

THE MARTIN ROAD PROJECT

Crime and Disorder Reduction

Northumbria Police



ACC Paul Leighton

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Martin Road Project - Executive Summary

THE Martin Road area of Howdon, North Tyneside, is like many others in urban Britain.

A mainly local authority-run estate, its high levels of unemployment and deprivation had led to an acceptance by residents and local agencies that anti-social behaviour and juvenile disorder were inevitable.

But in this particular area, the problems gradually worsened until they reached a stage where effective, permanent, sustainable action was the only option. In the six months from January 1 2001, incidents of serious disorder were becoming excessive. They peaked between March and May 2001 when police officers and fire-fighters were regularly attacked by large groups of missile-throwing youths, council houses were set on fire and nearby Metro trains and other property damaged.

The residents shared the views of the emergency services that enough was enough and brought their problems to the March meeting of the local Police and Community Forum. A month later the first meeting of the Martin Road Public Safety Group was held and the first step had been taken on the road to recovery.

People representing the police, the local authority, a housing association, the fire service, local businesses, the main transport operator, residents and schools met to tackle the problem - and find a solution - together.

Shared information and a residents' survey confirmed high levels of serious disorder including arson, damage and missile throwing. The accumulation of large quantities of rubbish and gaps in fencing were identified as major

contributory factors in the area's overall decline. The local housing office reported an increase in void properties and transfer requests, and police identified a hard core of suspected offenders in the area who were being repeatedly checked.

The Public Safety Group set to work and agreed a number of measures. A multiple ASBO application would be made, fences repaired and new fencing lines created, the removal of over 112 tonnes of rubbish, prevention work in schools and the allocation of a detached youth worker. Police set up specific anti-disorder patrols to reassure residents and provide positive enforcement, while residents' surveys and covert surveillance were used to gather evidence to support the ASBO applications.

Outcomes were measured by the Public Safety Group and other factors considered, including a displacement issue when youths gathered in a nearby area, which was resolved. Another incident, involving drugs, led to seven youths being taken to intensive care.

The initial ASBO applications for 13 youths were reduced to eight as a result of legal negotiations influenced by the sudden inactivity of the other five. At the hearing in March this year six ASBOs were granted, representing the largest multiple order to date nationally.

Monthly statistics now show that juvenile disorder has reduced by more than half in the last 12 months and a residents' survey reflects greater community confidence.

There is evidence that the disorder reduction can be sustained and the housing office report a lengthening waiting list of new residents for the area. The development of a lasting residents group is on the agenda and will be the final action of the Martin Road Public Safety Group.

THE MARTIN ROAD PROJECT

The Martin Road Project aimed to tackle a major problem of anti-social behaviour and juvenile disorder in a tight geographical area of nine streets within the M2 footprint of Wallsend Area Command. Martin Road, from which most of the problems came, is at the core of this area.

BACKGROUND

The housing stock is predominantly local authority owned and was undergoing revitalisation, with some of it being demolished and replaced by new housing owned and managed by Enterprise 5 Housing Association.

The area is part of the Riverside Ward of North Tyneside Council. The following demographic information gives an indication of the whole ward's level of deprivation.

	Ranking	
Overall Deprivation	202	out of 8,414 wards
Income Deprivation	204	”
Employment Deprivation	165	
Health Deprivation	406	
Child Poverty Deprivation	117	”

Source: DETR Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000.

The average property price for the postcode area is £34,266, which is the lowest average price for Wallsend and less than half the North Tyneside average of £75,940.

Source: Land Registry.

72.3% of households do not own a vehicle.

Source: 1991 Census.

The Tyne and Wear Metro runs through the area between Newcastle and the coast.

The area had been identified as a regular hotspot and was within the top five disorder hotspots in North Tyneside during 2000/2001.

The Area Command operates a Dedicated Disorder Patrol strategy with monitoring procedures. As a result of these, uniformed officers had given specific attention to the area. Ongoing problems led to these patrols being supplemented by a specific operation but once that ended the disorderly behaviour started again.

It was evident that the problem was persistent and was not responding to police intervention alone. The decision was then taken to consult partners and stakeholders, to get their data and impressions and adopting a problem-solving approach to the issue.

SCANNING

Working Together

Once the area's main interested parties were identified, the first meeting of the Martin Road Public Safety Group was held. These meetings were chaired by the police but provided a forum for everyone with an interest in improving the area, including public and private sector agencies and local people.

At the first meeting on April 20, 2001 it was agreed:

"that a multi agency approach was essential in providing a short term response leading to a sustainable longer term plan to improve quality of life for the residents."

A total of nine meetings were held up to September 7, 2001 after which the group was discontinued, having achieved its objectives. However, the Local Agency Meeting continued to monitor events and a permanent residents' association is now a long-term plan.

Once the partners started sharing information, it was apparent that everyone was having acute and varied problems which they were all trying to tackle in isolation.

Police

Reports of juvenile disorder to the police in the Martin Road area peaked between March 1 and May 31, 2001, when 187 incidents were reported with 71 the previous year

Problems included:

*Gangs of youths throwing missiles in groups varying from 23 to 50

*Youths causing damage

*Youths taking drugs

*Youths shouting and swearing at residents

*Youths running on Metro lines

*Youths setting fires

*Youths throwing stones at police, fire service and Metro trains.

NEXUS

The Metro is run by transport operator Nexus. Breaches in the Metro fencing at numerous points allowed fly tipping of both household and industrial rubbish, and created the potential for trespass.

Metro incidents examined from January 1 to April 20, 2001 revealed problems including:

- * Trespass, youth disorder and drinking**
- * Missiles thrown at trains and damage to fencing**
- * Windows broken on moving trains**
- * Youths hanging on to side of moving trains**
- * Youths putting obstacles on the track, including a stretch adjacent to Martin Road.**

David Hogg, the Metro System Manager, said he viewed this area as among the worst on the whole system.

North Tyneside Council

The local authority's housing department reported that stock in the Martin Road area was hard to let and demands for rehousing were above average.

It was conceded that the area was generally dilapidated. Large sections of fencing were in need of repair, large amounts of rubbish had been fly tipped, the open access allowed 'rat runs' through residents' gardens and the build up of rubbish provided ammunition for missile throwing. It was accepted that a concerted environmental clean up was needed throughout the estate.

Local authority concerns identified at the first meeting of the Public Safety Group were:

- * Safety of residents**
- * Safety of staff**
- * Evidence of alcohol misuse**
- * Evidence of drug misuse**

- * Disorder
- * Damage to properties
- * Fire setting
- * Rubbish

There was no involvement with Youth Services and detached Youth Workers in the area.

Enterprise 5

Enterprise 5, with a small number of properties in the Home Gardens area, were aware of the rapid increase in disorder within the Martin Road area and the general lawlessness shown by the local youths.

Problems and complaints included:

- * Graffiti
- * Stone throwing
- * Youths gathering
- * Youths running through gardens.

Enterprise 5 were committed to a £300,000 development over two years but they were so concerned they threatened to withdraw.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service

The station officer for Tynemouth and Wallsend said the level of calls to the area were increasing and his staff were regularly stoned and harassed by local youths. Concern for officers' safety was such that an extra tender was sent for security on each callout to the area. There were also concerns for the safety of

local residents and youths who were setting fires to vacant properties in the area.

O'Briens

People working for O'Briens, the demolition company carrying out work on behalf of the local authority, were regularly targeted by stone-throwing youths.

The Public

Residents had raised concerns about unacceptable levels of disorder and anti-social behaviour at a Police and Community Forum meeting in nearby Willington Quay in March 2001. In the absence of a coherent residents group the police agreed to carry out a survey to gather residents' views.

Environmental Scan

As part of the scanning process representatives from the police, local authority and NEXUS were commissioned to conduct an environmental scan of the Martin Road area.

In relation to NEXUS land and property, 100 metres of the fencing was missing at various points of the trackside, allowing access to the land and Metro track. Large quantities of household and industrial rubbish were spread at various locations on NEXUS land. These factors encouraged missile throwing and riding on the outside of trains. It was acknowledged that they required attention.

The local authority housing survey showed the absence of fencing which allowed access to all areas and encouraged rat runs and short cuts through residents' gardens.

ANALYSIS

In total 97 households in the Martin Road area were covered in the survey which revealed that 78% of the residents had witnessed anti-social behaviour. Although the residents were happy to provide information to be used for court purposes, they were very reluctant to become prosecution witnesses themselves.

Responses to the survey did produce community intelligence which enabled police to identify offenders or reinforce existing intelligence about suspects.

A set of criteria was agreed by the Public Safety Group to prioritise the most prolific offenders, using data from January 1, 2001. This was:

i) Number of DIS1 notifications. A DIS1 form is submitted by an officer attending the scene of juvenile disorders, whether or they are reported and whether an offence was present or not. Stops within the DIS1 process will generate letters to parents, visits by a local Community Beat Manager or details of the individual circulated to patrols for information and attention.

ii) Number of PACE 1 stop/checks.

iii) Number of times named in residents' questionnaire.

iv) Number of times named by demolition company.

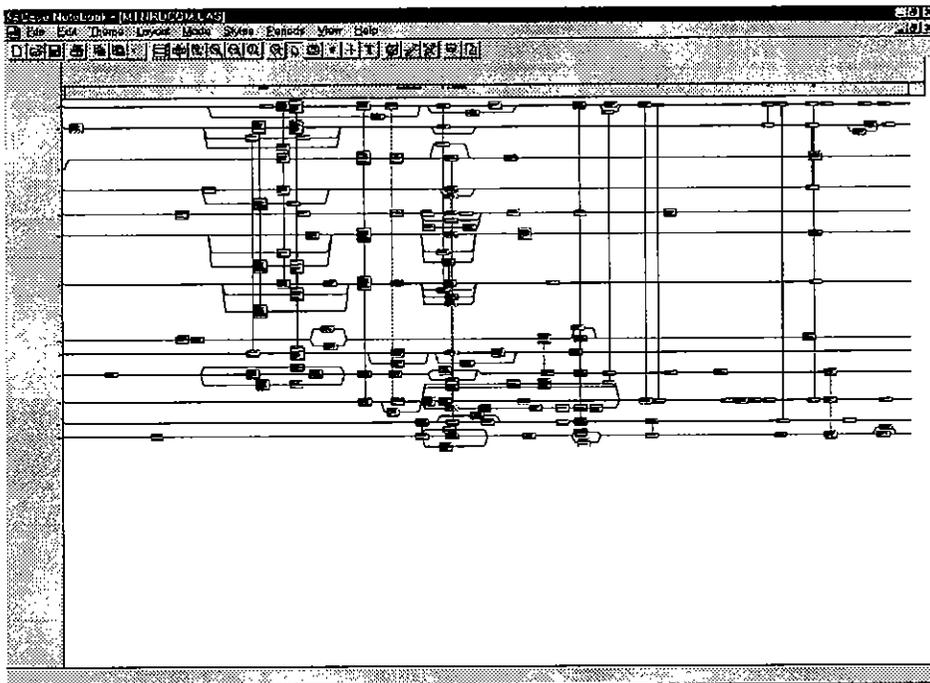
The North Tyneside Partnership obtained funding for a data base and analysis system known as i2. It allows data from a number of sources to be formatted into a single data base, then interrogated. The results can then be transferred to other programmes within the system for analysis in various ways.

Since this Area Command already maintains data bases on DIS1, PACE 1 (which include mapping facilities), and other intelligence items, it was

relatively easy to integrate them with the force intelligence system and the i2 system to identify problem areas and times.

Comparative analysis on incidents and crimes, with a particular emphasis on disorder, enabled suspects to be identified. Information and intelligence gathered via this and other sources was used to produce charts showing disorder and crime in the targeted area and the involvement of the people identified. It also helped in preparing the case for the subsequent court hearing.

Example of case notebook chart showing persons on the y-axis timelined against intelligence and incidents.



Seven local youths were identified and it was agreed the police would gather evidence against them in support of a police led multiple ASBO application. The analysis showed that the main instigators lived outside the area and that witnesses were reluctant to go to court. It also showed that the behaviour of some youths was out of control and that this was influenced by drugs and alcohol misuse.

In summary, the problems were found to stem from an identifiable group of youths running wild in an area of decline which was encouraging that type of behaviour. This gave clear pointers as to a response.

RESPONSE

To determine the response the Problem Analysis Triangle (PAT) was used to direct attention.

Offenders

- 1) Identify and address the behaviour of juveniles responsible for disorder.
- 2) Use detached youth workers to divert juveniles from disorder.
- 3) Establish if there are problems associated with school and school attendance.

Location

- 1) Liaise with relevant agencies to clean up the area.
- 2) Introduce additional fencing to restrict trespass problems.
- 3) Work with demolition company to minimise problems.

Victims

- 1) Survey residents to find out the extent and type of problems being faced.

- 2) **Keep them updated with the group's progress via community meetings and newsletters.**
- 3) **Ensure continued support for victims.**

Police

The police responded with Operation Cleansweep, a combination of overt police presence to deter and detect offenders and reassure residents, with uniform patrols during peak times, and covert action to gather evidence in support of ASBO applications.

The evidence gathering for the ASBO application was considered essential by the Public Safety Group. A total of eight youths were initially identified as subjects for the application and resources were focused on their activities.

O'Brien

The demolition firm would continue to provide on site security. Progress was monitored and concerns raised at the Public Safety Group where immediate responses would be provided.

Rubble and other site debris was removed from the area before the close of business each day to reduce accessibility to missiles by local youths.

NEXUS

Sections of the fencing line were replaced and upgraded and large quantities of rubbish were removed. The fencing cost £4,700 and involved shared responsibilities between NEXUS and the local authority. Between 105-110 tonnes of rubbish was cleared from the Metro site, at a cost of £2,400.

North Tyneside Council

Housing function agreed to examine the future status of problematic households within the Martin Road area and where necessary enforce the tenancy agreement.

They also agreed to review the future housing allocations strategy to ensure that the appropriate calibre of tenant was attracted to the area to allow for continuity.

Support for existing tenants was agreed to minimise any sudden deterioration within the area.

This was provided by local housing staff in the form of a complaints and counselling service which encouraged residents to be patient and await the outcome of the multi agency response rather than move out of the area.

The local authority also erected fencing around the demolition site area.

Youth Services agreed to arrange for detached youth work in the area and audit youth provisions.

Environmental Services agreed to remove rubbish from the area and provide replacement and new estate fencing to limit open access.

Education and the Tyne Wear Fire Service agreed to develop a joint initiative of giving fire safety information to local youths in conjunction with the police.

ASSESSMENT

Every aspect of the response was measured and assessed through the Public Safety Group and changes were made where appropriate.

However, for a substantial period of time, reports of disorder and anti-social behaviour did not slow down. Minutes of the Public Safety Group meetings continued to show concern for levels throughout May and June - it was not until the seventh meeting, in July, that incidents were reported to have dropped to an acceptable level. However, the agreed response was thought to be appropriate to the problems identified.

This response would have been allowed to continue with the minimum amount of intervention, had not two other issues surfaced within weeks of the Public Safety Group forming.

On May 30, 2001, officers received information that several youths appeared to be heavily under the influence of drink and drugs. Further calls resulted in a total of five youths being identified as requiring urgent hospital treatment. These youths were located around the Martin Road area and formed part of a larger group.

The police mounted a large scale search using air support, dogs, and motor patrols with tannoy to ensure the safety of other youths in the area.

As a result, one further youth was identified as being involved with the initial group and a further youth received hospital treatment claiming to have taken drugs. Due to the possibility of further youths being involved the incident was given large scale publicity which attracted national interest.

Enquiries revealed that six of the seven youths had overdosed on a cocktail of prescribed drugs and alcohol. The youths were in hospital for at least two days.

Amid the media furore, the Public Safety Group met on May 31 and considered the implications of the high profile drugs overdose incident on the progress of the Martin Road Project.

It was agreed that *"a lot of good work is ongoing in Howdon and the incident should not be allowed to detract from this."*

Rather than being deflected from its aims and objectives, the group took a harder line. At their meeting the following month they included the six youths - who has also been involved in anti-social behaviour incidents in the area - into the multiple ASBO application, bringing the total to 13.

The overdose incident involved the misuse of unwanted prescription drugs and led to a high profile campaign involving Wallsend and Tynemouth Area Commands and the leader of North Tyneside Council. It sought the voluntary surrender of unwanted prescription drugs at central sites in pharmacies and has developed into a regional campaign, Killers In The Cupboard, led by Dr Ian Spencer, director of primary care at Newcastle and North Tyneside Health Authority.

The second issue was that of displacement.

As previously mentioned, disorder levels did not reduce to an acceptable level until July 2001 despite a heavy police presence. Coinciding with this reduction, the residents of Bamburgh Drive and Helmsley Drive reported an explosion in incidents of youth disorder displaced from Martin Road.

This was reported to the July meeting of the Public Safety Group. Local public meetings were held and a residents action group was formed. A leaflet was hand delivered to residents, updating them on the progress of multi-agency interventions.

The problems of Bamburgh Drive were highlighted by the local Community Beat Manager and submitted to the Wallsend Problem Solving Group for resolution. Interventions were similar to the Martin Road Project, but their

problems were short lived and the area returned to normality within six to eight weeks.

ASBO PROCESS

A full file of evidence was compiled for the multiple ASBO application and the last Public Safety Group meeting of September 2001 reported that the file of evidence was with the force solicitors and legal process was underway.

As a result of extensive legal deliberations the initial cases against five of the 13 named youths have been suspended, due to their inactivity since the development of the Martin Road Project. Their inactivity as a result of higher profile presence can be viewed as a partial success, since anecdotal evidence from the youths and residents suggests they kept out of trouble to avoid an ASBO against them.

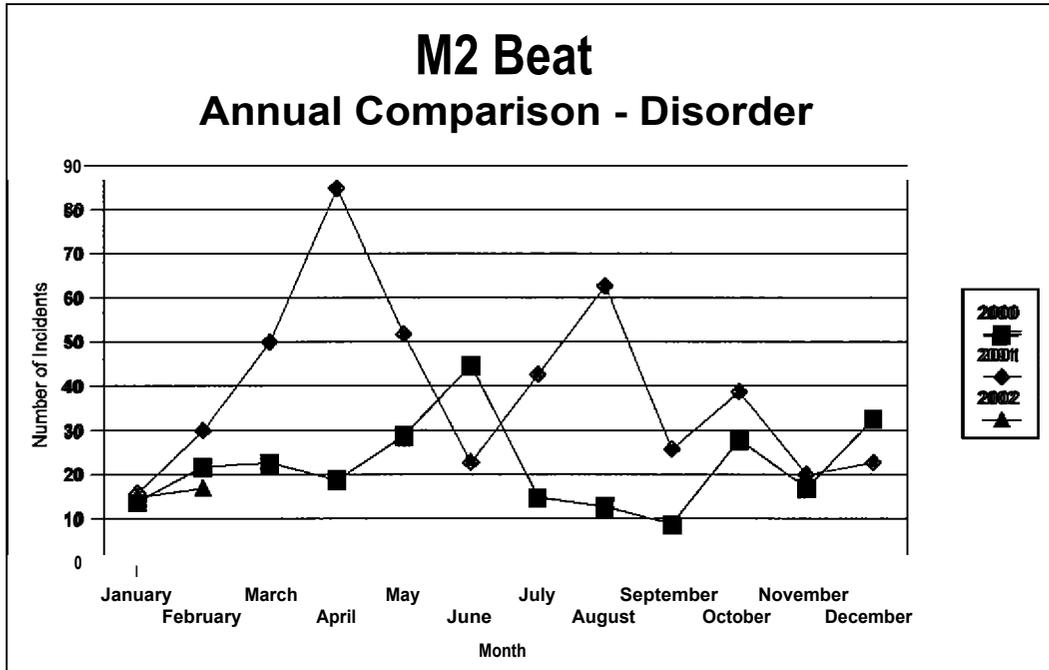
The remainder progressed to trial at North Tyneside Magistrates Court on March 18, 2002 when ASBOs were granted in respect of six of the eight youths - the largest multiple application granted nationally to date.

Between March 18 and May 8, 2002 only one of the six youths has breached the conditions of his ASBO by entering the prohibition area twice. The remainder would appear to have moderated their behaviour.

(The ASBO conditions are in the appendices.)

The M2 Footbeat

The overall juvenile disorder figures for the M2 footbeat over the two year period is illustrated seasonally as follows:



This includes the displacement location at Bamburgh Drive which saw an increase in juvenile disorder during June - August 2001. The assessment since September 2001 shows a reduction of reports over 2000/2001 figures (eg winter 2001/2002 is 19.61% down on previous year).

A recent residents survey covered 52 houses in the area. Of those, 12 declined to take part and six occupants had moved into the area since the problems of early 2001 so could not comment on comparisons.

Of the remaining 34 surveyed, 76% had experienced problems of disorder and anti-social behaviour 12 months ago and 80% said the situation had improved since then.

Residents Quotes

"With the co-operation of the Police and North Tyneside Council things have got better."

"Over the past 12 months we can go back out at night without the worry of what to come home to."

"It's a lot better now thanks to the Police presence. It's reassuring seeing them passing up and down at night."

The council's housing department report that the Martin Road area is changing from having void properties and others which are difficult to let. There is now a waiting list and properties are in demand.

Enterprise 5 Housing Association, which will be allocating their housing stock soon, have developed a lettings strategy closely aligned to the local authority and will make full use of the data sharing protocols in the Safer Estates agreement.

A copy of the full file of evidence for the ASBO applications, minutes of all Public Safety Meetings and i2 charts used to support the ASBO applications are all located at Wallsend Area Command headquarters.

Other feedback includes statements from key stakeholders:

1. David Kennedy, Wallsend and Tynemouth Divisional Officer, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, reported that during the serious disorder problems of early 2001 there was a lot of building works being carried out in the area. At night from 5pm onwards this became a playground for large numbers of youths. They became hostile and fire appliances and crews were attacked with bricks and other projectiles.

He adds: "Since August 2001 there have been no malicious fires or anti-social behaviour towards the fire service in the Martin Road area."

2. Susan Howes, Housing Manager for Enterprise 5, said that during the disorder problems of early 2001 "we had major reservations that unless the decline in the area was halted investment would be futile. The association did not want to expose itself to considerable financial loss."

However, since the interventions were implemented she says: "All of the tenants have been visited and appear very happy."

3. John Belfield, the local Housing Manager, said: "The problems the residents of Martin Road experienced were the worst I have witnessed throughout my 19 year career. The process has led to a safer and sustained community for all residents."

4. David Hogg of NEXUS, who described the incidents and events of early 2001 as among the worst experienced on the entire Metro system, said "Since the interventions have been put into place the area has assumed an air of normality."

There are plans to consult members of the Public Safety Group after the ASBO hearing to ensure that all parties are satisfied that no new problems have emerged. The process will also enable everyone to discuss experiences so lessons can be learnt from the process.

disorder hotspots and juvenile offenders at a much earlier stage. It is linked with the provision of geographical information provided to the Geographical Inspector on a five-weekly basis and the contents are discussed at their Local Agency Meetings.

The flashpoint which developed in the Martin Road area was recognised as a problem too large for the limited resources of a local agency meeting and which had to be handled by a central problem solving approach.

The experiences of the Martin Road Project led to a massive collection of evidence and data in support of the ASBO application. The file was submitted in early September 2001 and there were extensive legal issues and deliberations during the following six months.

There were frustrations with the slow progress of the criminal justice process. Experiences would tend to support the imposition of interim ASBO prohibitions currently under examination by the Home Office.

The subject of criminal justice support and process forms part of a wider issue and is considered to be too lengthy for this report.

All systems are available for inspections at Wallsend Area Command headquarters.

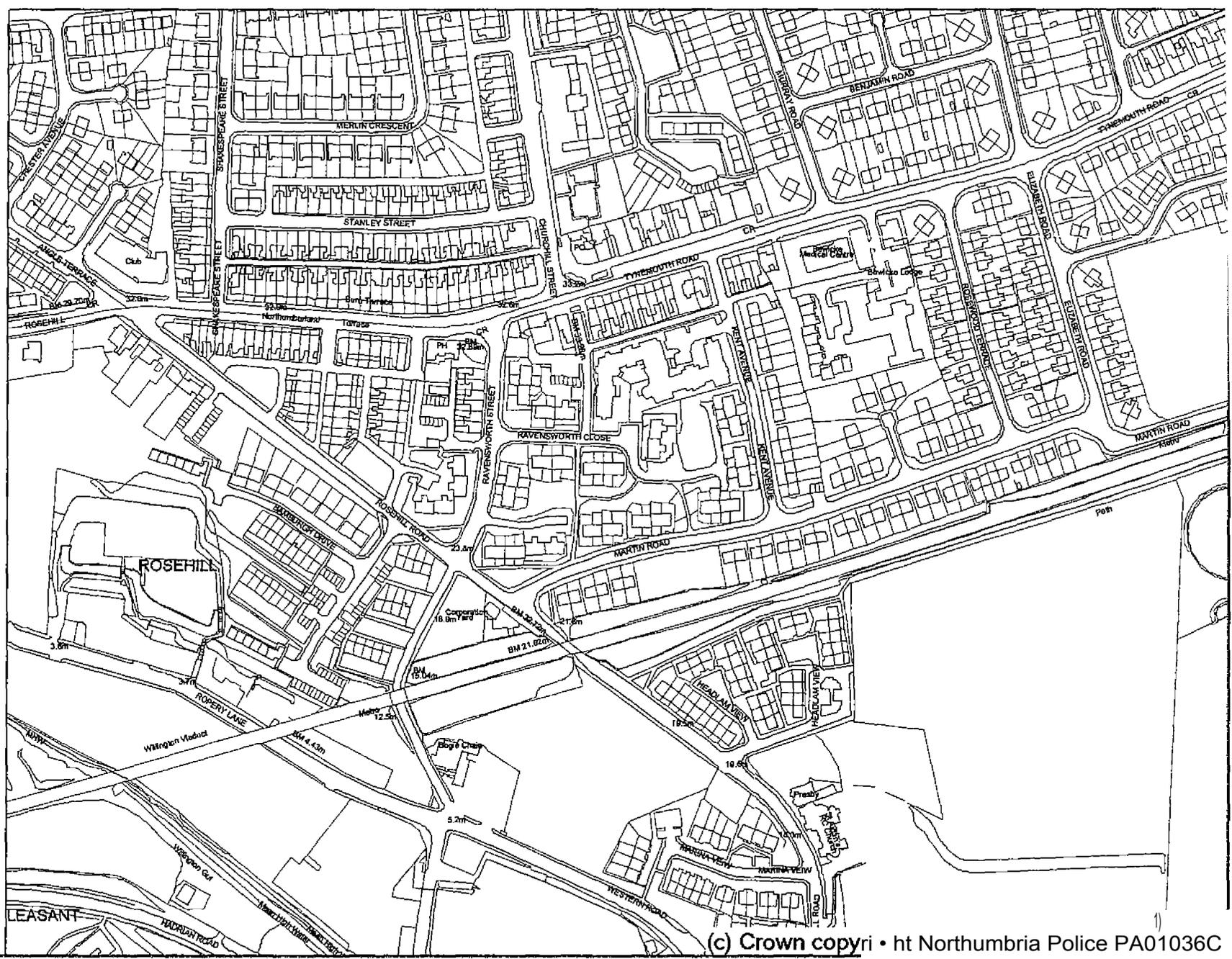
Martin Road Project

Appendices

- A) Detailed map showing area of Martin Road.**
- B) High risk "hotspot" map for North Tyneside.**
- C) List of Martin Road stakeholders identified for Public Safety Meeting process.**
- D) Copy of press release "Killer In The Cupboard".**
- E) Copy of Martin Road residents survey of 2002 used to establish the current views of the community.**
- F) Copy of ASBO prohibitions issued by North Tyneside Magistrates on 18th March 2002.**
- G) Copy of press release "Successful Conclusion of ASBO Applications".**

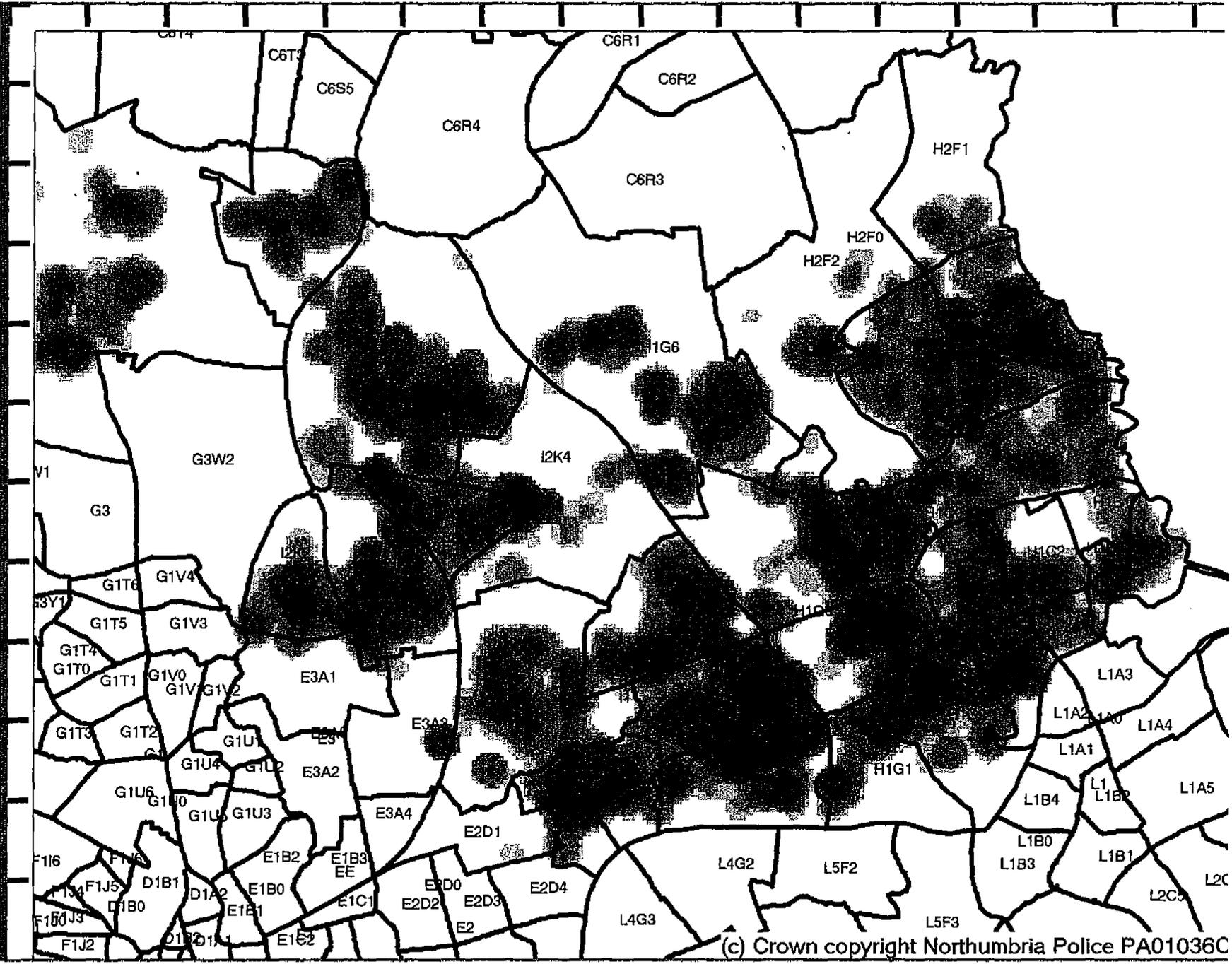
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Workfile - Incidents
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d Ref 1 for Polygon Selection

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between 0.03 and 0.05
between 0.06 and 0.11
between 0.11 and 0.22
between 0.22 and 0.44
between 0.44 and 0.88
between 0.88 and 1.75
between 1.75 and 3.50
More than 3.50



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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 31st May 2001 Time: 15:30

Subject:
Headline

Drugs
Wallsend drugs overdoses - press conference
detail

Details

D1 Steve Fear, Wallsend command area, spoke to the press this afternoon. The following information is a brief summary of what was said.

Police in Wallsend have made one arrest late this afternoon following the incident in Howdon. A male youth is currently helping with enquiries. There is no further information on this as enquiries are continuing. A further appeal has been made to the public as police believe there is more than one person involved in the supply of the drugs.

A health hotline has been set up for concerned parents . The number is 0191 295 4713.

Only two of the youths are still in hospital. Both are stable. The drugs taken were a mixture of about 100 anti depressants, a small amount of cannabis, 30 blues and alcohol. The antidepressant drug is believed to be Amitryplene. Its effect is to speed up the heart rate. The youths were all found within a quarter of a mile radius.

The youths were all found in a various states of consciousness. The situation was life-threatening. It was an unusual event for this area which is no different to any other town in England where drugs are available.

DI Fear said in response to a number of questions that police activities would continue tonight in the area. Patrols would continue as part of the investigation. No curfew orders were in place in any part of Wallsend.

He thanked the press and the public for their help and asked that this continue.

Guidance

The youths still in hospital are Andrew Patterson and Kelvin Shorten

Update

01/0612001

There are three youths in hospital. Lee Armstrong who had discharged himself has been re-admitted.

Authorising Press Officer: Sowmya Pulle-Daley
Information From:
Release Method: Voicebank



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 31st May 2001 Time: 21:35

Subject:

Drugs

Headline

**Five admitted to hospital after drugs overdoses
+ Update + press conference**

Details

30/05/01 21.35:

Five teenagers have been admitted to North Tyneside general hospital this evening suffering from the after effects of taking what is believed to have been a cocktail of drugs and drink.

The five, all from a small area of Howdon, Wallsend, were taken to NTGH after separate calls to the ambulance service between 4.15 and 7.30pm. All five are said to be in critical but stable conditions in the ITU at the hospital. A 13-year-old has since been transferred to ITU at Wansbeck hospital because all ITU beds are now filled at North Shields.

Medical staff believe the five, not all of whom have yet been positively identified, may have taken a combination of antidepressants, temazepam, cannabis and alcohol, The anti depressant can affect the heart if taken in excess or by someone for whom it was not prescribed.

Northumbria Police have begun an extensive search of the Marina View, Martin Road and Howdon Green industrial estate areas of Howdon in case there are further victims. This includes house to house calls, announcements by loudspeaker and helicopter sweeps. A major enquiry has been launched to track down the suppliers of the drugs.

Anyone who thinks their children or friends may have taken drugs today and are showing symptoms of drunkenness or loss of consciousness, should seek urgent medical help.

DI Steve Fear says: " We urgently need to trace anyone else who has taken a mixture of drugs in the last few hours and make sure that they get medical treatment as soon as possible.

" Someone out there is peddling drugs which could kill and anyone who knows who supplied these youngsters should contact us as soon as possible."

Insp Fear is available for interview at Wallsend police station in Alexandra Street.

Guidance

aged 13-16 - Parents are with them. Any info to Wallsend CID on contact 0191 214 6555 ext 62326

In interviews: "We're determined to find the source of these drugs and prosecute them. This could have been a tragedy. In 20 yrs of policing I've never experienced anything like this."

Update

BB 31/05/01 9.15am:

This is an update on the Howdon drugs overdoses. Police believe they have now traced everyone who has used these drugs and are continuing their enquiries in the Howden area today. Det Insp Steve Fear, who is leading the investigation, is appealing for the local community to co-operate with police as they continue to seek the source of the drugs. While DI Fear appreciates the continued interest and support from the media, he is unable to give any further interviews at this time as the investigation has to take priority.

FT 31/05/01 3.35pm

This is a further update on the Howdon drugs overdose. A joint press conference involving Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Council will be held at Wallsend Area Command at Alexandra Street, Wallsend, today at 4.45pm.

Authorising Press Officer: Sue Nicholson
Information From: **DI Fear, DCC**
Release Method: Voicebank



Martin Road Residents Survey

Address:.....

Occupants :.....

How long have you lived at this address?

----- Years ----- Months

**Q- During your time in Martin Road have you experienced incidents of disorder
or anti social behaviour? YES / NO**

If so when, **and** describe incident(s).....

**If you outlined incidents of disorder and anti social behaviour, what are the
current levels and describe your present quality of life**

Survey conducted by

Time/Date

On 18th March 2002 a 2 year Anti Social Behaviour Order was issued at North Tyneside Magistrates Court.

The prohibitions that were attached to the order were as follows

Must not enter Martin Road, Holme Gradients, Kent Avenue, Ravensworth Close or Ravensworth Street.

Must not act in a manner or engage in or be involved in any activity ,either alone or with others,which causes or is likely to cause,directly or indirectly,harrassment,alarm or distress to any person.

Must not encourage any person to act in a manner or to engage in any activity which causes alarm,harrassment or distress to any other person.

Must not involve himself in any way with any person or involve himself in any way with any person so acting or so engaged.

This only applies to the North Tyneside area.

March 21, 2002

ASBOs for Wallsend youths

SIX Wallsend youths whose behaviour sparked concerns from local residents are the latest troublemakers in the Northumbria Police area to be given Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

The granting of the orders this week by North Tyneside Magistrates follows months of work by the police in conjunction with the local authority, the fire service and public transport operators Nexus.

In March last year residents in Howdon and Willington Quay highlighted concerns about youth disorder in the area. Work was already underway to address the concerns but a full review examined the issues raised.

Chaired by Detective inspector Mark Anastasi from Wallsend Area Command, a series of measures was agreed ranging from targeted police operations to a clean up of the area.

A number of ASBOs were also applied for through the courts to prevent the youths from causing a nuisance in the neighbourhood or harassing residents. Breaches of ASBOs can lead to long custodial sentences.

This week at North Tyneside Magistrates six ASBOs were granted against the following:

1. Kelvin Shotton, 16, of Tunbridge Avenue, North Shields
2. **Wayne** Dack, 17, of Headlam View, Willington Quay
3. Lee Armstrong , 16, of Elgin Avenue, **Howdon**
4. Andrew Patterson, 14, of Denbigh Avenue, Wallsend
5. Richard O'Carroll, 16, of Radnor Gardens, Wallsend
6. Paul Borg, 16, of Quay View, Willington **Quay**

Di **Anastasi** said: "The **ASBO procedure** has been achieved **by** the strength of community feeling in the area and the work of all the agencies.

"ASBOs provide a legally enforceable method to restrict individuals from causing further problems in the area.

"Although the situation has improved considerably in recent months we hope these ASBOs will be extremely effective in reducing the disorder these people are involved in. As always, it is a very small minority of people who disrupt the lives of others and the orders should provide a great deal of reassurance for the community."

Notes to newsdesks - Photographs of the youths are available for collection from the front office of Wallsend Police station.

Patterson is still facing court proceedings in connection with drugs offences in Martin Road last May and his name should not be used in connection with this incident.

New Partnership tackles the 'Killer in the cupboard.'

A NEW multi agency group made up of the Northumbria Police, pharmacists, Health Authorities, Drug Action Teams and HAZs in the Tyne and Wear/Northumberland area is launching a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription drugs and asking people to dispose of unwanted supplies.

One reason for the group coming together to tackle this issue was two er►ents last year in North Tyneside where several youngsters overdosed after taking prescription drugs mixed with alcohol and needed treatment in intensive care.

The campaign is based around the theme 'the killer in the cupboard' and uses radio, posters and flyers to highlight the comparative dangers between prescription and illegal drugs and emphasises that people have a responsibility to keep medicines safely locked away and to return unwanted or unused drugs to their local pharmacy.

Pharmacists play a key role in this campaign as they can give advice on the dangers of certain drugs and can deal with returned unwanted prescriptions at any time. Some pharmacists will also be auditing the type and amount of drugs returned to help evaluate the campaign.

Northumbria Police Assistant Chief Constable Paul Leighton said: " We have had first hand experience of the dangers that prescription drugs can cause. There were two incidents within the space of a week last summer which could quite easily have led to deaths.

" We welcome this initiative which highlights the potential problems of these drugs and gets unwanted medication off the streets. We look forward to a large quantity of drugs being returned."

Dr Ian Spencer, Director of Primary Care at Newcastle and North Tyneside Health Authority and chairman of the group said: " Many people, especially older people, are not aware of the potential dangers of prescription drugs when not used as intended.

" Particular drugs such as painkillers, tranquilisers or sleeping tablets can be particularly dangerous. Even over the counter medicines can cause real health problems if not used as recommended."

The radio campaign, which features the voice of John Hannah, runs from Feb 18th for 3 weeks.

Photocall: 10.30am Feb 18th at Collingwood surgery North Tyneside.