SUBMITTED BY INSPECTOR TOM STODDART
FOR THE 1998 HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD ON
PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING
REACH FOR SUCCESS

CLEVELAND POLICE

SUBMITTED BY INSPECTOR TOM STODDART FOR THE 1998 HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD ON PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING
ABSTRACT

REACH FOR SUCCESS

This is a project designed to take a generation of young people out of the influence of crime, and to improve the quality of life of all residents. It is a move from confrontation to compromise.

This problem solving initiative was initiated following extensive consultation in the form of public meetings and crime surveys.

The target areas of Grangetown and South Bank can be fairly described as socially deprived suffering from high levels of unemployment and plagued by crime and disorder problems. These issues dominated public debate and it was obvious that there was a lack of confidence within the community. This revealed itself in a cynicism at Police efforts to effectively deal with these problems. In short, there was a great deal of frustration and due to the closure of businesses and the moving from the area of long established residents, a spiral of decline was gaining an increased momentum.

Both areas had been granted Challenge Fund status to regenerate the housing stock and improve community facilities, however, this work would be undermined unless the problems of crime and disorder were tackled.

The opportunity was there to take a fresh look at the problems and for the Police to work in full partnership with other concerned agencies, businesses and most importantly the residents.

The problem was tackled by a combination of initiatives driven by the Police. Central to these was an attempt to involve the main perpetrators of crime, the young people of the area, in compromise, not conflict. It was done through sport - Basketball.

It recognised the serious problem of the misuse of drugs by young people and that is why the target age group was from 6-16 years.
This initiative resulted in a unique partnership between the author, his Community Policing Team and an American Special Needs Teacher who is the Player/Coach of a local basketball team, the Teesside Mohawks. His experience and rise from a ghetto background to achieving success in the USA and Europe provided a fresh approach to dealing with young people.

Outdoor facilities have been manufactured and installed in the centre of the most troubled areas. Role models from the Mohawks basketball club coach and counsel young people in all schools as well as providing evening and school holiday sessions. In excess of 2,000 young people participate and local teachers and youth workers praise the impact the project has made to attitudes of their children.

More importantly there has been a dramatic reduction in crime and disorder in the area, paving the way for social regeneration.
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scanning</td>
<td>1 – 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response</td>
<td>4 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>9 – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>11 – 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Policing Team Officers</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The areas of Grangetown and South Bank lie within the Langbaurgh Police District of Cleveland. Cleveland, formerly known as Teesside is an urban area in the North East of England with a history of heavy engineering, chemical processing and ship building, centred on the River Tees. (See Appendix 1).

The Force area is 59,090 hectares and has a population of 557,700. It is Policed by 1,500 Officers and 600 Support Staff. It is split into four Police Districts.

The Grangetown and South Bank areas are at the heart of Cleveland with a combined population of 16,000. They have the following characteristics:-

- Unemployment 40%
- Single Parent Families 38%
- Population under age of 16 years 33%

This compares with a National Average of 12% unemployment and 18.9% single parent families and highlights the social deprivation of the areas.

Both areas suffered badly due to the closure of major industries and restructuring of others such as British Steel and the Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). They still retain a proportion of residents who were born and bred in the area who have either retired or have been made redundant, but there has been a steady population decline over the last 20 years.

Crime has increased in almost direct proportion to the exodus of the working population. The areas have featured in the press both locally and nationally for all the wrong reasons, and they became notorious for young people racing around the streets in stolen motor cars which would then be set alight. Burglaries and other offences were being committed, with local shop keepers being particular targets. Robberies occurred on a very regular basis and even reasonably profitable businesses saw their profit margins cut or were forced to close.

These problems were further exacerbated by the fact that these crimes were being committed by youths who lived in the area, therefore it was difficult to obtain evidence on which to convict, due to reluctance from witnesses for fear of reprisals. Groups of young people would hang
about on street corners drinking, being abusive, causing damage to property and would victimise those who complained.

Although these problems were not unique within Cleveland the scale of crime and vandalism particularly by young people was such that it was the most challenging to address. It also became a disproportionate drain upon the resources of the Force in preventing these localities becoming ‘no go’ areas. The cost of vandalism to publicly owned properties in Grangetown in the year 1995/1996 totalled £333,580.

Clearly this spiral of decline could not be allowed to continue and the Police undertook crime surveys, attended in excess of ten public meetings and listened to the concerns from the business community. Discussions took place with local politicians and council officials and the fact that basic work from the public utilities could not routinely be carried out underlined the scale of the problem. There was almost no affordable local youth facilities available and many of those that existed had been vandalised.

It would therefore be wrong the attribute the identification of the problem to one individual, although the Police were in the firing line. The whole community recognised it but no one organisation had the means to tackle all the issues. It was a multi agency local government problem from the outset but it required a catalyst and a driver in the form of the Police.

**ANALYSIS**

The crime problems were analysed using the Cleveland Police Crime and Incident Pattern Analysis System (CIPAS). It indicated the scale of the increase in crime in Grangetown and South Bank over the past twenty years. (See Appendix 2).

It also indicated the dramatic increase since 1992. (See Appendix 3).

Public meetings were held and there were a number of major issues which emerged. (See Appendix 4).

A crime survey was conducted on behalf of the Police by Safe in Teesside, a business partnership with the remit to make the whole of Cleveland a safer place to live. (See Appendix 5).

Analysis clearly showed that the public had serious concerns over the effects of crime and disorder on their daily lives, particularly with regards to young offenders. They saw that the issue of crime needed to be resolved before any lasting improvements could take place.
Clearly the entire community would have to become involved, as crime and the fear of crime had become an integral part of every day life. Not only would it need to include residents, businesses and housing providers but also the Local Authority and the remaining industries in trying to provide employment opportunities.

Through consultation it also became evident that young people themselves were particularly concerned about crime and the impact it had on their lives and futures. (See Appendix 6).

The greatest harm felt by the public was the loss in confidence in their ability to enjoy a normal life, to leave their home after dark and to feel safe walking the streets. There was also a great deal of frustration at the Police’s apparent inability to resolve these issues. The public saw it as a ‘Police’ problem.

Prior to the project the Police and the Local Authority were simply fire-fighting. A great deal of effort was being made in the areas of crime prevention but much of this was defensive. Unsightly bars and grills escalated the fear of crime and deterred new businesses moving into these areas. There was a philosophy of “just keeping the lid on it” and Police patrols were carried out in vans and cars with protective grills on their windows. A great many high profile, manpower intensive operations were carried out in attempting to tackle the problems but non appeared to instil public confidence.

Despite these efforts analysis revealed the problem was continuing to grow and continually throwing resources at it was not having the desired effect.

Having identified the problem the issue became one of, "how to tackle it?". Further extensive consultation was clearly necessary and in late 1996 and 1997 further meetings were held. An example of this was in February, 1997 when in excess of 120 people attended a conference at St. John's Church Hall, South Bank, to discuss and explore the way forward.

This group comprised of a broad section of the community, i.e. residents, business, the Church, Local Authority, Police and representatives from the ethnic minorities, pensioners and women's groups. Facilitated workshops were created and from these it became clear that they wanted the following:-

- Locally based Officers patrolling on foot;
- Full liaison with a nominated community group at monthly intervals;
- Officers to work with young people and help devise a youth strategy;
• Agencies to work together and to share information;

• Criminality to be tackled vigorously.

These consultations were pivotal events as the Police were now asking, **how do you wish to be Policed? What are your priorities?** in order that we could respond and be answerable for the actions taken to combat the highlighted problems. In turn the wider community and other authorities fully accepted their responsibilities and role in tackling crime and its related issues.

**RESPONSE**

The Force has three main operational strategies:

• Zero Tolerance to burglary and quality of life issues as a short term expedient;

• A longer term Problem solving approach to reduce demands upon resources;

• Partnerships between the Police and other interested parties, particularly the Local Authorities.

It was determined that a combination of these three strategies would be the most appropriate response, but to tailor these to the needs of Grangetown and South Bank.

The primary response was to begin to restore public confidence in the Police and this was believed to be necessary to underpin all future initiatives. This was done in the following ways:

**ADDITIONAL POLICE AND NEW OFFICES**

Following an economic option appraisal approval was given by Government Office for the North East for funding for six additional Police Officers to work in these areas. This doubled the number of Officers available and provided a kick-start for a Community Policing Team initiative. Community Police Offices were opened in the North and South of Grangetown and in the West of South Bank. Two of which are shared with other Housing, Health and Social Services agencies. (See Appendix 7).
MOBILE PHONES

The Officers working in these areas were provided with mobile phones which were variously paid for by Resident Associations, Housing Providers and Businesses. Contact cards were printed giving the Officers’ names and telephone numbers. (See Appendix 8). The Police paid the phone bills and also for delivery of the contact cards to every home and business in the area to allow immediate contact on a formal and informal basis. A bonding process began.

WITNESS/VICTIM SUPPORT

Because of the problem of securing evidence to prosecute offenders, Phil Hugill, a retired Army Officer, was recruited to work with victims of crime and to provide support for witnesses in Grangetown throughout the judicial process. Similarly Steve McCabe, an ex Local Government Worker, was employed to look after witnesses in South Bank. Help was therefore always on hand to provide support and to counter any witness intimidation. They work from the same Office as the Community Policing Team.

CCTV

A partnership was developed between the Police and the Local Authority to install CCTV cameras in the most vulnerable areas. The Police acted as Project Manager and secured contracts for the installation and establishment of a Control Room.

Consultation with the local community took place and sites were established where the cameras could be installed. (See Appendix 9).

CASE CONFERENCING

To prevent young offenders climbing the criminal ladder Police Officers from the Community Policing Team began to work with the parents of first time offenders in an attempt to divert them away from more serious crime. It was determined that a focus for diversion was necessary and many were referred to the ‘Reach For Success’ Project which is discussed later.

On the other hand recidivist offenders who failed to take advantage of diversion were targeted and instantly arrested.
OTHER POLICE TACTICS

The Community Policing Team with the consent of the residents, made a point of stop checking and searching anyone suspected of being involved in crime. A special effort was made to continually check those individuals subject to conditions of bail. Any breach of these conditions would result in the offender being arrested. Full use was also made of every available Force resource from motorcycles to horses to implement these policies.

These policies were visible to the community and were all designed to meet the primary objective of restoring public confidence in the Police and reducing crime and the fear of crime.

REACH FOR SUCCESS PROJECT

Whilst still striving for a solution to the problem of crime being committed by young people living in these areas it was clear that a solution had to be found within the same locality. It was also evident that a strategy was necessary to deal with and work with young people. This was the birth of the Reach For Success Project which is the keystone to this problem solving initiative and was designed to run parallel with all the other initiatives outlined. It involved the introduction of a relatively new sport to the area - Basketball.

Space and opportunity to install basketball facilities existed in the local Cromwell Road School, South Bank, which suffered from repeated vandalism and burglary. The Headteacher, Mrs. Urwin, commendably agreed to the use of her school playground to pilot the project.

Mr. Tony Hanson, a Special Needs Teacher at another local school, was approached. He is a Player/Coach for the Teesside Mohawks Basketball Team and has played at the highest levels. He is an American who was raised in a ghetto and through sport and with the help of the Police and Church had achieved success in the USA. He therefore had both motive and opportunity to help.

A partnership was formed with the avowed intention of giving the same opportunity to the young people in Grangetown and South Bank. It was essential that this project strived to change a culture where role models were often provided from the criminal world and drugs dominated.

Consultation took place with the youth panels, youth clubs and kids on the street corners where the ideas were put forward. Mr. Hanson's message to them was "Listen, here is a Police Officer who is looking for an alternative to confrontation". Overwhelming backing was received.
In order to make an impact it was necessary to move quickly but the cost of providing facilities was prohibitive. We were grateful to the ICI and the local apprentice training school known as TTE for their generosity in designing and manufacturing the posts, backboards and basketball rings. The Local Authority staff erected them and the project was launched on 4th July, 1997.

A bid was made to the Single Regeneration Budget Community Chest Fund and the pilot project was established. The Local Education Authority allowed the use of indoor facilities at another local comprehensive school, St. Peter's at South Bank and at the Grangetown Boys' Club.

The success of the scheme was demonstrated by the level of support from all sections of the community.

Two hundred and fifty young people together with representatives from the Public and Private Sector, Local Councillors, Church and ethnic minority leaders made the launch a memorable day. Perhaps most important was the attendance of those who had suffered most, the local residents.

Each youngster received a T-shirt printed with the Reach For Success and anti-drugs logos. Local business provided 50 basketballs and refreshments for the day.

In brief, in the words of a local youth leader, Gurdip Gill, "A phenomenon had begun". The impact was immediate and it was pleasing to see parents joining in with their sons and daughters making use of the basketball facilities in the school yard. (See Appendix 10a).

The whole ethos of the scheme was to instill the philosophy of team work with emphasis on respect for themselves and others. The target group was 6-16 years and quality role models were vital. Many sessions begin with 'counselling' from individuals considered suitable to be "role models".

A small management team was established involving Police and local businesses and from there the project began to expand. The growing reputation of the scheme saw demands from other schools to take part.

Consequently, consultation took place with all the eleven headteachers in the area and their staff. A meeting was held at South Bank Police Station and they enthusiastically agreed full co-
operation. They stated that with the influence of Reach For Success, children were easier to teach. As a result the scheme spread to all the schools in Grangetown and South Bank.

The local Health Trust recognised the work being done and provided formal training for the coaching staff on Health and related issues. These actions were designed to lay the foundation for the long-term future of the project.

As the scheme grew and more coaches were requested, the Tees Valley Housing Association provided a home free of charge in Grangetown for Ralph Bucci, a young American basketball coach. He is 21 years of age and a graduate from New York. He relates very well to the young people in the community and is having a very positive impact.

Patrons have been established in the UK and in America. These are Dr. Marjorie Mowlam MP and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (See Appendix 10b), and Donald DEE ROW a former Olympic coach based in the University of Connecticut.

Support and management assistance were pledged by Rotary Clubs and an organisation called Teesside Tomorrow, a business group made up of the top 80 companies in the area, is backing the project.

At the onset of the project in April, 1997 there was a promise of a prize to the most improved young people. A panel is now due to select these. The number has been set at 4 and funding and arrangements are in place for the prize to be awarded.

The prize is a trip to an American Basketball Camp in Connecticut in July, 1998 followed by a stay as a guest of Connecticut State Police. This will be awarded regardless of the young persons financial status.

There are now in excess of 2,000 youngsters who have been involved with the Reach For Success project and steps are now in hand to recruit a person to help administer and develop the initiative in the future. Work is ongoing to initiate future partners, further sponsors and to expand the initiative across the whole of Teesside.

As with all problems the resources available although finite in financial terms are in reality limited only by the imagination, commitment, and determination of those involved. The Reach For Success and other projects are an excellent indicator of that statement.
The main difficulty was to overcome the cynicism and defeatism engendered by many years of continuing decline, both in the eyes of the community but more importantly in the attitudes of the agencies responsible for the quality of life. It was also necessary to overcome the inter-agency prejudices and rivalry. TRUST THROUGH PARTICIPATION became the watchword.

ASSESSMENT

SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET FUNDING (SRB)

Both areas competed for and have been awarded Central Government Single Regeneration Budget Challenge funding and a great deal of investment is at present being made to improve the environment, with major renovations in the housing stock. This also includes the provision of recreation areas. To allow this to take place or to secure such funding it was vital to restore public confidence and for the Police to be successful in tackling the issues of crime and fear of crime.

The Police intend to continue to play a full part in the SRB process with the District Commander being a member of the board appointed to approve and allocate expenditure. In addition a Police Officer has been seconded to the Local Authority Policy Unit to assist in co-ordinating the efforts of the Police and Local Authority.

Already the SRB Boards have been asked for help to further develop the basketball programme throughout every school and to maintain its impact and momentum. The Board comprises of local residents, Councillors, businesses, Council Officers and representatives of public and private sector bodies. Approval and future funding has been agreed.

A mini bus has been provided by the South Bank SRB partnership to transport children between schools, to attend competitions and also for the benefit of the wider community.

An outdoor floodlit basketball pitch has been constructed in a purpose-built park in Grangetown and Reach For Success provide coaching facilities for the local youngsters. (See Appendix 11).

Since the launch of the Reach For Success project the improvements in the quality of life around Grangetown and South Bank have been dramatic. Checks have been made with those victims who had suffered most, they assured us that their problems had more or less ceased. On checking the facilities installed in the Cromwell Road School it was found that up to seventy
young people had moved from the street corners and were making use of the basketball facilities. In addition there were no reports of burglary or vandalism to the school.

From April, 1997 to April, 1998 crime in Grangetown and South Bank has fallen dramatically. The major reductions were in burglary and auto crime where reductions of 62.8% and 77.7% were noted.

A change of attitude in the community is evidenced by the letters from the Grangetown Residents' Association (See Appendix 10c). and the South Bank Residents' Association. (See Appendix 10d).

Another measure of change is the reductions in arrests of people aged between 11-18 years old from Grangetown and South Bank. As assessment on the first 4 months of 1996, 1997 and 1998 showed the following:-

1996 - 249 arrests 1997 - 212 arrests 1998 -130 arrests
i.e. between 1996 -1998 a reduction of 47.8%

As a further check detailed research has been made on CIPAS which shows that detected crimes committed by offenders under the age of eighteen years have also dropped.

This is evident as in the first four months of 1997, 135 persons of this age group were either charged or reported. In 1998 this figure was 48, a reduction of 64.5%.

incidents, including crime and minor disorder, in Grangetown and South Bank show a reduction of 2,848 from 6,037 in 1996 to 3,189 in 1997. (See Appendix 13).

The cost of damage to Local Authority properties declined dramatically (See Appendix 10e). The same reduction applied to local businesses. One local supermarket chain, A. Heagney Ltd., state they have shown a reduction of 62% in crime at their Grangetown supermarket and 50% at their South Bank branch. (See Appendix 10f). The public utilities have also been able to complete their work on schedule. (See Appendix 10g).

A second crime survey was carried out by Safe in Teesside in the Grangetown area in early 1998, to evaluate the impact of our Policing policies. A summary of results is included in (Appendix 14), however it was pleasing to note that 65% of those questioned thought the Police had a better relationship with local people than had been the case twelve months before. There was also less fear of crime and people felt safer when going out after dark.
Assessment is a continual process and involves residents and businesses from both the public and private sector. In addition the Police report to a Police Consultative Group on a monthly basis in accordance with their wishes. The Police report on their performance and issues surrounding crime and quality of life are addressed at these meetings.

As with all plans there were minor procedural and practical difficulties in implementation. Many of which rested upon interpersonal relationships between the players. The major difficulty was changing the culture of those involved to believe that success could be achieved. The greatest asset in achieving this was success itself - once this became tangible belief flowed back.

Reduction in crime, improved quality of life, reduced demands on Police time have all allowed Officers to target and spend time dealing with issues which otherwise would have been ignored.

During the implementation phase great effort was required to ensure that the surrounding communities were not to be the subject of displaced crime. An examination of the crime statistics for the adjacent areas of Eston, Normanby and Teesville show a 30% reduction in crime and a letter is included from Eston Residents' Association describing the efforts made by the Police. (See Appendix 10h).

Most importantly this initiative has led to a fundamental change in the relationship between the Police Management and the Operational Officers involved. The ownership of the problem now rests with the Officers on the ground. They have been given the necessary support from their District Commander and his Senior Managers, but the successes achieved have been directly attributable to their own efforts. Within Langbaurlgh Police District the hierarchical chain has been broken and there is a developing expectation that initiative and best practice emanates from the grass roots and does not cascade from above.

CONCLUSION

This problem solving initiative was conceived and implemented by the author with a view to reduce the work of patrolling Officers.

Sponsorship of the Reach For Success project has been approximately £55,000 in the financial year 1997/1998 (including the purchase of a mini-bus). In kind contributions e.g. peoples' time, the use of facilities and the design and supply of equipment totalling around £50,000. The
additional Police Officers, Witness Victim Support Workers total around a further £200,000 per annum.

This Problem Orientated Policing Initiative although Police driven has resulted in solid partnerships being developed with a view to making a long-term contribution to improving the quality of life for the people of Grangetown and South Bank. It has already been successful in reducing crime and the fear of crime, more importantly, however it prepared the ground for a successful SRB programme which should increase employment opportunities and the general prosperity of the area. It is not impossible to “Reach for Success’.
COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM OFFICERS

**SOUTH BANK**

INSPI. 1371 Stoddart  
SGT. 1163 Reader  
PC 813 Hansom  
PC 1541 Baines  
PC 912 Cooney  
PC 498 Milburn  
PC 591 Gray

**GRANGETOWN**

SGT. 317 Dulk  
PC137 Whitley  
PC 41 Matthews  
PC 460 McCabe  
PC 635 Morgan  
PC 616 Johnson  
PC 219 James

**ESTON**

PC 107 Lamb  
PC 1203 Holmes  
PC 436 Wheelan  
PC 730 Williams  
PC 412 Moore

**CONTACT OFFICER**

INSPI. Tom Stoddart  
Police Station  
South Bank  
Tel. No.: 01642 304206  
Fax: 01642 301963
LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1       Location of Grangetown and South Bank
Appendix 2       Increase in Crime 1976 -1996
Appendix 3       Increase in Crime 1992 - 1996
Appendix 4       Public Concerns
Appendix 5       Safe in Teesside - Crime Survey I
Appendix 6       The Views of Young People
Appendix 7       Community Police Officers
Appendix 8       Officers Business Cards
Appendix 9       CCTV Installations
Appendix 10      Letters of Appreciation
                   a) Gurdip Gill - Local Youth Leader
                   b) Dr. M. Mowlam MP
                   c) Grangetown Residents' Association
                   d) South Bank Residents' Association
                   e) Redcar and Cleveland Council
                   f) A. Heagney Ltd.
                   g) Northumbria Water
                   h) Eston Residents' Association
Appendix 11      Floodlit Basketball Pitch
Appendix 12      Crime Reduction in Grangetown and South Bank 1997 - 98
Appendix 13      Incident Reductions in Grangetown and South Bank 1997 - 98
Appendix 14      Safe in Teesside - Crime Survey II
REPORTED CRIME IN GRANGETOWN AND SOUTH BANK AREA
TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED CRIMES PER YEAR (1ST JAN - 31ST DEC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>1,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1,438</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **SOUTH BANK**
- **GRANGETOWN**
ISSUES EMERGING FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

2.7.4 Survey. Public Meetings

In order to confirm the community concerns over crime, surveys and public meetings were held with the following results.

i) Grangetown

Survey Results

An independent survey undertaken in January 1996 asked 300 local people for their views on crime and safety. Amongst the main findings were:

- 75% of all respondents considered crime to be a problem of the area. Young people were less likely to consider crime to be a problem than were older people.

- 66% of all respondents said that they were worried about being a victim of crime. Again, on an unprompted question, the most prevalent fear is that of having one's house broken into.

- 44.7% of all residents do not feel safe going out after dark in Grangetown.

- Nearly one third of all respondents (31.7%) had been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months. 13.6% of respondents had been a victim of crime on more than one occasion.

The results of this survey supported a less formal survey carried out by the SRB Coordination Team and the views expressed at public meetings.

ii) South Bank

a) Public Meeting

On 25 September 1996 a public meeting was held to confirm the previously stated views of residents with regard to Closed Circuit Television and a questionnaire was completed here and by residents at the South Bank Residents Association. 117 people completed the document and the full result is attached at Appendix A.
Significant features of the questionnaire identified that:

- 96% feel that crime is a problem
- 63% do not feel safe going out after dark
- 80% feel that more police patrols would increase safety of local people
- 85% feel that CCTV would help prevent crime in residential districts.

b) Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment

South Bank is currently undergoing a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment and as part of the consultation process with the community three surveys have been commissioned. Included within the Social Survey are a number of questions relating to police and crime. The full survey will not be available for some time, however preliminary results reveal concerns which can be addressed by this project.

Do you feel safe and secure in your street

NO  63.1%

Are you satisfied with the level of policing in

the South Bank NRA area

NO  72.1%

Do you feel safe and secure in your house

NO  58%

c) Community Consultation

On 7 February 1997 a public meeting attended by 68 local residents and 15 representatives from Voluntary & Public Sector organisations was held to address the issues of additional policing. It was conducted as a workshop with discussion centering on four questions:

i) explore the types of crime which concern local residents;
ii) explore the locations in South Bank where crime is a concern for local residents;
iii) examine the most vulnerable times of the day/week;
iv) what are the benefits and concerns of having additional policing in South Bank.

A report on the meeting is attached at Appendix B.

Essentially the meeting concluded that additional policing was needed to enhance and protect future development of the SRB programme. Key times were identified as were locations where police should initially concentrate their efforts. The possibility of additional policing being available for community initiatives was also mooted.
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1) FEMALES INTERVIEWED: 66   MALES INTERVIEWED: 34

2) AGE GROUPS INTERVIEWED:
   14 - 17 YRS  2
   18 - 21 YRS  6
   22 - 30 YRS 25
   31 - 40 YRS 26
   41 - 50 YRS 16
   50+        25

3) HAVE YOU BEEN THE VICTIM OF CRIME?
   YES - 71
   NO  - 29

4) DID YOU REPORT THE CRIME TO THE POLICE?
   YES - 68
   NO  - 32

   COMMENTS: One person did not report the crime to the police, stating it was a waste of time.

5) WERE YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESPONSE FROM THE POLICE?
   YES - 30
   NO  - 38

   COMMENTS: One person chose not to comment.

6) WHAT WAS THE CRIME/CRIMES?
   CAR CRIME  16
   ASSAULT    7
   BURGLARY   50
   HARASSMENT 3
   MUGGING    1
   SEX OFFENCES 1
7) WHICH AGE GROUP WOULD YOU SAY IS EFFECTED BY CRIME?

18-21 YRS  2
22-30 YRS  5
40-50 YRS  1
50+  2
NO TARGET AGE GROUP  90

8) WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU FEEL CRIME IS COMMITTED?

MORNING  12AM - 8AM  18
AFTERNOON  1PM - 6PM  7
EVENING  6PM -12AM  6
ANYTIME OF DAY  69

9) IN YOUR OPINION WHICH AGE GROUP IS MOST LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIME?

MALE 14-17 YRS  55
FEMALE  19

MALE 18-21 YRS  35
FEMALE  15

ALL AGE GROUPS BOTH GENDERS  15

10) DO YOU THINK THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA HAVE REDUCED CRIME?

YES -  10  NO -  90

Comments: Less TWOC  
What Improvements?

11) GREATEST FEARS:

Burglary  57  ) 38% linked the two together, as
Attack in the home  ) their greatest fear being confronted/attacked

Nuisance 'phone calls  3
Mugging  16
Assault/Sexual Assault  1
Attack on public transport  1
Bogus Callers  1
Car Crime  1

3
12) **How does fear of crime effect day to day life?**

- Go out less after dark: 43
- Avoid certain areas: 6
- Rarely go out alone: 3
- Wary of answering the door: 5
- Keep little cash/valuables: 8
- Not At All: 30

**Comments:** 'Accept it's a way of life'

13) **Have you been the victim of domestic violence?**

- Yes: 29
- No: 65

**Comments:** Six people chose not to answer

14) **Was the violence carried out by:**

- Spouse: 5
- Cohabitee: 20
- Other: 4

15) **Are you aware of "Z" Tolerance Campaign**

- Yes: 74
- No: 26

16) **Over the last 10 years have you become:**

- More Afraid: 69
- No change in level of fear: 30
- Less Afraid: 1

17) **What do you feel are the main social problems experienced by families in Grangetown?**

- Unemployment: 85
  - 25) People linked poverty to unemployment
- Poverty: 5
- Ill Health: 3
  - 4) People also linked ill health with unemployment
- Drugs: 7

**Comments:** Asked to identify drugs used: Blow, Speed, Acid "E"
**ACTIVITIES IN THE GRANGETOWN AREA FOR THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>People could identify for this age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 - 8 yrs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 -14 yrs</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18 yrs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: 69 People felt there was nothing other than pubs for the teenagers.

19) **IF MORE ACTIVITIES WERE AVAILABLE, WOULD IT HAVE A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CRIME IN THE AREA?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: They would not use them anyway. Rather be on the streets. 34 said they did not know if they would use them at all.

20) **WHO DO YOU BLAME FOR CRIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blame</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>They got us into this mess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Not enough discipline at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Too soft on offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth themselves</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>They have no vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Should start crime education at an early age and follow through to senior school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21) **WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN CRIME PREVENTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Government</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Start from the top and work down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Should set the standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not enough power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Right up to leaving Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Organisations/Community</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All others have a vested interest. Local people know what is happening in their area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22) **HOW DO YOU THINK THE POLICE SERVE LOCAL PEOPLE?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Service</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Should lock up known criminals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do what they can</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>More police on the beat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor service</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Give police more power. If they are old enough to commit crime, they are old enough to be punished.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23) **NAME ONE THING WHICH YOU FEEL WOULD REDUCE CRIME IN THE AREA**

- Tougher Sentences from the Courts 26
- Police to have more power 21
- Bring back the birch 6
- Bring back conscription 3
- Employment in the area 19
- More for the youth of today 6
- Make parents more responsible 2
- Target known criminals, get them off the streets 7
- Don’t group single parents together on estates 1
- No Idea 9

24) **HOW SOON WOULD WE SEE A CHANGE IF ALL OF THE ABOVE WAS PUT INTO ACTION**

- Immediately 17
- 6 months - 1 year 18
- 1 - 2 years 28
- 2 - 3 years 13
- 3 - 5 years 4
- Don’t Know 20
GRANGETOWN COMMUNITY SAFETY - YOUTH CONSULTATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consult young people regarding their fears and concerns about life in Grangetown.

1.2 To ask for the young residents recommendations for ways of improving life in the Grangetown Community.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Community Safety Link Worker for Grangetown has been tasked to produce a Community Safety Strategy which will examine the issues relevant to all representative groups of Grangetown. The Strategy will aim to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of all areas and will provide short, medium and long term targets for Grangetown which will strengthen existing partnerships, develop new partnerships and most importantly, involve the residents and businesses of Grangetown in the implementation.

2.2 Many Community Safety issues have implications for the younger residents of Grangetown. And with a history of high levels of juvenile crime in the area it was agreed that the young people must be consulted.

3. METHOD

3.1 As the time scale for completion of the report was relatively short and schools were finished for the Summer it was decided to hold informal discussion groups arranged through local Youth groups and adult residents, with a questionnaire (Appendix A) being distributed through the three main secondary schools in the first weeks of the Autumn Term.

3.2 The discussion groups were guided towards the following:
* What it is like to be young and living in Grangetown
* What is good/bad about Grangetown
* What relationships are like between young people and Police/young people and adults
* How relationships can be improved
* Comments about the media views of Grangetown
* Who the main victims of crime are
* Who the main perpetrators of crime are
* What is seen to be serious / petty crime
* How young people think Grangetown can be improved and made a safer community to live and work in.
* Should young people be involved in making decisions about what happens in the Community

3.3 A total of 110 young people between the ages of 6 and 21 were involved in the discussions. 150 questionnaires were circulated in one of the schools but only 134 were returned by the deadline.

3.4 The quantitative results from the questionnaires are presented in Appendix B.

3.5 Detailed discussion notes from all of the meetings are attached. A summary of the results follows.
4. **SUMMARY**

4.1 At all of the discussion meetings, the consensus was that Grangetown had little to occupy the young people living there. They believed that much of the petty crime committed by young people is the result of boredom. Some of the young people use the Grangetown Youth & Community Centre but many of them were afraid to go because of the threat of bullying. Several indicated that they would like to have youth activities available in the Bolckow Road Neighbourhood Centre, access of which at present is restricted for the young people. It was evident that many of the younger members did not venture away from their homes especially at night because of a fear of violence and intimidation, although very few had actually experienced any physical violence.

4.2 Concern about the environment they live in was very evident from the discussions with the young people of all ages. They feel that the image of the area is not helped by the empty properties which once vacated are quickly vandalised and stripped of saleable fittings. Suggestions from different groups ranged from the Council ensuring new tenants are moved in immediately old ones move out, properties due for demolition being demolished immediately and sites cleared, to the employment of a Warden to live in each area of Grangetown with responsibility for monitoring vandalism etc. in "his" properties.

It is commonly felt that to be a resident of Grangetown brought with it a stigma, they believe that employers would unfairly discriminate against them. Most had experience or knowledge of problems having goods delivered or having repairs or household work done because traders refuse to come into Grangetown. However it was also apparent that some of the young people are quite resigned to this and don't see that they can change anything in the future. Many would like to be able to influence the future of Grangetown but don't believe that there is anyone in the adult world who will listen to them. In spite of the problems, most of the young people had a strong sense of community loyalty and liked living there even though they felt it was boring.

4.3 Many of the young people had had first hand experience of theft from their homes, theft from themselves in the street or parents car stolen. When asked who they felt responsible for the thefts they believed that it was not always the younger criminals responsible, it was clear that they have the opinion that young people are responsible for TWOC, simply because of the excitement and any monetary gain is irrelevant, whereas burglary from houses is the responsibility of older offenders, purely for gain. It appears that the young people recognise offending in a hierarchical model, by age, and that if the younger offenders are targeted early enough many could be prevented from graduating to more serious or repeat offending.

4.4 When asked about shoplifting and breaking in to shops and businesses, it appears that the majority of the young people did not feel that these offences were particularly serious. This opinion was more prevalent amongst the younger age groups from the primary schools, but was also quite common amongst the older ones.

4.5 The groups were all asked their opinion about what they regarded as being serious crime. It was the general opinion that housebreaking, and theft from someone you know is, apart from murder the most heinous crime. It is considered to be akin to stealing from your own family. It was also considered unacceptable to "grass". Young people of all ages agreed that incidents of crime often go undetected because residents are afraid to report them to police for fear of being targeted by the perpetrators. Retaliation could take the form of personal attack or firebombing of homes. More than once it was referred to as "The Grangetown Code"
4.6 Opinions about relationships with adults in general and the Police differed, some of the young people felt that the Police were quite fair, and were sympathetic that they had a difficult job to do. It was felt that the judicial system did not help prevent the offending and offenders often got released without punishment or only a caution. It was also raised on several occasions that young people who either offend or are excluded from school are perceived to have access to attractive leisure provision, whereas the average young person who keeps out of trouble has little opportunity. Generally, the young people felt that there was not enough Police presence in Grangetown and they would feel much safer if Grangetown had a Police Office and more police on the beat.

4.7 It was indicated by the questionnaires that relationships with Police could be improved by officers getting to know young people in the Community on a more social level. However, this was also raised in the discussions and it was felt that many young people would feel afraid to be seen too close to the police as they may be labelled as a grass, and therefore would shy away from contact on a personal or social level.

4.8 CCTV was mentioned on more than one occasion, and most of the young people were aware of the planned cameras on the estate. Opinions of the effectiveness varied from being a good deterrent, to the opinion that crime would simply be displaced out of the camera’s view. The young people generally liked the idea of CCTV as long as there was assurance of a response by Police. Some also liked the idea of the erection of bollards preventing cars from having an unrestricted run through the residential areas. It was suggested by one of the younger groups that burglar alarms should be provided for all homes as a deterrent to burglars. They all felt happy about physical evidence of crime prevention which made them feel safe.

4.9 Questions were asked about how crime and the fear of crime could be tackled. It was raised by one group that parents need to be answerable for what their own children are doing. A common response from the groups was that most of the crimes were the responsibility of a very small minority and unless this minority group is targeted or removed, Grangetown will always have a problem. It was also strongly felt that there needs to be much more leisure provision for young people to keep them occupied. The proposals for a playground near the Neighbourhood Centre were met with some objections. The young people felt that they had not been consulted either regarding the siting of the playground or its contents. A very strong message was given on several occasions that unless young people were involved in planning their own leisure provision, it would not be used and may also be destroyed. Many of the young people were aware of the GAPP project initiated by a Youth Worker at the Grangetown Youth & Community Centre and fully supported the concept.
5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 There were a series of recommendations both for leisure facilities and safety provision made by the various groups. A summary of these are:-

* An outdoor Activity Park
* More Sports facilities, particularly for gids
* More opportunities for trips out of Grangetown
* A Bike track
* A farm or zoo
* More hours opening of the Youth & Community Centre
* Youth worker attached to the Neighbourhood Centre
* Craft Sessions for under 16’s e.g. woodwork,
* A Youth Forum for Grangetown
* An alcohol free club/bar for young people
* A swimming pool / sports centre
* Safe play provision for younger children in various areas near their homes.
* More police presence in the area
* A Police Office or Police House in Grangetown
* Targeting of younger age groups with activities to divert them from crime

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 It is clear from this consultation exercise that the young people of Grangetown feel marginalised in their own community. Any plans which will have implications for young people must include them in both the discussion and implementation stages to promote ownership. Now the process has been started, there are many young people who feel strongly enough about changing external perceptions about Grangetown to keep the momentum going, the Community Safety Strategy needs to recognise this.
Inspector T. Stoddart,
South Bank Police Station,
SOUTH BANK,
Cleveland.

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my thanks to you on behalf of the Youth People in the South Bank and Grangetown area, on the success of the Basketball Initiative which has given many Young People the chance to play a game which is new to many of them.

The initiative has attracted large numbers of Young People to both indoor and outdoor sessions, and all the comments I have heard from the Young People have been positive ones.

I hope that for the sake of the Young People in the South Bank and Grangetown area the Project continues to grow in its success as it is definitely a boon for those of us working with the Young People and indeed for the Young People themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Gurdip Gill
(Area Youth Worker)
Inspector Tom Stoddart  
Cleveland Constabulary  
South Bank Police Office  
Middlesbrough Road  
South Bank  
Middlesbrough  
TS6 6NA  

Monday 15 December, 1997  

Dear Tom,  

RE: REACH FOR SUCCESS PROJECT  

Thank you for the information you have sent me. I would be delighted to be Patron of the project.  

Yours sincerely  

[Signature]  
Marjorie Mowlam MP
27 April 1998

To Whom It May Concern

The Grangetown Residents Association was formed in August 1996. The main objective of the Residents Association was to reduce the level of crime and vandalism which was becoming out of control. Something needed to be done not just for the short term but for the long term.

Although we agreed with the Zero Tolerance Policy, we felt it lacked a vital part which was Youth Provision. Stopping all youths on the streets and searching them must caused more problems and a deeper division between young people and police.

We agreed to contact Inspector Tom Stoddart inviting him to attend our next meeting. Tom listened to our concerns over crime and vandalism and came up with a different style of Policing, he called it Police in your Community.

We now have four Police officers who have been dedicated to working with the people of Grangetown, Community groups and agencies. Tom has encouraged agencies and residents to work in partnership with the Community Police Team. He has also worked on the idea of the basketball initiative for the youths of Grangetown.

Twelve months on the Police are no longer a target but are a respected part of our community, crime has fallen about 60% and vandalism is a thing of the past.

We feel without Tom's input and dedication Grangetown would not be like it is today and if we had more people like Tom Stoddart, who listens to people, takes time to listen and encourages the youth of Grangetown a lot more communities would benefit.

The Grangetown Residents Association is proud to have worked along side Tom Stoddart and hopes this carries on in the future.

Yours sincerely

Paul Tuffs
(Chairman of The Grangetown Residents Association)
To Whom it may concern,

Along with my daughter, for eleven years, we have run a corner shop, called, Open All Hours, in Victoria Street, South Bank. Over the years it has become a nightmare, what with vandalism, and theft.

Since the S.R.B. assisted the police with extra funding, there has been a decline in crime, but it is the junior element which keeps offending. It is a fact that there are too few opportunities to expend their energy, so they turn to all sorts of bad habits.

Last year I attended the launch of Basket Ball in Cromwell Road School, it was a great success and there wasn’t a juvenile on the streets. I wonder if we could have more of this in South Bank. Police Inspector, Tom Stoddard, master minded the basket ball. What we want is more ventures so that the young ones have some interest, as it is, there is very little going on for them.

It will be a slow process, but in the end we will reach out to these youngsters, this, we will certainly achieve.

Yours sincerely,

Pearl Hall.
Dear Tom

**HOUSING SITUATION AT GRANGETOWN AND SOUTH BANK**

Further to our recent conversation regarding the above I am writing to put my views on paper in respect of the current housing situation within Grangetown and South Bank.

In the first instance I regret to advise that my IT System does not specifically record costs associated with vandalism and crime. However I can say quite categorically that the past 18 months has seen a major decline in problems being experienced by Social Housing providers.

I can clearly evidence the fact that in 1996 the problems of arson attacks, break-ins and damage to empty properties were severe. During the limited demolition programmes within South Bank at that time national media coverage was given to the intolerable conditions tenant's were living in during that time.

Similarly in Grangetown the problems were very much on a par with South Bank, in particular the private sector and Housing Associations stock located around the new urban park were specific targets for attack.

A repair cost of £15 to £20,000 was not uncommon in such circumstances.

However since the introduction of the various Police initiatives, in particular the Community Police Team, the support of the Victim Support Workers, the covert CCTV project and of course our own specific Safety Estates Initiative Partnership the overall improvement has been clearly visible.

In South Bank Redcar Road East Estate where many problems existed we have just completed Phase 1 of a larger improvement programme, with little or indeed no security or vandalism problems having arisen.

27th May 1998

Director of Housing and Building Services: Iain Sim MCIH, DPA
The key to success in these areas is to underpin and protect the substantial investment which has gone into the estates and the Police have contributed tremendously to making the areas a much better place to live and work.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

MR IAIN SIM
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & BUILDING SERVICES
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

REACH FOR SUCCESS

I am the Chairman of Anthony Heagney Ltd. We operate twelve convenience stores throughout Cleveland which trade from 7.00am until 11.00pm, seven days a week. Five of these stores are located within the area from which we started over sixty years ago, namely the Langbaurgh district which encompasses South Bank, Grangetown, Normanby, Ormesby and Saltburn.

We started recording crimes committed against us in 1981, usually when there was no serious enough to record, and over the years the number of crimes increased until they reached almost 300 during 1995, and followed a similar pattern during 1996. The worst areas for us were Grangetown and South Bank. In addition to repeated thefts by persistent offenders, these stores also suffered rain raids and robberies and we had to go to extraordinary lengths to stay in business, including bricking up front windows, fitting anti-car-vandal plinths and many other security measures.

As you can imagine, the morale of our staff fell to such levels that it became very difficult to retain good staff. This was due not only to the levels of crime but also to the fear of crime. Not only were our stores regular targets, but staff were also fearful of leaving work late at night, and their husbands occasionally refused to allow them to continue to work for us.

In February 1997 I was approached by Inspector Tony Stoddard. He outlined to me a project that we now know as ‘Reach for Success’, which was to be - and became - a multi-agency approach to crime and related problems. Since we already fully understood the depth of the problems, and we agreed with the objectives of the project, we immediately offered our help and full co-operation.

We attended several community meetings, along with the Community Police Teams, local residents and other interested groups to discuss and develop the project under the enthusiastic chairmanship of Inspector Stoddard. This culminated in all our Directors being present at the official launch, on 4th July 1997, for which we were delighted to be one of the sponsors.

Perhaps one measure of the undoubted success of this project is the improvement in the levels of crime we now face. In the case of our Grangetown store we have experienced a reduction of 62% in reported crime and a 57% reduction at our South Bank store. This, of course, has a ‘knock on’ effect on the confidence of our staff who now feel much safer while at work. These statistics should be viewed in the wider context that crime levels as a whole have fallen, but we feel strongly that ‘Reach for Success’ has had a significant additional effect in the areas referred to. In our view this is because the project has helped to demonstrate to all sections of the community that by working together, and by supporting the police, the ‘silent majority’ can create conditions in which support for law and order is normal and in which many potential criminals, especially younger ones, are encouraged by example to lead normal lives.

M.A. Heagney
28.4.98

Cleveland's premier independent supermarket group, founded in 1937 by Tony Heagney whose signature appears above.

Registered No. 781779 REG 11 01 000000

TOTAL P.62
Two years ago, Northumbrian Water carried out the refurbishment of the water mains in the Grangetown area of Middlesbrough using two firms of specialist contractors.

Shortly after work commenced, both firms suffered thefts of expensive plant and equipment on an almost daily basis, despite increased manning levels and concentrating the equipment into areas kept under constant surveillance. The volume of thefts and the associated intimidation became so great that one contractor requested suspension of the work on Health and Safety grounds.

Investigation of the situation revealed that the problems were not confined to the Water Utilities but similar incidents were also experienced by the Gas, Telephone and Electricity Utilities.

Collectively the Utilities approached the Divisional Superintendent who asked Inspector Tom Stoddart to implement a strategy which would improve the security of all Utilities working in the area.

Thanks to the initiatives introduced by Inspector Tom Stoddart and the efforts of the personnel stationed at the South Bank Police Station, all Utilities can have confidence in the security of their plant whilst working in areas which previously held a certain notoriety.

Also, Northumbrian Water is proud to associate itself with sponsorship of the introduction of the sport of Basket ball into the area.

T HOLMES
Project Manager
21st April, 1998.

From: Mrs. A. Higgins  
Chairperson, Eston Residents Association.

To: Whom it may concern.

Since the formation of our above association one year ago, Inspector Tom Stoddard and his police staff have formed a positive partnership with both the residents and business community of Eston. His team are actively involved in our association, being members of our committee, attending our monthly meeting, keeping the residents informed of all policing activity in our area and the residents responding with any problems concerning the town.

He has brought the Beat Bobby back on to our streets, won sponsorship for mobile phones from the larger business in the area for our Beat Bobbies. We also have our own Traffic Warden.

Eston Police have been very supportive, letting us meet once a month in Eston Police Station when we first formed the Residents Association. He has put Community Policing in Eston, which is what the people of the town wanted.

[Signature]

Ann Higgins,  
Chairperson, Eston Residents Association.
2. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In comparison with the 1996 research, the current survey results indicated that:

+ most residents believed crime problems in the area were much reduced [3.1.1; page 5]

+ concern about crime had shifted from serious property-related crimes to minor and quality-of-life type crimes [3.1.2; page 5 and 3.2.2; page 6]

+ the people of Grangtown felt safer when going out after dark [3.2.3; page 6]

+ those surveyed believed that the police had a better understanding of the crime problems of the area [3.3.1; page 7]

+ higher crime reporting levels indicated increased public confidence [3.4.1; page 8]

+ CCTV was widely supported and additional cameras would be welcomed [3.5.1; page 9 and 3.5.5; page 10]

+ fewer people had been a victim of crime [3.1.3; page 5]

The current research also showed that:

+ respondents were less fearful of crime than was the case twelve months previously [3.2.1; page 6]

+ 65% of those questioned thought that the police had a better relationship with local people than had been the case 12 months before [3.3.2; page 7]

+ the main factor in the non-reporting of crime to the police is fear of reprisals [3.4.1; page 8]

+ a large majority thought that CCTV had been helpful in preventing crime in Grangtown [3.5.1; page 9]

+ CCTV had made the people of Grangtown feel safer - particularly at night [3.5.2; page 9]

+ senior staff in Primary Schools reported that crime prevention measures had significantly reduced crime and improved confidence [3.6.1; page 12 and 3.7.2; page 12]

+ the public believed that most of the initiatives undertaken by the Grangtown Partnership to reduce crime and improve safety had been successful [3.6.1; page 11]