



Tilley Award 2003

Project Title:

'No More Repeats' - Anti Burglary Initiative

Category:

Crime & Disorder Reduction

Police Force

South Wales Police

Endorsing Chief Officer

Superintendent Kinrade

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Police Force: South Wales Police

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Townhill North is a Local Authority Housing Estate built in the 1930's. It has a ward population of 9691. Crime had steadily risen on the estate and Figures from the Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 have revealed 13.8 reported burglaries per 1000 population in the ward, the highest in Swansea.

32% of all Burglary repeat victimisation in the City and County of Swansea between April 01 and April 02 was committed in Townhill North.

R.V. was so common to the extent that some I.P.s were being hit 3 to 4 times in all.

Initial scanning showed that between 01.04.01 – 30.06.01 approximately 84 house burglaries occurred within the Townhill Police Sector.

In terms of Geography, a triangular area where the burglaries were concentrated encompassed approximately 5 streets. A map has been charted to identify operation parameters.

The Divisional Crime Pattern Analysts were tasked with analysing the following areas of information.

- ❖ Crime Analysis - to collate, property, M.O., Time, day, etc.
- ❖ Geographic analysis – Location
- ❖ Victim analysis – identifying repeat victims and vulnerable groups
- ❖ Offender analysis – linkage of persons charged with like offences.
- ❖ CPO to visit I.P.s to obtain positive/negative support with data analysis.

In response to the problem the following interventions took place.

- ❖ Reduction from 12 weeks to 14 days in which to carry out the repairs to damaged door sets and window units. Multi Agency partnership meetings formally agreed this as Best practice.
- ❖ Development of partnership to deliver the targets. The basis of this initiative was to engage a partnership between the Police and Swansea Care & Repair in order to provide practical security measures to identified victims.
- ❖ Crime Reduction Officer to promote 'Secured By Design' to the Housing Dept. in the City & County of Swansea. This would incorporate product research & SBD replacement of damaged door and window units.

Annual reductions in repeat victimisation amounted to 46%.

Reduction in First Time Burglaries also fell by 32%.

The Housing Office has recorded an increase in rental income, whilst seeing a reduction in the amount of void properties.

Partnership participation and accountability has come about as a result of improved communication between multi agency personnel.

Although dramatic reduction has taken place the continual monitoring of performance and an annual review has resulted in fundamental changes to the initiative which will not only serve further improvements in Townhill, but also provide a template for application across the City & County of Swansea.

Townhill North

Introduction

Townhill North is a Local Authority Housing Estate built in the 1930's. It has a ward population of 9691. Renovations to properties have taken place over the past 10 years but the security of dwellings and the environmental design of the estate has not been addressed by Housing Managers.

Unemployment on the estate is currently 12.1% of the population and 18.22 % are claiming income support.

Crime has steadily risen on the estate and Figures from the Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 revealed 13.8 reported burglaries per 1000 per population in the Townhill ward, the highest in Swansea.

32% of all Burglary repeat victimisation in the City and County of Swansea between April 01 and April 02 was committed in Townhill North.

Therefore this project has been initiated to address the following:-

AIM: Crime Reduction Initiative to reduce repeat victims of Burglary in Townhill North.

Targets:

1. In 12 months time the number of repeat burglaries will have been reduced.
2. The reduction will be 25%.

Objectives:

1. Identify and implement a method to replace damaged door sets at the earliest opportunity.
2. Development of a partnership approach to deliver the targets
3. Develop a long-term strategy to design out crime by the use of Secured by Design products within the Local Authority.

1.

Scan & Analyse Data

In August 2001 a Policing Operation was carried out within the Townhill Police Sector to address a significant rise in Burglary Dwellings, which were specific to the triangular area of streets in Townhill North of Geriol Rd, Gomer Rd, Gwent Rd. (Graph 1:1) & (Map 1:1)

At the same time Police crime pattern analysis was tasked to view first time victims of burglaries as well as repeat victims.

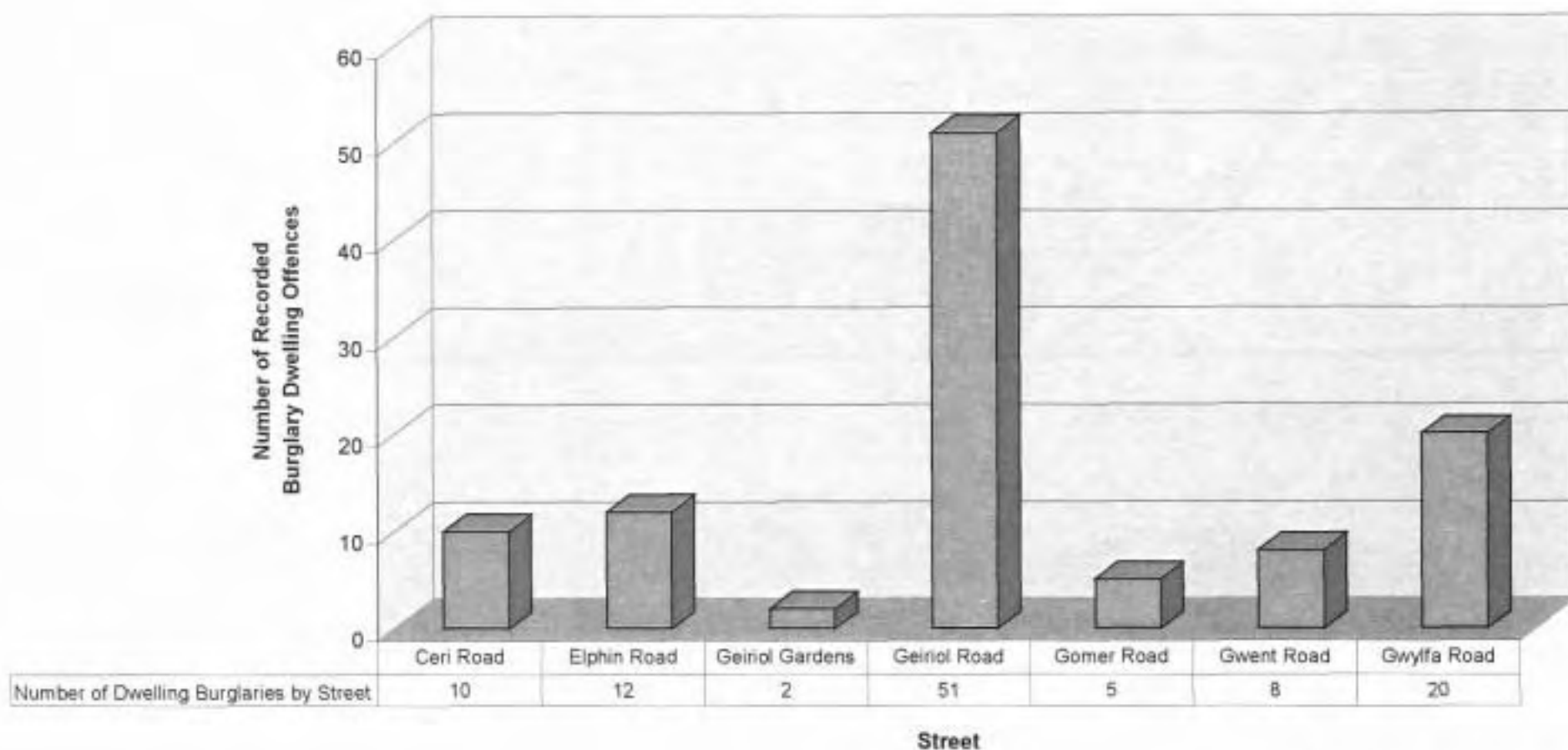
“The requirement is for the police to prevent repeat victimisation, which means that they should be targeting all first time victims to ensure that they are not re-victimised. Defining a repeat victim as having been burgled once is logically incorrect, but operationally spot-on.” (RV Snapshot Home Office Crime Reduction Research Series Paper 5)

At that time a Community Watch Project Cordinator (funded under the Objective One Townhill Urban Initiative) provided tenants with the opportunity to receive a free service of security hardware upgrades i.e. 5-lever mortise locks. (This service concluded at the end of its funding period in December 2001).

SENSITIVE MATERIAL

This document contains "Sensitive Material" as defined in 'The Attorney General's Guidelines for the Disclosure of 'Unused Material' to the Defence' and is therefore subject to the concept of Public Interest Immunity. The attached information is also subject to the Provisions of the Data Protection Act 1994, and must not be used for any purpose other than that for which it was requested. The data must not be disclosed to an unauthorised person and there is an obligation upon you to ensure that appropriate security measures are taken in respect of it and its disposal.

**Burglary Dwelling Figures by Street for Townhill, Swansea,
Between 01/04/01 and 31/10/01.**



Graph 1.1

The project co-ordinator and the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), attended to a number of victims of dwelling burglaries. They saw for themselves at firsthand, the deficiencies in the levels of security of domestic properties in Townhill.

One of the areas of concern related to the existing environmental design of the estate.

Data had showed that due to cover offered by hedges at the rear of these houses, (which are often described as being bushy and composed of thick foliage) offenders were able to target premises in the knowledge that detection was likely to be greatly reduced.

As part of the consultation with the Housing and Community Safety Dept within the Local Authority, recommendations were given to focusing maintenance with regards to the cutting back the high privet hedges that existed on the estate. It was our intention that teams be directed to carry out work on victim's addresses if the height of the hedges could be considered to be an impact factor for the commission of the offence. Tend and Mend (Local Authority employment Initiative) carried out work to reduce the

height of hedges. In total 60 hedges were maintained in Geriol Rd and a further 23 were achieved in Ceri Rd, Townhill.

Security Standard

From the visits that were carried out in Townhill it was noted that the method of entry for these Burglaries was primarily via the rear door.

In most cases these doors were fitted with the following furniture.

- 3 lever mortise locks.
- Small sliding bolts fitted top and bottom of the door.

In a number of cases where existing Door sets were used the sliding bolts were unserviceable due to bows in the doors.

- In the majority of both the front door and rear door a double glazed window panel is fitted. This panel is approximately 16 inches X 30 inches deep.
- In the cases where the offender could not force the rear door then the glazed panel would be attacked and entry gained.

Repair and Maintenance.

As a result of temporary repairs being carried out on burgled properties it was identified that repairs would take up to 10 to 12 weeks for a new door or window sets to be installed. The cost of this delay to the victim can be highlighted in the following Table.

Table 1:1

NO.	Offence	Address	Date	Method of Entry
1	Burglary Dwelling		04/05/01	Person have smashed window to rear door...
2	Burglary Dwelling		13/05/01	Persons have removed shuttering from previously damaged rear door.....
3	Burglary Dwelling		16/06/01	Persons removed board from rear downstairs kitchen door, which had previously been damaged.....
4	Burglary Dwelling		03/08/01	Persons entered secure property via the rear door by removing a large wooden panel from the same.....

It was also noted that even when doors had been replaced the badly damaged frames had been left without attention, therefore making it a simpler task to commit a repeat burglary.

Recommendations.

Subsequently meetings were held at Townhill Housing Office where the following were multi agency staff were present.

- Housing Operations Manager, Swansea West.
- Townhill Housing manager.
- Housing Dept. Local Authority
- Crime Prevention Officer
- Swansea Care & Repair Security advisor

At the meetings the CPO brought to the attention of the above, details for discussion which resulted in the following recommendations:-

1. Door sets in existing properties need to be of an improved quality ideally to the Police Preferred Specification. (PAS 24)
2. Improve and identify a time scale that a first time victim of Burglary receive a new door/window or security upgrade.
3. The Housing Department should as a part of its multi agency approach consult with the Crime Prevention Department for future renovations and improvements to existing housing stocks.

Conclusion

The length of time that it took to repair door sets in Local Authority properties in Townhill North was identified as a contributing factor to the high levels of repeat victim burglaries and required attention at the earliest opportunity. Burglary has a clear detrimental effect on the people living in the area and from consultation between tenants and Housing Officers it was identified as the sole reason for vacating out of Local Authority properties and moving from the estate.

2.

Response

Objective 1:

Identify and implement a method to replace damaged door sets at the earliest opportunity.

As a result of Crime Pattern analysis data, the following information has been made available.

❖ Specific victims are being repeatedly targeted.

At least 26 of the 104 logged cases involved cases of repeat victimisation where Action plans were applicable for initiation. Upon further analysis it became clear that, due to slow fixing and cleaning up of the targeted dwellings, many became easy targets for future attacks through weakened points of previous entry.

This recommendation related to the following proposal.

1. The Direct Labour Organisation, which is the L.A. maintenance contractors, had responsibility to replace damaged Door and window sets. Their practice at best carried out its repairs within Six weeks. This was identified as bad practice and the procedure to replace doors and windows within a fourteen-day period needed to be adopted.

Research of products listed on the Secure by Design website which met the standards set out by PAS 24 (British Standard), were brought to the attention of the maintenance department. Consultation with these manufacturers took place for suitable door sets to be fitted into dwellings.

Action Plan

1. Set a trial period from 1st April 2002 – 30th June 2002.
2. Security upgrades to be completed within fourteen days with an aim to reduce to seven days after trial period.
3. CPO Wayne Collinson on a daily basis to identify Burglaries in Townhill and Mayhill and forward to partners.
4. Des Harris (Senior Surveyor, Maintenance Dept, L.A.) to be provided with Burglary addresses.

5. Identified properties to be visited by Des Harris and PAS 24 door sets ordered for installation within a fourteen day period.

Objective 2:

Develop a partnership approach to deliver the targets.

Swansea Care & Repair (SCAR) is an independent voluntary sector Home Improvement Agency for older and disabled people and their carers. The Agency provides a Handyperson service as a core function.

Historical, Police Crime Prevention activities focused on raising awareness. The development of this project (in conjunction with SCAR) was designed to enhance those activities by providing complimentary practical services ensuring appropriate recommended security measures be completed within the home. It would provide a package of support after burglaries had occurred. In addition it would be able to ensure proactive preventative work, where:-

- The dedicated handyperson would provide practical solutions to safety and security issues within the home of 760 clients per year.

- Security surveys would be completed and recommended target hardening would be supplied and fitted free of charge.

Specific Referrals

Referrals would be taken for eligible clients from:

- South Wales Police
- Victim Support
- City & County of Swansea Community Safety Team

The Police would contact SCAR within 24 hours of the crime being reported. Authorisation had been given for data exchange to take place between the Crime Prevention Dept. and SCAR (Re: Data protection). Those clients requiring security measures would be referred to SCAR immediately. Clients would be assessed and their homes upgraded within 3 to 7 days of notification, reducing the risk of them becoming a repeat victim.

Objective 3:

MasterDor

In Townhill it was identified that some of the external doors fitted to Local Authority housing stock was of a poor standard. The Housing Maintenance dept were led towards the direction of High Security doors built to the standard of 'Secured by Design'. Research was carried out, led by SCAR who identified MasterDor as such a company.

Subsequently the Local Authority have ordered (in cases where irreparable damage had occurred to doors), 14 door systems which are awaiting fitting. The important issue with this type of door is the fact that when the old door is replaced the final doorframe is installed with a blank MasterDor. This is then negates the requirement of properties being boarded up. The blank door provides the same level of security as the eventual replacement door.

3.

Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Baselines:

01/04/01–31/10/01	Burglaries	Repeat Burglaries
Total	108	23

1) Repeat Burglaries in Townhill North

1st Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: April - June 2001		April - June 2002	
April	0	April	1
May	4	May	2
June	8	June	1
Total	12	Total	4

Reductions 67%

2nd Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: July – Sept 2001		July – Sept 2002	
April	2	April	2
May	6	May	1
June	2	June	1
Total	10	Total	4

Reductions 60%

3rd Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: Oct - Dec 2001		Oct - Dec 2002	
April	2	April	1
May	1	May	0
June	1	June	1
Total	4	Total	2

Reductions 50%

4th Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: Jan - March 2002		Jan - March 2002	
April	2	April	2
May	0	May	1
June	0	June	0
Total	2	Total	3

Increase 67%

Annual Reduction of Repeat Burglary in Townhill North = 54%

2) Repeat Burglaries in Townhill/Mayhill

1st Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: April - June 2001		April - June 2002	
April	1	April	2
May	4	May	2
June	8	June	1
Total	13	Total	5

Reductions 62%

2nd Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: July - Sept 2001		July - Sept 2002	
April	4	April	3
May	7	May	3
June	3	June	2
Total	14	Total	8

Reductions 43%

3rd Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: Oct - Dec 2001		Oct - Dec 2002	
April	3	April	1
May	1	May	0
June	2	June	1
Total	6	Total	2

Reductions 67%

4th Quarter comparisons 2001/2002 with 2002/2003

Repeat Burglaries: Jan – March 2002		Jan – March 2003	
April	2	April	3
May	0	May	1
June	0	June	0
Total	2	Total	4

Increase 50%

Annual Reduction of Repeat Burglary in Townhill/Mayhill = 46%

3) Burglaries in Townhill/Mayhill 2001/2002

1st Quarter 2001/2002

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total
April	20	9	29
May	12	1	13
June	30	12	42
Total			84

Burglaries in Townhill/Mayhill 2002/2003

1st Quarter 2002/2003

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total	Reduction +/-
April	13	8	21	-28%
May	9	7	16	+23%
June	10	1	11	-74%
Totals			41	-51%

2nd Quarter 2001/2002

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total
July	11	4	15
August	19	4	23
Sept	9	4	13
Total			51

2nd Quarter 2002/2003

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total	Reduction +/-
July	9	9	18	+20%
August	8	6	14	-39%
Sept	5	4	9	-31%
Totals			41	-20%

3rd Quarter 2001/2002

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total
Oct	5	4	9
Nov	15	1	16
Dec	16	2	18
Total			43

3rd Quarter 2002/2003

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total	Reduction +/-
Oct	1	6	7	-22%
Nov	7	3	10	-38%
Dec	4	1	5	-72%
Totals			22	-49%

4th Quarter 2001/2002

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total
April	10	4	14
May	5	0	5
June	7	3	10
Total			29

4th Quarter 2002/2003

	Townhill	Mayhill	Total	Reduction +/-
Jan	8	5	13	-7%
Feb	4	5	9	+80%
Mar	7	8	15	+50%
Totals			37	+28%

Crime reduction of all burglary dwelling in Townhill/Mayhill is 32%.

Inputs

- 1) Identify partners –
 - a) Townhill District Housing Office.
 - b) Maintenance dept, Local Authority.
 - c) Safer Swansea.
 - d) Swansea Care & Repair.
 - e) Joint Office – Swansea Police Community Safety Dept.
- 2) Set up Project/Pilot Scheme.
- 3) Prepare data exchange protocol.
- 4) Identify roles and responsibilities of partner agencies.
- 5) Research of door manufactures.
- 6) Allocation of funds by L.A. to purchase PAS 24 door sets.
- 7) Funding application to Safer Swansea for continuation of existing Anti burglary initiative.

Outputs

- 1) No more repeats scheme extended to 'target hardening' victims of Domestic Violence.
- 2) Number of Domestic Dwelling Burglaries surveyed and in receipt of Home Office approved security Improvements.
- 3) Number of Domestic Violence Home Security Upgrades.
- 4) Number of Pas 24 door sets installed.

Outcomes

The overall result of applying the above has seen the following reductions. These figures also can be compared to the +4.7% increased in Burglaries across H Division for the comparison years of 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

1. 54 % reduction in repeats burglaries in Townhill North.
2. 46 % reduction in repeats burglaries in Townhill/Mayhill.
3. 32 % reduction in burglaries in Townhill/Mayhill.

4. The time taken to repair/replace-damaged doors and windows has been reduced from 12 weeks to 7 days.

5. From July 1st 2002 the Safer Swansea Partnership has funded the Anti Burglary initiative to conduct target hardening on the victims of Burglary. The funding allows up to 15 referrals a week, which will always include repeat victims if appropriate, victims of distraction burglary and those, which are believed to be vulnerable to attack i.e. residing in current hot spot areas.

Conclusions

As a result of the monthly meetings, multi agency personnel have adopted a more dynamic approach to the way in which it deals with victims of burglaries in Townhill. This engagement of partners has quickly brought about a willingness to achieve the highest possible standards towards the prevention of burglaries. This has been achieved by: -

- Identification of vulnerable victims by the CPO
- Adoption of a fast track system so that the senior surveyor (L.A.) can authorise replacements/repairs to dwellings.
- Immediate referral to Safer Swansea lock fitters.
- Installation of products to SBD Standards.

REVIEW OF THE ANTI BURGLARY INITIATIVE **1ST June 2002 – 31ST March 2003**

Background

In December 2001- Safer Swansea received substantial funding from the Welsh Assembly to provide security upgrades to Houses of Multiple Occupation and also to the homes of the elderly. This was primarily achieved by a target-hardening.

Through Safer Swansea funding the initiative continued as the Anti Burglary Initiative from June 2002 to address Burglary reduction in the City & County of Swansea.

Swansea Care & Repair were approached to manage and deliver this programme of work..

Method

The following types of referrals were identified as requiring the services of the Anti Burglary Initiative.

1. Repeat Victims of Burglary
2. Victims of First Time Burglaries.
3. Victims of Distraction Burglaries
4. Other persons considered to be vulnerable.

In order to implement the initiative Townhill and Mayhill one of Swansea's largest Local Authority housing estates was identified as a starting point from which to monitor and evaluate.

The following results were for the first six months. (April to September)

- 71% reduction in Repeat Victimisation.
- 60% reduction in first time Burglaries.

There is no doubt that these dramatic reductions were achieved with the help of this initiative.

Results

In December 2002 consultation with SCAR staff was carried out in order to evaluate the previous seven months work. A request was made to provide a list of all the referrals that the CPO had made complete with a breakdown of the current status relating too those referrals. Those statistics could not be provided at that time.

In January 2003, those statistics were provided and consisted of a spreadsheet with a list of names as addresses, which had previously passed to SCAR in a different format.

SCAR had received 179 referrals, which were attributed to the Crime Prevention Officer.

During the consultative process prior to Safer Swansea funding, it was agreed that the Safer Swansea Lockfitter could effectively manage 3 referrals a day.

This equates to 60 a month.

Using the data in the Table 3:1, in the month of June the % capacity for Proactive preventative measures was 83%. It is my assumption that SCAR has used this spare capacity in order to fulfil its core function of providing a handy person scheme to other agencies who are outside the Anti Burglary Initiative. Although this meets the objective of providing reassurance, it was

a misdirected use of Safer Swansea resources, as it did not provide Burglary Preventative measures where they were needed most.

Table 3:1

Potential Performance of Proactive Preventative measures.

Month	Max project capacity per month	% completion rate to Project for Proactive Inc. Dom. Violence.	% capacity for Proactive Preventative Measures
June	60	17%	83%
July	60	35%	65%
August	60	38%	62%
Sept	60	42%	58%
Oct	60	55%	45%
Nov	60	57%	43%
Dec	60	8%	92%
Total	420	25%	75%

In the months June – December the average percentage capacity for Proactive Measures is 75% - Which equates to 315 properties who could have received target hardening.

Conclusion

Swansea Care & Repair

SCAR were approached to be the delivery agency of a security improvement scheme on a short term basis. The staff there reacted to this request and implemented the Anti Burglary Initiative with enthusiasm.

It is evident from other data received from SCAR that the Safer Swansea Lockfitter has been deployed on occasions to improve security of homes to people who are within the original client base of SCAR. I.e. Physical adaptations to a elderly persons homes have been carried out and paid for by other funds whilst the security improvements were paid for by Safer Swansea.

SCAR is a important partner and should continue to play a integral part in any Strategy. Its handy person initiative which it delivers as a core function provides a excellent service for the elderly. Negotiation is currently being carried out on behalf of Safer Swansea for partnership development with Help the Aged. It is anticipated that SCAR will play a important role in Safer Swansea's services to the elderly.

Recommendations.

It was considered that this initiative was a template for the future of Burglary reduction in the City & County of Swansea. The development of the initiative over the past 15 months has provided the Safer Swansea Partnership with a model to work from. Although initial successes were achieved, concerns were identified in order to 'smarten' up the initiative. It was felt that these concerns if addressed would increase the efficiency of the project and provide the partnership with a sustainable Burglary Crime Reduction Strategy.

The mechanics of the existing initiative lacked a strategic framework on which to base itself. It was necessary to react to victims of crime in order to reduce repeat victimisation but just as importantly a level of proactivity was needed in order to impact upon effective Burglary Crime Reduction.

Strategic directors within the Local Authority have cleared funds in order to continue the roll out of the initiative across the City & County of Swansea in local authority housing stock. The initial successes need to be developed upon.

After debate between the Safer Swansea Partnership consideration was given to assembling a Project Team to reformat the existing initiative. This would commence in June 2003, when existing funding expires.

The Table 3:2 outlines seven minimum actions that required attention.

Fault	Remedy
1. Anti Burglary initiative managed by a voluntary organisation which has strict core functions and limitations within its charitable trust status.	Safer Swansea run – ‘in house’ staff led by a suitably qualified Project manager working from the Joint Office.
2. No dedicated IT or database software to support the project.	Purchase of dedicated equipment or cross – utilisation of existing equipment within the joint office. Purchase of software compatible with existing SWP analytical support.
3. Crime Prevention Officer inputting Data at the Joint Office.	See 4.
4. Admin Asst. based with SCAR is limited in what she can do to support project.	3&4. – Admin Asst. to input data into Burglary database at joint office. Admin Asst./Analyst to monitor and develop evaluation in conjunction with Project Manager.
5. Deployment of Lockfitter to inappropriate referrals which are not in line with the aim of Burglary Strategy.	Deployment of Lockfitter to victims of crime and used proactively as part of a POP/intelligence led strategy in High Crime Areas, to support Police/Community Safety/NHW and Partner Initiatives.
6. Police Lead Officer for Burglary reduction detached from delivery agents.	Project staff under ‘one roof’. Team building/development of skills/debriefing and exchange of information to develop a multi skilled force.
7. Limited Communication & Marketing	Project can research and promote itself within Safer Swansea and partner agencies using existing media channels.

The concept of Problem Orientated Policing is about examining patterns of incident clusters, to identify and tackle underlying problems within the community, and to eliminate the causes of these incidents. The active involvement of the community and external agencies is often vital to the identification of problems and the development of strategies to solve them.

It can be seen that this project that detailed analysis was carried out to identify the problem and a strategy encompassing external agencies was devised. A partnership approach to provide practical solutions was adopted, using Best Practice of 'Secured By Design' products in appropriate time scales.

Constant monitoring and evaluation was carried out throughout the year with reports submitted on a regular basis to focus partners on the performance of the project. A thorough review was carried out against a backdrop of reduction.

A number of recommendations were made for the continual development of the project which have been put before the Safer Swansea partnership.

These recommendations have been accepted and will be in place for the second year of the project.

The initiative has been endorsed by the Divisional Det./Chief Insp. (Crime) and promoted within the Safer Swansea partnership as Good Practice.

(See Appendix 1).

This entry is put forward within the category of the Crime and Disorder Reduction. The lead officer and drive behind the initiative is the author but the results could not have been achieved without the assistance and input from the many persons who have been involved within it.

From June 2003 the initiative is ready to roll out to other areas of Swansea but constraints in resources will limit its effect. Both reactive and proactive work will endeavour to impact upon House Burglaries and Repeat Victimization where the initiative is deployed.



South Wales Police

Heddlu De Cymru

Working with the Community

Cydweithio Gyda'r Gymuned

CHIEF CONSTABLE

SIR ANTHONY BURDEN, OStJ, QPM, BSc(Hons), CCMI

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23rd July, 2002

Police Constable 1002 W. Collinson

Crime Prevention

'H' Swansea Division

SKETTY

Dear Wayne

DWELLING HOUSE BURGLARY INITIATIVE

I have read your report dated 8th July, 2002, regarding the Burglary Initiative. I have forwarded a copy of the report to the Director of Environmental Health within the City & County of Swansea with a request that, as Lead Director for Crime and Disorder issues, she supports the proposal to extend the scheme throughout the Authority Area. A copy of my letter of referral is attached.

Given the merits of the initiative I am sure of a positive response. I would also like to offer my congratulation on what is an excellent piece of work. The thought and effort, that you and your colleagues have put into the initiative does you considerable credit. I would like to thank you for your commitment and wish you and the scheme every success for the future. Well Done!

Yours sincerely


David Jenkins
Superintendent

Enc

DJ/ASD/43

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23rd July, 2002

Mrs R. Owen
Director of Environmental Health
City and County of Swansea
The Guildhall
SWANSEA

Dear Reena

DWELLING HOUSE BURGLARY INITIATIVE

I forward for your attention a copy of a report submitted by Police Constable Wayne Collinson, a Crime Prevention Officer employed within the Safer Swansea Joint Office. Wayne takes specific responsibility for Crime Prevention issues associated with Dwelling House Burglaries.

It will be seen from the content of the report that Wayne has been involved in some key partnership work which has been focussed on reducing dwelling house burglaries in the Townhill/Mayhill areas of Swansea. The report describes the initiative, the contribution by the key partners and the outcomes after the first three months of work.

In summary, the efforts of those involved have seen a 54% reduction in Burglaries in Townhill and Mayhill and a 67% reduction in the Townhill area alone, where the main focus of the initiative has been targeted. The proposal is to now adopt and expand the initiative in respect of the whole of the City and County of Swansea and I understand that this has already been raised as a proposal by those involved with specific Sections or Departments within the Authority.

Whilst the proposal to extend the scheme will no doubt demand an increase in resource and funding commitments I am sure that having studied the report, you will conclude that this is a piece of work which cannot be ignored and is one which Safer Swansea must support.

Having regard to the above I would ask that you draw the content of this document to the attention of the relevant Strategic Directors within the City & County with a view to obtaining the necessary support for expanding the initiative throughout the Authority Area.

I will of course make either myself or a member of my team available to discuss this matter in greater detail should you or your colleagues so require.

Yours sincerely

David Jenkins
Superintendent

Enc



WATCHING BRIEF Crime prevention officer Wayne Collinson checks out his patch in Townhill.
Picture: Gayle Marsh 00301108844/DM

Lock-out blow beats burglars

A DRIVE to protect some of the most vulnerable people in Swansea has sent burglary figures tumbling in Mayhill and Townhill.

Police have been identifying houses with dodgy doors and locks and getting the repair men in to beef up security.

Across the city they have cut the number of repeat victims from 90 to 74, a reduction of 18 per cent in a year.

But in Townhill and Mayhill the drop is more than 60 per cent, and the number of people having their homes broken into for the first time has more than halved.

Police have been using the tactics employed by thieves themselves when they target potential houses to break into.

Crime prevention officer Constable Wayne Collinson has become a familiar

By David Stoakes

figure on the estates as he masterminds the campaign, which is now set to be introduced to the whole city.

From April to June last year there was a 67 per cent reduction in repeat raids and first-time burglaries in Townhill North, and a 62 per cent drop in second break-ins in Townhill and Mayhill, with a 54 per cent fall in first-time breaks.

Similar figures followed with a 67 per cent reduction in repeat victims from July to September and a 20 per cent reduction in first-time victims.

The figure for burglary generally in Swansea was expected to rise eight per cent because of new recording methods, but the actual figure is two per cent, com-

pared to a South Wales Police average of 20 per cent.

One victim, who would not be named, is a young single mother living in Gors Avenue, Townhill.

Her doors have now been improved under the scheme which is a partnership with Swansea Council.

She said: "I was broken into three times, and it got to the stage where I thought they were waiting for me to go out.

"I was so frightened I was hardly living at home.

"I was spending most of my time at my grandmother's house."

Detective Chief Inspector Tim Jones, head of Swansea CID, praised Constable Collinson, adding: "It is intelligent targeting like this which can make all the difference."

Burglaries halved at impoverished estate

POLICE are celebrating a major success by slashing burglary rates on a housing estate identified by a charity as one of the poorest in Britain.

House break-ins in Townhill, Swansea have been reduced by more than 50pc in the past eight months.

The Save the Children charity last month pointed out that, while only 3pc of children lived in poverty in Swansea's Killay, more than 70pc were considered to be living in poverty in Townhill.

The estate, perched high above Swansea's city centre, had a reputation for high crime levels and "void" properties - council homes no-one wanted to live in.

But millions of pounds have been

spent on regenerating the area and a local community development trust based in the Phoenix Centre has been successful in reducing unemployment rates by encouraging local people to train for jobs.

Swansea City and County Council also adopted a "get tough" policy for a minority of badly behaved council tenants, threatening them with eviction if their children became involved in anti-social behaviour.

An anti-burglary initiative in Townhill and neighbouring Mayhill has been a big success too, says South Wales Police.

House burglaries at the two estates have fallen from 84 between January and August last year to just 41 in the same period this year.

And repeat-burglary victims have been reduced from 12 to just four.

Inspector Bill John, sector inspector for Townhill said yesterday, "This initiative is about improving the quality of life here and making it a safer place to live."

He said crime reduction officer, PC Wayne Collinson, has been visiting victims of burglary and identifying properties considered to be likely targets for house breakers. They are put on a "fast track" anti-burglary drive which involves the fitting of secure locks on doors and windows.

Inspector John said, "This has resulted in a 54pc reduction in house burglary in Townhill and Mayhill, and 67pc in Townhill North.

There are now plans to extend the scheme to other parts of Swansea, focusing on domestic violence as well.

The anti-burglary initiative is part of the Safer Swansea programme and has involved Swansea City and County Council's maintenance department, the local housing office, Swansea Care and Repair and the community safety department based at Sketty Police Station.

Inspector John said, "The scheme has worked, thanks to the efforts of all the agencies involved."

ROBIN TURNER

SOUTH WALES NEWS

South Wales Evening Post, Saturday, October 12, 2002

Police warning stops theft misery

POLICE in Swansea have more than halved burglary in parts of Swansea by getting to potential victims before the thieves do.

House burglaries in Townhill and Mayhill between January and August this year totalled 41 compared to 84 in the same period last year.

The fall has been achieved by police targeting potentially vulnerable people and houses

in the same way burglars do. But instead of the misery offered by the burglars, officers are giving crime prevention advice, arranging for better locks to be fitted and, in some cases, even new doors.

Now following its success, the system is set to be adopted across the city in conjunction with the care and repair scheme operated by Swansea Council which helps low income families by fixing problems in their homes.

They have also succeeded in reducing the

number of repeat victims, who have been burgled more than once, from 12 to four.

Inspector Bill John, head of police for the area, said: "It is about improving the quality of life and making it a safer place for people to live."

He said crime reduction officer Constable Wayne Collinson toured the area looking at properties he believed would be prime targets.

"He has quickly identified vulnerable victims and has managed to have their premises

required on a fast track system. The scheme has worked thanks to the efforts of all the partnership agencies and has provided practical help for particularly vulnerable victims of burglary in the form of upgraded security and repairs to doors and windows where a break-in has taken place.

"The scheme underlines our determination to improve the quality of life for people living in the area, as well as reducing the potential for fear of crime."

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New scheme cuts burglary rate



Police have been helping victims of burglary

A new scheme to reduce crime in parts of Swansea has seen a dramatic fall in offences.

The initiative has reduced the house burglary rate in the Townhill and Mayhill areas of the city by 54%.

South Wales Police and local authority officials have been working together to identify vulnerable victims and help them protect their properties.

If we can stop re-offences then we can prevent a lot of burglaries

Inspector Bill John

The area of north Townhill has seen a 67% reduction in break-ins.

The Crime Reduction Officer, PC Wayne Collinson has been visiting victims of burglary and implementing a fast-track scheme to help them.

He said: "We've formed a partnership under the crime disorder act and created a working relationship with the local authority which we didn't have before.

"When someone was burgled and had their windows smashed, then they would be boarded up and it would take up to three months to sort things out.

"Now it's done within two days.

"We found a lot of people wouldn't stay within the area because of the crime rate so we had a transient population.

south west wales

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"People seem to be more comfortable in their surroundings which also helps."

The police say helping victims does reduce the crime rate.

Inspector Bill John said the number of offences fell from 84 to 41 over a one year period.



Damage caused by burglars is repaired quickly

Prevention

He said: "People who have been burgled are more likely to be the victims of another burglary.

"So if we can stop re-offences then we can prevent a lot of burglaries from happening.

"This shows what can be done with co-operation.

"It's about giving positive help to those who are victims of burglary or are likely to be."

The initiative primarily covers people in local authority accommodation but has been extended further to help others in the community.

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