



Crime Reduction Basics: Handouts

Handout One – Anti-Social Behaviour Crime Figures

Anti-Social Behaviour is classed as any “individual’s behaviour (that) causes alarm, distress or harassment to one or more persons not in the same household as him/herself.”

The British Crime Survey for 2001/2002 reported the following percentages of adults as saying that the following were a very or fairly big problem in their area:

- noisy neighbours or loud parties 10%
- teenagers hanging around on streets 32%
- rubbish or litter lying around 32%
- vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property 34%
- people being attacked/harassed because of their race or colour 9%
- people using or dealing drugs 31%
- people being drunk or rowdy in public places 22%.

Handout Two - Situational Crime Reduction

Situational crime and disorder reduction involves altering the physical conditions of sites where a crime might take place.

Examples of situational crime reduction are:

- target hardening with locks and fences
- removing vulnerable items from the places where they can be stolen or damaged
- removing the means to commit crime, such as builder's rubble
- improving the visibility around buildings, car parks and public areas
- controlling access to buildings or other areas.

Handout Three - Social Crime Reduction

Social crime and disorder reduction involves working with potential or actual offenders to divert them from committing a crime. It also includes improving the quality of life for victims and potential victims of crime and people in general.

Some examples of social crime reduction include:

- providing alternatives to crime for young people such as clubs and youth shelters
- providing education programmes that divert people from crime
- forming Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- setting up informal support networks for vulnerable groups such as the elderly
- regenerating areas by improving their appearance and improving facilities.

Handout Four – Problem Oriented Policing

POP is about identifying and solving underlying problems within communities, rather than simply responding to individual incidents. It is where the police, communities and local agencies work together to identify specific problems that cause incidents and then tackle them together.

In order to carry out POP effectively many police forces and other organisations have adopted a systematic way of managing crime reduction work.

The process is called **SARA**.

There are four stages to SARA:

- **Scanning** - where problems are identified using local knowledge and data from a wide range of organisations
- **Analysis** – where the data is used to identify the problems' causes.
- **Response** – where solutions are devised to the problem using the situational and social approaches described in the last section
- **Assessment** – looking back to see if the solution worked and what lessons can be learned.

POP can be used just as easily for large scale problems and small ones.

Handout Five - Local Organisations and What They Can Offer

In the table below you will find a list of the kinds of things your Local Authority and other organisations can do to help reduce crime and disorder. There is also a space for you to write in any other local services you are aware of. At the end of the handout there some examples of the kind of service you might expect in different situations. Not all these services will be available in your area so you will need to check what each organisation offers.

Local Authority	
Department	What it can Offer
<i>Housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of tenancy agreements • Dealing with nuisance neighbours • Rapid repairs for vulnerable tenants • Upgrading of materials used to repair, replace or renovate homes • Links with fire and rescue to co-ordinate crime reduction and fire risk assessments • Effective policy to deal with empty houses <p>Although many local authorities have sold off their housing stock to housing associations, they still retain an interest in the management of that stock.</p>
<i>Environmental Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt removal of graffiti • Regular refuse collection • Street cleaning • Removal of drugs litter
<i>Highways</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving lighting in crime or fear of crime hotspots and footpaths • Keeping shrubbery at the right level to improve visibility • Parks patrols can focus on sites where low level disorder occurs • Liaison with fire and rescue about hedge fires, • Providing information for siting cctv cameras to cover key sites such as cycle racks • Traffic calming on estates or key roads where road safety is an issue • Removal of burnt out vehicles
<i>Planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that planning applications don't contribute to crime and disorder
<i>Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching about citizenship and crime reduction is part of the national curriculum and local problems can be used as case studies • Educational welfare officers can help with truanting problems which contribute to crime

Handout Five (Continued)

Local Authority	
Department	What it can Offer
<i>Social Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home helps may provide crime reduction advice to vulnerable groups • Working with young people involved in disorderly behaviour through acceptable behaviour contracts and Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ASBOs) • Identifying people at risk
<i>Youth Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and advice on crime reduction and personal safety issues • Links with Drug Action Teams to provide advice on drug and alcohol issues • Providing detached youth workers for vulnerable areas • Themed events at youth clubs
<i>Leisure Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and activities for young people, especially during school holidays
<i>Neighbourhood Wardens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They operate in some areas and work in the community to provide support - different local authorities use them in different ways so you need to check what they do in your area
<i>Elected Members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are in an ideal position for passing information between the council and the community • Some authorities have one elected member with specific responsibility for crime and disorder reduction.
Other Organisations	
Organisation	What it Can Offer
<i>The Police</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice from Crime Reduction Officers • Increased patrols in crime hotspot areas • Support for communities through community policing • Schools liaison officers • Projects to tackle specific crime problems
<i>Fire and Rescue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire risk assessments and advice • Identifying repeat locations for hedge and vehicle fires • Identifying repeat locations for hoax emergency calls <p>From April 2003 section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act will apply to Fire and Rescue Departments.</p>

Handout Five (Continued)

On this page there are four examples of the kind of services that might be available in your area for certain crime and disorder problems. For each you will find details of:

- what agencies to contact
- the minimum service you can expect
- what additional services some partnerships provide.

I have a problem with...	Who to Contact and Minimum Service	Additional Services
Noisy Neighbours	<p>The Local Authority Environmental Health Department can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate the complaint • issue warning notices • confiscate equipment • prosecute offenders 	<p>The local authority can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appoint specialist officers to deal with night noise • arrange mediation with the neighbour • apply for an Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) if the problem is persistent • define acceptable behaviour as part of a tenancy agreement <p>The police can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply for an ASBO • close down licensed premises for up to 24 hours if the noise nuisance is from there.
Abandoned Vehicles (As well as being an eyesore, abandoned vehicles can be targets for arson and also attract other types of crime to an area.)	<p>The Police can remove vehicles immediately if they cause an obstruction or a danger.</p> <p>The Local Authority can remove abandoned vehicles after a set period of notice has been given.</p>	<p>The local authority can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trace owners of abandoned vehicles • offer an amnesty for owners of abandoned vehicles if they hand them in for disposal • provide a free disposal service for owners to stop the vehicles becoming abandoned in the first place.

Handout Five (Continued)

I have a problem with...	Who to Contact and Minimum Service	Additional Services
Harassment (This can be either sexual, racial, stalking or general harassment from neighbours)	The Police will investigate threats and harassment and can prosecute.	Support for the victim is often provided through a multi agency response, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a designated Neighbourhood Warden who will visit the victim • a nominated Police or Community Safety Officer who will keep the victim informed of progress on the case • Victim Support who can provide guidance and counselling • Council or other landlords can take action against the offender through tenancy agreements.
Youth Related Crime and Disorder and anti-social behaviour	The Police will investigate any incidents where a criminal offence has taken place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Authority and Police can take out Acceptable Behavior Contracts on young people • ASBOs can be used • The Local Authority can offer parenting skills courses to the offenders' parents • The Probation Service can involve convicted youth offenders in restorative projects in the community • Youth Workers can work on projects with potential offenders • Education Authorities can carry out "truancy sweeps" in an area • Schools can provide citizenship lessons as part of the National Curriculum

Handout Six – Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

- ASBOs have been in use since 1999.
- Their purpose is to prevent anti-social behaviour by named individuals.
- They can be applied for by police forces, local authorities, registered social landlords and the British Transport Police.
- An order can be granted by the courts if:
 - the Individual's behaviour is anti-social
 - the order is necessary to protect persons from further anti-social acts.
- ASBOs are usually ordered when an application has been specifically made for them, but they can also be granted in addition to a sentence for an offence when the person is convicted.
- An ASBO can cover any defined area within England and Wales or can cover the whole country.
- Orders last for a minimum of two years. There is no specified maximum but the court should make the order only for so long as it considers that it is necessary for the protection of the community from the individual in question.
- The order should contain details of what the defendant is prohibited from doing. The order should be specific about the exact behaviour, and the time and place so that it is clear to the defendant and to those enforcing the order what constitutes a breach.
- Children aged 10 and over can be made the subject of an order.
- There are no reporting restrictions on ASBOs and they work well if they are widely publicised. The court may decide to impose reporting restrictions to protect the identity of a person under 18.
- If an order is breached the defendant can be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £5,000 or up to five years in prison. Juvenile offenders can be sentenced to a detention and training order that has a maximum term of 24 months.

Handout Seven – Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)

- An ABC is a written agreement between a person who has been involved in anti-social behaviour and one or more local agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour.
- ABCs were initially used by Islington Borough Council but their use is being encouraged throughout England and Wales.
- The contract is agreed and signed at a meeting with the individual. Where the person is a child or young person, parents or guardians should be encouraged to attend.
- The contract should list the acts in which the person has been involved and which they agree not to continue. If the individual can be involved in drawing up the contract it may help them to recognise the impact of their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions.
- Legal action in the form of an ASBO can be stated as the possible consequence of a breach of the contract. The threat of legal action provides an incentive to ensure that the contract is adhered to.
- An ABC is not necessarily a precursor to an ASBO, but a breach of an ABC can be used as evidence in an ASBO application.
- ABCs usually last for six months, but can be renewed.

Handout Eight - Discussion Questions

Think about the crime and disorder problems you identified in your area at the start of this session. The purpose of this exercise is to give you the opportunity to think about how you could get involved in reducing some of these problems.

Below are four questions. Spend about 15 minutes in your group thinking about some of the ways in which you can help reduce crime in your area and chose one idea that you will share with the main group when you get back together.

The questions are:

- What can you do as an individual to become more involved in crime reduction?
- What can you do as a group to become more involved?
- How can you become more involved with your local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership?
- How can you find out what is happening in other areas and how other residents are helping to reduce crime?
- How can you make sure you get the right level of service from local organisations?

Handout Nine - What Can You Do To Get Involved

- **What can you do as an individual to become more involved in crime reduction?**
 - Join a local tenants group, residents association or Neighbourhood Watch scheme if you have the time.
 - Pass information onto the police or local authority about crime problems or problem individuals. This could include:
 - what school uniforms are being worn by young people causing a nuisance
 - registration details of vehicles where the drivers are acting suspiciously
 - a diary of events when there are problems with noise or anti-social behaviour at night.
 - Report damage to housing and street lamps and graffiti to the local authority.
 - Volunteer some of your time to a project or charity in your area.
 - Go along to local councillors' surgeries and tell them about the problems in your area.
 - Make sure your house and car are safe by using some of the situational crime reduction techniques mentioned in this training session .
 - Make your family and friends aware of what they can do to prevent crime.
- **What can you do as a group to become more involved?**
 - Form a residents or tenants group or a Neighbourhood Watch scheme if there isn't one in your area or join your local group.
 - Agree informally to keep an eye on each other's homes and vehicles and report any problems to the police.
 - Contact you local community safety officer or crime reduction officer if you have an idea for a project you could become involved in.
 - Share information with each other if you hear of any problems in your area.
 - Volunteer for any local projects if you have time.

Handout Nine (continued)

- **How can you become more involved with your local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership?**
 - Find out who's involved in your partnership.
 - Give them information and feedback about any problems in your area and how they are being tackled.
 - Volunteer for any local projects if you have time.
- **How can you find out what is happening in other areas and how other residents are helping to reduce crime?**
 - The local and national newspapers, radio, television and the internet have information about crime reduction.
 - Contact one of the organisations listed in handout 7 who have lots of information about what's happening in other areas.
 - Speak to your local councillor, community safety officer or crime reduction officer who will have information about what's happening in other areas.
- **How can you make sure you get the right level of service from local organisations?**
 - Find out what services the local authority and other organisations offer as part of the crime and disorder strategy. Handout one is a useful guide to this.
 - If you think you are not getting the right level of service tell the person responsible that you are not happy with the service provided.
 - Speak to your local councillor if you aren't happy with the service you are getting.
 - Provide feedback to your local tenants or residents association so they can lobby on your behalf.

Handout Ten - Contacts

This list of contacts may be useful if you want any further information about crime reduction.

Association of British Insurers (ABI)

51 Gresham Street

London

EC2V 7HQ

Tel: 0207 600 3333

General advice on insurance aspects of home security.

Community Champions Fund

Community.champions@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Community Champions Team

W1129

Moorfoot

Sheffield

S1 4PQ

Crime Concern Trust

Beaver House

147-150 Victoria Road

Swindon

Wiltshire

SN1 3UY

Tel: 01793 863 500

Website: www.crimeconcern.org.uk

Information on crime related topics including domestic burglary and special community pages

Crime Reduction Website

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Information and training on crime reduction.

Crimestoppers Trust

Apollo House

66a London Road

Morden

Surrey

SM4 5BE

Tel: 0208 254 3200

E-mail cst@crimestoppers-uk.org

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

National charity aimed at reducing crime

Handout Ten – (Continued)

Home Office Crime Reduction College

The Hawkhill
Easingwold
York
YO61 3EG
Tel: 01347 825 060
E-mail crc@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Information and Training on Crime Reduction

The Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science

School of Public Policy
University College London
29/30 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9QU.
Tel: 0207 679 4781.
Research information and education on crime reduction.

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7664 3000
Website: www.lga.gov.uk
National representative body of local government including local authority
community safety officers.

NACRO

169 Clapham Road London
SW9 0PU
Tel: 0800 0181 259
Website: www.nacro.org.uk
Information about the care and resettlement of offenders and general crime
reduction topics.

National Neighbourhood Watch Association

NNWA
2nd floor
69 Park Lane
Croydon
CR9 1BG
Website: www.neighbourhoodwatch.net
E-mail info@nnwa.org.uk
Advice, guidance and training about neighbourhood watch and crime
reduction

Handout Ten (continued)

'Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest

Further Information can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (020 7944 8383), Government Offices

<http://www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk/>

Neighbourhood Renewal Learning Chest

Further Information can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (020 7944 8383), Government Offices

<http://www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk/>

www.renewal.net

An on-line guide to what works in neighbourhood renewal. renewal.net is for anyone already involved in neighbourhood renewal or wanting to get involved.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust

14 East Sheen Avenue

London SW 14

Tel: 020 8392 1839

website: www.suzylamplugh.org

email: trust@suzylamplugh.org

Works alongside the Government, police and other agencies to minimise the damage cause to individuals by physical, verbal and psychological aggression."

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)

5th Floor

Trafford House

Chester Road

Manchester M32 0RS

Tel: 0161 868 3500

Fax: 0161 877 6256

email info@tpas.org.uk

<http://www.tpas.org.uk>

TPAS is a national non-profit making organisation that provides information, advice, training, consultancy, seminars and conferences on all aspects of involving tenants in their housing management.

Victim Support

Cranmer House

39 Brixton Road

London

SW9 6DZ

Tel: 020 7735 9166

Website: www.victimsupport.com

Information and advice about support for the victims of crime.

Handout Ten (continued)

www.volcomgrants.gov.uk

A pilot website detailing grants that are available to voluntary and community organisations.

Local Contacts

Crime and Disorder Partnership

Local Police Crime Reduction Officer

Local Authority Community Safety Officer

Government Office for the Region

Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator