



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.

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: Partnership Task Force Days

Name of force/agency/CDRP/CSP: Safer Ealing Partnership

Name of one contact person with position and/or rank (this should be one of the authors): Chris Reynolds, Community Safety Liaison Officer

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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): Paul Harrison

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s): Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, Ealing Council

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s): Ealing Council, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL

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

Following a joint recognition by Ealing Council and Ealing Police that current partnership working was failing to have an effective impact on crime reduction in the borough, the two agencies decided to reassess their strategy.

Understanding the underlying problems was central to defining a new approach.

Although a partnership did exist in principle, it was not functioning to its full potential. The biggest problem was a lack of communication between the two agencies, which in turn resulted in a disjointed response to reducing crime, and activities and resources being duplicated.

To combat this, representatives from the council and police began to meet regularly and they developed a new initiative – the partnership task force days – that focused on working together to target high visibility activity in pre-agreed hot spot areas with long standing crime issues.

The first task force day took place in February 2006, and to date there has been a total of 64 such days.

The success of the days has steadily grown, and in more recent times has resulted in significant reductions in crime, such as, incidents of snatch thefts, theft of pedal cycles, residential burglary, theft of motor vehicles, wounding and common assault. The high visibility presence of both police and council officers on the streets has also had a positive impact on reducing fear of crime among residents and provoked pride in others willing to support and work with officers to spot problems.

Most notably, the success of the partnership task force days has bolstered the relationship between the council and the police and ensured a strong and sustainable partnership that can respond to residents' needs and improve quality of life across the borough.

Section 3: Description of project

In an effort to reduce crime in the Borough of Ealing, the council, police and other partnership agencies introduced weekly, high visibility, taskforce action days. These started in February 2006 to enable a strategic response to local crime issues and resident concerns. The days rotate on a weekly basis through four areas in Ealing to tackle a range of long-standing crime and anti-social behaviour issues, such as motor vehicle crime, street crime, burglary and tackling environmental issues such as graffiti and fly-tipping. These help the council fulfil two of its three priorities – safer communities and cleaner streets. They also:

- Demonstrate how the council and its partners are working together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Ealing, and ensure residents' safety;
- Educate and inform residents of their responsibility to look after the area they live in;
- Promote the council's 'get tough' stance to criminals, and commitment to enforcing prosecution to residents; and
- Provide public reassurance through high visibility and by engaging with communities.

Before the days were established, separate organisations worked in isolation in the same areas, meaning the impact of their work was disjointed and disconnected. Although a partnership between the council and the police had existed since 1998 under the banner of the Safer Ealing Partnership, the council had struggled to capitalise fully on this. Communication had broken down and despite sharing the same objectives, activities of both the police and the council were being undertaken independently, and in some cases repeated.

Senior Council Officials and their Metropolitan Police counterparts recognised this gap, and agreed to form a joined up approach in order to improve things and reduce crime. So, the Partnership Coordinating and Tasking Group (PCTG) was born, and representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams and council officers began to meet on a twice-weekly basis to initially tackle enforcement and envirocrime issues. From this Partnership Taskforce Days (PTDs) were established.

After in depth consultation with residents and retailers in the borough, it was identified at partnership level, that there was a general public opinion that insufficient Police Officers were visible on the streets. In response to this the partnership elected to have all staff involved in PTDs wear high visibility clothing in order to help communities feel safer and to reduce the fear crime.

Head of the council's Envirocrime Prevention Services, Susan Parsonage, commented: "Partnership task force days were introduced with the intention of delivering co-ordinated and planned partnership working in crime and anti-social behaviour hot spots. Previous to their introduction separate organisations were working in isolation in hot spot areas and work was disjointed and disconnected. It was intended that the partnership taskforce days would enable partnership organisations to create an outcome that was 'greater than the sum of the parts'."

The partnership used existing resources – Safer Neighbourhood Police teams, council officers and contractors during PTDs. The supporting ethos was that by rotating taskforce days through specific areas, there would be a domino effect on crime reduction across the borough, i.e. by continually returning to an area, the level of crime would not reach its initial levels. By controlling crime in this way it becomes easier to allocate targeted resources in a proactive way, minimising the need to respond 'as and when', and making the taskforce days 100 per cent cost effective.

In December 2006 the focus of the PCTG was realigned with crime reduction being a priority. In order to implement this change the council's Head of Safer and Stronger Communities was elected as Chair of the PCTG. PTDs started with an initial group of partners, but since December, have expanded to include a range of others; partly because of the success of the days, but primarily due to the partnership continuing to identify key areas for improvement and building on its strengths. For example, during a recent PTD in East Acton, having consulted with immigration it was identified that a serious problem existed with illegal immigrants. Further analysis of the area brought to light motor vehicle crime problems and untaxed vehicles. The partnership contacted a local business who offered a covert area from which an operation to address the aforementioned problems took place. The end result was three arrests, seizure of one firearm and nine vehicles impounded. The public feedback from the operation was exceptional and was evident on several high profile websites including the ActonW3 website.

More recently taskforce days are intelligence led, ensuring that the response is up to the minute. As well as the council and police, other stakeholders such as the DVLA, Immigration, Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise, RSPCA, London Fire Brigade, community volunteers, local schools and TfL are also involved. Officers from these agencies along with those who generally form the Safer Ealing Partnership are tasked on the day by Community Safety

Officers from the Council's Community Safety Team. Working together these activities include:

- F94s (identifying vulnerable properties);
- Stop & Search/Stop & Account;
- Crime Enforcement (execution of warrants);
- Reporting vulnerable vehicles to DVLA;
- Removing illegal vehicles;
- Identifying crime hotspot areas and placement of CCTV cameras to help reduce crime;
- Distributing personal attack alarms to the public and vulnerable parties;
- Crime reduction advice to residents and retailers;
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices;
- Parking Enforcement;
- Confiscating illegal goods;
- Inspecting commercial premises;
- Clearing areas of fly-tipping and graffiti;
- Distributing crime prevention leaflets to residents
- Working in schools;
- Discussing personal awareness with commuters;
- Planting new trees; and
- Enforcement against littering/dog fouling

PTDs are also flexible enough to respond to immediate concerns from the local community. Having cleaner streets is one of residents' top three concerns identified in the council's annual Residents' Survey. As part of a recent taskforce day, 49 tonnes of rubbish was cleared from a housing estate after complaints from local residents. After the clean up, residents came out to thank officers. Leader of the Council, Jason Stacey, said: "The strong results of this latest Partnership Taskforce Day in Acton show just what can be achieved when we all work together. On the Wesley Estate, residents came out and thanked our officers for clearing the rubbish. It is great to know that our work is having such a positive impact."

Statistics are collated after each event to measure the impact on the area's problems and to ensure the response remains relevant and sustained. Crime figures from the Metropolitan Police Service are also monitored along with media coverage and local people's attitude towards the council via the annual Residents' Survey and regular 'temperature checks'.

Table 1. Acton Partnership Task Force Day: 27/02/07

	Count Before	Count After	%Change
Actual Bodily Harm	6	0	-100.00
Burglary - Non Res	3	0	-100.00
Common Assault	3	0	-100.00
Poss. Offensive Weapon	1	2	100.00
Harassment	2	3	50.00
Burglary - Res	2	7	250.00
Threats to Kill	1	0	-100.00
Robbery of the person	2	2	0.00
Criminal Damage to MV	8	0	-100.00
Criminal Damage	3	2	-33.33
Sexual Assault	1	0	-100.00
Other Theft	2	6	200.00
Theft of Pedal Cycle	1	0	-100.00
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2	0	-100.00
Theft Person Dip	1	0	-100.00
Theft From MV	0	3	N/A
Drugs Possession	0	2	N/A
Domestic Incident	0	1	N/A
Theft Person Snatch	0	1	N/A
Total	38.00	29.00	-23.68

A 'before' and 'after' picture of a recent taskforce day. Data presented covers three days prior to the activity and three days following. There was an overall reduction of 23.68 per cent in core crimes. Those individual crimes that show an increase are due to crimes being identified and persons being caught and arrested; on this day there were three arrests.

The results of PTDs receive high media profile to ensure a positive message is being disseminated across the borough; to date we have received media coverage on; National BBC News, News 24, ITV London Tonight, BBC Radio 4, Desi Radio, Sunrise Radio, The New York Times, The Metro, The Ealing Gazette, and other local media. This media coverage also helps to improve internal communications between partners by demonstrating successes and high outputs. This is most evident in the number of partners now working together on a weekly basis, which currently totals more than 40.

Project Manager for PTDs, Community Safety Officer, Chris Reynolds, says; “The continual monitoring of the taskforce days, both through collated data and media coverage, means that the project can evolve to meet our growing and identified needs and those of our partners and the public. For example, the days originally rotated through five distinct areas. After a time, this was redefined to four specific areas to reflect the needs of the borough and help allocate targeted resources. Our most challenging test is taking place in June with a two-day event supported by the Home Office, with close to 100 partners and members of the community being involved in sustained enforcement, community development and environmental enhancements taking place.”

Overall the Partnership Taskforce Days have been extremely successful and are evolving into an accepted weekly activity. The constantly changing crime focus ensures that anyone committing illegal acts in the borough will eventually be confronted by the crime reduction partnership. As the council’s Crime Data Analyst, Eleanor Reed explains: “Through high visibility patrolling we have directly impacted upon crime, with key successes noted during 2006/07 concerning snatch thefts, theft of pedal cycles, residential burglary, theft of motor vehicles, wounding and common assault. Each of these crime types experienced a 6%, 23%, 18%, 12%, 7% and 14% reduction respectively.

“This success continues, with the first two weeks of the current financial year highlighting a decrease of 23.60% in overall British Crime Survey (BCS) crime, compared to the same time frame of the previous financial year and indicates we are above the average performance across the Metropolitan Police Service, where a 10.30% reduction has been evident.”

Table 2. Safer Ealing Partnership BCS Comparator Crime

Data: 01 April 2007 - 15 April 2007		Previous FYTD	Current FYTD	Vol Change	% Change	MPS Ave
BCS	Total BCS Crime	1042	796	-246	-23.60%	-10.30%
Robbery & Theft	Personal Property	124	64	-60	-48.40%	-28.10%
	Snatch	63	13	-50	-79.40%	-40.60%
	Pickpockets	34	24	-10	-29.40%	16.90%
	Cycles	17	19	2	11.80%	26.10%
Burglary	Residential	102	74	-28	-27.50%	-8.50%
Vehicle Crime	Theft/Taking Of	60	54	-6	-10.00%	-13.30%
	Theft From	204	152	-52	-25.50%	-11.70%
	Interference & Tampering	5	1	-4	-80%	-15.50%
Criminal Damage	BCS Criminal Damage	223	172	-51	-22.90%	-8.30%
Violent Crime	BCS Wounding	127	141	14	11.00%	-7.90%
	BCS Common Assault	83	82	-1	-1.20%	-12.70%

The impact PTDs have had on the local community is best demonstrated in their changing attitudes towards the council, which in some cases has been immediate.

After the first PTD, Police Sergeant Page commented: “One of the most important points of this operation is the reaction we had from residents, even those who might not support police in the course of their duties. Many residents came out of their houses to speak to us, thanking us for our efforts. There were examples of youths approaching police and council officers, telling them about problems like graffiti and then watching it being removed. I feel we have made a good contribution towards improving relations between the police, the council and the public.”

The taskforce days have also proved a success in terms of educating and informing the local community about their responsibility, and key part they play, in looking after the area in which they live. Some residents, like Tom Morrissey, have actively embraced this by becoming a Streetwatcher – a council-run scheme that encourages local people to help tackle envirocrimes by looking out for problems in their streets, parks and communities, and reporting what they

see. Tom explains why he joined: "I became a Streetwatcher because, with the backing of Ealing Council, I am hoping to make my area cleaner and safer."

So far, 212 Streetwatchers have been recruited, with a further 267 residents expressing an interest.

In addition, a recent 'temperature check' with the community, which involved interviewing 1,022 Ealing residents face to face, found the following:

- An 18% rise in the number of residents who think that the council is making the local area better, up to 69% compared to 51% last year;
- A 12% rise in the number of residents who think that the council is making a difference in their local neighbourhood, up to 57% compared to 45% last year; and
- A 13% rise in the number of residents who think that the council is listening to their concerns, up to 52% compared to 39% last year.

PTDs have now been running for over a year, with 64 to date. In this time, they have enabled council and police staff to build strong working relationships. The successful outputs of these days highlight the effectiveness of the partnership. They include:

- 56 arrests
- 265 vulnerable premises advice slips issued;
- 42 Fixed Penalty Notices issued by the police;
- Over 12 crack-house closures;
- 6 controlled drinking zones implemented;
- 6 major seizures of illegal DVDs by Trading Standards Officers
- 9 dispersal zone orders;
- More than 20,000 community safety education leaflets distributed;
- Over 405 tonnes of fly-tipping removed by waste removal contractors, ECT;
- Approximately 10,950 metres squared of graffiti removed;
- 277 untaxed vehicles removed or impounded;
- Goods totalling an estimated £30,000 - £40,000 confiscated from commercial premises for breach of Trade Agreements;
- £5,800 of outstanding fines seized by bailiffs; and
- 320 new trees planted across the borough;
- 114 commercial premises inspected by Environmental Health

Ealing Borough Commander, Colette Paul, said: "I am delighted with the operations. We have been working with our partners for a long time to try and develop an effective tasking and co-ordinating process and delivery mechanism. We now have it and I am so pleased that they are going down so well. Darra Singh, the Chief Executive, is equally as committed to delivering these."

Darra Singh, Chief Executive of Ealing Council said, "Along with the Borough Commander I am committed to more joint operations which are both effective and highly visible."

On a visit to Ealing, the Permanent Secretary to the ODP, saw the Partnership Taskforce Days in action and in a letter to the Chief Executive said: "Your people were very impressive – motivated, articulate and determined to make a difference."

The difference PTDs have made is best described in this observation from the Chair of the PCTG and Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, Paul Harrison: "On my arrival at Ealing twelve months ago there was no real co-ordination between the different agencies and services. Building relationships in these areas, we now have a thriving partnership, willing to support the community safety function and crime reduction in the borough. The Council has a real commitment to reducing crime and disorder in the borough and to further enhance public safety have purchased 50 PCSOs to extend the activity of the Partnership Taskforce Days."

Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative



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Ealing Council
Community Safety Team
Perceval House
14-16 Uxbridge Rd
London W5 2HL
Tel: 020-8825 7600

Email:
HTUHarrisonp@ealing.gov.uk

Your ref:

My ref:

Please ask for:

Date:

Paul Harrison

27/04/2007

Dear Sir/Madam

I can confirm that the attached report is true and accurate and reflects the excellent work achieved by The Safer Ealing Partnership through the Partnership Taskforce Days.

Yours sincerely

Paul Harrison
Head of Safer and Stronger Communities
email: Harrisonp@ealing.gov.uk
mobile: 07852210595



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.ukT. 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.