

Lancashire Constabulary



**Central Division**  
**Sector C**

*Tanterton Crime &  
Disorder Reduction  
Strategy*

*Presentation by:*

*Inspector Colin Moore*

*Sergeant 258 David Winder*

*March 1999*

## *The Problem*

- *Frequent police deployments*
- *High incidents of burglary*
- *Vandalism & anti-social behaviour*
- *Regular negative publicity for the area*
- *Community confidence low*

During the period 1 November 1997 to 28 February 1998, police attended 30 calls to the vicinity of Kidsgrove/Village Green Lane, Tanterton to deal with juvenile nuisance and similar problems. During the same period there were seven complaints of damage, seven incidents of domestic burglary and nine incidents of autocrime.

The local media perceived Tanterton as a troubled area and this was reflected in their publications. Crimes committed in the area invariably received more publicity and were reported more sensationally than those occurring in neighbouring areas.

The overall effect was a low level of community confidence. Residents were often unwilling to assist police enquiries for fear of reprisals. The area looked untidy due to fly-tipping and overgrown shrubbery. Enforcement activity was difficult because offenders were not short of hiding places and escape routes. Short-term reductions in crime and disorder had been achieved through crime operations and high-profile patrol. These options could not, however, be sustained for any length of time.

Previous police recommendations to control shrubbery, remove seating from the vicinity of the local shop, etc. had never been implemented.

## *The Opportunity*

- *Public Survey commissioned by local MP*
- *Open Meeting*
- *Local agencies brought together*
- *Willingness to act established*
- *Group needed a steer*

Immediately prior to April 1998 a survey of local residents was carried out on behalf of Michael Jack MP. The survey identified vandalism and graffiti as being issues of major concern in the community. An open meeting was held for the purpose encouraging local support for initiatives which would improve quality of life for Tanterton residents. At this meeting most public criticism was directed towards NBHA, who were seen as slow to carry out repairs and reluctant to deal with wider environmental concerns.

Following the open meeting, a further meeting was held involving North-British Housing Association (who operate the vast majority of housing in Tanterton), Lawrence Hunt & Co. (Spar), Michael Jack MP., Preston Borough Council and Police. It was established that there was a general willingness to make improvements to the area but abundantly clear that the group would need a focus for their activities.

At this point, Sector C agreed to implement a project to identify the most efficient means of improving the area in a way which would reduce the levels of crime and general disorder.

## *The Project*

- *Crime Pattern Analysis*
- *Establish target area*
- *Survey by CPOs*
- *Establish links*
- *Present findings & recommendations*
- *Obtain agreement to implement*
- *Form partnership*
- *Exit strategy*

The next stage was to prepare the project brief, which contained all the elements shown above.

The project would be confined to looking at environmental issues. It was not felt that the police has the necessary resources to include other factors such as social deprivation, local amenities, etc.

It was decided from the outset that care should be taken not to overload the various agencies involved. Recommendations would be:

- limited to a defined target area determined by crime pattern analysis
- cost-effective for the agencies concerned
- restricted to those which would have most impact on crime & disorder and help to make residents feel safe, involved and reassured

Inspector Moore assumed the role of Project Director and PS Winder (a qualified Crime Prevention Officer) was appointed as Project Manager.

The deadline for the production of the report was set at 8 weeks.

## *Managing the Project*

- *Negotiating resources*
- *Quality product*
- *Meeting Deadlines*
- *Oiling the wheels*
- *Something for everyone*

Certain key activities and considerations proved vital to the successful completion of the project:

negotiating time and support from staff within other departments who had the necessary skills to make effective contributions

the project must be seen by all parties as being a valid and reliable basis upon which they could act with confidence

the crime pattern analysis must provide a detailed benchmark against which the outcome of the project could be evaluated

Liaison, co-ordination and negotiation with all key players maintained their commitment and enthusiasm for the project

Being clear about the purpose of the project (ie reduction of crime & disorder / reduce fear of crime) and making sure that partners were fully aware of the benefits for them and/or their organisation

Drive, commitment, patience and empathy

## *Outcomes*

- *Environmental changes made*
- *Assistance from unexpected sources*
- *Reduction in demand*
- *Public safe, involved & reassured*
- *Ownership passed to Community Group*
- *Potential for expansion and future initiatives*

All the above outputs and outcomes have been achieved to date. A further evaluation will be completed over a three month period when every aspect of the work agreed by the various agencies has been completed. It is anticipated that the results will establish the business case for all agencies continuing improvements throughout the Tanterton area. By providing a focus for action, further help has been willingly provided by local business people and a school.

This presentation started with figures being quoted for a period in 1997/8. Comparable figures for 1998/9 are as follows:

Calls received in relation to juveniles nuisance	-	20 (-33%)
Burglaries in dwellings	-	1 (-86%)
Damage	-	4 (-43%)
Autocrime	-	1 (-89%)

The work carried out by various agencies in relation to police recommendations has attracted a great deal of positive publicity in the local media. Unsolicited letters of appreciation have been received from diverse sources, including a school within the target that has noticed that vandalism has been almost non-existent, and private individuals who live and/or work in the area. The project has also attracted enthusiastic comment at Police & Community Forum and Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group meetings.

A partnership involving all the agencies previously mentioned, has now been formed with the remit of continuing to tackle crime and disorder in the area. It is intended that the principles applied in the target area be extended to the whole of the Tanterton area, with potential funding and assistance from such sources as the Lottery Commission, Tidy Britain, etc. The Partnership is well placed to attract further support from other agencies such as Youth Services and other community groups.

In accordance with the exit strategy, co-ordination of the partnership has now passed to INTAG - a local, non-political community organisation.

## Recommendations

Having regard to the conclusions that have been drawn, I make the following recommendations: -

1. All low lying bushes to be cut to 1 metre height maximum / or removed totally to be replaced with grass.
2. All first floor landings to be Debarred off to prevent access and egress.
3. Walkway access and egress points as outlined to be closed and grassed over.
4. The main walkways to have lighting improvements made (*minimum of 3 extra lights*)
5. Benches within the quadrangle and outside 'Spar\*' to be removed.
6. Car park area at the rear of 'Spar' to be replaced with combination of grass and 1 course brick height planters and low lying shrubs.
7. Rear lighting pole, together with high level of light emitted to illuminate the rear of the shopping area premises.
8. Bushes at the front of the shopping area to be removed. Planters to be lowered to one course brick height.
9. Increased height and security of existing lighting unit no 10, with increase in level of lux light emitted.
10. Bushes adjacent to community centre to be cut or removed.
11. Bushes Pool House school perimeter fencing to be removed.
12. Area in between the 'Spar'<sup>5</sup> and the bakery shops to be fenced off with weld mesh fencing.
13. Telephone kiosks to be removed to alternative site.