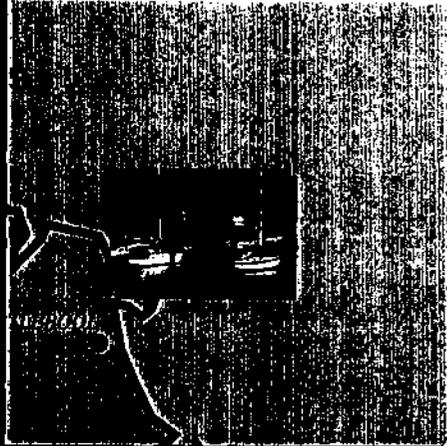


# Repeat Victimisation,

# Domestic Burglary Project



CLEVELAND  
POLICE

# Repeat Victimisation, Domestic Burglary Project

## The Herman Goldstein Award 2003



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST



[www.safeinteesvalley.org](http://www.safeinteesvalley.org)

**Michelle Evans  
Brian Neale**

# THE HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD 2003

## REPEAT VICTIMISATION DOMESTIC BURGLARY PROJECT

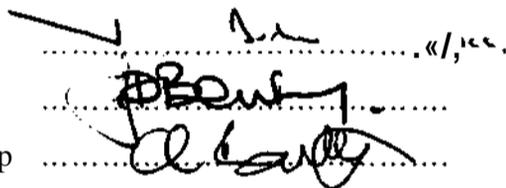
### PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

**Cleveland Police, Safe in Tees Valley and the Crime and Disorder Partnerships of:**

- Middlesbrough
- Stockton
- Hartlepool
- Redcar and Cleveland
- Darlington

**\*Endorsing Chief Officer(s):**

- Cleveland Police
- Safe in Tees Valley
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Handwritten signatures and initials over dotted lines. The signatures appear to be for Cleveland Police, Safe in Tees Valley, and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

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Map illustrating the Tees Valley Region

## REPEAT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC BURGLARY

### Summary

The government has put in place targets to reduce domestic burglary by 25% over the six year period April 1999 to March 2005. Central to addressing 'repeat' incidents should be a strategy to avoid becoming a repeat.

Research by Safe in Tees Valley in 2001/2002 revealed the approach to domestic burglary repeats across the Cleveland Police area and the Darlington Division of Durham Constabulary was inconsistent and ineffective. This resulted in a poor service to victims and an inaccurate recording of crime details. Responses were often hampered by a lack of basic, timely information and no resources to address the problem. The project outline developed the initial work and aimed to:

- Develop a way forward to prevent a first time burglary victim becoming a repeat victim.
- Reduce the number of domestic burglaries through highlighting circumstances of repeats and the predictive characteristics.
- Provide timely and effective intervention with repeats thereby improving service to victims.
- Improve partnership working through information sharing.

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### **The problem was evidenced by:-**

- Interviews with victims and completion of a comprehensive questionnaire.
- Interviews with police officers at all levels.
- Analysis of Crime data identified the high proportion of repeat victims.
- Consultation with five Crime and Disorder Partnership Managers and associated agencies.

Key to the project was contact with and collection of data from repeat burglary victims. Three factors were considered when assessing vulnerability and risk:

- Property Type
- Location
- Victim Characteristics

### **Response to the problem was achieved by:**

- Early intervention on a daily basis to identify and visit repeat victims.
- Undertake thorough security survey.
- Provide bespoke security improvement service to victims.
- Improvement of victim reassurance by spending time with victims, providing advice and points of contact with police and other agencies.

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- Develop a database to establish a profile of repeat victim/property characteristics.
- Interview twelve post custody burglars.
- A daily feedback to partners agencies.
- Regular media campaigns.

### **Impact of response and how measured?**

- 250 victims received bespoke security improvements, the remainder receiving advice and/or security lighting.
- 459 victims of repeat domestic burglary participated in the project.
- Victims reassured - evidenced by letters of thanks.
- First three months, post project term realised a
  - o 36% reduction in number of repeat burglaries (357 to 262)
  - o 27% reduction in first time burglaries (1913 to 1502)

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## **Introduction**

The Tees Valley comprises of four BCU's \* within Cleveland Police area and the Darlington Division of Durham Constabulary. This geographical area is serviced by five Local Strategic Partnerships and CDRP's \* all co-terminus with each BCU. Safe in Tees Valley a unique sub regional Community Safety Partnership acts as a catalyst for many Crime Reduction and Community Safety Initiatives.

This project had active support from:

- All five CDRP Managers
- All five Police BCU's from District Commander through to C.P.O's\*
- Victim Support Service
- Age Concern
- Youth Offending Team
- Probation Service
- Joint Strategy Unit
- Government Office North East

The project aimed to focus upon the victim, improve service to them and understand *if repeat victimisation is linked to characteristic of the person living at the target property, or does the property make it more vulnerable to repeat victimisation?*

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In accordance with the **SARA** problem solving model, this project was subject to constant review and modification. The project funded by Government Office for the North East under the auspices of the Partnership Development Fund employed 15 project workers from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2002 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

All partners saw this high volume crime as a priority and in line with Government Targets the CDRP's identified this within their action plans 2002-2005. (Cleveland No 4 in HMIOMatrix of Indicators 2001-02).

There was no BVPI\* and no clear definition of a repeat victim. It was agreed, with partners the definition of a repeat victim for purposes of this project would be:

***Any Person who has been the victim of a dwelling house burglary or attempted burglary within a rolling twelve month period***

A key part of the project was contact with and collection of data from all repeat burglary victims. Three factors were considered when assessing vulnerability and risk:

- Property Type
- Location
- Victim Characteristics

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## Scanning

The project commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2002. The team embarked upon a period of consultation to establish effectiveness of existing procedures. It also sought to gain consensus as to the best way forward in bringing partners together in meeting 'repeat' issues in a co-ordinated and structured form. Both forces had three tiered responses in place to deal with repeat victims. It appeared that only Darlington and Stockton were adhering to them.

Using the **SARA** model a number of problems requiring remedial attention were identified:

Table 1 - Problems, Response, Result

<i><b>Problem</b></i>	<i><b>Response/Result</b></i>
BCU's* retrieving repeat victim burglary crime information	Centrally based project team provided timely and accurate crime data to BCU's on a daily basis by accessing Crimes Recording systems in both police forces
Differing levels of commitment to the problem of repeats	An agreed system of a priority approach implemented across all BCU's, i.e. victims visited with 24-48 hours, survey undertaken, security improvements carried out promptly
Confusion over information sharing	Protocols introduced servicing the flow of data between agencies and across BCU's - Police, CDRP's * and Victim Support
Poor quality of crime report details	Education and increased awareness of the need for accurate and comprehensive recording details

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<i>Problem</i>	<i>Response/Result</i>
No accurate or detailed analysis of who, what where or when the problem was arising	Project team in association with J.S.U.* took ownership of analytical function in providing statistical data at a force, BCU and ward level. Full breakdown provided in the guise of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping - geographical distribution</li> <li>• Trends</li> <li>• Hotspots</li> <li>• Prevalence</li> <li>• Characteristics-victim/property/m.o.</li> </ul>
No funds for project to Target Harden Properties	Negotiations with police and CDRP's* ensured funding for Target Hardening

It was accepted that these deficiencies required urgent and detailed attention. This would only be achieved if dedicated resources e.g. C.P.O's, Crime Scene Investigators, Research staff and Local Authority Community Safety Departments were committed to the project.

Ongoing consultation was the theme throughout this initiative with the Project Team providing and receiving feedback as to progress and developments at individual, group and organisational level.

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## Analysis

The following methodology was adopted by the project team in its analysis:

- Desk Research 0
- Consultation
- Development of Working Practices
- Data Collection and Analysis Issues

Analysis confirmed that repeat domestic burglary was a significant problem across the Tees Valley, compounded by the fragmented and uncoordinated approach, evidenced across BCU's. Furthermore, inconsistent approaches by police officers and associated partners resulted in a poor service delivery to victims. It was established repeat activity across the Tees Valley mirrored trends across first time burglary offences.

As can be seen at Table 2 local first time burglary trends are replicated nationally.

Table 2 National and local domestic burglary figures

<i>Year</i>	<i>National Burglary Figure</i>	<i>Cleveland Burglary Figure</i>	<i>Durham Burglary Figure</i>
<b>99/00</b>	<b>442,602</b>	<b>7717</b>	<b>4044</b>
<b>00/01</b>	<b>402,984</b>	<b>7138</b>	<b>3200</b>
<b>01/02</b>	<b>430^61</b>	<b>8235</b>	<b>4023</b>
<b>02/03</b>		<b>7321</b>	<b>3083</b>

(Figure for 02/03 n/a)

**0 See literature review in appendices section**

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*Crime Data*

The project team identified a discrepancy, in that the data search of repeat victims from the Cleveland system suggested double counting. In order to ensure accuracy each record during the project term was re-examined. As a result, duplicate records were consolidated into a single record to reflect an accurate figure.

A 21% reduction of the original figure was confirmed after the re examination. Cleveland Police are now reviewing the situation. This will result in the introduction of an additional standard report, consolidating any double counted record.

The project team throughout the initiative maintained a manual independent system, which mirrored the findings of the re-examination. See table 3

Table 3- Repeat Burglary figures (21.8.02 - 21.01.03)

<i>District</i>	<i>Total no of burglaries per district</i>	<i>No of repeats</i>
Hartlepool	607	95
Middlesbrough	1033	233
Stockton	936	154
Langbaugh	320	36
Total - Cleveland	2896	518
Darlington	318	17

Data received from Darlington used a victim only search. Findings indicated an anomaly. By searching on location and victim, 7 additional repeat victims were

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identified. It is essential that all relevant searches are carried out in order to ensure an accurate reflection of the problem. This issue has been raised with senior police managers at Darlington.

*Repeat Burglaries*

Table 4 represents the percentage of repeat burglaries against district totals. During the project term there were 2896 offences of domestic burglary in the Cleveland area, 518 (18%) were repeat victims. 20% of house burglaries were repeat crimes.

Table 4 - % of repeats against district total (21.8.02 - 21.01.03)

<i>District</i>	<i>Total no of domestic burglaries per district</i>	<i>No of repeats</i>	<i>% of repeats against district domestic burglaries</i>
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Langbaurgh</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Darlington</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5%</b>

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Table 5 identifies BCU contributions to the problem

Table 5 -BCU % of problem (21.8.02 - 21.01.03)

<i>District</i>	<i>Total No of repeats - forcewide</i>	<i>No of repeats per district</i>	<i>% of repeats against total no of repeats - forcewide</i>
Hartlepool	518	95	18%
Middlesbrough	518	233	45%
Stockton	518	154	30%
Langbaugh	518	36	7%
Darlington	n/a	17	n/a

Note N/A = data unavailable

### Survey Information

All identified repeat victims were visited in an attempt to bring them into the project. 70% participated and personal data together with security information was collated for analysis purposes. The Joint Strategy Unit, and a Research Officer at Safe in Tees Valley analysed crime and survey data. Survey information revealed:

- Trends
- Hotspots
- Predictive characteristics

High crime is associated with socially deprived areas.

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## Response

Through consultation at practitioner and strategic level the project was taken forward. A systematic and time banded project plan was established. The project life was nine months, incorporating a five months data collection period. Key areas within the process were:

- Project Team provided repeat crime details to each BCU on a daily basis, from computerised crime recording systems.
- Database and data sets were developed and maintained by the project team.
- Districts adopted a high priority response, delivered by C.P.O's. This response was agreed by all BCU's and CDRP's.
- When C.P.O's could not make contact with victim the details were referred to the project team who would undertake victim visits.
- Those victims who proved difficult to contact were written to on two occasions with an average of up to five visits spread between the C.P.O's and the project team.
- Bespoke target hardening was carried out with priority to vulnerable victims.
- Convicted burglars were interviewed to establish what crime prevention methods deterred them.
- All completed questionnaires were returned to project team and entered onto database for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

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- Project Team attended burglary task groups and other crime initiative meetings to share good practice and provide project updates.
- To generate and maintain press/media interest.

The resulting database provided detail of trends during project activity and established a profile of repeat victim characteristics that informed intervention strategies throughout the Tees Valley sub region.

It was considered by the Project Team that the 'offender element' played a significant part in understanding repeat domestic burglaries. *"No offender no burglary"*. A number of convicted burglars were interviewed in an attempt to establish what deters them from committing a burglary. As a result arrangements were made, through the Hartlepool Dordrecht scheme to interview convicted burglars, all of whom had served custodial sentences.

**Footnote** The Hartlepool Dordrecht Initiative is a partnership between the local Police, the Probation Service, the Health Authority and other agencies to reduce offending by persistent post custody adult burglars in the Hartlepool area.

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## **Assessment**

The project was costed and the project team with support of the police and local authorities ensured adequate resources were assigned to the problem, (C.P.O'S, Local Authority Community Safety Department staff and Analytical capabilities).

Ongoing consultation and feedback with partners were key elements for project direction. Formal and informal meetings were held regularly. Amendments were made to:

- a) the composition of the survey report form
- b) Project team taking over visits to victims (after accreditation by C.P.O's to undertake surveys).

A minority of victims however failed to respond to any attempts at contact. Some external surveys were therefore undertaken where property details only were obtained in an effort to gather as much information as possible for project use.

## **Victims**

*Is repeat victimisation linked to the characteristic of the person living at the target property?*

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Single unemployed females in the 25-44 year age bracket appeared more likely to suffer a repeat attack on their property.

Table 6 - Gender/Age etc (21.8.02 - 21.01.03)

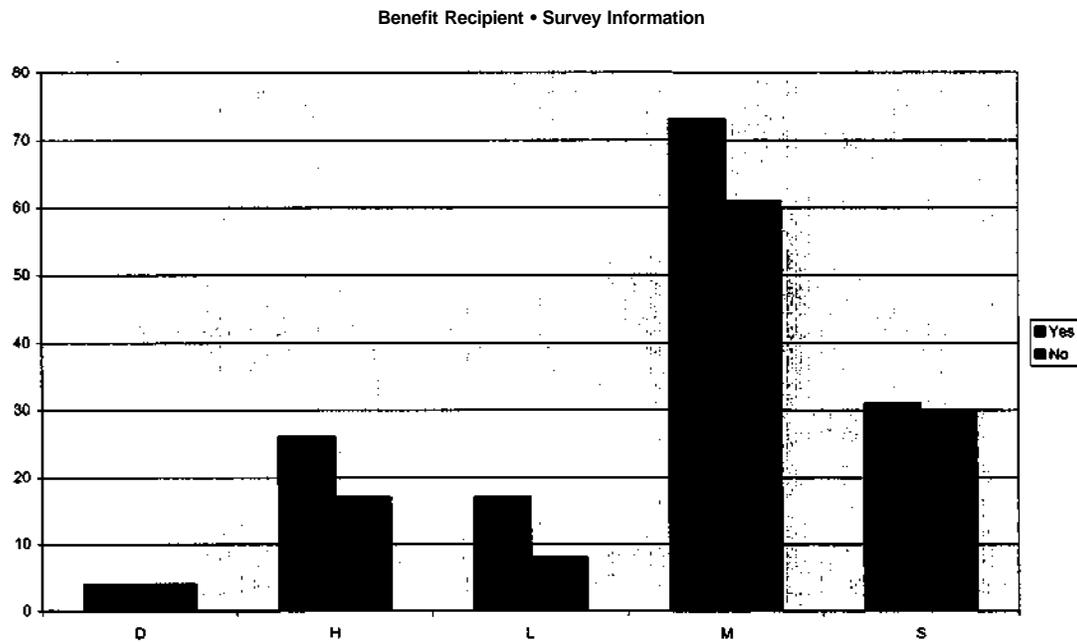
<i>District</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Age 25-44</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>Single</i>
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Langbaurgh</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Darlington</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>50%</b>

### *Benefit Recipient*

Benefit recipients were more likely to become a repeat victim. This research supports this in all districts, with the exception of Darlington; where more victims were in receipt of benefit than were not. See Table 7

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Table 7 - Benefit Recipient - victim survey data



## Property

*"Does the type of property make it more vulnerable to repeat victimisation?"*

Targeted properties were houses and more specifically older terraced properties. Methods of entry varied across the five districts and appeared to be dictated by age, style and location. Middlesbrough continued to suffer rear alleyway attacks, whereas in Hartlepool and Stockton the front door was the popular point of entry.

*"Is vulnerability, in terms of repeat victimisation associated with specific geographic locations?"*

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Domestic burglary would appear to have a concentration in town centre areas, with Middlesbrough experiencing higher levels.

- This project has shown that, albeit not exhaustive, evidence indicates that it is the geographic area, rather than the property which increases the probability of it being burgled.
  - Analysis at ward level revealed that those areas with the highest burglary rates tended to experience the highest percentage of 'repeats'.
  - This initiative has shown that repeat victimisation tends to occur in those areas with higher levels of poverty.
  - Repeat offences also occur in areas where there are less owner occupied houses and more 'other' tenure properties, including those owned by private landlords. This suggests repeat victimisation has an association with the less stable, more transient population.
- Of 459 properties broken into 236 were at houses over fifty years old, compared to:

Property under 10 years	=4	.....
Property 10-19 Years	=8	
Property 20-29 years	= 22	
Property 30-39 years	= 44	
Property 40-49 years	= 66	

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Reasons range from

- o Older properties tend to have wooden windows/doors which are easier for a burglar to force.
- o Many older properties are not maintained and again provide ease of opportunity for the offender.
- Window locks - the majority of victims did have window locks fitted however this has not stopped them being attacked; Middlesbrough and Langbaurgh demonstrated that the preferred point of entry was via a rear window - see table 8.

Table 8 - Entry points (21.8.02-21.01.03)

<i>District</i>	<i>Front door</i>	<i>Rear door</i>	<i>Side door</i>	<i>Patio door</i>	<i>Front window</i>	<i>Rear window</i>	<i>Side window</i>	<i>Window locks fitted</i>
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>1%</b>	5%	4%	23%	<b>1%</b>	28%
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	.9%	4%	31%	<b>1%</b>	45%
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>	7%	4%	24%	<b>2%</b>	40%
<b>Langbaurgh</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>nil</b>	<b>nil</b>	6%	35%	<b>9%</b>	47%
<b>Darlington</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>nil</b>	<b>nil</b>	12.5%	<b>25%</b>	<b>nil</b>	75%

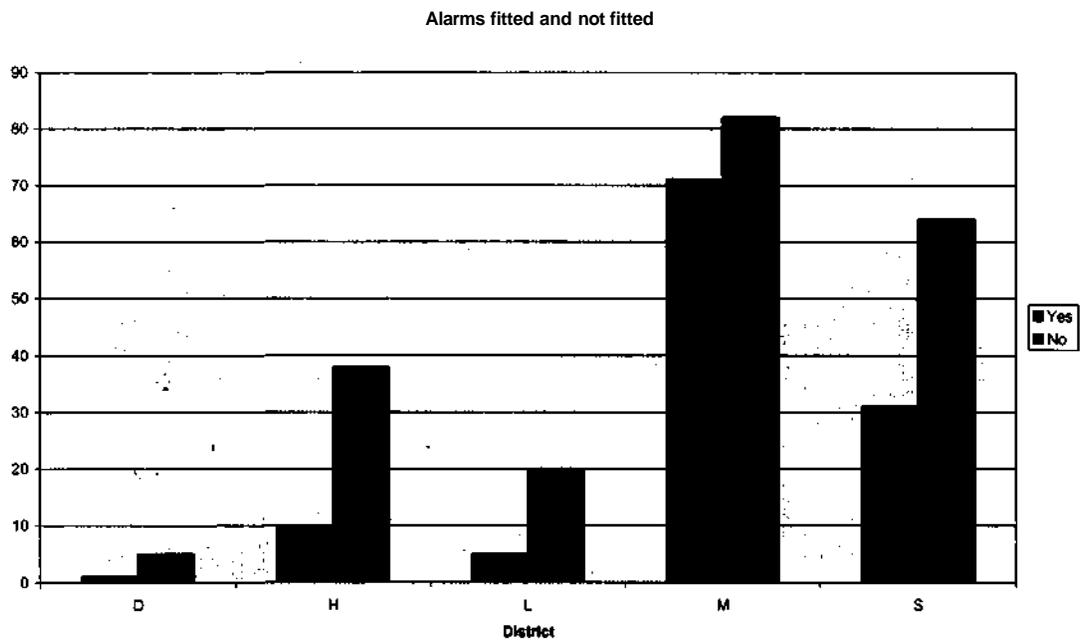
- Point of entry into property across the five districts appeared varied and dictated by age, style and location.
- In view of the disparate points of entry consideration should be given (funding permitting) to providing a bespoke service in relation to security improvements. In essence an odd timer switch,

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door bolt or chain may be of some assistance, but experience has found that bespoke target hardening is the only way forward. This has been accepted in all CDRP's who are in the process of identifying funds for this purpose.

- Terraced housing is more vulnerable than any other type of housing, with mid terraced houses being the most open to attack (not end terrace property).
- Analysis has indicated more houses without alarms are attacked, as opposed to those fitted with a functioning system. Offenders interviewed were ambivalent to alarms, but did indicate a limited preference to break into property where no alarm was fitted, see table 9.

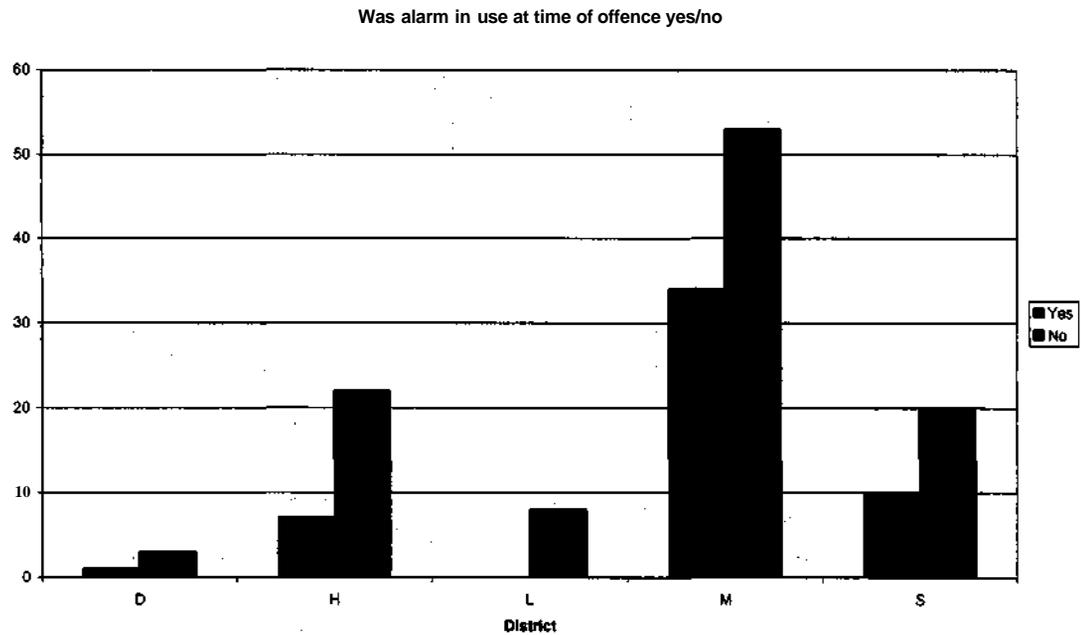
Table 9 - Alarms fitted -victim survey data



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Table 10 clearly shows that the majority of burglar alarms were not in use at the time of the repeat burglary. There is a clear need to educate the public into the benefits of using an alarm system. This was addressed by media campaigns and provision of specific crime prevention literature.

Table 10 - Alarms in use



## Preventative Measures

### *Security Lighting*

Whilst there has been an increase in the use of internal timer switches during the project term (Cleveland held a Light against Crime Campaign) there is still a need to educate the public in relation to the use of outside security lighting. The tables below gives clear evidence to support this. Offenders did say security lighting deterred them.

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*Timer Switch information*

Table 11 - Internal timer switches

<i>District</i>	<i>Total No. not having internal timer switches (project term)</i>	<i>Total No. not having timer switches Nov 2002</i>
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Langbaurgh</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Darlington</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2 - External security lighting

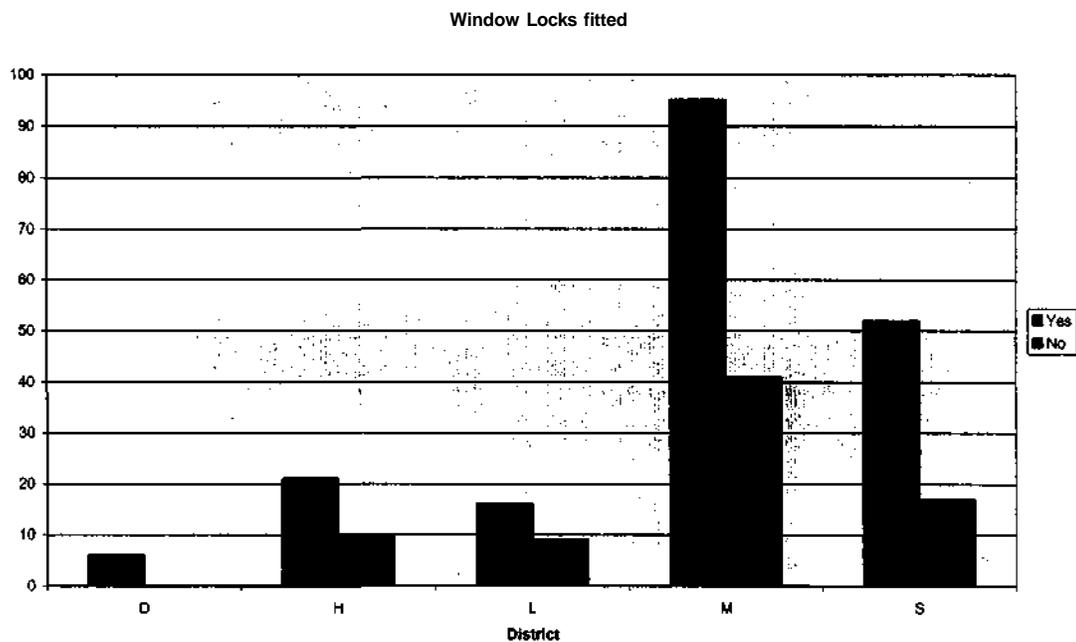
<i>District</i>	<i>Property did <u>not</u> have security lighting</i>
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Stockton</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Langbaurgh</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Darlington</b>	<b>25%</b>

*Window locks*

41% of houses broken into did have window locks fitted - see table 13 Window access is the second most popular choice of entry by burglars. It appears that window locks are not acting as a deterrent. C.P.O's are aware of this and take note when giving advice?

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Table 13 - window locks



### Neighbourhood Watch

93% of victims interviewed were unaware if schemes existed in their area. There is a clear need to keep schemes focused and informed for them to be impactful in any crime reduction programme. The sub region is now actively seeking a co-ordinator to focus upon a more dynamic approach, with links to the National Intelligence Model.

### Repeat Offenders

Twelve interviews with offenders revealed common themes about offender behaviour:

- The majority committed burglaries in their own locality and on foot "**where they felt safe**".

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- 25% spoke of third party involvement., milkmen, taxi drivers and window cleaners were responsible for supplying details of empty houses.
- Most were opportunist and decided on the spot to select a certain property.
- Alarms do deter them, but one did speak of foaming boxes and cutting wires.
- Double glazing did not deter them, as some double glazed windows can be 'popped' quite effortlessly.
- Security lighting does act as a deterrent. A house in darkness is classed as an open invitation. External lights such as Dusk 'til dawn lights, which create a permanent pool of light, do create problems. However Passive Infra Red lights, can be pushed aside, letting them work in darkness.
- Noise does concern them, but they are prepared to force a window/door - "who takes any notice of one thud". Once inside a property their first priority is to identify their egress.
- They will put a chair or similar object against the door in the room where they are working to frustrate any entry by the occupier.
- 70% decided not to return to the same address as they assume that the householder would have tightened up security.
- 30% returned to the same property to steal items identified on their first visit. They now know the layout of the property and felt that they had secured a successful escape route.

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## **Apathy**

During the project it was essential to gather as much information from victims as possible. When C.P.O's failed to make contact with the victim, they referred the details to the project team for them to pursue the matter. The project team would telephone, write, cold call, leave calling cards and send an 'opt out' letter (this gives a specific appointment time when a project officer will call, putting the onus on the victim to either keep the appointment or re-arrange). When asked why they hadn't responded, the explanations offered were varied:

- Some meant to reply but had forgotten.
- Others said they could not be bothered.
- A shrug of the shoulders with no reason given.
- They had not thought it important or a priority.
- "What can the Police do" - they are too busy to care.

A minority however failed to respond to any attempts at contact. On a few occasions appointments were made, and although there was quite clearly somebody at home they would not answer the door. This prompts the question "why?" Police officers often have a 'gut' reaction to the validity of the offence. However, these 'thoughts' are not recorded as a matter of course.

- Officer's should **investigate** rather than simply take a report.

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- Was it a false report in the first instance? - the "victim?" uncomfortable with the extra attention given.
- Would they resist contact with anyone from an official office?
- Do they have criminal connections and will therefore oppose any contact with the police?

### **Predictive Characteristics**

Research suggests there are many characteristics that can inform partners as to 'who' could be a potential repeat victim of a domestic burglary.

These characteristics if recognised in the first instance, could prevent a first time burglary victim become a 'repeat victim'.

These characteristics include:

- Single person (26%)
- Benefit recipient (32%)
- Female (49%)
- Aged 25-44 years (33%)
- Unemployed (31%)
- Property over 50 year old especially Victorian back to back housing (51%).

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- Terraced Housing (39%).
- Wooden windows/doors (56% & 76% respectively).
- Not owner occupied (48%).
- Entry via rear window or front door (28% & 29% respectively).
- Security Lighting/timer switches not in use 51% & 49% respectively).

This list, merely describes the typical characteristics of most personal circumstances of residents in the deprived, high burglary areas of the Tees Valley. Table 14 displays closer analysis at district level showing features most vulnerable to repeat victimisation.

*Footnote*

Percentages reflect data from survey questionnaires

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TableH - Predictive Characteristics

District	o use	Terra oδ	Terraced	Terh oδ	Semi-detached	Prop. @+ years	Alley	Entertai — ts equip oδien	rear wiSS — entry	Lo — t door	Timer swit o	ighting	Unexpi I	Single	Age 25-44 Qars	— oδe
Hartlepool	•	•		•		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•
Middlesbrough	•	•		•		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Stockton	•	•		•		•		•		•			•		•	•
Langbaurgh	•		•	•		•		•	•				•	•	•	•
Darlington	•				•	•		•	•			•		•	•	•

Table 15 (see appendix section) also illustrates individual characteristics specific to each district but includes relevant figures. The salient points from the survey report were included. In an attempt to collect as much information as possible, some external surveys of properties were undertaken when victims were unavailable. This enabled details to be gathered which related to windows, doors natural surveillance etc however victim data could not be obtained.

Victims should be singled out for closer attention when identified as a repeat, mechanisms are required to identify and act on these indicators following first time

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burglaries. A truly preventative strategy would identify this vulnerable group and proactively assist them to reduce their risk before the potential event.

The project has made an immediate impact in the following areas:

Comparisons were made between the 1<sup>st</sup> three months of the project term and the 1<sup>st</sup> three months post project term:

- 36% reduction in repeat domestic burglary (357 to 262).
- 27% reduction in domestic burglary (1913 to 1502).
- Evidence of improved victim satisfaction in relation to service provided by all partner agencies.
- An acknowledgement by all partner agencies that the project has provided a consistent and structured way forward in tackling burglary and repeat burglary activity.

The Police Standards Unit recognising the merits of this project are supporting an opportunity for Cleveland Police to put in place a composite Force model dealing with burglary with an emphasis on repeats from report through to investigation. This pilot scheme will then be rolled out nationally to all Forces.

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## Conclusions

A Director of Crime has been appointed in the Cleveland force area and has ownership of burglary. As a result of the research the following recommendations were offered to all partners as a potential way forward in reducing both first time and Repeat domestic burglary activity:

- A strategy to prevent repeat domestic burglary should incorporate an approach to prevent the first time burglary victim becoming a repeat.
- The research team identified good practice within Langbaurgh, which has in place a team with a cross section of skills responding to the issue of burglary and repeat victimisation. Throughout this initiative it has been suggested other districts may wish to assess the merits of Langbaurgh's approach.
- First time burglary victims should be dealt with to a consistent standard and utilising predictive characteristics potential repeat victims could be identified.
- Aide memoirs should be available to every officer ensuring consistency when dealing with burglary and repeat issues.
- Bespoke security measures for victims are essential.
- Where victims are proving difficult to contact an 'opt out' letter should be considered. This provides the victim with an appointment time when an officer will attend, thereby putting the onus upon the victim to re-arrange.
- Multi skilling officers would prevent numerous calls by staff from different departments, who may not necessarily liaise with one another to share vital

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information. Officers are encouraged to challenge potential spurious repeats and be robust in their questioning of 'victims'.

- Darlington Division, should consider reviewing their identification criteria, e.g. undertake a location search.
- Replacement doors and windows etc should of an appropriate standard.
- Regular analysis of burglary and repeat burglary activity needs to be a constant in terms of location and volume - the problem is fluid.
- Respond to burglary to be consistent and commensurate with variations of victim and property attacked, e.g. vulnerable victim, walk in, distraction, bogus official and void property.

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## **APPENDICES**

1. Table 15 - Predictive Characteristics by District
2. Victim Survey Questionnaires
3. Data Protection Forms
4. Letters to Victims
5. Literature Review
6. Letters of Thanks
7. Press Articles

**Table 15 - Predictive Characteristics by District**

	<b>HARTLEPOOL</b>	<b>MIDDLESBROUGH</b>	<b>STOCKTON</b>	<b>LANGBAURGH</b>	<b>DARLINGTON</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Rented	51%	51%	37%	65%	-
Owner Occupied	-	-	-	-	50%
Over 50 years old	51%	63%	29%	63%	87%
Mix of council/ private	41%	-	-	-	-
Council/Housing Assoc	-	33%	-	-	-
Private Housing	-	-	-	-	50%
Terraced	52%	45%	27%	-	-
End Terraced	-	-	-	29%	-
Semi Detached	-	-	-	-	50%
Has rear alley	61%	45%	19%	20%	25%
House	65%	77%	65%	55%	75%
<b>MODUS OPERANDI</b>					
Entry - insecure Front door	40%	-	27%	-	-
Force rear Door	-	-	-	-	25%
Force rear window	-	31%	-	35%	25%
Distraction burglary	5%	2%	2%	nil	12%
Bogus Official	1%	2%	3%	nil	12%
Property Occupied	31%	35%	38%	18%	25%
<b>PREVENTION</b>					
Alarmed - yes	13%	33%	24%	15%	12%
External Security lights-yes	21%	21%	25%	26%	75%
Window Locks yes	28%	45%	40%	47%	75%
Property Security marked - yes	9%	5%	5%	18%	37%
Knew of Neighbourhood Watch-yes	5%	4%	12%	6%	25%
Internal timer switches — yes	12%	5%	8%	18%	nil
<b>VICTIM</b>					
24-44 years	33%	34%	33%	44%	37%
Female	48%	53%	49%	50%	50%
Unemployed	38%	-	-	35%	-
Employed	-	31%	28%	-	50%
Receiving Benefits	34%	34%	24%	50%	50%



REPEAT BURGLARY DWELLING PROFILE FORM



**SECTION 1 - VICTIM DETAILS**

Surname:  Forename(s):  DOB:  Age:

Address:

Postcode:  Contact Tel No:

<b>Gender:</b>	<b>Victim's employment status:</b>	<b>Partner's employment status:</b>	<b>Marital status:</b>
Male <input type="radio"/> n)	Employed <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	Employed <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	Married <input type="checkbox"/> n)
Female <input type="radio"/> Q <sub>B</sub>	Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> «	Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>B</sub>	Single <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>p</sub> ,
	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>p</sub>	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> (1)p <sub>i</sub>	Divorced/Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>w</sub>
<b>Ethnicity:</b> f~1: (Enter code)	Student <input type="checkbox"/> (1) <sub>m</sub>	Student <input type="checkbox"/> (1) <sub>w</sub>	VWdbwed <input type="checkbox"/> Q(4) <sub>j</sub>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/> (5)	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>B</sub>	

Is the victim an asylum seeker? Yes  „, No  Q<sub>p</sub>,      Is the victim a benefit recipient? Yes  «< u No  *Urn*

Does the victim receive help with Council Tax payments? Yes  «) Nb  « p)      Is the victim disabled/suffering from severe health problems? Yes  y i-i M<sub>o</sub>  \*  
Yes L- " " No

**SECTION 2 - PROPERTY DETAILS**

Age of property: •• (Years)      Length of time at current address: ••(Years) ••(Months)

Total number of occupants: •      Number of occupants aged under 16 years: ●

<b>Dwelling Type:</b>	House <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	<b>Building Type:</b>	Detached <input type="checkbox"/> • m
(Select one only)	Bungalow <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>2</sub>	(Select one only)	Semi Detached <input type="checkbox"/> f-  a
	Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Q <sub>p</sub> ,		Link Detached <input type="checkbox"/> • p)
	Communal Home <input type="checkbox"/> l <sub>w</sub>		Terraced <input type="checkbox"/> (1) <sub>i</sub>
	Domestic Garage <input type="checkbox"/> • 5)		End Terrace <input type="checkbox"/> (1) <sub>5</sub>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/> • (6) Please specify _____		Multi-storey <input type="checkbox"/> • 6)

<b>Location Type:</b>	Private housing <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	<b>Tenant type:</b>	Homeowner <input type="checkbox"/> • w
(Select one only)	Council/Housing Association (HA) <input type="checkbox"/> (2)	(Select one only)	Council Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> • p)
	Mix of both <input type="checkbox"/> (3)		HA Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> • p>
			Private rented <input type="checkbox"/> (1) <sub>4</sub>
			Sheltered Accom <input type="checkbox"/> • (5)

Does the property have good natural surveillance? Front: Yes  J|<sub>m</sub> No  (2) Rear: Yes  Q<sub>(11)</sub> No  l<sub>ra</sub>

Is the property well maintained? Yes  Z|<sub>m</sub> No  (1)<sub>ra</sub>

Are the grounds well maintained? Yes  • m No  • a

Is the property adjacent to fields? Yes  Q<sub>m</sub> No  (2)

Is the property adjacent to a track/path? Yes  No

Does the property back onto a rear alley? Yes  No

Is the property in an isolated/rural area? Yes  No

**SECTION 3 - OFFENCE DETAILS**

Force Ref No:  Date(s) of offence(s):

Time of offence:  Day of offence:

Point of entry: (Select one only)

Front Door <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	Rear Window <input type="checkbox"/> (6)
Rear Door <input type="checkbox"/> (2)	Side Window <input type="checkbox"/> (7)
Side Door <input type="checkbox"/> (3)	Other Door <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Please specify _____
Patio Door <input type="checkbox"/> (4)	Other Window <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Please specify _____
Front Window <input type="checkbox"/> (5)	Other entry point <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Please specify _____

Was an implement used? Yes  (1) Please specify \_\_\_\_\_ No  (2)

Property stolen: (tick all that apply)

None <input type="checkbox"/> (1)	Home entertainment equipment <input type="checkbox"/> (1) m
Jewelry/Ornaments <input type="checkbox"/> (2)	Garden equipment/tools <input type="checkbox"/> (1) m
Clothing <input type="checkbox"/> (3)	Computing equipment <input type="checkbox"/> (1) &
Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (4)	Sports equipment <input type="checkbox"/> (1) (K)
Credit/Bank cards <input type="checkbox"/> (5)	Domestic appliances <input type="checkbox"/> (1) (<)
Wine/Food <input type="checkbox"/> (6)	Other <input type="checkbox"/> (1) (2) Please specify _____

Approx cost of property stolen:  Approx cost of repairs to property:

Is the property alarmed? Yes  (1) No  (2) Was it in use at the time of the offence? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Was the incident an attempted burglary? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Was the incident a distraction burglary? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Did the incident involve a bogus official? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Was the property occupied at the time of the offence? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Are the premises regularly unoccupied -

Between 8 a.m. and 12 noon?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (1) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2)
Between 12 noon and 5 p.m?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (1) No <input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (1) No <input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Between 9 p.m. and 12 a.m?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (1) No <input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Between 12 a.m and 8 a.m?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (1) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2)

Has the occupier been burgled before during the past 12 months? Yes  (1) No  (2)

If yes, how many times at this address:  How many times at other addresses:

**SECTION 4 – SECURITY SURVEY**

**Perimeter** Does the property have a perimeter • Fence? Yes  J<sub>m</sub> No  J<sup>-</sup>^<sub>m</sub>  
 Wall? Yes Dot No Q<sub>a</sub>  
 Hedge? Yes • „ , No • B

Additional information:

**Outbuildings** Does the property have a garage? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Does the property have a shed? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Are the outbuildings attached? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Are the outbuildings alarmed? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Are the outbuildings in good repair? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Are there any other physical security measures? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Additional information:

**Alarm** If property is alarmed, is the alarm: Local signaling?  (1) Remote signaling?  B

Additional information:

**Lighting** Does the property have security lighting? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 If yes, where? (Tick all that apply) Front  p> Rear  la Side  PJ  
 If yes, what type? (Tick all that apply) Dusk till dawn  (1) FR O & Timer  (2) Switched  (4)  
 Is the property illuminated by street lighting? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Additional information:

**Doors** Door type: Wood  (1) Aluminum  (2) UPVC  (3) Steel  (4) Other  (5)  
 Lock type: Multi  (1) 2/3 lever  (2) 5 lever  (3) Cylinder  (4)  
 Is the door glazed? Yes  (1) No  (2)  
 Is there glazing adjacent to the door? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Additional information:

**Windows** Window type: Wood  (1) Aluminum  (2) UPVC  (3) Steel  (4)

Are window locks fitted? Yes  (1) No  (2) Are the windows secure? Yes  (1) No  (2)

Additional information:

**Contents**

Are the home contents insured?	Yes	Dm	No	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Is any property security marked?	Yes	• B	No	• <<
Is there a safe?	Yes	Do	No	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)
Are any valuables photographed?	Yes	Do	No	• <<
Is the property covered by NHW?	Yes	Dm	No	Dm
Are any property serial numbers recorded?	Yes	Dm	No	• <<
Are any lights operated by a timer?	Yes	Dm	No	<input type="checkbox"/> (2)

Additional information:

**SECTION 5 - RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS**

Are other agencies to be notified? Yes • „ 1 No • (2)

If yes, please give details:

[Empty box for details]

Are target-hardening measures required? Yes D-(1) NO n\*(2)

If yes, please give details, including approximate costs:

[Empty box for details]

Does the occupier agree to the work? Yes • D No • (2)

Signature of occupant:

I agree to this information being used by Safe in Tees Valley and any appropriate third parties for the purposes of this project

Additional information or observations:

[Empty box for observations]

Has an intelligence log been submitted? Yes  (1) No • (2)

Name of person completing form:

[Empty box for name]

Signed:

[Empty box for signature]

Date:

[Empty box for date]



CLEVELAND  
**POLICE**

**SAFE IN TEES VALLEY  
TARGET-HARDENING PROJECT**

**AUTHORISATION TO PASS INFORMATION TO ABOVE PROJECT**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

**Crime No.**.....

**(READ TO VICTIM)**

'This is (insert name). I understand that recently you were a victim of burglary/attempted burglary (delete as appropriate). Cleveland Police are engaged in a partnership with Safe in Tees Valley who are in a position to visit your home to conduct a security survey of your home with a possibility of arranging, free of charge to you, the installation of certain security measures which hopefully will stop you being the victim of any further crime. The reason I am ringing you is that it is a requirement under Data Protection legislation that before I can pass on your details to Safe in Tees Valley I must have your consent.

Do you wish me to pass on your details?'

ANSWER    YES

NO

I (insert name), an employee of Cleveland Police hereby certify that the above named authorised me via a telephone conversation to pass on details of the above numbered crime report to (Michelle Evans/Brian Neale) an employee of Safe in Tees Valley.

TIME.....DATE.....

Signed.....



**SAFE IN TEES VALLEY  
TARGET-HARDENING PROJECT**

**AUTHORISATION TO PASS INFORMATION TO ABOVE PROJECT**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Crime No.....

READ TO VICTIM)

This is (insert name) of Durham Constabulary at Darlington Police Office. I understand that recently you were a repeat victim of burglary. Durham Constabulary are engaged in a partnership with Safe in Tees Valley who can arrange, free of charge to you, the installation of certain security measures which hopefully will stop you being the victim of any further crime. The reason I am ringing you is that it is a requirement under Data Protection legislation that before I can pass on your details to Safe in Tees Valley I must have your consent.

Do you wish me to pass on your details?'

ANSWER      YES                      NO

I (insert name), of Durham Constabulary hereby certify that the above named authorised me via a telephone conversation to pass on details of the above numbered crime report to Michelle Evans/Brian Neale an employee of Safe in Tees Valley.

DATE:

TIME:

Signed.....

**REPEAT BURGLARY DWELLING PROJECT**

Safe in Tees Valley  
Third Floor  
Christine House  
Thornaby  
Stockton On Tees  
TS17 6DA

Tel: 01642 306699

Date

Dear

I was very sorry to hear that you have recently been the victim of a domestic burglary. Our records show that your property has been targeted more than once over the past 12 months. National analysis of domestic burglaries has highlighted the potential vulnerability of burglary victims being re-victimised within a short period of time unless preventative action is taken. By looking at your current level of home security we can perhaps identify areas for improvement and thereby reduce the risk of a repetition.

As part of a scheme administered by Safe in Tees Valley and funded by the Government Office for the North East, a project team is offering repeat burglary victims the opportunity of having a police/project officer attend their home to carry out a brief security survey. The survey will take about 15 minutes and is **free of charge**. We will then offer you advice on how to make your home more secure and you may be eligible to have some free security improvements carried out. It is entirely at your discretion whether you act upon the advice offered, but if you do **it will reduce the possibility of you becoming a victim of burglary again**.

I would be obliged if you would contact me on the above number or return the reply slip enclosed so that a visit can be arranged. All officers will carry proof of identity and any information gathered will be treated in the strictest confidence.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**inspector Graham Strange**





REPEAT BURGLARY DWELLING PROJECT



Safe in Tees Valley  
Third Floor  
Christine House  
Thornaby  
Stockton On Tees  
TS17 6DA

Tel: 01642 306685

date

Dear

I was very sorry to here that you have recently been the victim of a house burglary. Our records show that your property has been targeted more than once over the past 12 months. National,figures or house domestic burglaries has highlighted the fact that victims have the potential to become a victim again within a short period of time unless preventative action is taken. By looking at your current level of home security we can perhaps identify areas for improvement and thereby reduce the risk of a repetition.

As part of a scheme administered by Safe in Tees Valley and funded by the Government Office for the North East, a project team is offering repeat burglary victims the opportunity of having a police/project officer attend their home to carry out a brief security survey. The survey will take about 15 minutes and is **free of charge**. We will then offer you advice on how to make your home more secure and you may be eligible to have some free security improvements carried out. It is entirely at your discretion whether you act upon the advice offered, but if you do **it will reduce the possibility of you becoming a victim of burglary again**.

A project Officer will visit you on.....Ifthis is inconvenient could you contact me on the above telephone number.

All officers will carry proof of identification & any information gathered will be treated in the strictest confidence.

I look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

**Michelle Evans**



## Literature Review

### National Policing Plan 2003-2006

#### Calling Time on Crime July 2000

#### Policing a New Century a Blue Print for Reform

#### Cleveland Police Authority Policing Plan 02-03

#### Community Safety Action Plans for 2002 - 2005

- Darlington
- Middlesbrough
- Stockton
- Hartlepool
- Redcar and Cleveland

#### Police Research

- Group Repeat Victimisation Taking Stock *Ken Pease*
- Biting Back Reducing repeat Victimisation Huddersfield *Sylvia Chenery John Holt Ken Pease*
- Biting Back 11 Reducing Repeat victimisation Huddersfield *Sylvia Chenery John Holt Ken Pease*
- The BRG Burglary Manuel *Bridgeman, Taylor Browne*
- Preventing Repeat Victimisation The Police officers Guide *Bridgeman, Hobbs*
- Solving Residential burglary *Timothy Coupe*
- Combating Burglary an evaluation of three strategies *Janet E Stockdale Peter J Gresham*
- Initial Scene Visits to House Burglaries *Mike Taylor Jane Hirst*
- Crime Prevention Unit Series paper 51 Burglary Reduction: Findings from safer cities schemes *N Tilley J Webb*

#### Home Office

- Crime Reduction Toolkits Repeat Victimisation 8
- Crime Reduction Series Paper 5 Repeat victimisation Snapshot *G Farrella Edmunds L Hobbs G haycock*



- Crime Reduction Series Paper 7 Developing Crime Reduction Plans *L Curtin N Tilley M Owen K Pease*
- National Board for Crime Prevention Wise After the Event Tackling Repeat Victimisation
- Research Study 207 The Road to Nowhere the Evidence for Travelling Criminals *P Wiles A Costello*

**United States Department of Justice** Burglary of Single-Family Houses *D L Weisel*

Repeat Victimisation and the Policing of Communities *S Chenery C Henshaw K Pease*

Kirklees Repeat Victimisation Strategy Review *S Chenery E Deakin*

HMIC Inspection Report - Cleveland Police 2000/2001

Hartlepool Community Safety Initiative Belle Vue Rift House East Final Report *M*

*Jackson Fraser KMidgely*



2 Ainderby Way  
Beechwood  
Middlesbrough  
TS43BY

10<sup>th</sup> February 2003

\_\_\_\_ PC Mick Garvey  
Crime Prevention Officer and  
Architectural Liaison Officer  
Middlesbrough Police Office  
Dunning Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS12AR

Dear PC Garvey

Thank you so very much for all the assistance you have given me since I had two burglaries.

I really appreciate the two dusk to dawn lights that you had fitted for me. Please would you also thank Sue Willoughby for managing to obtain funds to have a gate fitted between the house and the garage. Mr David Jones has done an excellent job, and I feel much more secure.

I can't express how I really feel about the assistance you have given me and it is truly appreciated. Thank you very much!

Yours sincerely

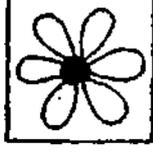


Maureen Phillips

Dear PC Mick McGrahey

I would just like to say thanking you, I have now had my House alarm and security light fitted. I now feel secure in my home again, all this Thanks to the kindness shown towards me by yourself and your staff.

Thanks again  
Sheralyn

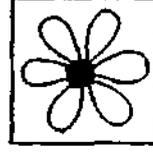
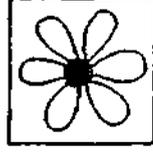
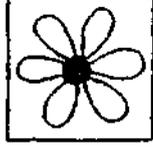


To Mick McGrahey

" Just note to say "  
Thank You

From Sheralyn

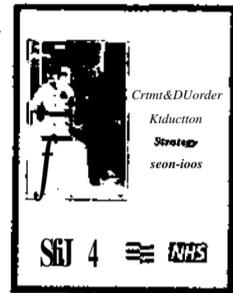
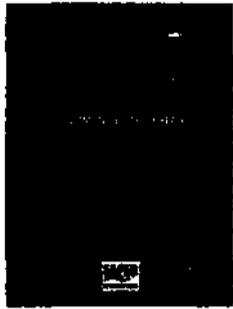
29 Darwen Court  
Hemlington.











Repeat Victimization, Domestic Burglary Project

# The Tilley Award 2003 Partnership Project