

**BRUSHAW
ESTATE
INITIATIVE**

Category: Crime and Disorder Reduction
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Summary:

Project title: The Brunshaw POP.

The project focused on an area within the town of Burnley called Brunshaw. The area was suffering from high levels of nuisance, disorder, anti-social behaviour and crime. These are the problems that were addressed as a result of the project.

Geographic restructuring took place with respect to the policing of Burnley on 1st April 2000. As a result of this a new team of police officers took ownership of policing the Brunshaw area. The team adopted a problem solving approach which they initially applied to their wider geographic area of responsibility, this identified the Brunshaw area as the teams priority.

The team in order to guide decision making and define the causes of the problems successfully used two problem solving models. SARA and the Problem Analysis Triangle were the models that were utilised.

Tactics that were applied at the analysis stage as a means of defining the problems included:

- Tasking intelligence analysts and researching crime, intelligence and incident data.
- Meetings with community residents and other partner agencies.
- House to house enquiries were carried out in the area.
- Local knowledge held by police officers was shared.
- Letters of complaint were collated.
- Officers with previous experience of policing the area were interviewed.

The Problem Analysis Triangle was applied at the analysis stage and this enabled the team to understand the features of the offender, victim and location. When the underlying conditions that caused the problems were identified the team were able to formulate custom made responses to tackle the problems.

Responses included:

- Funding obtained.
- A police reporting centre was set up within the community at a local housing office.
- A local scout group helped to tidy the area.
- Burnley Football Club provided football training and free Internet access for local youths.
- Two Basketball Hoops were obtained for the community.
- Anti Social Behaviour Orders were obtained.
- The media were used extensively.
- The Brunshaw Residents Action Group was formed.

At the assessment stage the impact of the responses were measured.

Assessment Summarised:

- Nuisance and Disorder incidents reduced by 27.24%.
- Crime reduced by 22%
- 66% of residents surveyed believed things had improved on the estate.
- 33% of residents surveyed believed that the service from the police had improved.
- The Brunshaw Residents Action Group was formed and the community were mobilised.

Introduction.

This entry relates to an initiative that was applied to an area within the town of Burnley, Lancashire. The town of Burnley is situated in the eastern part of Lancashire and it has a population of 92,500. The town is surrounded by countryside yet it is at the heart of a busy industrial region. Burnley is incorporated into the basic command unit of Pennine Division which forms part of Lancashire Constabulary.

Problem Oriented Policing is a philosophy that has been embraced by Lancashire Constabulary. In order to support the application of this style of policing alterations were made to the geographic policing areas within Burnley by the divisions senior management team. These alterations took place on 1⁵ April 2000.

This meant that four teams of police officers were responsible for the policing of the Burnley area. Each team was provided with a section of the town and was given geographic ownership of that particular area.

The four teams are actually referred to locally as scales and are categorised as follows:

- A-Scale.
- B-Scale.
- C-Scale.
- D-Scale.

This report relates to a problem solving approach that was adopted by B-Scale when the team was faced with the challenge of policing a new geographic area. The SARA model was applied as a means of guiding the team through the decision making process. The Problem Analysis Triangle was also utilised at the "analysis" stage in order to define the underlying causes of the problems.

Scanning.

Initially the whole of B-scales new geographic area was scanned. We were searching for an area within which our time and resources would be best spent on solving recurring incidents. To support the scanning stage the following measures were applied:

- Intelligence Analysts were tasked with researching B-scales geographic area using data for the period 01/04/99 to 31/03/00.
- Officers with previous experience of policing our new area were interviewed in order to make their specialist knowledge available for the problem solving process.
- Letters of complaint were collated.
- Crime reports, intelligence reports and incident logs were scanned.
- Local knowledge held by police officers within B-scale was shared.
- Members of the community were consulted.

As a result of scanning we were able to identify the Brunshaw area as a location that was suffering from repeat problems and high levels of crime, nuisance, disorder and anti-social behaviour. This meant we were able to prioritise this area over other areas falling within our larger geographic area.

The Brunshaw area includes a large housing estate that is mostly Local Authority owned and administered by a private company. It is situated on the south-east edge of Burnley and had been a good class estate that in the past had enjoyed a good reputation.

The main arterial road which runs through the estate is called Brunshaw Avenue, scanning identified that there had been 54 incidents of nuisance and disorder on this road alone during the time period researched. In addition to this we identified a 500 metre square location on the Brunshaw Estate which had experienced 61 incidents of juvenile nuisance and 36 other disturbance related incidents.

Within the Brunshaw area there had been a total of 323 nuisance and disorder incidents and 165 crimes committed during the time period researched.

In order to understand the underlying conditions that were causing the problems within the Brunshaw Estate we then moved onto the analysis stage of the SARA model.

Analysis.

The team were conscious of the fact that without a rigorous and robust analysis, the response/s were unlikely to be relevant or effective. We wanted to find out as much as we could about the problems. In order to achieve this the team cast their net as wide as was possible.

Intelligence Analysts were tasked with analysing the Brunshaw area, in effect what we needed to do was drill down further into the hot-spot which was now clearly identified.

The information that related to the Brunshaw area, which was obtained during the initial scanning stage was also fed into the analysis, this "information" included:

- Letters of complaint from the Brunshaw residents.
- Local knowledge in relation to the estate held by police officers.
- Meetings with community members from the estate and with partner agencies.

As detailed previously, at the scanning stage a 500 metre square location was identified on the Brunshaw Estate. This location was experiencing high levels of nuisance and disorder. When this location was analysed it was established that the incidents centred around a row of shops on the estate. Included within this row there was a newsagents, an off-licence/grocery store, a chip shop and a number of empty premises that were secured by shutters. In flats located above the shops there was residential accommodation.

The results of the house to house enquiries revealed that:

- 33% of people visited thought that the police did a good or very good job.

However

- 80% of people visited complained about juvenile behaviour and 50% complained about juveniles and alcohol.

To summarise the results of the analysis using the **Problem Analysis Triangle**:

Features of the **Offender**.

- Mainly juvenile Offenders.
- Reside within the Brunshaw estate.
- Alcohol fuels their offending.
- Two key offenders were identified as a result of the house to house enquiries. These two individuals were perceived by the community to be the ringleaders of the local youths and the organisers of the disorder. In addition to this one of the offenders was believed to be actively engaged in crime.

Features of the **Victim**.

- Reside in the Brunshaw estate.
- Mainly elderly.
- One elderly victim described her situation as being a prisoner within her own home.
- Very close community with the majority of the residents having lived there for many years.
- There was a sense of frustration within the community.
- Many individuals wanted to play an active role in improving the estate.
- Key members of the community were identified that had the potential to mobilise the community.

Features of the **Location**.

- Lack of local facilities for youths/juveniles
- + A local community centre catered only for children under 5 years old.
- The nearby youth club catered only for children over 14 years old. The youth club was also viewed as being territorial and as such some youths felt excluded.
- + The row of shops on the Brunshaw estate included an off-licence/grocery store and a chip shop both of which opened until late in the evening.
- The incidental light from the shops together with the existing street lighting provided good lighting.
- Recessed shop doorways were providing cover from the elements.
- The row of shops were the focal point for the congregation of youths/juveniles.

At the conclusion of the analysis the team was in an informed position that enabled the creation of clear objectives together with reasoned well thought out responses.

Objectives of the Project for the Brunshaw area.

- Improve the quality of life for residents.
- To reduce incidents of nuisance, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- To reduce crime.
- To increase public satisfaction in the service provided by the police.
- To mobilise the community.

Responses implemented.

Hi-Visibility Patrolling.

Purely as a short-term measure hi visibility patrols were deployed onto the Brunshaw area. This included geographic officers, mounted officers and traffic officers.

LANPAC.

A bid. was submitted to the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime. This is an organisation that is funded by private business. The funds that LANPAC holds are utilised to support crime reduction initiatives throughout Lancashire. Contained within. the bid were proposals for many of the responses that are detailed below and were ultimately implemented. The bid was successful and B-scale were awarded £395.00 to support their problem solving approach.

Reporting Centre.

A partnership was formed with the Northern Housing Association (NHA) *who* administer the majority of premises in the area. Their office is located on Brunshaw Avenue and as detailed above this road was experiencing high levels of nuisance and disorder. The NHA provided B-scale with space within their office for a reporting centre. The community regularly attend the office to pay rent and also to make enquiries in connection with their properties. The team were able to purchase equipment for the reporting centre, this equipment included leaflet display shelves and also a blue post box.

The idea of the reporting centre was that the office was a location that the public regularly attended. The team essentially had their own office within the community and this provided daily community interaction. The display shelves were stocked with crime prevention literature and other useful documentation that was readily available to the public. Officers attended the reporting centre in their down time, they also attended at set periods during the week. In addition to this officers were encouraged to complete their paperwork at the reporting centre as opposed to driving back to the police station to complete paperwork there. The blue post boxes were a means of

Brunshaw. At the time of these applications Burnley Borough Council did not have an ASBO officer, they have now appointed an ASBO officer into a full time position, this has provided clear benefits for the community as a whole.

Local Scout Group.

A local scout group was approached to provide assistance to the elderly residents in the Brunshaw community. During the "house to house" elderly residents had expressed concern over the state of the area.

The scouts helped to tidy up the area and to collect litter so as to provide an environment that everyone could enjoy. They also carried out basic gardening tasks on behalf of the elderly residents. This action helped build a sense of pride in the area.

A DIY superstore provided gloves and protective glasses free of charge for the scouts which enabled them to safely carry out their tasks

Monies provided by LANPAC were utilised to purchase a trophy to present to the Scout who contributes the most to community initiatives during the year. This trophy is presented annually and has already been presented to one scout by Pennine Divisions Superintendent.

Basketball Hoops.

A local sport shop was approached and one basketball hoop was purchased another one was provided for the initiative by the shop free of charge. This came about as a direct result of asking the opinion of the youths from Brunshaw. They told us that the hoops should be sited on a wall at the side of the community centre on the Brunshaw estate and this was duly completed. This provided the youths with another location to congregate away from the row of shops in an area that was acceptable to the community.

Media.

Every opportunity for exploiting the media as a means of obtaining coverage for the various responses was taken. The media were extremely supportive of the various initiatives and the coverage that they provided was excellent. The variety and frequency of the various initiatives covered served to reassure the community of Brunshaw. It was one way of letting the community know on a large scale that the police had "grasped the nettle" and that their problems were being addressed.

The Brunshaw Residents Action Group.

During the house to house enquiries as previously detailed key members of the community had been identified. These were people that were motivated to get involved in the community and do something themselves to address the problems that their community was experiencing.

Jenny from the off licence/grocery store was one of the individuals. Another key member was Michael, he actually lived above one of the shops at the focal point of the incidents.

Michael could describe how youths would run wild throwing mud balls, banging on doors and shouting, creating a nuisance throughout the evening. He stated that he felt he couldn't sit down for his evening meal in peace without being disturbed. He had also noted that the elderly members of the community were rarely seen out after 8.00pm. At around 9.00pm the older youths would take over causing problems until the early hours, the problems included shouting and drinking. In the morning he would awaken to find that youths had urinated over his front door, litter was spread on the ground and syringes were sometimes found.

Jenny is now the Chairperson and Michael is the Secretary of the Brunshaw Residents Action Group.

The formation of the Action Group effectively provided an outlet for a community that had been mobilised in part by the various responses detailed above. With support from the police and other agencies the group has developed. The development of the group has enabled the level of police involvement to be reduced yet strong links have still been maintained. The community are now motivated to make Brunshaw a better place to live for themselves, they have now taken on a greater share of the responsibility.

Some of the initiatives implemented by the Brunshaw Residents Action Group include:

- Consultation with the youths within the Brunshaw area. As a result organised activities to suit the needs of the youths have gone from strength to strength.
- The group has approached one of the offenders subject to the ASBO and she is being integrated into the activities.
- The group has specifically targeted the age range 5 to 14 years, an age range previously not catered for within the area.
- The group has designed and implemented its own policies on Health and Safety, the recruitment of volunteers and also sex and race policies.
- The group have applied for and have successfully been awarded grants from Burnley Borough Council and The Tudor Trust.
- The "Planning for Real" method was applied by the group.
- A community member has developed a Brunshaw Residents Action Group web site.
- One of the empty shops on the estate has been utilised to display the activities of the Action Group.

Conclusion.

The Brunshaw POP is a developing initiative that was initially driven by the police. Rightly the police involvement has been reduced but strong links remain in place. This has enabled a police focus on other parts of B-Scales geographic area of responsibility. The community are now the driving force within the Brunshaw area and this will be the basis for ensuring a long-term positive improvement in the quality of life for the residents of Brunshaw.

The Brunshaw POP was presented, together with presentations from across the county, to the 4^t Annual Problem Oriented Partnership Conference held by Lancashire Constabulary in April 2001. The Brunshaw POP was judged to be the winning presentation.

Also attached:

- A selection of press cuttings.
- Brunshaw Residents Action Group documentation.
- A letter of appreciation from an elderly resident.

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