

Tilley Award 2006

Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the Guidance. Please complete the following form in full and within the word limit. Failure to do so could result in disqualification from the competition.

Completed application forms should be e-mailed to Tricia Perkins; patricia.perkins@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

All entries must be received by noon on Friday 28th April 2006. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Tricia Perkins on 0207 035 0262. Any queries regarding other aspects of the awards should be directed to Michael Wilkinson on 0207 035 0247 or Lindsey Poole on 0207 035 0234.

Please tick box to indicate whether the entry should be considered for the main award, the criminal damage award or both;

Main award

Criminal Damage Award

Both Awards

1. Details of application

Title of the project :

Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership – Problem Solving Partnership Working Group

Name of force/agency/CDRP: Lothian and Borders Police/Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership

Name of one contact person with position/rank (this should be one of the authors):

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Name of endorsing senior representatives(s) Lesley Anne Clark

Position and rank of endorsing senior representatives(s) 1. Superintendent Partnership Working

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s)

Lothian and Borders Police

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Edinburgh EH8 9QW

2. Summary of application

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project. Include details of the problem that was addressed, a description of the initiative, the main intervention principles and what they were designed to achieve, the main outcomes of project particularly in relation to the problem, evidence was used in designing the programme and how the project is evaluated.

Edinburgh is one of the safest cities in Britain, and an attractive city in which to live, work and visit. The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) is dedicated to enhancing Edinburgh's status as a safe city and is committed to dealing effectively with the community safety issues that do exist. Effective partnership working is vital to this commitment, and with this in mind ECSP has established a working group to promote, support and mainstream Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs).

The initiative began in 2004 and a three year work-plan for PSPs has been developed with dedicated staffing and resources. The work-plan includes a performance management system for PSPs, ongoing training for all partners, awareness raising, funding a full-time post to support local community PSPs across the city and providing accessible funding for use by local PSPs.

Each individual PSP sets specific targets aimed at reducing the overall incidents of antisocial behaviour and associated crimes in Edinburgh by 15% by 2008. PSPs can be instigated by the Police, the Fire Service, any Council department or any regulated or statutory body.

The ECSP has funded a crime analyst who works within the Police Divisional Intelligence Unit. This analyst can be tasked with research work in order to define the problem under investigation, and can provide a comparative analysis at the end of each PSP to monitor outcomes and evaluate success. PSPs can also access support from a Police Crime Prevention Officer who can provide a written report with recommendations to tackle the problem.

Each PSP agrees desired outcomes and actions, and sets specific targets aimed at reducing the overall incidents of anti-social behaviour and associated crimes in a defined geographical area and over a specified timescale. At the end of the PSP, co-ordinators complete a Monitoring and Evaluation form to measure progress.

36 PSPs have been registered since the start of the initiative. Ongoing evaluation shows that an average of six agencies are involved with each PSP and all have had support from the PSP Liaison Officers. Of the 13 PSPs that have ended, 12 are able to claim to have solved or significantly reduced the problem.

Through partnership working, not only have we seen a significant reduction in local problems but partners have become more evidence based in their approaches and have also developed a greater understanding of each other's services.

3. Description of project

Describe the project following the guidance given in no more than 4000 words

Edinburgh is one of the safest cities in Britain, and an attractive city in which to live, work and visit. The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) is dedicated to enhancing Edinburgh's status as a safe city and is committed to dealing effectively with the community safety issues that do exist. Effective partnership working is vital to this commitment, and with this in mind ECSP has established a working group to promote, support and mainstream Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs).

Problem solving methodology concentrates partnership resources on the issues that matter most to communities and individuals across the city. The ECSP is focussing on specific issues that are widely experienced across the city, and is committed to supporting the formation of local community based problem solving partnerships with funding and officer support.

The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership Strategy (2005-08) aims to secure a full adoption of problem solving methodology and performance management at all levels of the community safety partnership, and to this end a three year work-plan for PSPs has been developed with dedicated staffing and resources.

In early 2005, the problem solving approach was initiated and is being continued by:

- Implementing a partnership tasking and co-ordinating management system for the ECSP
- Providing ongoing training for all partners on problem solving methodology
- Raising awareness of the PSP approach
- Funding a full-time post to support local community PSPs across the city
- Encouraging and increasing the access local communities have to community safety problem solving funding and support
- Continuing to provide accessible funding for use by local PSPs .

Each individual PSP sets specific targets aimed at reducing the overall incidents of antisocial behaviour and associated crimes in Edinburgh by 15% by 2008.

Various sources of information contributed to the view that there should be a strategic focus on partnership working in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh. These indicated the nature and level of antisocial behaviour affecting communities across the city. The three year PSP workplan which has been established by the ECSP used as its basis a range of analytical information, including:

a. Data available from the ECSP Edinburgh Community Safety Audit

- Found that in September 2004 there were 224 incidents recorded by the Antisocial Behaviour Unit.
 - Noise disturbance was consistently responsible for the highest number of complaints.
 - Across the city the behaviour of children were responsible for 17% of all complaints.
- Between January and August 2004 a total of 4880 criminal or anti-social incidents received supporting evidence from CCTV.
- There were 2,133 noise complaints made to the council during 2003/04, of these 44% were domestic.

b. Research undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Council Antisocial Behaviour Division found that during the period 1st January to 31st December 2004:

- There were 10,441 crimes of vandalism, with 1901 recorded as taking place in five problematic areas
- A total of 7,309 crimes of Minor Assault were recorded. Evidence indicated that Minor Assaults are high over the weekend period, especially during the evening and early morning period, with the Central Local Policing Area being the most problematic.

c. Information from Lothian and Borders Fire Rescue service, which indicated that the quarterly average for deliberate secondary fires was 973.

d. Lothian Borders Police crime records relating to minor, serious and indecent assaults in Edinburgh showed that in 2003/2004 the quarterly average for:

- assault and robbery was 166

- serious assault was 91
- indecent assault was 42.

e. Lothian Borders Police crime records relating to the incidence of antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh showed that the quarterly average for :

- youth calls in 2004/2005 was 6837
- minor assault in public places over 3 years was 1006
- hate crime in 2004 was 184.

Analysis and the National Intelligence Model were identifying a number of hotspots and re-occurring issues that the ECSP recognised would be better addressed through multi-agency work to target existing resources.

The members of the ECSP are City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian and Borders Police, the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, Edinburgh Action on Drugs and Alcohol Team, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council, Edinburgh City Centre Management Company, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council and British Transport Police. All have been involved and support the development and promotion of PSPs. On an ongoing basis, all individual PSPs have had local community involvement. This may include representation on the PSP group, direct mailing, newsletters or door to door surveys.

Partnership working has been seen as the best way forward, and the PSP response allows sharing of good practice, campaign materials and projects across the city, avoids duplication and encourages a quicker response to issues raised. In addition, this work is supported by the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004, which requires the Council and the Chief Constable to work with others to produce a strategy for preventing and tackling antisocial behaviour. Edinburgh's strategy, "Tackling Antisocial Behaviour", was prepared for the ECSP and pledges that "whilst partners have differing constitutions and methods of accountability, combating antisocial behaviour is best achieved through partnership working".

In early 2004, the ECSP established common administrative systems and a central database of all PSPs operating in Edinburgh. In 2005, ECSP appointed dedicated liaison officers to co-ordinate and support PSPs. Thirty-five PSPs have been registered since April 2004 when the current PSP initiative was launched. PSPs can be instigated and managed by the Police, the Fire Service, any Council department or any regulated or statutory body.

At a city-wide level the PSP Liaison officers:

- Ensure the database on PSPs is available to communities through the ECSP web-site (www.saferedinburgh.org.uk)
- Develop tool-cards with advice and guidance on common issues
- Further develop the web-site to include links to useful resources and successful campaigns
- Provide training to key officers on PSP working
- Monitor and evaluate PSP working across the city
- Initiate PSPs or projects to tackle re-occurring problems
- Regularly review PSP administration
- Service a city wide, multi-agency PSP Working group

At a local level the officers provide:

- Advice and guidance on setting up a PSP
- Advice and assistance to PSPs in applying for and accessing available funding
- Individual support to PSP Co-ordinators
- Advice and guidance on alternative partnership working systems which may be best suited to the presented problem e.g. Case Management
- Advice on key partners to be included in the PSP, sign posting the PSP to other services and key agencies
- Support in registering local PSPs
- Access to analytical reports on the presenting problem
- Access to local Crime Prevention reports
- Information on examples of good practice
- Assistance in the evaluation and monitoring of the PSP

The ECSP has funded a crime analyst who works within the Police Divisional Intelligence Unit. This analyst can be tasked with research work in order to define the problem under investigation and provide a problem profile. The problem profile may highlight key times that activities are taking place, hotspots for these activities and/or main perpetrators/complainers. A comparative analysis is also provided at the end of each PSP to monitor outcomes and evaluate success.

PSPs can also access support by the use of a Police Crime Prevention Officer (CPO). The CPO can provide a written environmental study report with recommendations to tackle the problem. These recommendations may be based upon research of what has worked elsewhere in the UK or from best practice gleaned from other PSPs.

An initial meeting of all partner agencies is held to agree the desired outcomes for the PSP. Actions are agreed, with lead persons and agencies identified and timescales for completion circulated. The PSP is formally registered – this provides ECSP with an overview of all PSPs, raises the awareness of existing PSPs and avoids duplication. The PSP meets at regular intervals to review progress and re-focus activity as required.

Each individual PSP is required to set specific targets aimed at reducing the overall incidents of anti-social behaviour and associated crimes in a defined geographical area and over a specified timescale (usually 6 months). At the end of the agreed timescale PSP co-ordinators complete a Monitoring and Evaluation form and the police analysts produce a comparative report in order to measure progress.

These forms are also used to monitor how PSPs are working across the city, to identify where additional support is required and identify common problems in partnership working that need to be addressed. In addition, a number of projects are selected for independent evaluation after the PSP conclusion date.

Three recent projects provide examples of the good practice being undertaken via the PSP initiative:

1. Bingham

Bingham is a small housing estate in the East of Edinburgh, which had been experiencing increased problems connected to youth disorder. These included intimidation of passers by, shouting swearing, damage to properties, windows and cars in the local area, nuisance caused by youths on motorbikes riding around the estate, and intimidation towards the owner and employees at the local shop. There were also concerns around the amount of youths loitering in common stairs in Bingham and vandalising door entry systems and common stair walls and doors.

A PSP was registered in January 2005 by the local Council Housing Office. As well as Housing, partners included:

- Lothian and Borders Police
- Bingham Residents' Association
- Portobello Thistle Youth Club
- Castlebrae, the local High School
- Other Council Departments including Community Education

Evidence was gathered from police, Housing systems and complaints from residents to the Council and Registered Social Landlords. Analysis reports concurred with the PSP that youth related incidents had got worse during September and December 2004 with the majority of calls occurring between 16.00 and 19.59. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays were especially problematic. Youth calls were mainly concentrated towards the eastern edge of the beat. The general feeling was that levels of crime did not appear to mirror youth related incidents, suggesting that youths were not directly involved in the majority of crime within the area.

The PSP aimed to reduce crime and complaints of anti-social behaviour, and increase uptake in services tailored to young people.

The PSP mainly focussed on diversionary activities for young people and looked to increase local facilities including football coaching sessions, streetwork, and establishing a youth café and portable football equipment to be taken round the neighbourhood. In addition young people were transported to activities on a Friday evening in nearby Craigmillar, thus avoiding the historical hot spot of Bingham Tunnel. Environmental improvements included cutting back some shrubs and trees.

The Housing Department provided secure, lockable gates at Bingham Broadway to reduce nuisance, which had an impact on older residents at the Housing complex.

Significant funding was secured through this joint partnership approach with £8,400 secured by the end of the PSP, and further funding sought subsequently to increase local youth services.

The PSP resolved the initial problem within six months. Overall the number of youth calls reduced following the introduction of the PSP, with the average number of youth calls per month having reduced in nearly all areas of Bingham.

With the provision of new additional youth services, there was an increased up take in local youth provision particularly around the football coaching and Friday trips to Jack Kane Centre. The PSP has moved on to re-constitute as a Youth Services group that will continue to develop local diversionary activities for young people.

2. Granton, Trinity and Newhaven Walkways

In North Edinburgh there exists a web of walkways and cycle paths, which are well used and provide safe routes for travel and for leisure. Much of the walkway system has been established on disused railway lines and so runs through cuttings and along viaducts. The walkways provide a very pleasant environment, being bordered by trees, bushes and areas of wild plant growth. However, by the beginning of 2005, the walkways had become a magnet for youth activity. Youths congregated in groups, abusing alcohol and carrying out low level drug abuse. Other problems included harassment of cyclists and pedestrians, fire raising, vandalism, riding motor cycles and abandoning stolen cars. Previous short term initiatives had failed to eradicate the main issues although short term results had been achieved.

A PSP was established in February 2005 by the Safer Communities Unit based at Leith Police Station. As well as Police, the partners for the PSP were:

- City of Edinburgh Council Departments – Housing, Cleansing, Environmental Wardens, City Development, Antisocial Behaviour teams and Recreation
- Citadel Youth Centre, local providers of youth activity
- Edinburgh Leisure, who run sports centres throughout Edinburgh
- Two local Community Councils who represent residents
- Trinity Academy, the local secondary school
- Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
- Local elected members

The main objectives of the PSP were to:

- Reduce instances of vandalism to the walkway
- Reduce youth calls associated with the walkway
- Reduce the use of the walkway by persons within stolen motor vehicles and the abandonment of such vehicles
- Reduce instances of harassment to cyclists and pedestrians
- Reduce instances of wilful fire raising
- Restrict motorcycle misuse of the walkway

Actions taken by the PSP included an increase in high visibility Police patrols; increasing security at a derelict building used by youths; cutting back all foliage and shrubbery along the walkways; installing taller and more powerful lighting; setting up extra provision at youth clubs and leisure centres alongside the walkways; reiterating to staff at Licensed premises their obligations under the Licensing (Scotland) Act; extra patrols by Environmental Wardens; inputs to local schools by Environmental Wardens and fire service; implementation of traffic calming measures on the walkways.

Outcomes from these actions included a lower volume of calls, and an increased sense of space and visibility along the walkways, which reduced crime levels and fear of crime.

Overall outcomes measured by the PSP were that vandalism fell by 16% over the period of the PSP; youth calls fell by 20% compared to the same period in the previous year; recovery of stolen vehicles fell by 50% compared to the same period on the previous year; calls to walkways and the surrounding area involving harassment to pedestrians

and cyclists fell by 52% compared to the same period in the previous year. In addition, there were no reported incidents of fire raising during the period of the PSP. A number of arrests were made as a result of the concentrated Police activity on the walkways, with the most significant involving the recovery of £12,000 worth of property. Arrangements have been made for longer term alterations to access restrictions by the use of steel gates and styles to maintain the reduction in motor vehicle problems. The increased tending of trees and plants will be maintained in the future.

This PSP achieved successes at various levels. Firstly, as a group common goals were identified early in the partnership and pursued. Secondly, actual results were achieved through patrolling and through the support work directed at youth groups. The partnership became the basis for longer term future activity in this area to combat antisocial behaviour. In its simplest terms, actual calls to the area have dropped and continue to drop as a direct result of the PSP. Some of these results might have been achieved through individual activity by agencies, but the PSP approach has achieved wider and more lasting effects.

3. Royal High School

Royal High is a Comprehensive School with over 1000 pupils and a catchment area covering the North West of Edinburgh. The school had a recent major upgrade, completed in August 2003, which has provided a high quality modern building. However, the school has a rear entrance, used by many pupils, which leads onto a pathway through a woodland. During the winter of 2004-2005, it had been found that youths unconnected to the school were loitering at the rear gate, mainly at dispersal time, and conducting criminal behaviour resulting in robberies and thefts of pedal cycles and mobile phones. This had led to pupils having a fear of crime when walking through the area.

A PSP was established in February 2005 by the Head Teacher of the School. Partners for this PSP were:

- Lothian and Borders Police
- Chairperson of the School Board
- City of Edinburgh Council Departments – Parks, Environmental Wardens, Lighting and Education
- Local elected member
- Local Member of the Scottish Parliament.

The main objectives of the PSP were to reduce youth related crimes and calls, particularly at the rear gate.

Actions taken by the PSP included:

- Regular checks of the rear gate by Police Officers at dispersal time
- Targeting of main offenders, who were identified and placed in secure accommodation as a result
- Ensuring all local Police officers were aware of the problem, by means of regular briefings
- Installing more substantial and taller lighting columns
- Cutting back trees and vegetation, and landscaping the area. Reducing the height of a boundary wall so that the area was visible from the road.

Outcomes from these actions included an overall reduction to the level of youth related calls and crimes occurring at the rear gate. Better landscaping and management of the area led to better visibility, removed the impression that the area was a wilderness with no rules, and reduced the fear of crime. Overall outcomes measured by the PSP were that calls regarding issues at the rear gate fell from 5 (between February and July 2005) to 2 (between July and November 2005). As a result of targeted Police activity, two ringleaders involved in assaults, robberies and thefts were placed in secure accommodation at the time of the commencement of the PSP. End analysis of recorded crime levels showed their arrests had a positive effect on crime levels and assaults and robberies appeared to have ended in those immediate areas.

Final evaluation of the PSP concluded that calls to the Police had reduced significantly. Environmental improvements at the rear gate, planned via the PSP, had contributed to this by creating an area far less conducive to crime than prior to the PSP. The success of the PSP lay in timing and planning actions that complemented Police actions and ensured that the results of the Police actions were translated into sustained improvements in crime levels for the area.

The ECSP Module

It is now over one year since the joint PSP administration was launched. To support the PSP process, a dedicated Police officer is in place alongside a full time Senior Policy Officer within the Council's Community Safety Unit (CSU), with the two acting as PSP Liaison Officers.

In the year 2004/05 a total of nineteen PSPs were registered. Twelve of these were registered after the re-launch of Problem Solving Partnerships in Edinburgh. To date in 2005/06 a further seventeen PSPs have registered and another two are being considered for registration, so registrations are increasing at a steady rate. Five prospective PSPs have sought guidance from the Liaison Officers and have been advised that a PSP would not be appropriate. In some cases groups were advised to adopt a case management approach in others agencies were signposted to partner agencies who could assist with the identified problem.

To date 14 Monitoring and Evaluation forms have been received for completed PSPs . The average number of agencies involved in each PSP is six, and all PSPs are multi agency. The majority of PSPs evaluated have been led by the council (7) with the police leading in four and fire leading in two. Of the 13 PSPs that have ended, 12 are able to claim to have solved or significantly reduced the problem. All PSPs have sought support from PSP Liaison Officers. From the evaluations received, in all but three PSPs there has been local community involvement. In ten cases the community has been consulted and advised of progress.

PSPs bring an agreed priority to an issue, often attracting funding either from partners or through grants, which may not have otherwise been available. 6 PSPs have been able to identify that their projects have brought added value of approximately £51,600 from grant funds. Three have identified added value from partners at approximately £7,125, bringing the total costed added value to £58,825.

Further support to the PSP process is provided by the website of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (www.saferedinburgh.org) which includes information and guidance on registering and running PSPs. Information is provided on avenues for funding, on best practice and on tools for tackling antisocial behaviour. For example:

- (1) A PSP concerning problems at a construction site has led to the development of a toolcard giving information about construction work, standards and safety. This can be provided to residents living near future construction sites across the city.
- (2) A city wide PSP to tackle issues relating to mini-motos and off road bikes has developed campaign materials to increase reporting and alert owners to the law.
- (3) To assist with the recurring problems of young people drinking, campaign materials were developed as part of responsible retailers initiative to tackle underage sales.

A list of registered PSPs is given on the website to avoid duplication.

The CSU has provided PSP training for officers from all of the Partnership agencies. The most recent round of training provided input for approximately 40 officers. In total, five training events have been run, attended by over 100 officers. In addition, a number of in-service training inputs have been given to police, council and volunteer agencies, involving approximately 120 other officers.

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the PSP process enables a measurement of the impact of the initiative on issues across the city. The evaluation and performance management process includes:

- A monthly report to the ECSP management, tied to the Partnership's Tasking and Co-ordinating process
- Quarterly reports to the ECSP Executive, including summaries of local projects such as the examples given here for Bingham, the Walkways and the Royal High School
- Comparative summaries for each PSP. These are produced by the analyst from police information complemented by other data sources such as those maintained by the Council

The most recent quarterly report to the ECSP Executive showed:

a. Information from Lothian and Borders Fire Rescue had indicated that the quarterly average for deliberate secondary fires was 973. Figures for the last quarter show a reduction to 838.

b. Lothian Borders Police crime records relating to minor, serious and indecent assaults in Edinburgh had shown that

in 2003/2004 the quarterly average for:

- assault and robbery was 166
- serious assault was 91
- indecent assault was 42.

Figures for the last quarter show respectively 152, 79 and 32.

e. Lothian Borders Police crime records relating to the incidence of antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh had shown that the quarterly average for :

- youth calls in 2004/2005 was 6837
- minor assault in public places over 3 years was 1006
- hate crime in 2004 was 184.

Figures for the last quarter show respectively 6171, 1174 and 205. Figures for minor assaults and hate crime show an increase; it is considered that this is likely to be related to increasing local confidence in services and an increased reporting of events. However, there has been a downward trend for both of these figures compared to the figures for the intervening quarters.

Through partnership working, not only have we seen a significant reduction in local problems but partners have become more evidence based in their approaches and have also developed a greater understanding of each other's services. In a number of local initiatives, the PSP approach has continued past the formal life of the PSP, translated to an informal basis to ensure longer term solutions and working relationships are put into place. The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership has, through a formal process, initiated a real and sustainable approach to problem-oriented partnership working.