



## Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

### Tilley Awards 2007

#### 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, **within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB.** Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should **be e-mailed to [tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 27th April 2007**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811. Any queries regarding publicity of the awards should be directed to Chaz Akoshile on 0207 035 1589.

#### Section 1: Details of application

Title of the project: East Craigs Wider Action Group

Name of force/agency/CDRP/**CSP**: Lothian and Borders Police

Name of one contact person with position and/or rank (this should be one of the authors):  
PC Jeff Whelan

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Costorphine police station,  
Meadow Place rd,  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7TZ

Telephone number: 0131 3334 4900

Fax number: 0131 334 9244

**If known please state in which Government Office area you are located e.g. Government Office North West, Government Office London etc:**

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s): Inspector Brian Wilson

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s):  
Inspector in Lothian and Borders Police

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s):  
Costorphine Police Station,  
Meadow Place Rd,  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7TZ

**Please tick box to indicate that all organisations involved in the project have been notified of this entry**  
(this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project):

## **Section 2: Summary of application**

*In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project (see guidance for more information).*

East Craigs is in West Edinburgh with a population of 7,000. It is only accessible from the outer edge of the city and forms a series of cul de sacs. In late 2004 it became clear to the police and the landlords of the 400 affordable homes for rent in the area that the area was on the cusp of decline. Low-level crime rates were increasing and anti social behaviour was giving cause for concern. The agencies in the area felt a proactive approach to this would be more cost effective than allowing the problems to take hold. This has proved to be the case.

The project known as **East Craigs Wider Action Group** was created in February 2005 to work proactively to solve low-level crime, ensure that alongside strong community policing there were imaginative interventions to prevent crime and to ensure that every agency and group who could be involved would be involved because the group was accessible and approachable. Our two key objectives were:

- To tackle the anti social behaviour of a small group of young people who were operating in the area
- To develop a range of social spaces and activities for young people to prevent the rise in anti social behaviour

We worked in a focused way on the issues of specific young people with high levels of anti social behaviour and tried to tailor make solutions with a range of agencies. The main outcomes of the project has been:

- A significant decrease in a range of anti social behaviour and low level crime
- Interest and enthusiasm from young people,
- A group of young people desisting from anti social behaviour and moving into programmes with youth projects or into work.
- A range of activities and facilities being made available to young people where there were none
- Potential for new facilities and a redesigned centre of the area to make it sustainable

The evidence we used to agree the priorities were: Police statistics, reported anti social behaviour to landlords, a survey of all homes in the area, feedback from tenants and residents associations in the area, feedback from local children. To evaluate its success the project looked at present crime statistics, local involvement in the development of further work, young people's attitudes to the work done, landlord feedback on anti social complaints and how quickly they can be resolved.

### Section 3: Description of project

Describe the project in no more than 4000 words (see guidance for more information *in particular Section 7 - judging criteria*).

#### Objectives of the group

East Craigs Wider Action group was started in February 2005 by a group of agencies and local people in East Craigs in West Edinburgh. Its intention was to tackle key issues of concern in the area. The two inter-related issues that the group have been working on since its inception were:

- To tackle the anti social behaviour in a small group of young people who were operating in the area
- To develop a range of social spaces and activities for young people to prevent the rise in anti social behaviour.

Our principles are to:

- Consult local people widely about their priorities
- Involve and engage all interested partners and agree common goals
- To explore a range of solutions with agencies working together
- Not to demand answers or to confront organisations but problem solve the issues by putting all the information together and thinking creatively
- To ensure our meetings were open and accessible whenever possible

In order to measure success we would need to see a marked down turn in incidents and preferably a complete halt in this behaviour from this group of young people. We would also need to see a range of activities organised that were engaging young people from East Craigs and fewer young people hanging around in the hotspots that were identified in a report compiled by the community safety team as areas of concern.

We established first of all that the concerns of the landlords and the police were also those of local people and organisations. With the help of City of Edinburgh Council we undertook a survey of the 2,000 homes in the area to ask them to identify their concerns. We had a 17% return rate. This survey confirmed for us that the wider community shared our two key concerns.

We visited both schools and talked to young people from 5 to 18 years old. In the primary school we ran sessions that covered the whole school. We asked the children to identify the issues that bothered them and the things they liked about the area. The overwhelming messages were:

- There were attacks by a group of older children
- There was nowhere to play outside
- If they did play, some adults abused and threatened them.
- They were desperate for space to play football and basketball

We met with two distinct groups of older children. The young women's group were vulnerable young women and were known the community officer. They talked about drinking and hanging about because there was nothing to do and because home was not a pleasant place to be. The school council talked about the lack of any activities and welcomed the idea of a blue light disco, run by the police for 13-18 year olds. They also were keen to see film nights set up and agreed about the lack of football. They talked about hostility and abuse by adults if they congregated in groups no matter how innocent their intent.

We organised a meeting of all local agencies to prioritise the issues for the area. The local agencies who were invited and became involved were: local schools, the police, all four registered social landlords, community education, the local authority neighbourhood response team, the community safety team, and the local tenants association. Since that first meeting, the local church, the community health partnership, three local residents' associations, Three sheltered housing schemes, the local councillor, the local MSP, a number of local residents, the social work department, the parks department and city wide specialist care and youth organisations have all become involved to work jointly to solve the problems.

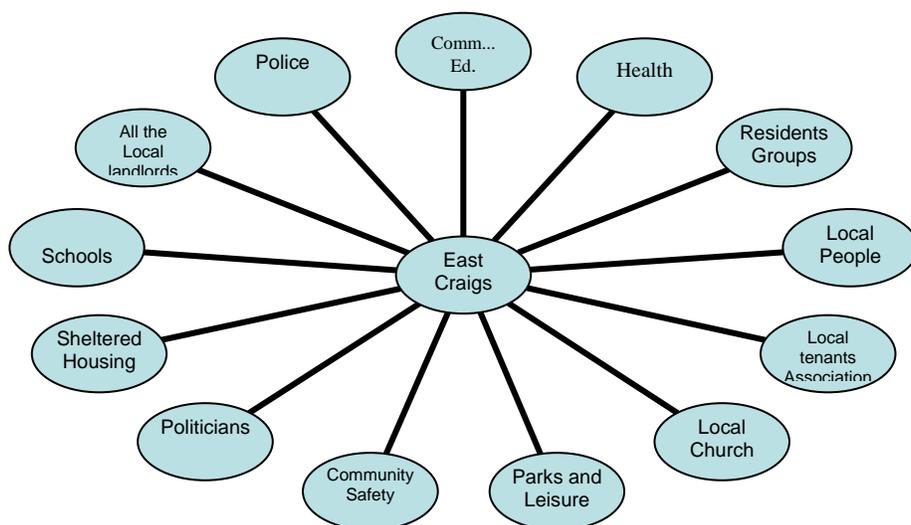
The specialist agencies that we involved had a track record in reducing crime and assisting young people into more positive lifestyles. Fairbridge works across the UK and in its own words:

Fairbridge in Edinburgh work with young people aged 13-25 who are experiencing a variety of issues such as Anti-social behaviour, lack of education/work experience, criminality, addictions, truancy/exclusion from school etc, which prevent them from engaging with formal education or other mainstream opportunities. We offer to young people: a combination of long term personal support and challenging activities and the opportunity to develop the motivation, confidence and skills they need to change their own lives. Fairbridge works with individual young people removing them from their peer group and taking them through a process that can last up to two years.

Streetwork originally worked on the streets with young people who were homeless but have recently worked in some of the more troubled estates in Edinburgh to run virtual youth groups on the streets and engage young people in more productive activities. The impact they had made elsewhere in the city meant that we sought their involvement to create

immediate positive relationships with young people.

### Key Player in East Craigs



### Defining the problem.

The young people who were involved in anti social behaviour were a group of about 10 to 12 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 who lived in an estate in the centre of the area and who had been increasingly involved in more serious incidents of anti social behaviour including, assaults on other young people, thefts, vandalism and fire raising. The police did not know their families but complaints about them were increasing from their own neighbours and local people. The community beat officer who had been working in the area for seven years and knew the young people concerned believed that there must be an alternative for these young people other than increasing involvement with the police, the criminal justice system and youth justice teams. He believed, as did the landlord of the estate where the young people lived, that some intervention with them and or their families could prevent them deteriorating further. He was already involved in the Pupil Support Group at the school but realised that some of these young people were not regular attenders at school or were not being picked up the by the group as having problems in school. He consulted with the Neighbourhoods team of his local landlord and the local tenants association and together they analysed the extent of the problem and began to seek solutions to avoid anti social behaviour orders, evictions and further involvement in the criminal justice system. There was a detailed report available on the crime in the area, further statistics from the landlord.

The second issue, which was clearly related, was the very visible lack of any activities for young people. The community education team had not run any clubs for sometime but started some when the Wider Action Group became involved. The attendance was low however with a maximum of perhaps 6-8 young people becoming involved, perhaps because the activities were not in response to any identified needs and were based in the school. When the local police officer and community education officer ran an informal football session for a term up to 17 young men and women, several from our target group, began to attend. However the community education team were unable to resource it for longer. The area of East Craigs has very few green spaces of a size that can be used for play. To become involved in anything else they have to return to the school or travel by bus to other areas. Quite often children were anxious about going to other areas because of fear of other young people who lived around the leisure centres and youth clubs in other parts of the city.

The Wider Action group became a constituted body and all the above agencies worked pro-actively to promote the aims of the project met regularly every six weeks. The local beat officer is vice chair and the head of the neighbourhoods team of the local landlord chairs the group. About 15 to 20 people attend and actions and responsibilities are agreed at the meeting. Using the combined skills of Streetwork and Fairbridge we could offer two different approaches to catch problems early. With two very different interventions we hoped to offer a range of options to young people that might prevent the anti social behaviour.

## **Response to the Problem**

### **1. Tackling the issues for specific young people.**

Working within strict bounds of confidentiality the key agencies who were coming up against the young people who committed anti social behaviour on a regular basis met to plan the appropriate interventions:

Present were the police, the landlords, the community education team who linked into social work, the schools and the specialist youth agencies. It was agreed that two approaches would be taken. Streetwork set up a virtual youth club on the streets of East Craigs three times a week from May to November 2006. This was funded through the local landlord, Castle Rock Edinvar from Communities Scotland. They mapped the area initially to identify where the young people were and then began to run a series of events to attract young people and build trust. They made contact with all the target young people who quickly became engaged. The summer was transformed for local people. The workers who were clearly identified and made themselves known to all interested adults arranged games of cricket and rounders on any patch of green they could find. They organised giant sumo wrestling matches and took some of the more vulnerable young people off on day trips in the summer. They worked with those young people to encourage them to seek work, to reengage with school and quite quickly the level of asb incidents reduced. Over the summer all call outs in the area were reduced by 51%. There were regular updates to the wider action group and a report was produced at the end of the six months. The community has asked for this to return this summer and is seeking further funding to do so as we speak. The community education department is considering providing a similar service as part of their regular work.

Fairbridge, working with Streetwork and now with the police and the school then began to target young people who did not engage successfully with the Youth activities and who were still committing anti social behaviour. One young man continued alone to carry out acts of vandalism against numerous homes by smashing the windows in a sheltered scheme and other homes on a regular basis. He was arrested and charged and with the agreement of his parents, police and the landlord placed on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, which is reviewed by all parties on a monthly basis. The youth is now attending Fairbridge full time and his criminal behaviour has ceased. Four other young people are being encouraged to join the Fairbridge programme as we speak. For each young person a different solution and arrangement is needed. Altogether we received £71,000 to support Streetwork and allow us to make referrals into Fairbridge.

### **Community Policing**

As well as direct intervention with young people it was clear that there was a need for more immediate police presence in the area. East Craigs was built in the seventies as a range of estates of different tenures experimenting with different housing solutions. It is a long and winding series of cul de sacs and walkways and is only accessible by car from the edge of the city. An Environmental survey was carried out in the area and the attached report was forwarded to the local councillor who raised this issue with the Edinburgh City Council. Many of the recommendations are in the process of being implemented. The local police station is further in to the city and as a result policing incidents is more problematic than in other areas. Castle Rock Edinvar then made a flat available rent free to the police in the heart of the estate where the targeted young people all lived and the police now use this through out the day and night to secure a presence in the area. It overlooks a new play area which the group succeeded in developing and which remains in immaculate condition and has not become a congregating area for older young people despite local peoples' fears. The local Police Youth Action Team, which covers the West of Edinburgh, is able to use the flat as a base. The landlord has agreed to this flat being made available for at least another year and have noted the need to keep a police base in the area for the future.

### **Increasing the range of activities for children and young people.**

The first success for the group was when they won a People's Millions Lottery award and built the first play park for primary school children in the area. Positioned in the heart of the social housing estate, although small it was a big fillip to the area. The people whose homes surrounded it were invited to work with the architect to plan and design the park. The group included both young and old from the immediate area. The play park is of high quality and is well used. To succeed in getting the grant we were first short listed from 40 bids and required to compete with another short listed project to win through a television appeal and public vote. The local police officer led the television appeal with local people and children involved and it made a big impact locally.

The award was for £58,750 and we managed to attract further funds from a variety of sources to top it up to £99,000.



Because getting access to football was such a high priority for all children but particularly those who were giving most concern to local agencies, a number of solutions are now being sought. Our first success is that the police made a successful bid to a local authority fund and are buying a mobile football pitch at a cost of £12,500. This can be transported around the area and set up within 30 minutes. It can make use of empty car parks and small green spaces and has a track record of success in other areas. The police plan to run it themselves with the Youth Action Team, local people who have attended a Scottish Football Association football-coaching course and obtained a recognised qualification funded through the Wider Action Group and local community education workers. This is a way of building on the relationships the beat officer already has with young people and children in the area to create opportunities for interaction other than that of law enforcer and perpetrator.

The police are proactively seeking a local venue for a blue light disco. The same division of the force runs a disco for under 18s at South Queensferry and wishes to replicate its success. They are also arranging film nights for young people after purchasing a mobile cinema system and are planning to screen films in the west of the city for young people who do not have opportunities to visit cinemas in other parts of the city.

**Evaluation of the intervention**

Like all interventions this one is ongoing and will continue for years to come. As young people are identified with a range of needs the relationship with Fairbridge allows the police and the landlords to make direct referrals to them before the children’s problems and offending increase. The fact that the community education department are asking us to apply for a detached youth work programme for the area is an indication of their acknowledgement of the success of the Streetwork approach. The development of new activities and spaces for young people will take some years but young people are enthused enough for a focus group of six pupils from the secondary school to agree to join with us to set up a youth group to develop a facility in the area. Visits are now being arranged to other youth projects in Scotland with them to see what the options might be for development.

To evaluate the effectiveness we have viewed the crime statistics for the period, which show the drop in those crimes, we were targeting in the area over the period of our work. The crime statistics have been provided by Lothian and Borders police and show offending rates for 5 crime categories.

- Group 1 – Violent Crime
- Group 2 – Sexual Crime
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Vandalism
- Group 5 – Other Crimes

Group	No of Crimes	2005		2006			2007 (1 Jan to 31 Mar)		
		Solve d	Percentag e	No of Crimes	Solve d	Solvenc y	No of Crimes	Solv ed	Solvenc y
1	6	3	50%	4	2	50%	0	0	n/a
2	1	0	0%	5	5	100%	0	0	n/a
3	236	53	22%	119	24	20%	27	10	37%
4	179	11	6%	161	10	6%	58	19	33%
5	18	18	100%	22	22	100%	8	8	100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40%</b>

Please note that the rise in incidents in group 4 in 2007 was due to the young man who broke numerous windows and has been referred into Fairbridge and is currently on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract.

It is our intention that this year we will complete a survey with local people to evaluate their perception of the work to date. For us what is unique about our work is that:

- We started to deal with the problem proactively and now have a system in place to continue that.
- We have brought £200,000 into the area to date to resolve issues and we have seen a dramatic improvement already in the quality of life for local people. This is far less expensive than waiting for the issues to become serious.
- By consulting and proactively engaging with all who lived and worked in the area we have a positive group of problem solvers who can now communicate to continue to solve issues.

### **Communicating with local people**

We also produce a newsletter periodically to keep people informed. This is delivered to 1500 homes in the area. The appendices include copies of this.

### **The Future**

Places for People who are the parent of Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association are working with the Parks Department to renew the only park to the north of the area and to add in a kick pitch to its plans. They are also approaching the supermarket which owns the centre of East Craigs with a proposal to develop some of the land they own to include an indoors youth facility, a kick pitch and a police office. The proposals would also include new homes, redesigned green space, a community café and breakfast and after school provision for the local authority education department.

The group started with eight key agencies being involved but due to its success the number is now up to 18 and rising. As a result of this work other issues contributing to the problems of the original young people have been identified. The group will look at health issues with the community health partnership as levels of drug and alcohol addiction have risen in the area. There is increasing evidence that debt is affecting family's behaviour and so access to support to tackle debt is being offered earlier to those in rented housing in the area. Both the landlord and police see that some adults are struggling with parenting issues and are seeking a way to offer support to the family and not just to the young person. The sheltered housing scheme and the primary school are now planning a series of joint projects to allow the children and the older people to know each other and decrease their fear and lack of understanding of each other. The group constituted itself in July 2005 and celebrated its AGM in late 2006. It will continue to exist with the support of the key agencies for some time to come. It will continue to work to sustain the area successfully.

Appendices:

Original report on crime in the area

Neighbourhood survey

Environmental Survey

Copies of Roundabout

East Craig Wider Action Groups constitution

Testimonials from:

Tina Beattie local tenant

Donalda Morrison Sheltered Housing Manager

Aaron Clarkson Deputy Head Teacher and pupils

Robert Aldridge Local councillor



East Craigs play park at it opening in August 2006

#### **Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative**

*Please insert letter from endorsing representative:*

Make I take a few words to introduce myself. I am the Neighbourhood Inspector based at Corstorphine an area to the west side of the city of Edinburgh. This area is primarily of a residential nature with a mix of private, council and landlord owned housing.

East Craigs as outlined in the application is a community within a community with a population of approximately 7000. Like so many communities throughout the country is suffers from anti social behaviour and a lack of facilities and resources in the immediate area. However, from my perspective what is significantly different and innovative within the East Craigs area and the work of the East Craigs Wider Action Group (ECWAG) is that they identified and were alert to the increasing tensions within the community.

Unlike the vast majority of Problem Solving approaches which target existing problems, key individuals within East Craigs identified that if left unchecked there was a potential for a significant breakdown in community cohesion which in turn would lead to a significant increase in criminality and anti social behaviour. These individuals grasped the opportunity with both hands and with their initial drive and enthusiasm we now have a fully constituted body, which has been in existence for over 2 years.

The initial members of the ECWAG embarked on a comprehensive consultation phase involving surveys, school talks, and engagement with target groups, which ensured that their focus was directed to the real and immediate needs of the community. This approach in turn attracted people who lived in the community and who represented their views and concerns. The makeup of the ECWAG is such that the unique mixture of police, residents, schools, politicians to name but a few, ensures that real needs are being identified, that there is a truly meaningful partnership with individuals who can make decisions and have access to or have experience is securing funding.

The successes of the ECWAG speak volumes for their drive and commitment. Agencies such as the police, Fairbridge and Streetwork now work together in a way which is not only cost effective, but targets the needs of individuals by providing support and guidance. The Peoples Millions lottery award, as voted by the public, and subsequent construction of the play area has had a huge impact on the community, not only because of the new play area, but also because of the sense of pride, achievement and recognition. The community flat has created a focal point for the police and for joint agency work.

The future for East Craigs is exciting. The community have a strong voice, they are setting their sights high and are embarking on some projects which if successful move into areas not normally thought achievable within the problem solving approach. Regeneration of areas for local use, tackling of wider health issues, drug and alcohol addiction, increasing pressure of debt and parenting skills target at the very heart of issues, which affect families and communities.

In conclusion, the key to the success of the ECWAG is:

- Early intervention
- Comprehensive consultation
- Energy and drive
- Meaningful partnerships
- Local ownership
- Continuous evaluation
- Successes and future goals.

Therefore I have no hesitation if giving my full and unreserved support to the East Craigs Wider Action Group and consider it a privilege to be asked to be the endorsing representative.

Yours sincerely

Brian Wilson  
Inspector  
Corstorphine Police Station  
0131 316 2813

### **Checklist for Applicants:**

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public?
7. Have you saved you application form as a PDF attachment and entitled your message 'Entry for Tilley Awards 2007' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please **email it to [Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**. Two hard copies must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice, Support & Communications Team, 6th Floor, Peel Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.