

Title: **Fridays @ Toppers**

Category: **Crime Reduction**

Force: **Cumbria Constabulary**

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## Summary

During 2000 incidents involving **Youth Nuisance I Disorder in Penrith Town** were a regular subject of reports from various resources to the Police. Similar incidents were also reflected in the **surrounding towns** of Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Alston.

After detailed observation and consultation the issues reflected the national trend of large amounts of **unsupervised time**. This is considered a root cause for the misuse of substances by **young people** and anti social behaviour.

In **response** and in a bid to curb the existing behaviour, prevent any further detrimental development and address associated issues, it was clear that a **sustainable long-term solution** was required.

After **consultation** with the Youth Service, all five Eden Secondary Schools, Eden Youth Work Partnership, Eden Drugs Reference Group and their respective members several concerns were highlighted along side the aforementioned crime and disorder.

From this the need to provide **contemporary supervision** for the young people was highlighted again as a priority, the provision of which would be a valuable tool in addressing all concerns identified.

The following aim evolved:

**"To provide a safe meeting point for youths of a secondary School age in Eden".**

The **objectives** of the aim would include:

1. To have a positive effect on the overall levels of Public Disorder & Nuisance, Criminal damage and Drug & Alcohol related issues in line with objectives set by the Eden Crime and Disorder Strategy 1999/2002.
2. Target supply chains
3. Educate and appease victims
4. Educate and involve young people within the community thereby displaying the concern of the local authorities involved
5. Have a positive effect on the perception of the Police by both the young people and victims

This brought about the inception of **'Fridays @ Toppers'** a 'No Alcohol Youth Disco' operating between 7.30pm and 10.30pm every Friday with subsidised rural transport. This would provide the necessary **stepping-stone** to the long-term goal of a more frequent and varied provision throughout the week.

Fridays @ Toppers includes several mechanisms to **control activity**, address the highlighted concerns and in response to respective problems experienced by similar projects.

Evidence is apparent that the control measures are working and genuine surprise shown as to the low level of incidents.

## **Introduction**

I began working as Penrith Community Officer in September 2000. Whilst developing ShopWatch and PubWatch initiatives I quickly detected the need for greater supervised youth provision within the Town.

## **Problem Definition**

The problem is one of youth related disorder within Penrith. An initial view of recorded incidents showed a definite cluster of similar related incidents recurring most nights with a peak on Friday nights involving young people. This is illustrated in Appendix A.

The locations of incidents moved slightly around the Penrith town centre a pattern repeated in other outlying towns and villages. The typical Police response to the incidents was to move the young people on. If offences were identified the individuals were taken home.

## Representing the Problem

The incidents recorded by the Police ranged from substance misuse including alcohol and drugs, noise, criminal damage, vandalism, fighting, bullying, playing football. A wide range of incidents types illustrated in diagram 1:

Diagram 1: Incidents by Year<sup>1</sup>

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ALARM	2	1		1	
ANIMALS	2		2		
<b>BREACH OF PEACE</b>	1	1			
BURGLARY OTHER THAN DWELLING	1			1	
CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	104	30	36	32	6
COMMUNITY PROBLEMS	20	5	7	8	
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	16	2	5	3	6
DISORDER IN PUBLIC PLACE	55	8	21	17	9
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	5	1		2	2
DRUGS	7		2	2	3
DRUNKENNESS	7			5	2
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS	3		2		1
LOST/FOUND PROPERTY	1	1			
MISSING PERSONS	9	3		3	3
MOTORWAY INCIDENT	3	1			2
<b>OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS</b>	38	10	8	12	8
OTHER CRIME	21	5	4	8	4
OTHER DISORDER/NUISANCE	59	3	13	16	27
RTA	6		2	2	2
SEXUAL OFFENCES	3			2	1
SICK/AGED PERSONS	3		1	1	1
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/VEH	38	8	7	16	7
THEFT - OTHER	19	5	5	5	4
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	1			1	
THREATENING/ABAND PHONE CALLS	15		5	7	3
TRAFFIC OFFENCE INVOLVED	3	3			
VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON	17	1	6	6	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>95</b>

<sup>1</sup> Counts of youth related result codes within Y05 and Y06

## Nature and Extent of the Problem

To fully explore the problem the following secondary data sources were read:

- Eden Crime and disorder Strategy 1999/2002
- Detailed Police Incidents Logs

The analysis of the detailed logs supported the original problem definition\_ The detailed analysis of recorded incidents is presented in Appendix A.

Further discussion raised concerns from all members of the community especially schools and parents as to the level of underage drinking. Of particular concern is the low admittance age (16) at the two Penrith Night Clubs.

The next phase involved identifying and consulting with the young people at risk.

Consultation took place in the form of one to one questioning connected with the relevant incidents and extensive group surveys conducted by the area community officer over a 6-month period.

Additionally youth groups were convened by the then 'Youth Service' with the intention of inward consultation about their concerns culminating in public presentations (The Buzz Group and Voices). Audiences included the Police, local Councillors and interested parties.

## Problem Profile

A common theme began to emerge, an excessive amount of '**Unsupervised time**'. This surprisingly or not has since been made subject of several government reports attributing it to the **route cause for the misuse of substances by young people and anti social behaviour**.

Diagram 3: Threads from consultation with young people at risk

- Boredom
- Insufficient facilities (No where else to go)
- The need for a social gathering especially at the end of the week
- General perception that no one was concerned about their inclusion in the community
- Suspicion of Police tactics (stop search etc) and a general aversion towards them, as they were obviously the ones moving them on
- Lack of tolerance and understanding by others in the community
- Lack of recognition of their needs as defined by them selves
- Under representation
- Insufficient transport facilities

In all of the above forums questions were asked of the interest of other family members. This resulted in a noted change in family lifestyles involving a high percentage of working parents less inclined and without sufficient time to take part in respective volunteer work (with the greatest respect to the minority of people that do commit time to such endeavours). This may be a positive reflection of the areas low unemployment rate, however this does give rise to the number of Latch Key Kids'.

The complainers were consulted with in relation to individual incidents and further as a subject of several residents open forum meetings. The issues raised are presented in diagram 4.

Diagram 4: Threads from complainers exposed to youth disorder

- Annoyance in relation to any damage caused
- Concern over perceived growth of substance misuse
- A low level of tolerance towards any noise detailing groups of over 20 young people
- A misunderstanding as to the extent of Police powers/legislation available to deal with the existing levels of concerned activity
- A loss of confidence in the Police in relation to dealing with the problem
- A growing reluctance to contact the Police (a waste of time)
- A belief that this was the Police's problem

Consultation with the key strategic partners, the Youth Service and all five Eden secondary School Head Teachers identified the issues listed in diagram 5.

Diagram 5

1. Substance Misuse including Drugs, Alcohol and Cigarettes
2. The sale of both alcohol and cigarettes
3. General youth nuisance 1 anti social behaviour
4. Criminal Damage
5. Bullying and Fighting
6. Underage sex and associated health matters
7. Social interaction
8. Provision of a Safe environment and supervised time
9. Acceptance of young people in the community
10. Low admittance age at local Night Clubs
11. Raising the profile and acceptance of the Police

If left unchecked this problem had the potential to develop into a major disorder issue and sour relationship with the community.

## Addressing the Problem

It was clear that a sustainable long-term solution was required.

PC Chambers made early attempts to bring together representatives from the five schools in a bid to identify the young people of concern. This was aimed at both the incident locations (Appendix A) and local Nightclubs. This was generally deemed inappropriate and out with the core business of the Schools.

It was agreed that to maximise exposure to such a dispersed population a central attraction based upon the following aim "**providing a safe meeting point for youths of a secondary school age in Eden**" was required.

The objectives of the aim would include:

1. To have a positive effect on the overall levels of disorder and nuisance; criminal damage; drug and alcohol related issues in line with objectives set by the 'Eden Crime and Disorder Strategy 1999/2002'.
2. Target and disrupt supply chains.
3. Educate and appease victims.
4. Educate and involve young people within the community thereby displaying the concern of the local authorities involved.
5. Have a positive effect on the perception of the Police by both the young people and victims.

Ideally the provision of a facility for seven days a week with an abundance of activities would be perfect though in reality not instantly attainable. This theme would remain a fixed ulterior long-term goal having proved the requirement for such a facility through the experience of a more achievable project.

It was believed by PC Chambers that the provision of a '**No Alcohol Youth Disco**' would provide the necessary stepping stone to that long term goal and achieve the aims and objectives above.

It was seen as paramount that this should include specific support, follow up action and control measures to address any concerns. Included in this would be a strict membership scheme, code of conduct and others as detailed at appendix B.

A working partnership began with Councillor Colin Nighnam (Eden District Council) who also had the same belief- was formed and investigations into how to make such a project achievable and successful. Colin Nighnam identified that an extensive sum of money was available within the Eden District Council Youth budget at which time no other proposals were being put forward.

The Penrith Round Table were approached and requested to consider the feasibility of any financial assistance at which time they showed a definite interest. The feasibility study and initial business plan is presented in Appendix B.

### **Fridays@Toppers**

Following the initial media launch and distribution of 1000 posters provided by Reeds Printers 'Fridays @ Toppers' began operation on Friday 16 March 2001.

The first night produced 250 revellers without any adverse incidents this was followed again by 250 the following week.

Efforts by Councillor Nighnam with the bus routes were experiencing some problems and subsidy through the 'Rural Bus Initiative' was proving difficult.

In light of the above the first Bus from Kirkby Stephen was subsidised by Eden Charity Recycling at the cost to them of £120.

The bus was to prove popular and total numbers on the third week increased to 498, the then maximum in the ground floor arrangements being 500. This was reciprocated the following week at which time Jenny Morgan of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School sponsored another bus.

In the following weeks the project attracted on average 350 young people. The respective incident book shows only a few entries up to date the majority of which were recorded in the first few weeks.

No more than three entries have been made in any one night leaving many more with no incidents of note. These included initial attempts to bring alcohol into the disco and the detection of those that had consumed alcohol prior to arrival. Parents collected the transgressors and follow up visits by PC Chambers resulted in respective exclusions of 3 and 5 weeks.

During the Police follow up visits parents were very supportive of the efforts of all those involved in the project. Lessons were learnt by the individuals who felt very deprived of their exclusion from the disco fearing this more so than any other action **(objective 1)**.

Two minor incidents in the following weeks required specific Police action; the possession of a lock knife by a young boy who was to learn that it was not fit for such an environment and the over spill of a school bullying campaign on one individual. Again all parents were supportive of the project bringing these concerns to light and to a head **(objective 1)**.

Proactive patrols together with information received from the follow up visits did identify shops that frequently sold cigarettes and alcohol to the young

people. In the first instance they were warned though one was eventually reported to Trading Standards.

At the time of reporting consideration is being made over the possibility of reporting a further shop. The shop in question is co-operating fully and attempts are being made to stop the inappropriate action of one member of staff **(objective 2)**.

Several false identification papers in bids to enter both local Nightclubs have been recovered due to familiarisation of those involved. Further to this PC Chambers has attained a better Knowledge of what an under 16 looks like and advise on the rejection of those young people from other Licensed premises. Through improved liaison with the licensees better attempts by them have been made to pay due diligence **(objective 1)**.

Whilst involved in the proactive patrols PC Chambers recovered several hundred pounds worth of drugs from one 15 year old who did not attend the disco though was recognised due to his connection with those that did. The drugs were intended for supply in alternative licensed premises despite his young age **(objective 1)**.

## **Monitoring**

Weekly meetings continued as planned during which the responsibility protocol was confirmed and reiterated. Evidence was apparent that the control measures were working and genuine surprise show as to the low level of incidents.

Input as to the associated Police computer logs showed a general decline in the Youth Nuisance during the operating times and no adverse activity after wards.

Individuals were highlighted to all parties as being vulnerable and or potentially likely to cause trouble. This enabled targeted observations on the following weeks together with suitable advice from PC Chambers and mediation between appoasing individuals.

Press coverage in relation to public letters drew varied misinformed reports followed by other supportive comments. This however highlighted to the meetings a need for further letters of reassurance to Parents visits to those detailed in the paper to confirm details of their concerns.

In particular smoking attracted a lot of debate this was followed up by the inclusion of a large No Smoking area and enhanced efforts by the Youth Workers in the no smoking campaign.

Representatives approached one meeting from Eden Grove School requesting the attendance of some of their pupils on trust. The staff were keen to introduce them into the community though sought the safe environment offered by the project. This was considered and accepted followed by visits on

the Fridays by staff and the now regular attendance of trusted pupils from the School.

After approximately 3 months a definite acceptance of all parties involved including the Youth workers and PC Chambers was definitely noted in their increased understanding with the young people.

The failure to secure adequate transport for the outer areas continued to be a constant theme and effort. Periods of the summer saw no bus specifically for the disco. Negotiations were entered into with the 'Rural Transport Partnership' who displayed interest in supporting the project. Several start dates were indicated though further requirements were made by the RTP including the set up of parent groups, confirmation of administration and confirmation of intended routes.

Communication with the RTP at times was strained and requirements unsure between different representatives. Eventually (September 2001) with the assistance of Sally Orral and the now more intense involvement of EYWP a meeting was set up including the above and PC Chambers. During this arrangements were finalised a sum of £6000 agreed and routes confirmed. With details finalised the instruction was given that proposals would be sent out to prospective service providers and on subsequent selection the service would begin.

Requests were sent out to the prospective providers and PC Chambers received claim forms for the associated future provision. In November 2001 a letter was received from the RTP stating that following an internal meeting in August 2000 they had decided to withdraw the offer as they considered further safety issues should be resolved.

This process was confusing though in reality was an example of poor communication which resulted in the loss of momentum and the withdrawal of the offer. Meanwhile due to a reduction in numbers and prompted by the impending funding Toppers Nightclub subsidised the cost of coaches in early September from both Alston and Kirkby Stephen. Following a summer low of about 150 and closure for the last two weeks of August due to intended low numbers, the take up of the Kirkby Stephen bus was minimal. On the other hand the Alston bus became self sufficient and continued well until December at which time the providers terminated the service in anticipation of bad weather.

Continued efforts were made by PC Chambers to inform residents meetings as to the limitations of standard Police Powers. Further to this the progress of the Disco and its low level of incidents was reported to them which they applauded and further recognised the need for continued joint efforts  
**(objective 3)**

## Evaluation

It was felt that the disco suffered in the summer months due to the separation of school pupils and perhaps further effects of Foot and Mouth restrictions on movement and air of despondency.

A farmer was quoted to have said to a rural Police Officer ' Thank heavens for that disco at least it takes my kids mind of every thing else'

A young person in the town was also quoted to say ' Not bad that community Officer they actually did something for us'. An indication of an improved perception (**objective 5**).

The numbers game prompted the early sitting of the 6-month review following which a definite requirement to make more effort in promotion was identified. This brought about several well attended nights such as DJ competitions, a charity fundraiser and successful Christmas party. The later saw £80 worth of prizes donated by the participating local shops.

A number of questioners completed by those attending also assisted the mid term review.

During the early part of 2001 numbers reduced to a low of 110 this was assisted by the absence of any bus service.

Councillor Nighnham highlighted the concern to the area committee and a further bid for funding, which in light of the general success of the project, together with the highlighted need for its continuance, was successful.

£12,000 has now been awarded for the subsidy of bus services throughout the area. An instant increase in numbers has resulted in the inclusion of only an extra 20 or so being brought in by each of the two buses.

A further **4** routes are planned to begin after confirmation from the Toppers Nightclub accountants that the provision will continue.

Further to the buses funds available from the now 900 memberships have assisted in extra promotion.

Following reports during the now monthly meetings EYWP have taken a more active role in the supervision of the Youth Workers and promotion. The Youth workers have been able to engage 30 attendees in the 'Passport to Activity' scheme and their rapport has continued to grow (**objective 4**).

On approach to the anniversary of the project it is felt that all efforts have been worth while that there is plenty scope for improvement in relation to forward planning of events and consideration of significant dates.

The preparation of questionnaires to be directed to all of those identified in the initial scanning is in progress in order that the effectiveness can be evaluated.

Any response will be worked in to the future plans and taken into consideration. The objectives will also be reviewed as to their relativity and level of achievement measured.

it is believed that there is a continued requirement for the provision and confidence that it will form a good example for the quest of a more extensive cover

## Appendix A: Detailed Analysis & Location

The locations were considered in order to find common denominators as to their attraction, revealing the following:

Central locations (in relation to the residences of those in attendance) such as Penrith bus station and a road junction on the Pategill estate

Something to sit on or lean against.

A dim light

Out of sight

Shelter

During one period a simple scaffolding construction with cover of an upper walkway became a prime-congregating site.

Schools provided similar facilities but did not feature significantly after the compulsory hours.

Obviously each location was without supervision and an attraction to undesirable personalities providing a captive audience/market.

Activities available where limited to the imagination of the young people and the equipment provided by the street or location furniture.

### The Three Elements

The description of the three elements were similar to that of many other areas. On initial general overview the area would not be described as being 'Deprived'. However the level of youth provision, consideration and involvement in the allegedly prosperous area may be considered less than that required.

If the existing problem, which at the time of initial investigation was growing, continued to do so-and further in relation to any population increase- then it would not be beyond any imagination to expect more serious large-scale problems as experienced in other areas. In addition the emergence of individual locations within one area could quite feasibly lead to attrition between different groups.

### Parameters

- To represent youth related disorder the result codes like "373" Or "563".

of	e	eggs
373	CHILDREN - BOISTEROUS	
563	JUVENILE INVOLVED	

- The incident points have been mapped and counted into regular grid objects at 500m and 50m resolution.

The *year* before the Disco is taken as a study period.

The Ordnance Survey data within this publication/web-site is provided by Cumbria Constabulary under license from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil it's legal obligation set out in the 'Crime and Disorder Act 1998'. The act places a legal duty on the police and local authorities to work together to develop and implement a strategy and tactics for reducing locally identified crime and disorder. Persons viewing this map data should contact Ordnance Survey copyright for advice where they wish to license Ordnance Survey map data for their own use.



## Hottest Cells..... selected from the map above .....

### Incident Types:

<b>IncidentType</b>	<b>Total</b>
CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	13
OTHER DISORDER/INUISANCE	10
DISORDER IN ST/PUB PLILIC PREM	7
COMMUNITY PROBLEMS	5
DRUNKENESS	4
OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS	4
OTHER CRIME	3
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2
DRUGS	2
SUSP INCD/CIRCIPERSNEH	2
VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON	2
BURGLARY OTHER THAN DWELLING	1
MISSING PERSONS	1
SEXUAL OFFENCES	1
SICK/AGED PERSONS	1
THEFT - OTHER	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>

### Key Locations:

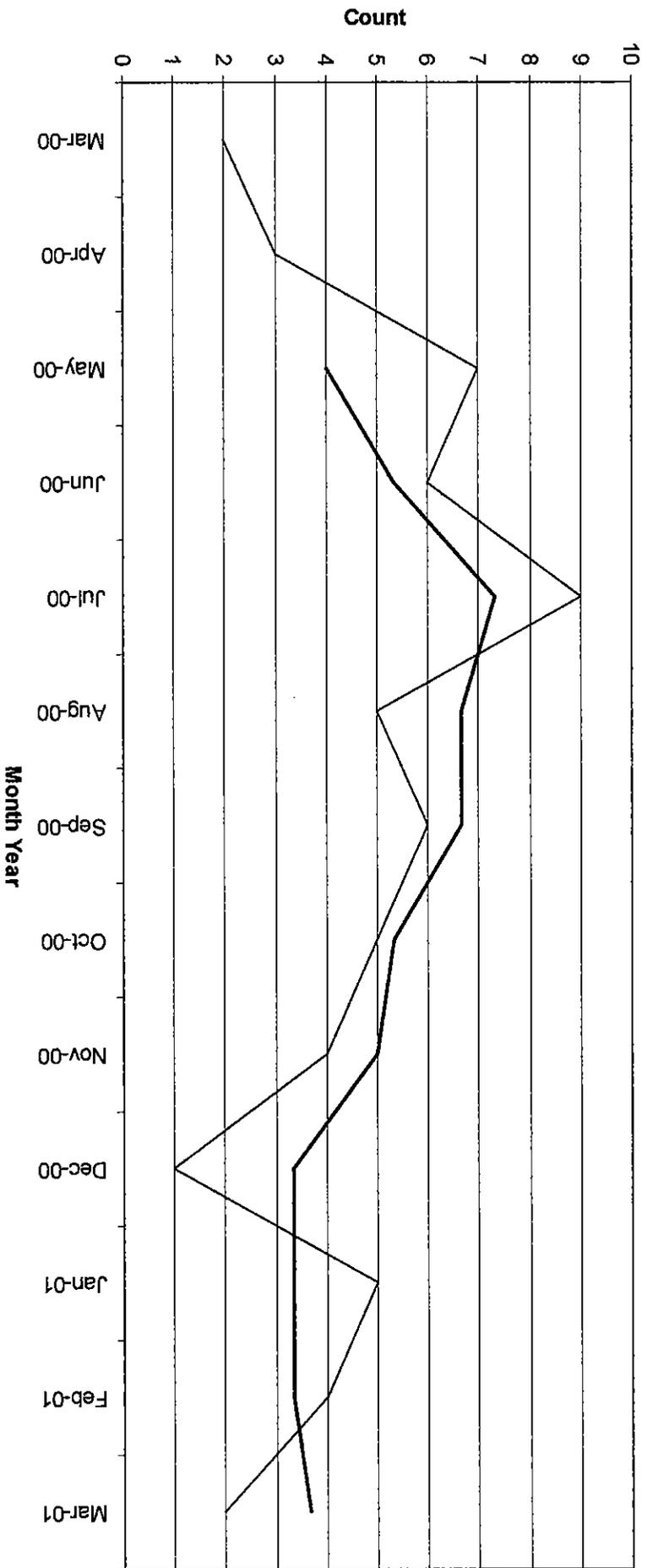
<b>Addressl</b>	<b>Total</b>
ULLSWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	11
CASTLE PARK	9
SWIMMING POOL	9
SANDGATE	4
SOUTHEND ROAD	4
EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL BATHS	3
ST ANDREWS CHURCH	3
ST ANDREWS CHURCHYARD	
BUS STATION	2
ARNISON COURT	1
BOWLING GREEN/CASTLE PARK	1
BUS SHELTER/SANDGATE	1
CAR PARK/SOUTHEND ROAD	1
ENTRANCE TO/CASTLE PARK	1
PENRITH CASTLE	1
PENRITH LIBRARY	1
REAR OF/CO-OP	1
TK/SANDGATE	1
TOILETS/SANDGATE	1
TOP/SOUTHEND ROAD	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>

IncidentType	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00	Jun-00	Jul-00	Aug-00	Sep-00	Oct-00	Nov-00	Dec-00	Jan-01	Feb-01	Mar-01	Grand Total
BURGLARY OTHER THAN DWELLING								1						1
CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS		2	3	2	1	1			2	1		1		13
COMMUNITY PROBLEMS			1	1	2	1								5
CRIMINAL DAMAGE						1						1		2
DISORDER IN ST/PUB PULIC PREM	1			1	1		2	1			1			7
DRUGS									1			1		2
DRUNKENESS			2	1	1									4
MISSING PERSONS							1							1
OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS					1	1						1	1	4
OTHER CRIME					1	1	1	-						3
OTHER DISORDERINUISANCE	1		1	1	1		2				3		1	10
SEXUAL OFFENCES		1												1
SICKIAGED PERSONS								1						1
SUSP INCD/CIRC/PERSNEH								1	1					2
THEFT - OTHER								1						1
VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON					1						1			2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>

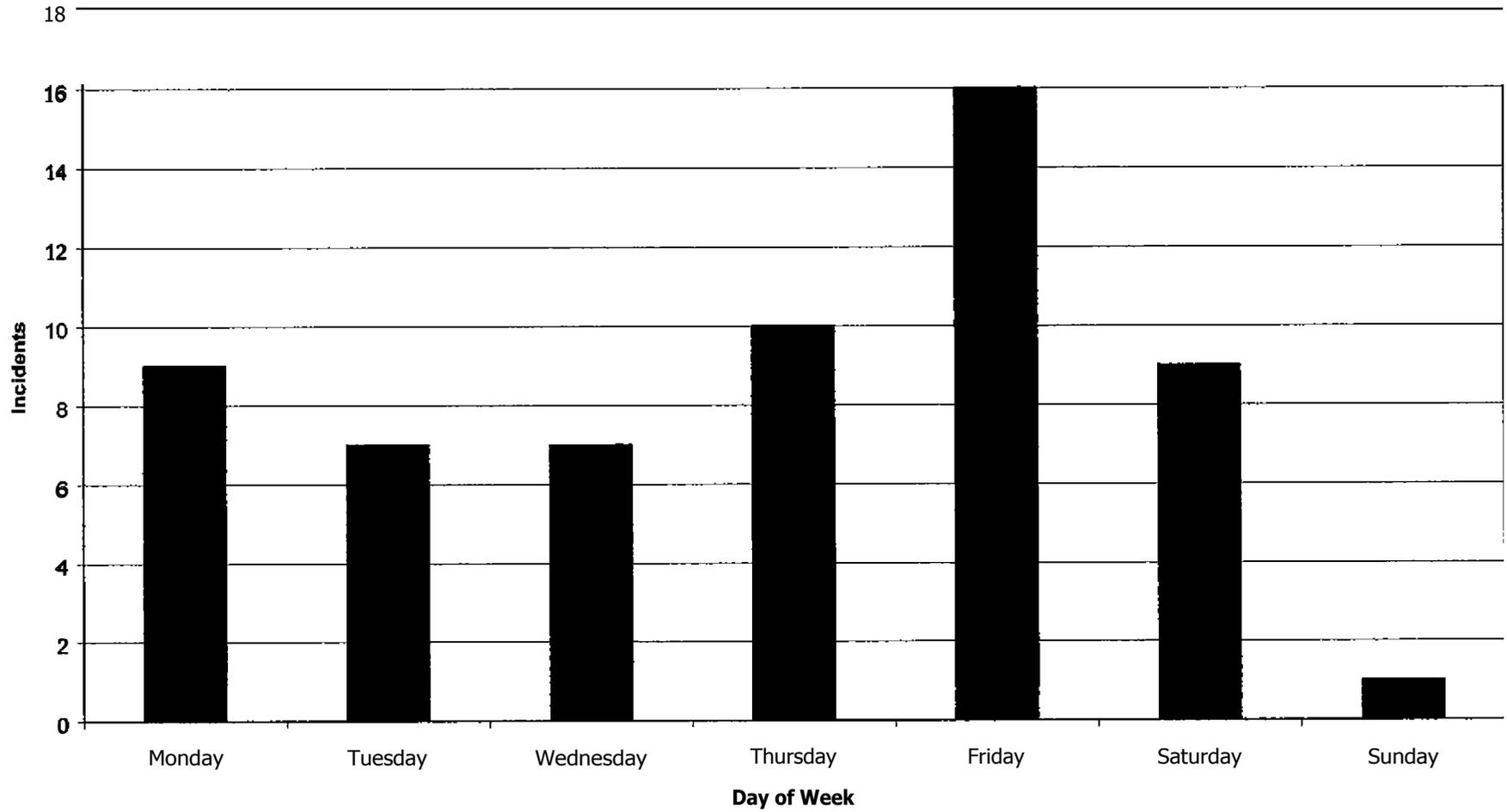
## Penrith Focus..... Hottest cells

- Month Year
- Day of week
- Hour of day

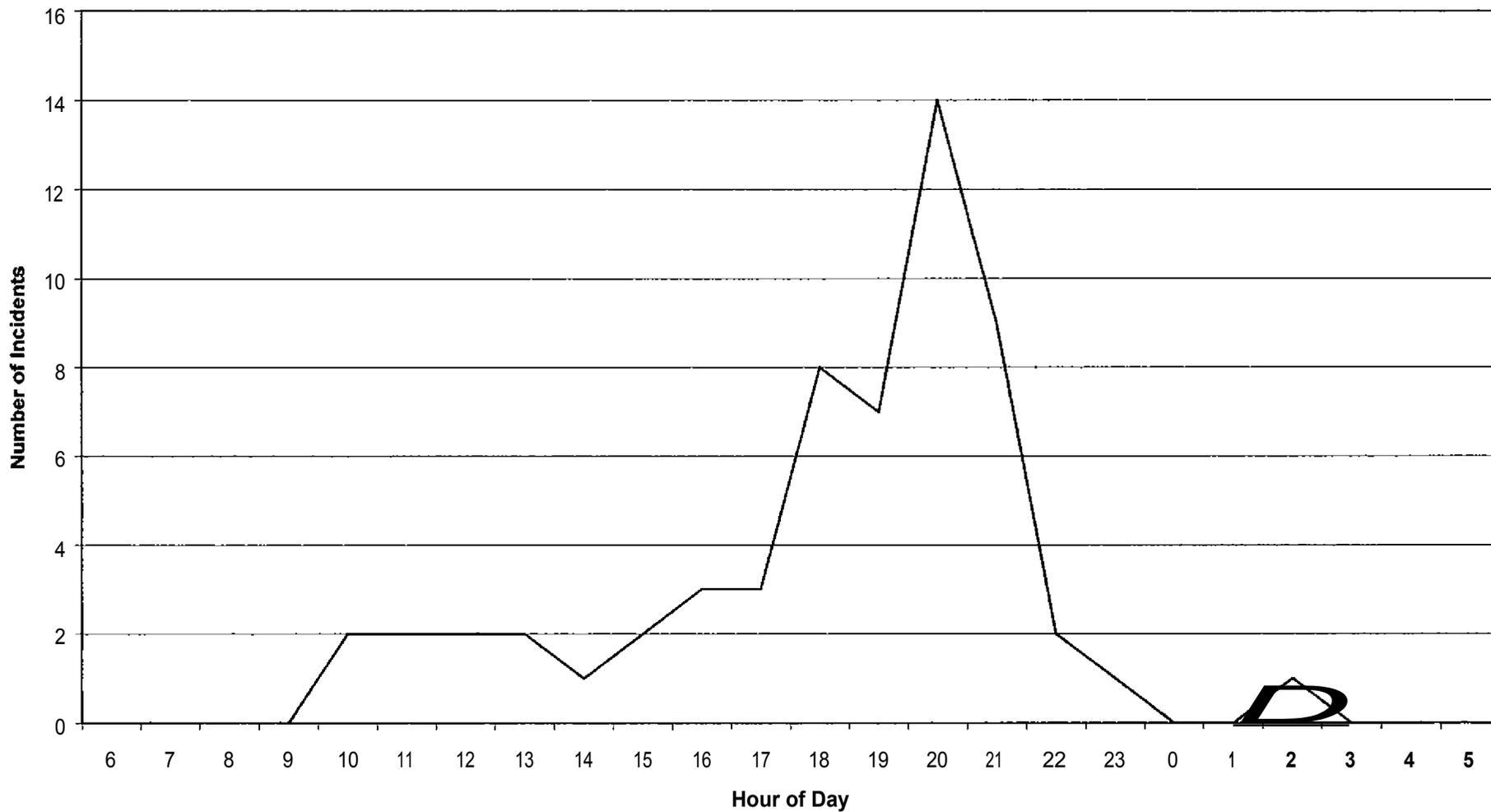
Youth Related Result Codes



Day of Week for Youth Related Incidents



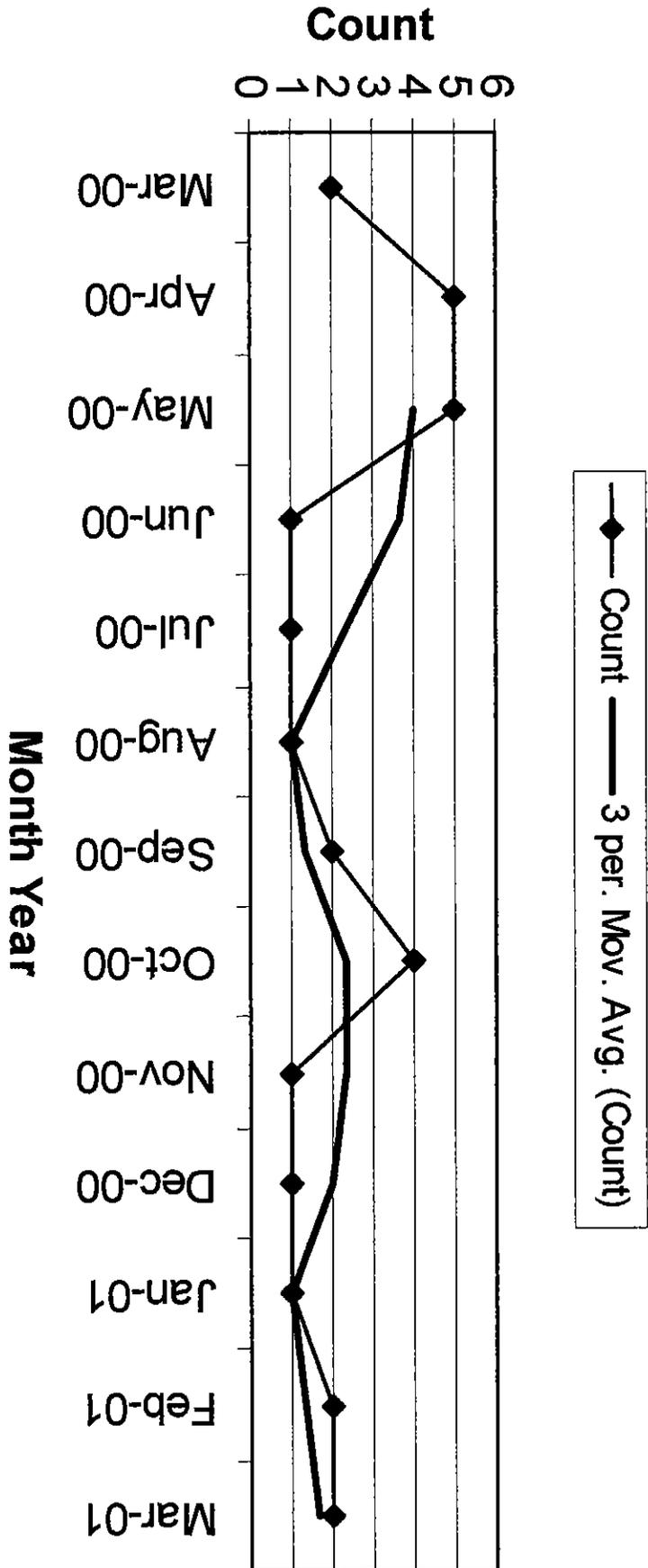
Youth related incidents by Hour of Day



## **Alston Beat Y26**

- **Month Year**

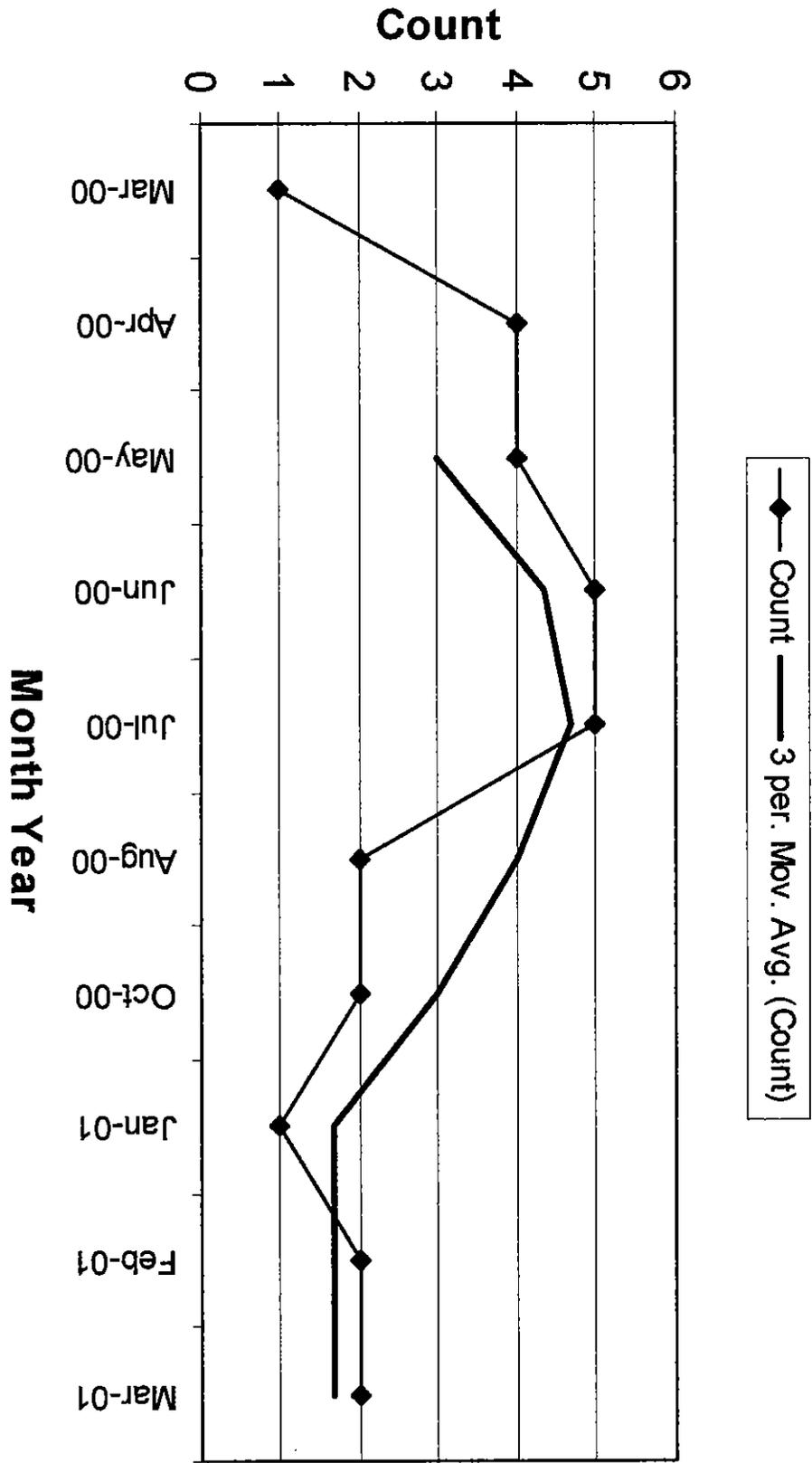
### Alston Youth related incidents



**Kirby Stephen Y38**

- **Month Year**

### Kirby Stephen Youth Related Incidents



## MadJacks Examples of Friday Night Logs:

Incident Number	Call Source	Incident Type	Address 1	Conc'd/Date/Time
0049Y 230198	TELEPHONE	DISORDER IN ST/PUB PL/LIC PREM	MAD JACKS	23/0/1/1998 21:mn:26
0047Y 300198	TELEPHONE	DISORDER IN ST/PUB PL/LIC PREM	MAD JACKS	30/0/1/1998 23:mn:24
0047Y 060298	TELEPHONE	OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS	MAD JACKS	06/02/1998 20:mn:17
0045Y 060398	TELEPHONE	DRUGS	MAD JACKS	06/03/1998 23:mn:21
0048Y 150598	TELEPHONE	CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	MAD JACKS	15/05/1998 21:mn:30
0043Y 061198	TELEPHONE	CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	MAD JACKS	06/11/1998 23:mn:35

## Appendix B: Feasibility and initial business plan

### Fridaysna.Toppers

Initial enquiries were made with the management of existing projects both in West Cumbria and Newcastle upon Tyne, together with Steve Mouncy the proprietor of a previous youth Disco in Penrith which closed 12 Months previously (Mad Jacks). Questions were asked of the following:

- Premises
- Equipment
- Staff
- Funding
- Activities
- Problems

Similar reports were received and were identical to those experienced at Mad Jacks. These included the following:

- Expensive lease costs for the property
- Expensive costs for equipment purchase and maintenance
- Unreliability of volunteer staff
- Little awareness of funding available
- Activities limited to the scope of the premises
- Varied problems both in the premises and in the local area including criminal damage; drunkenness and fighting.

These disorder issues are illustrated in diagram below.

0049Y 230198	TELEPHONE	DISORDER IN ST/PUB PL/LIC PREM	MAD JACKS	23/01/1998 21:nn:26
0047Y 300198	TELEPHONE	DISORDER IN ST/PUB PLILIC PREM	MAD JACKS	30/01/1998 23:nn:24
0047Y 060298	TELEPHONE	OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS	MAD JACKS	06/02/1998 20:nn:17
0045Y 060398	TELEPHONE	DRUGS	MAD JACKS	06/03/1998 23:nn:21
0048Y 150598	TELEPHONE	CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	MAD JACKS	15/05/1998 21:nn:30
0043Y 061198	TELEPHONE	CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS	MAD JACKS	06/11/1998 23:nn:35

From the above there was an obvious requirement for substantial funding and the need for effective control measures.

After consideration of the cost and staff implications Simon Nutter the owner of Toppers Nightclub, Penrith, was approached with a vague proposal. This was initially met with a frown but after explanation of an intended package of support and control mechanisms he agreed to consider a later proposal.

Consultation was then made by way of personal surveys with groups of young people over the summer months. This included their thoughts of other discos, what they would be prepared to pay for such a provision, what activities should be included and would they actually go.

Response was actually limited until the mention of the possibility that the project may be in a local nightclub. Following this requests were simple, a bit of music, proper disco lights, chips and a drink. Those surveyed were generally prepared to pay £2-£3 for entry and the times of operation suggested as between 7:30pm and 11:30pm.

The response from the young people in the immediate area and reports from Mad Jacks suggested that there would be potential for between two and three hundred participants. The intended target was still the 3500 secondary School Pupils in the Eden area.

The following steps included the compilation of the control measures and their cost before re-contacting Simon Nutter. These were compiled by PC Chambers in recognition of the above reports and including the proposed objectives.

#### 1. Press coverage and promotion

Initial launch coverage provided by all local papers and Border TV free as News items. Several further articles provided by local paper as further news items. 1000 Professional posters made from poster competition (entries from the 5 Secondary Schools) by Reeds Printers

#### 2. Membership Scheme

Membership database software, laptop computer, digital camera and hard plastic card printer with equipment provided by Identifile Ltd. Retail price £9000 price paid in view of Identifile's commitment to the community project £4500. Card includes photo, emergency contact number and medical information. Cost approximately 50p sold for £1 revenue returned to project, further interested agencies requesting use of service at a cost (Mountain rescue). Membership application assisted by all schools involved including verification of age. Photo's taken by community Police Officer, local Councillor and Youth worker once appointed. Database holding contact numbers and addresses for use when required at the Disco. Membership card made more attractive by acceptance of local stores to give 10% discount to holders. Membership card to be retained during periods of exclusion. Card further recognised as an overall citizenship card by Crime and Disorder partnership.

### 3. Building Modifications

Shutters placed over Nightclub bar areas to secure alcohol. Installation and purchase price subsidised by funding to the value of £1850.

### 4. Schools liaison and assistance

Schools agreed to distribute respective information letters and membership application forms. Regular two way contact to be made in relation to any concerns.

### 5. Information release to parents

Pre information letters addressed to all prospective parents/guardians (See Appendix C). Further letters of reassurance over various concerns and provisions of such things as Police and Youth workers.

### 6. Provision of two youth workers

To be employed by the project and have some experience of youth work, the option of further training was later taken and supported by the project. Youth workers to explore the methods of communication within the disco area and deliver a signpost service with some advice on the highlighted issues. Youth workers to act as a liaison with all relevant agencies such as KADAS and the health authority and compile such things as No smoking campaigns. Area set-aside for the relevant work and ability to offer appropriate one to one area within obvious guidelines.

### 7. The provision of appropriate transport to serve the outer Eden areas

It was planned that imminent service bus contracts would be amended and contracts awarded on the acceptance to serve the proposed disco timings. Further enquiries were to be made in relation to the subsidy of such a service for card holding members of the disco.

### 8. Regular Police attendance

Community Police officer PC John Chambers to provide regular presence in pursuance of raising Police profile increasing acceptability and assisting with the establishment of Code of conduct.

### 9. Provision of further volunteers

To assist in all duties and reduce the number of paid staff.

### 10. Temporary exclusion protocol/code of conduct

Code of conduct to include non-acceptance of anti social behaviour, drinking before during or after the disco, any other substance misuse and any criminal behaviour. Transgressions would be dealt with by way of exclusions that would recognise the need for young people to learn from their mistakes.

These were initially set at 3 weeks, 5 weeks and 3 months. Any transgressions would be followed up by a home visit from the community Police Officer in order to highlight the issues to both the young person and parent/guardian. Consideration would also be given to any adverse reports from either Police, Parents/Guardians or Schools and if deemed appropriate, exclusion considered.

#### 11. Responsibility protocol

A definite protocol was decided in relation to the responsibility of the staff involved in the project and the young people. Local parents would not be taken and any activity would be viewed as if having occurred in a public place. Any concerns for the safety, health or welfare of the young people would be directed to the appropriate authority including the Police and local Hospital. Youth workers would exercise appropriate discretion and confidence within their own guidelines. In cases of concern such as suffering from the effects of a substance or attempting to bring substances in, the members emergency contact number would be contacted in order that a relative or guardian collect the individual. If no contact is made individuals would be referred to the appropriate authority.

NO individual would be allowed to leave unsupervised in such circumstances. Staff would not be expected to supervise/care for individuals over an excessive length of time.

#### 12. Proactive patrols before and after the disco

Liaison with local retailers and positive action where necessary. Prior to and following each disco the community officer would patrol the local area. This would include retail outlets and the education of the staff as to the sale of alcohol and cigarettes and to pay extra vigilance on the nights of the disco. This would include efforts to identify any premises allowing the sale of any goods to those not of the prescribed age. The patrol would also attempt to locate any young people indulging in a pre drink. This would be followed by a check of licensed premises after the disco for anyone underage, at the same time of which highlighting the concern to all respective licensees.

#### 13. Initial weekly meeting 16 Month review

All interested parties to attend and supply feedback in relation to the appropriateness of the control measures and any other concerns. The appropriateness of the full scheme and its further existence to be reviewed after 6 months

The above proposals were scrutinised by representatives from the youth service and the relevant suggestions were amended, this included the proposed timings of 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The final proposal was then put to Simon Nutter at which time he agreed to offer his premises for the project subject the relevant funding being made available.

## Funding

Eden Youth Work Partnership (EYWP), consisting of representatives from the Police, youth groups across the county (such as Cumbria Alliance for clubs for Young People) and local Councillors, were identified as a potential partner and facilitator to assist the initial set up of the project.

EYWP strategy at the time was to increase the number and range of options for access by young people to Social & Educational opportunities and to be a focal point for organisations working with young people in Eden.

A presentation *by* PC Chambers *to the* partnership *on* Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000 detailing the proposals of the now 'Fridays @ Toppers' project, received their agreed support.

EYWP formed a sub committee now including PC Chambers and Archy Spence a representative from the youth Service and others. Tasks were set to compile final costing and a funding bid for submission to the area committee.

EYWP later agreed to handle the recruitment and pay role of the proposed Youth workers together with all other financial details after receiving the requested funds.

Details of initial funding request:

Building modifications	£ 4800
Youth workers salary x 2	£ 4800
Advertising	£ 400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£10,000</u></b>

Amendments were made owing to savings on the modifications and increased expenditure on the membership system. However the area committee accepted this initial bid, monies being derived from Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council.

Revised funding requirements:

Building modifications	£ 1850
Membership system	£ 4500
Youth workers salary x 2	£ 4800
Advertising	£ 400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£11,550</u></b>

The Penrith Round table agreed in principle to assist in the purchase of the membership system and a preliminary offer was made. After a presentation by PC Chambers to their members and careful deliberation the final figure contributed was £1000 which was considerable in relation to their usual contribution to similar requests.

A short fall of £550 was now evident; this was included in a presentation by PC Chambers to the 'Penrith and Eden Drugs reference group'. The group was supportive of the project in relation to its connection with the Drug and Alcohol objectives. Following the presentation a partner of the group 'Penrith Lions' invited PC Chambers to prepare a bid to them selves which they would be interested in honouring.

Due to a saving in youth workers wages this was not required though would be considered for any future requirements.

## Appendix C: Selected Correspondence

# Fridays @ Toppers

**Toppers Nite Club Southend Road Penrith Cumbria 01768 863923 1 February, 2002**

To Young People and Parents

I am writing to you to tell you about Fridays @ Toppers Nightclub which is for 11 to 17 year olds. **We offer a drug and alcohol free dance night Food and refreshments are on sale at the club.** You can join in with workshops and games or just enjoy the dance night. Alesha and myself are **Youth Workers** who are there to support, listen and to give you advice on current issues that you may be facing.

**We are open from 7.30pm to 10.30pm every Friday.** We will be arranging transport from different areas (Alston & Kirkby Stephen initially) from 8 or 15 February, full details are available on our website [www.fridaytoppers.co.uk](http://www.fridaytoppers.co.uk) and through your school. This will be free for the first week and then will cost £2 return.

If you fill out the application form attached and ask your Parent/Guardian to sign it and hand back in to the school, we will do the rest. On your first visit we will take your photograph and arrange for your membership card to be processed.

**Membership cards not only provide you with access to a great night out but also 10% discount at several clothing outlets.** Hope to see you all soon, Regards,

Anne Benson & Alesha Friend, Youth Workers at Toppers

### Note to Parents

Toppers is a multi-agency project supported by Cumbria Police, Cumbria County Council, Eden Youth Work Partnership, Eden District Council & Toppers Nightclub. John Chambers, a Community **Police Officer**, along with Toppers Staff, Youth Workers & other volunteers are present every week to provide a safe, fun setting for young people. Membership cards have details of an emergency contact no., medical information (optional) & proof of age. **If you have any concerns or want to get involved as a volunteer, please ring Alesha or myself on 01768 862666, leave you name & number and we will act back to you.**

***Rural Transport Partnership***  
***linking communities***

Cumbria County Council  
Citadel Chambers  
Carlisle  
Tel- 0 1 228 60675 0  
22R

15 October 2001

Our ref. DFINC/6  
Enquiries to: *Lisa Devayya*  
Direct Line: 01228 60 6750  
Email Lisa. dvayya@cumbria.gov.uk

John Chambers  
Executive Committee  
Hunter Lane Police Station  
Hunter Lane  
Penrith

Dear John

**RE: FRIDAY AT TOPPERS**

As we discussed at our meeting on Friday 12 October I have enclosed a number of payment claim forms and a grant acceptance form, this will need to be signed and returned to me before any payment can be made.

I have also enclosed a copy of the *offer* letter sent to Colin Nineham setting out a number of conditions for your information.

A letter has now gone out to all school transport operators inviting them to register an interest in providing any of the suggested routes in writing to Cheryl Cowperthwaite no later than Friday 26 October.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Devayya  
RTP Project & Finance Co-ordinator

Enc.

# CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY



Facsimile: 01768 217598  
Telephone: 01768 864355  
Please ask for: PC 429 Chambers

**Divisional Commander:**  
**Superintendent G Horlacher**  
**North Cumbria Area**  
**Hunter Lane**  
**PENRITH**  
**Cumbria CA11.7UT**

**My Reference:**  
**Your Reference:**

Mr D Robinson  
Ullswater Community College  
Wetheriggs Lane  
PENRITH  
Cumbria  
CA11 8NG  
21 February, 2001  
Dear Mr Robinson

Following our initial telephone conversation, I have continued investigating the feasibility of the provision of a Youth Disco/Youth Centre in Penrith in consultation with young people and other agencies, including yourselves.

The aim of this enterprise was decided *'to provide a safe meeting point for young people of secondary school age in Eden'*

This has resulted in Toppers Night Club, Penrith agreeing to provide their services and premises for a Youth Disco on Friday nights between 7.30 pm and 10.30 pm. Funding has also been gained for appropriate building modifications, employment of two Youth Workers and publicity. Transport facilities have been, and are being modified to encompass the Eden area to service the business hours of the Disco. The Youth Workers will be expected to provide a 'drop in service' as well as promotion of the facility and planning of future development.

A membership card system will be introduced to control access and will include criteria to consider following any misconduct.

The membership will be available to all young people of secondary school age and would require your assistance in its administration. I am presently making enquiries into the purchase of a professional credit card system for which funds are available.

Further to the above I would also like your assistance with publicity to include a! competition to produce a 'Flyer/Poster' which would be further produced by a printing firm. The initial press release has been set for Thursday 8 March 2001, prior to the undisclosed start date of Friday 16 March 2001. I will confirm by phone if there is scope for the name being anything different from 'Toppers Disco'. Following confirmation of your assistance I would like to include your support in the press release.

Cont.

I would further hope that following the launch a working relationship would be maintained between all schools and myself I would be very keen to consider any suggestions for development, involvement or volunteers to assist any course criteria, or citizenship schemes. It is also hoped that this may form a template that may be reproduced in other areas of Eden.

I apologise for the obvious time constraints, however, the availability of funds caused actions to be taken quicker than expected.

Yours sincerely

PC 429 JOHN CHAMBERS  
PENRITH COMMUNITY OFFICER