



THE TILLEY AWARD 2004

TITLE - UNIVERSITY FIRST

FORCE - SOUTH WALES POLICE

ENDORISING OFFICER –

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UNIVERSITY FIRST

Summary

Founded in 1920, the University of Wales, Swansea, stands in parkland overlooking Swansea Bay on the edge of the Gower Peninsula, Britain's first 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. With 20,000 full and part time students, halls of residence, bars, clubs, shops, large car parks and the city's Singleton Hospital alongside the campus, the area was identified as a community within itself.

Burglary, vehicle crime and theft of pedal cycles were an increasing problem in the area, with students often the victims and it was recognised that a number of factors made them more vulnerable to becoming victims of crime.

- They are in the main young people, often away from home and parental care for the first time.
- They are often low waged and are unable to afford adequate security measures.
- They often have a quantity of expensive valuables such as laptops, computers, electrical and sports equipment.

In November 2002, South Wales Police approached the University of Wales, Swansea to engage in a partnership approach to all crime and safety issues relating to their students, staff and visitors.

On 3rd January 2003, PC Darryll Howells became the first officer in Wales to actually be based on a University campus.

Recommendations formulated to deal with problems formed the strategy basis. They included a number of problem solving initiatives implemented in conjunction with multi-agency partnerships, combined with targeted police operations involving covert and high visibility policing.

The main objectives were,

- To provide a visible and recognisable police presence within the University and its surroundings.
- To engage in multi-agency problem orientated partnerships and to integrate the University community with the private residential community.
- To provide advice and guidance to students at the University in relation to crime prevention.
- To target harden vulnerable areas within the University and its surrounding area.

A brief evaluation of crime committed on the University campus and its surroundings for 2003 compared to 2002 showed a reduction in all areas of concern.

- Dwelling Burglary reduced by 71.1%
- Theft of Vehicles reduced by 22.7%
- Theft from Vehicles reduced by 25.5%
- Damage to Vehicles reduced by 61.1%
- Theft of Pedal Cycles reduced by 5.7%

The efforts of South Wales Police, the University of Wales, Swansea, The City and County of Swansea and several other agencies from both the public and private sector has allowed the development of this partnership and will auger well for future crime reduction throughout the City of Swansea.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES, SWANSEA.



INTRODUCTION

The location of the University is second to none. Situated between the lively modern city of Swansea and the unspoiled beaches of the Gower Peninsula.

With approximately 20,000 students in full and part-time education, 800 students living on site at the halls of residence and 4,000 staff, vehicle crime, thefts of pedal cycles and burglary were an increasing problem.

The attractiveness of committing a crime here is likely to be influenced by the large concentration of targets – people, vehicles and general property, available, together with the combination of opportunity and the ability to go relatively unnoticed amongst large numbers of people in the Park, Campus and Hospital.

Through a detailed crime pattern analysis of 2002, offence types, target locations, hotspots and victims were identified. Partnerships were established, with the intention of raising awareness, encouraging better security practice and reducing crime and the fear of crime within the area in general.

ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS FROM 2002

There were a total of 409 crimes committed on grounds associated with the University of Wales, Swansea during 2002. The main technique employed in examining the breakdown of crime at the University was Crime Pattern Analysis. This helped establish hotspots of crime and peak problem times.

- 67 of these 409 crimes (16.4%) were specifically recorded as having been committed in relation to student accommodation (Hendrefoilan and Campus Halls of Residence)
- 68 of the 409 crimes were recorded against Oystermouth Road, which incorporates the Recreation Ground car park. It offered free and unattended parking.
- Dwelling Burglary was responsible of 38 of the 409 crimes (9.2%)
- Theft from Motor Vehicles was a specific cause for concern registering 94 of the 409 crimes (23%)
- Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicles accounted for 36 of the 409 crimes (8.8%)
- Theft of Pedal Cycles made up 35 of the 409 crimes (8.5%)

Close analysis on the days of the week on which these crimes were most likely to be committed shows that different crimes are more likely to be committed on different days of the week, - i.e. drink and drug-related crimes are more prevalent between Friday and Sunday. Theft crimes appear to be uninfluenced by the day of the week and are recorded here as having been committed on days across the full length of the week. In general, the longer, yet still distinctive weekend period of Thursday to Monday was shown to have recorded the highest number of University-related offences in 2002. 50.6% of those injured parties of crime committed on university-related grounds required Victim Support in 2002.

Many of these victims are particularly vulnerable due to the fact that they appear to be unaware of adequate security measures and techniques, often living away from home on their own for the first time.

Further education would strengthen existing crime prevention knowledge and enable further target hardening to be put into place.

Examination of Contributory Factors

The following contributory factors were identified through the results of crime pattern analysis.

- The large expansive car parks surrounding the Campus had no attendants and had little or no CCTV coverage.
- The majority of vehicle crime was committed during the daytime when these car parks were full.
- The victims were often students who were uneducated in crime prevention and crime reduction.
- Lack of a permanent police presence in the vicinity.
- Current Home Office research indicates that one third of students become a victim of crime whilst at university.

AIMS

The appointment of Campus Police Officer was developed to have a direct impact on crime at the University of Wales, Swansea (UWS), Singleton Hospital and Singleton Park.

It was designed:

1. To reduce recorded crime on the campus and its surrounding areas by adopting a multi-agency, partnership approach to problems as they arose.
2. To reduce students and staffs perceptions in terms of the fear of crime.
3. To increase students and staffs perceptions in terms of confidence in the general safety of their area.
4. To improve students, staff and visitors feeling of safety within the University Campus and its grounds.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS.

The overall purpose of the partnership was to make the University and its surroundings a safe and inviting environment for its students, staff and visitors.

Led by South Wales Police (SWP), it focused on the theft of pedal cycles, vehicle crime and burglary.

Once in post, community partnerships were engaged with,

University of Wales, Swansea

City and County of Swansea

Singleton Hospital (Swansea NHS Trust)

Swansea University Student Union

The Students of Swansea University

Safer Swansea Partnership

South Wales Transport

South Wales Evening Post

Halfords Stores

Endsleigh Insurance

Brynmill and Uplands Residents Association

Swansea Neighbourhood Watch Forum

PROBLEM SOLVING – PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE INITIATIVES

THE CAMPUS POLICE OFFICER

The Campus Police Officer, PC Howells commenced duty on the Campus on 3rd January 2003, working as a member of the Swansea City Sector Community Policing Team. His appointment was met with great enthusiasm by the University staff, who provided an office space at the Campus Halls of Residence. There were initial concerns as to the security of the office as it was in effect a satellite police office, and would contain police appointments and confidential documents.

These concerns were brought to the attention of the Estates Department at the University who fitted a CCTV camera covering the doorway to the police office. Extra door security was fitted (deadlocks) and the office was fitted with a small safe for the storage of police radio equipment and CS Spray.

Due to the layout of the area, local cycle stores, (Wheelies and Halfords) were approached and with the financial assistance of our core partner, The Safer Swansea Partnership, a pedal cycle and suitable cycling equipment was purchased for PC Howells to patrol the vast area quickly and effectively giving a faster response.

The City and County of Swansea also arranged for its Cycle Training Officer to coach PC Howells to the proficient standard in the use of the cycle.

VULNERABLE VEHICLE SCHEME

The vulnerable vehicle scheme, already well established in Swansea was seen as an ideal way of getting the message of crime prevention and reduction over to the students. Special Constables in company with the Campus Police Officer would regularly target the vast car parks in the area highlighting to the students any items of property that were left on display inside their vehicles.

CRIME PREVENTION AND INFORMATION TRAILERS

The deployment of the Divisional Crime Prevention and Information Trailers proved to be very effective.

Standing eight feet tall by fifteen feet long and positioned in prime locations and crime hotspots these trailers displayed crime prevention and reduction messages.

A number of officers in the Community Safety Department were trained in the use of the trailers and they were deployed in different locations throughout the area with ease.

CCTV AT THE RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK

The Recreation Ground car park is adjacent to the campus and provided free car parking for students with 800 car parking spaces. This was a local authority facility with no CCTV coverage and with no car-parking attendants.

In a joint venture funded by the core partners South Wales Police, University of Wales, Swansea and the City and County of Swansea, a CCTV camera was sited at the car park and linked into the cities expansive CCTV system.

The City and County of Swansea also employed two car park attendants between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm Monday to Friday. This was funded predominantly by a nominal charge of £1.00 for the full days parking.

SAFER SWANSEA INFORMATION BOOKLET

The core partners of the scheme namely the South Wales Police and Swansea University, in company with active members Swansea Institute, Swansea University Students Union, Swansea Institute Students Union and Endsleigh Insurance devised the Safer Swansea Information Booklet.

This was a colourful, "student friendly" booklet packed with all the information a student would need especially if away from home and parental care for the first time.

It included crime prevention advice on burglary at Halls of Residence and in Private Accommodation, Personal safety, Street Safety and Vehicle Crime. Also advice on Mobile Phone and Computer Security.

As many students enjoy the social side of being at University, there was a page dedicated to Alcohol and Drugs. This explained the effects of Binge Drinking and Drug Misuse.

The Campus Police Officer was introduced to the students in the booklet along with a detailed list of other contact numbers.

This booklet was sent out with Welcome Packs to approximately 8,000 students prior to the commencement of the Autumn Term.

FRESHERS WEEK INITIATIVE

The 'Freshers Week' proved the ideal opportunity for direct contact with up to 8,000 students who were registering for course at the University.

The Divisional Mobile Police Station was positioned adjacent to the registration area and the Campus Officer and Crime Prevention Officers were readily available to give advice on crime reduction and prevention

Students were given awareness raising literature and UV Marking Pens and encouraged to mark all their personal belongings as soon as possible.

ALL STUDENTS AND ALL STAFF E-MAIL

When the Campus Police Officer commenced duty within the University he was advised that if he wanted to get information to the students, the most effective means to achieving this was via e-mail. All students have a unique student number that doubles up as an e-mail address. When appealing for information about crimes and incidents that occur in the area or after a general patrol issuing Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme Forms, the e-mail facility delivered the information direct to the students and staff, bringing to their attention any observations made during a general patrol. Also students and Staff are kept informed if arrests are made on the grounds via the system.

COMMUNITY LIAISON PARTNERSHIP FORUM

This partnership group came into being in response to minor complaints made by local residents either direct to the University Authorities or via local councillors during Residents meetings about students residing in the private sector near to the Campus.

The complaints received were often in relation to anti-social behaviour, noisy parties and refuse collection where bins were not put out on time, which often resulted in the area becoming a mess.

Depending on the nature of problem and once it had been identified that students were responsible, the Community Liaison Partnership, made up of the Campus Police Officer, the Director of Student Services, Student Union Officers and The City and County of Swansea Pollution Control Officers would take the appropriate action. Often visiting the complainants and explaining what action would be taken and in turn visiting the offenders and educating them as to what the local residents, the Police and the University expects from them whilst they are residing in the private accommodation.

Although still in its infancy, the Community Liaison Partnership will no doubt prove to be a positive means of dealing with complaints from local residents.

POLICE OPERATION CAPE-FEAR

Police analysts identified that the thefts of pedal cycles was a growing trend in the late part of 2002 and the early part of 2003.

Once, through crime pattern analysis, the Hotspots and MO's were identified, the police operation 'Cape Fear' commenced in late February 2003. This operation, staffed by the Swansea City Sector Community Team, comprised of high visibility and covert patrolling along with observations from static points.

Within a very short time, two local criminals were arrested on the Campus in possession of bolt cutters. Both were later convicted at Swansea Magistrates Court and over the following months, the thefts of pedal cycles dropped considerably.

MEDIA INVOLVEMENT

Soon after the appointment of the Campus Police Officer, he featured in a series of interviews on several local radio stations (The Wave, Swansea Sound and Bridge FM) in which he introduced himself and explained why he had been appointed, reaching a potential of over 600,000 listeners across South and West Wales.

During 2003, PC Howells regularly featured in the South Wales Evening Post newspaper, The Western Mail and The Waterfront (The students fortnightly newspaper) highlighting topical issues and giving general information on crime prevention and crime reduction.

RESULTS – ANALYSIS OF 2003

After taking into consideration the information available from the crime pattern analysis of 2002, the crime hotspots, peak times, trends and m.o's, this data was utilised in the effective deployment of partnership resources throughout 2003. The results of this multi-agency approach speak for themselves.

- **There were 374 crimes committed on University grounds during 2003 as compared to 409 crimes in 2002, a numerical decrease of 35, or 8.6%.**
- **The 67 crimes recorded in 2002 as having been committed in relation to student Campus accommodation was reduced to 37. A decrease of 44.8%**
- **The 68 crimes in 2002 recorded against Oystermouth Road that incorporates The Recreation Ground Car Park fell to 50 in 2003. A reduction of 26.4%**
- **Dwelling Burglaries were reduced from 38 in 2002 to 11 in 2003. A decrease of 71.1%**
- **Theft from Motor Vehicles was down from 94 during 2002 to 70 in 2003. A reduction of 25.5%.**
- **Damage to Motor Vehicles reduced from 36 in 2002 to 14 in 2003. A decrease of 61.1%**
- **Theft of Pedal Cycles reduced from 35 in 2002 to 33 in 2003. A reduction of 5.7%. (22 Of the 33 were prior to Operation Cape Fear)**

The reductions shown above indicate that the initiatives undertaken by all the active partners have had a considerable effect in tackling the problems at the University and its grounds. The target hardening campaign undertaken through the Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme, The Safer Swansea Information Booklet, the Crime Prevention and Information Trailers and the 'Freshers Week' Initiative have obviously paid dividends.

The partnership funded CCTV camera coupled with the full time Car Park Attendants at the Recreation Ground Car Park will prove to be an on-going deterrent and had an immediate effect on criminality in this area.

The All Students and All Staff E-Mail facility has proved an effective means of disseminating information across the University population, and the feedback from this system has been very positive.

PLEASE NOTE: On Sat 2nd August 2003, the 'Escape into the Park' dance festival was held at Singleton Park, which is adjacent to the University Campus. There were 37 Drug related crimes detected on this day due to the heightened levels of policing and the presence of the British Transport Police Drug Detection Dogs. This accounts for 9.8% of the entire crime recorded in the area for 2003.

THE FUTURE

All the core partners involved in this initiative are committed to its success and are constantly looking for ways by which to improve the goals achieved so far.

Discussions are currently underway regarding the appointment of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to work alongside the Campus Police Officer.

The support officer will deal with matters such as nuisance and annoyance in a move designed to provide extra reassurance for University students, staff and visitors

The University have already agreed in principle to the appointment which will be part funded by the Home Office.

In addition to the Support Officer it is expected to recruit the services of a Special Constable in the near future. Again this officer would be specifically employed to carry out his patrols and duties within the University and its surrounding area.

APPENDICES

PRESS RELEASES FROM THE

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST

EXTRA POLICING IN BID TO BEAT CRIME

DAVID STOAKES

14:00 - 05 February 2004



Swansea University and Singleton Hospital are to have their own police community support officer to back the local bobby who looks after the two complexes. The move will affect up to 18,000 students, patients and staff at the neighbouring sites.

The first stage was announced yesterday after talks took place between university officials, student leaders and senior police officers.

Discussions will follow soon with Singleton Hospital.

The support officer will deal with matters such as nuisance and annoyance in a move designed to provide extra reassurance for hospital and university staff, patients, students and visitors to the two sites.

Crime - particularly opportunist burglaries and theft from vehicles - has fallen since Constable Darryl Howells took over the community beat a year ago.

He keeps in touch with the 10,000 or more students through the university email network.

Chief Superintendent Mel Jehu, head of police in Swansea, said: "It is an opportunity to increase visible policing at both sites.

"I promise that I have no intention of withdrawing Constable Howells.

"The community support officer will be additional. Since taking command in Swansea I have stressed the value of partnership policing with all walks of life in the city, and this is very much what this is about."

Student's Union president Pippa Leslie said: "We very much welcome this news. Constable Howells does a good job and we are happy with the police involvement at the university."

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YOU CAN'T BEAT A COP WITH E-MAIL

DAVID STOAKES
CRIME REPORTER

14:00 - 22 January 2004



A Community cop is using e-mail to fight crime in Swansea - 10,000 times over. Constable Darryl Howells (below) is responsible for policing the Swansea University campus and Singleton Hospital.

When he took the job on a year ago he quickly realised he had no hope of getting his message across to all the 10,000 students personally. All of them have access to e-mail on the campus and he uses the system to keep them up to date with what is going on.

A typical message from Constable Howells, who has a permanent office at the University, reads: "Just for your info, two male youths were arrested on the campus near the Fulton House cycle rack in possession of large bolt croppers.

"Both youths were well known to the police and wanted for other offences in Swansea.

"Both have been charged and will soon appear in court."

He knows the students are taking notice because they reply and also ask for information.

A typical reply reads: "Thank you for this information. It is reassuring to see the police taking a proactive role in what I gather is a high crime area."

Car crime, burglary and theft are all down for the university and hospital and Constable Howells has the figures to prove.

He says around 90 per cent of the figures relate to the university.

Burglaries fell to 10 in 2003 compared to 28 in 2002, vehicle theft dropped from 22 to 17, theft from cars was down to 45 from 66 and damage was down to eight from 25.

Bike theft fell to 81 from 96. Drug-related crime rose to 39 from seven, but this was mainly because of arrests at the Escape in the Park music festival at Singleton Park.

Constable Howells said: "At first some people were suspicious that I was keeping an eye on foreign students because of terrorism, but most people

know what I do now."

Chief Inspector Julian Williams said: "It is pleasing to see that his innovative approach is appreciated by the students, and that by his presence we are making a difference."

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SCHEME'S KEEP SAFE CAUTION TO STUDENTS

JONATHAN ISAACS

14:00 - 26 September 2003

Thousands of students arriving in Swansea this week are being urged to stay safe and crime free in the first initiative of its kind in South Wales. Safer Swansea Partnership has teamed up with the university students' union, Swansea Institute and Endsleigh Insurance to fund a booklet that gives crime prevention and community safety advice aimed directly at students.

It tells how to prevent car theft and burglary and deals with mobile phone and computer security, personal safety and hate crime. It also contains sections about alcohol and drugs.

Last term people living in Uplands and Brynmill protested about noisy students who leave their rubbish outside their flats and bedsits.

So the booklet addresses these issues as well by urging students not to place refuse bags out earlier than 7.30pm the night before collection and the steps that can be taken to reduce noise from student digs.

The 24-page booklet was produced by community safety officer Ian Hamilton-Shaw who said for many students it was their first time away from home.

"By giving them all the relevant information in one booklet it is more likely that students will keep and refer to it in the future and hopefully stay safe while studying in Swansea," said Constable Hamilton-Shaw.

The university also has its own dedicated police officer, Darryll Howells, who can be seen on his bike carrying out regular patrols on the university campus, student village and sports centre.

"The university population has grown over the last 10 years and is now a community within itself," he said. "I can help students with law and order matters or for crime prevention advice."

Safer Swansea Partnership chairwoman Reena Owen appealed to students to read the booklet carefully.

"Swansea is overwhelmingly a safe and friendly place, although like everywhere else it has its problems with crime and disorder. There is a clear role for students to play in helping to improve community safety," she said.

Students can pick up a copy of the booklet from the Safer Swansea stand when they register or from Darryll Howells or the community safety department at Sketty police station, telephone 01792 456999.