analysing reported incidents and comparing them to previous years confirmed the increased levels of disorder. The situation was forcibly emphasised at a public meeting called by local people and addressed by the area inspector.

Initially, high visibility patrols flooded the area, dispersing the youths and enforcing litter, public order and drugs legislation. As it became increasingly obvious that the youths were not going to play ball, the operations became more intense.

Uniformed officers were supported by plain clothes colleagues who collated first-hand evidence against offenders. Covert cameras were installed for a few weeks and files of evidence, submitted to C.P.S., were endorsed with the importance of taking proceedings.

Eighteen arrests were made over the 5-month period for various public order offences with the courts handing out meaningful sentences to those charged. The local community supported police efforts by setting up a new neighbourhood watch scheme. The local council agreed to engage outreach workers to patrol the area and the local community was reassured by a return to more acceptable behaviour on the streets.

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OPERATION KING

OPERATION KING

1. Background

Hucclecote Inspector Neighbourhood Area (INA) is made up of 5 city neighbourhoods, Longlevens being one of the biggest, and is policed by 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants, 18 Police Constables and 7 Special Constables. It lies on the outskirts of the city of Gloucester and like many such regions across the country it has its share of challenging areas and undesirable characters. Young people roam far and wide to have a bit of "fun" at other people's expense.

In the summer of 2002, the residents and local businesses of three streets in Longlevens were subjected to an unacceptable amount of assaults, criminal damage and general disorder from a specific group of nuisance youths. To the people of Longlevens, who had never witnessed anything like this before, it was all new and frightening, and was threatening to get out of control.

May 2002 saw the start of the trouble. The church had windows smashed, as did the school and local businesses; garden fences were being kicked down, there was unacceptable noise in the early hours and bins were emptied in the streets.

2. Objectives

This situation had to be tackled with major impact so that the culprits were aware that this behaviour would not be tolerated and residents and local businesses could be reassured that the Police would tackle the situation effectively. The aim was to prevent crime and disorder and to ensure public safety. It was decided to raise the levels of high visibility foot and mobile patrols. Nuisance behaviour would not be tolerated; offenders would be reported or arrested and the offenders brought to justice.

3. Defining the problem

There was a noticeable rise in complaints from the residents of three main streets, with many letters to the Inspector of the INA and the Chief Constable, together with many incidents reported by telephone. A scan of Command and Control systems highlighted the rapid increase in crimes being logged and, when a comparison was made with the same period in the previous year, the reported incidents in 2001 were found to be negligible. The problem appeared to require high visibility patrols in order to reassure the community and engage with the rowdy element.

4. Planning the response

Initially, officers were responding to incidents as they were being reported to the Control Room, but by July, concerned residents were reporting an intolerable amount of nuisance behaviour. A generic operation was actioned as a result of a S.A.R.A process (see appendix 1). Officers were to pay particular attention to the 'hotspots' at the times when the perpetrators were most active. Each visit would be logged on one incident set up especially for this purpose, meaning that Hucclecote Supervisors had a visual log at the touch of a button, showing the effort being made to combat this growing problem.

When it became obvious that the disruptive element was enjoying the challenge and determined to persist, additional responses were put in place. Uniformed foot patrols were supplemented with plain clothes officers to support them and to gather evidence. To ease the call upon resources, authority was obtained and two covert cameras were installed in business premises.

5. Implementing the response

Operation Interface was run on a weekly basis with the help of Special Constables to provide high visibility police patrols on foot in the problem areas and so concentrating resources to target crime hotspots in line with the National Intelligence Model. Local police officers were back on the beat!

Between May and September, 10 Operations in all were put in place, variously coded as Interface, Laser, Orpin, Myer, Melody and King. In total, they accounted for 144 police hours. (see appendix 2/2a)

A public meeting was called in the early part of July, chaired by the parish priest whose church had been a target for criminal damage. Local councillors were also in the house on the "top table" and a police crime prevention officer had been invited to offer advice but, inevitably, the people attending were more eager to put across their concerns about the growing problem of disorder in the area. The atmosphere was tense, but all were ready to listen to an address made by Inspector Evans, who is responsible for managing policing in the Hucclecote INA. After hearing what the people had to say, the Inspector promised that the problems were not being tolerated and that targeted action would continue until the streets returned to normal. The close of the meeting saw the idea of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme being set up, which was a good indication that the residents were prepared to help themselves. The crime prevention officer agreed to survey commercial and church premises to give advice and support. Nevertheless, a press report which made headline news was less than positive about the outcomes!

Operation **Laser** was one of the most intensive and productive operations covering 22 - 24 July, just as the schools were finishing for the summer. Plain clothed officers were used to gather evidence, linking up with additional uniformed officers performing high profile foot patrols in order to locate and observe the nuisance youths. Officers dispersed large groups of youths and, where they proved indifferent to gentle persuasion, names and addresses were taken and letters sent to parents. Officers strictly enforced litter, public order and drugs legislation and this positive action resulted in three arrests.

A total of 56 police hours were spent on this operation alone. The aim was to target these nuisance youths and reassure the local community by providing a flexible, constant response to anti-social behaviour. Until that point, July had been one of the worst for reports of disorder (see Appendix 3) but there was a significant drop in the number of complaints over that three day period.

Another dedicated operation was code-named **King** and ran from 5 August to 26 September. Uniformed officers were once again assisted by plain clothes officers on mountain bikes in an effort to collate first-hand evidence of offending behaviour.

By this time, local people were convinced of the commitment of the police and displaying their willingness to assist in any way they could. Many offered their homes and businesses for use of surveillance cameras and this resulted in two covert cameras being placed above the greengrocery shop and the Indian takeaway, both prime positions. These were serviced by INA Officers and staff from the Technical Support Unit.

The increase in police activity began to yield results. In one week, officers made four arrests for public order offences such as urinating in the street, using threatening words and behaviour, criminal damage, affray and possession of drugs. These incidents were part of the much larger picture which was of growing concern to both police and local people alike. It was vital that these youths appear before the courts and be strictly dealt with, as some of the offenders had been arrested more than once. Files of evidence were endorsed by Supervisors to ensure that the charges were dealt with swiftly and strictly.

Towards the end of the summer, a second public meeting was called. Tellingly, there was a much lower attendance on this occasion. The Inspector was able to report a vast reduction in complaints received, the results of the court appearances and the crime prevention survey. There was positive feedback from local people who attended the meeting, but limited space in the local newsletter to report that Longlevens had stopped playing host to nuisance youths.

6. Conclusion

This exercise was a success in achieving its goal through the S.A.R.A system and endorsing sections 1 and 2 of Vision 5 – the Constabulary's five-year plan.

Vision 5 – section 1

Building the trust and confidence of all our communities

By September the number of disorder incidents being reported had been significantly reduced and reverted to 'normal' levels, letters were received again from the residents of Longlevens but this time to praise the actions of the police during this period of unrest.

Vision 5 – section 2

Focusing all our operational effort on reducing crime and disorder and promoting reassurance and safety, working in partnership with the community and other organisations.

1. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme was born.
2. The business community were made more aware of crime prevention and had started to make improvements based on the advice they had received.
3. The local authority, after much badgering from Councillors, rebuilt a wall that had been kicked down, removed a seat outside of the local supermarket which had been a magnet to the youths during the summer evenings and generally tidied up the area.
4. Vandal proof shelters were to be erected in the area.
5. Two outreach workers from Gloucester City Council had been assigned to patrol the area on their own and with local officers.
6. There were positive practical signs that other Agencies were now willing to share the responsibility of keeping the problem under control.
7. Eighteen youths arrested for various public order offences were dealt with strictly by the courts.

7. Longlevens today

The problems in Longlevens called for a S.A.R.A plan to be put in place. Lessons learned from its success have been developed into an ongoing generic operation, code-named **Cuckoo**, whereby regular high visibility patrols are performed in all parts of the INA. Officers are set a number of key tasks to achieve during their tour of duty which ensure that they engage with all people in the community, especially the younger element. Such a return to a traditional style of policing, albeit on a small scale will, it is believed, prevent such a sudden escalation of disorder in the future.

The S.A.R.A. Process

Appendix 1

1. SCANNING - Identification of Recurring Problem



Local Supervisor



Plan Manager

Plan Manager



2. ANALYSIS of Problem



3. RESPONSE (Action) Plan

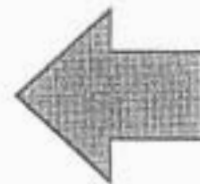


Insp/Sgt Station



Actions

4. ASSESSMENT



Inspector



Solved

Not Solved



2. ANALYSIS of Problem & repeat

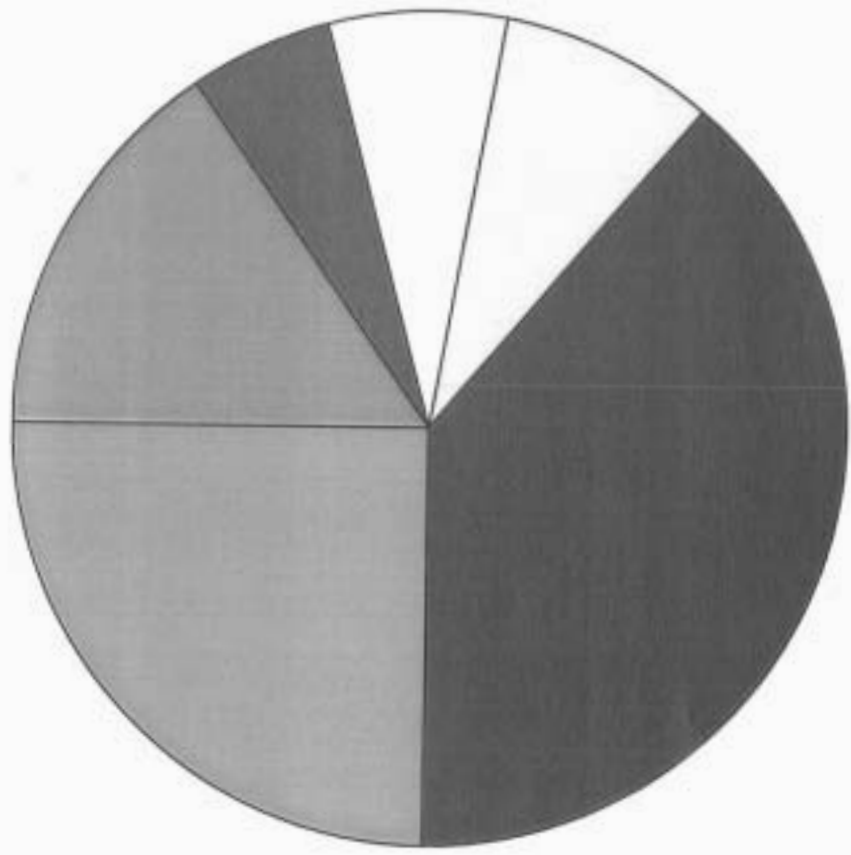


S.A.R.A. LOG SHEET
For amalgamated SARA's - BH/41 07 & 08

Operations from 23rd May 2002 to 30th September 2002

OPERATION	DATE	PREP TIME (hrs)	POLICE HOURS
Interface (Specials)	24 May 02	1	6
Interface (Specials)	7 June 02	1	6
Interface (Specials)	28 June 02	1	6
Laser	22-24 July 02	2	56
Interface (Specials)	9 Aug 02	1	6
Interface (Specials)	23 Aug 02	1	6
Orpin	27 Aug 02	1	12
Myer	28 Aug 02	1	10
Interface (Specials)	20 Sep 02	1	6
Melody	26 Sep 02	1	8
Inspector Evans - Public Meetings, Letters, Supervision			32
Sergeants - Supervision			70
Operation King ran from 5 th August 2002 until 25 th September 2002, there were 2 video cameras that were serviced by TSU and INA officers			
TSU officers			4
INA officers			18
Public Order Patrol – 5 officers on patrol for the duration			120
TOTAL			<u>266</u>

Operations - May to September 2002



- King 22hrs
- Melody 8hrs
- Myer 10hrs
- Orpin 12hrs
- Laser 56hrs
- Interface 36hrs

Number of Incidents Per Month - 2002

