



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: **Wirral Pier Project**

Name of force: **Merseyside Police**

Name of one contact person with position and/or rank (this should be one of the authors):
Chief Inspector John Holmes, Wirral BCU

Email address: **john.a.holmes@merseyside.police.uk**

Full postal address: **Wirral Joint Community Safety Team
Old Court House
Manor Road
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 1BU**

Telephone number: **0151 606 5488**

Fax number: **0151 606 5454**

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

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s): **1. Superintendent Darren Martland
2. Mrs. Mindy Rutherford
3. Mr. Andy Stelman**

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s):

1. **Superintendent (Operations Support), Wirral BCU, Merseyside Police**
2. **Strategy Manager, Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action (DAAT) Team**
3. **Assistance Chief Probation Officer, Merseyside Probation Service**

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s):

1. **Wallasey Police Station**
Manor Road
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 1DA
2. **Wirral Drugs and Alcohol Action Team**
Clock Tower
St. Catherine's Hospital
Church Road
Tranmere
Wirral
CH42 0LQ
3. **Merseyside Probation**
Burlington house
Crosby road north
Crosby
Liverpool

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).

The Wirral Pier Project was formed in January 2004 and its main priorities are to reduce offending behaviour and engage subjects into drug treatment, where necessary. The directive is to concentrate on the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs), who predominantly commit Burglary, Robbery and 'AutoCrime' offences, normally 'career' criminals with a history of chaotic drug use. All efforts are made to prevent subjects from returning to the 'revolving door syndrome' of crime – prison – release – crime, etc. The Team utilise a multi-agency approach, putting all possible interventions in place. Those failing to comply are actively targeted.

Through the support and supervision provided by the Team, the vast majority of subjects have either significantly reduced or stopped their previous patterns of offending. Again, the majority of these individuals has engaged with and remained in drug treatment, complying with Probation conditions, while under the supervision of the Team. Communication is ongoing with the H.M. Prison CARAT staff to encourage PPOs into drug treatment whilst serving their sentence.

The effectiveness of the team can be seen in the following Wirral BCU crime performance/crime reduction statistics (between January 2004 and December 2006):

Robbery offences down by **49.5%**
Burglary offences down by **55.5%**
Theft of Motor Vehicle offences down by **76.6%**
Theft from Motor Vehicle offences down by **29.5%**

There is a definite correlation between the reduction in the Wirral BCU's crime statistics and the commencement of the Wirral Pier Project.

In October 2005 the H.M.I.C conducted an inspection of Wirral BCU, with the Wirral Pier Project forming part of that inspection. The concluding report quoted that ***"the enthusiasm exhibited by the team was infectious"*** and regarded the Wirral Pier Project Team as being ***"an excellent example of multi-agency co-operation to effectively handle PPOs"***. The summary stated that ***"The Pier Team was commendable and the inspection team would advocate the model to other BCU's where there is insufficient focus on, or ineffective management of PPOs"***.

Merseyside Police's Central Joint Agency Group has identified the Wirral Pier Project as 'best practice' and presentations have been delivered to the other Merseyside BCUs to outline how the Wirral PPO Scheme operates.

On 24 November 2006, the Wirral Pier Project was successful in winning the Justice Award 2006 for 'Outstanding Contribution (Team) to Working with Offenders'.

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).

What is the Wirral Pier Project?:

It has been correctly established that a small number of prolific offenders (0.5%) commit a high percentage of crime (10%) each year. The financial loss of these crimes is estimated to be at least £2 billion per year.

The Wirral Pier Project commenced in January 2004. It is a multi agency approach, which identifies prolific offenders predominantly committing numerous offences of Robbery, Burglary and AutoCrime, to fund their drug misuse. The initiative concentrates on persons who live to commit crime in the Wirral BCU area. The aims provide these individuals with the opportunity to break the cycle of drug misuse and crime. The Team also identifies and targets persistent Anti-Social Behaviour offenders.

The Wirral Pier Project Team comprises four Police Officers (a Detective Sergeant and 3 Detective Constables), a Substance Misuse Worker (from Arch Initiatives), two experienced Probation Officers and an Intelligence Researcher. Each agency has their own specific remit and responsibilities, but are all co-located and work closely together to achieve the common aim.

The scheme links to the Home Office Persistent and Priority Offender (PPO) initiative, announced in August 2004 and reports into the Drug Crime Steering Group of the Wirral Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

How the Initiative Works:

Individuals are nominated by all agencies to the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) Co-coordinator at the Wirral Pier Project. Each nomination is assessed against a scoring matrix by one nominated individual within the Team, providing a consistent approach and minimising scoring discrepancies. The scores are recorded and the nomination(s) presented to the Wirral Joint Agency Group (JAG) for acceptance for PPO 'status'. If accepted the individual is inputted onto the 'J Track' system and a marker is placed on the Police National Computer (PNC), identifying them as a PPO.

The Team also closely monitors the release dates of possible future PPOs, who are currently serving custodial sentences. These individuals will then be approached by a Team Member and offered the following option:

1. Embark upon a 'fast track' Drug Treatment Programme (further explained later)
AND
2. Informed that if they refuse to comply then they will be closely monitored and supervised.

The simple approach of informing the offenders that they will no longer enjoy a six to twelve month offending spree, prior to arrest and subsequent prison sentencing, has worked well in the Wirral. Instead of waiting for patterns of 'StreetCrime', Burglary or AutoCrime to emerge, identified persistent offenders will be closely monitored within days of either:

- failing to comply with the offer
OR
- having rejected the offer, following their release from prison. This will incorporate close liaison with the Probation Service, to swiftly administer breach/revocation proceedings for those released on supervision orders, etc.

The intention is to attempt to reduce their crime sprees.

What's On Offer to the Proposed 'Clients'?:

Once selected, the offender will be approached and the scheme outlined to them, with a main intention of **providing an appropriate level of support that prevents a person from offending, reduces acquisitive crime and the impact on victims and communities.** During the course of these initial meetings with PPOs, Team members break down existing barriers to ensure maximum progress can be made. Visits to prisons are conducted to familiarise the subjects with the Team members, explain reasons for their inclusion and what is expected on their release. Presentations are carried out to Service User Groups. Basic skill issues are addressed and the team is on hand to assist with applications for housing, D.W.P, job applications, etc. Utilising spare time is essential, to prevent opportunities for re-offending and PPOs who display commitment have the availability of gymnasium passes, if required. The Team is in regular contact with Progress to Work to encourage offenders into employment. The Team recently used DAAT funding to assist a PPO to purchase a suit, to enable him to attend at his Mother's funeral dressed appropriately.

On acceptance of the offer the individual is given instant access to support from various agencies, including:

- Provision of a regular Doctor by Arch Initiatives, who will arrange for the necessary treatment to tackle the client's addiction. This will only take place once the client has been fully assessed by a Substance Misuse Worker. (It has been agreed with the Wirral Drug Service that all Pier clients will be prescribed by Arch Initiatives unless they have specialist prescribing needs).
- Assistance with the process of housing applications, to address any accommodation needs if required.
- Assistance in completion of Benefit and Community Care Grant Claims.
- Basic skills courses and structured day programmes to occupy spare time.
- Support to ultimately gain employment, to re-introduce them successfully back into society.

All PPOs who accept the offer to partake in the scheme, sign up voluntarily to an agreement enabling all agencies to share the relevant information. The benefits are two-fold;

1. It gives the offender immediate access to treatment

AND

2. By removing the usual 'waiting period', there is a reduced risk of the offender carrying on her/his crime spree to fund their drug habit.

Offenders will be monitored closely and any failure to comply with the conditions of the scheme and any Statutory Probation Order will be quickly identified and the individual targeted/breached and arrested at the earliest opportunity. This Project is aimed at breaking the 'loop' that currently exists, by minimising or ultimately ending the individual's drug dependency and subsequently reducing the crimes they commit. Facilities are also in place for any other members of the client's family to obtain access to drug treatment via Arch Initiatives. Appointments are tailored for all members of the family to attend at the same time, whenever possible.

The Multi-Agency Team will assess the offender as to their suitability for immediate drug treatment and support. They will be given a number of appointments to be fully assessed by each agency. If they fail to attend the appointments or drop out of the Scheme, the Pier Project Team will be notified and efforts made to return them to the Programme, closely monitor them or arrest them accordingly.

If PPOs refuse to comply with the scheme or there is evidence/intelligence to suggest they actively committing crime, the Team's Researcher will prepare a profile on that particular individual. The profile identifying the PPO as being at a high risk of re-offending will be forwarded to the Wirral BCU Intelligence Manager, for presentation at the BCU Tasking and Coordination Meeting. If accepted, a Plan Manager is assigned, who will closely liaise with the Pier Project Team.

The Team also liaise with the CPS to ensure that if one of the offenders targeted has been arrested, then provision of relevant information can be supplied to the Prosecutor, outlining the offender's lifestyle and refusal to comply with the Scheme. This negates any defense application for clients to be put on a Drug Treatment Programme, if they have previously refused or failed to comply with the 'Fast Track' Programme offered by this Project. A facility has been included on the Police National Computer so that the Team is notified of the arrest of any Pier clients in any part of England and Wales.

On occasions the Pier Project Team will appear in court to brief the Judge/Magistrates as to alternative options, should a non-custodial sentence be considered, e.g. strict bail conditions to attend the Pier Project for assessment and rehabilitation. Other than the Statutory Court Probation reports, staff are also called upon to prepare a report for the Court. This advises the Court of the progress (whether positive or negative) that each respective PPO is making on the scheme. Any future Court Probation Reports can then include the progress the PPO is making on the project.

How does the Project contribute to the Community?:

The Wirral Pier Project closely supervises all of Wirral BCU's most prolific Robbery, Burglary and AutoCrime offenders and arguably these offences cause the most alarm to the Community. The success of the project has greatly assisted in a sustained and significant reduction in the commission of such offences. Currently there is an average of four Burglary (Dwelling) offences per day in an area of over 110,000 households. Where possible, all PPOs who re-offend are swiftly dealt with through the Criminal Justice System, eliminating the possibility of 'crime sprees' taking place, prior to pending court appearances. The overall result is that Wirral residents have a significantly reduced fear of crime and of becoming a victim of crime.

Team members frequently deliver presentations to various community groups to identify the Scheme and the positive impact it has had on crime statistics for the Wirral. All of these interventions have received very positive feedback.

How does the Project's work contribute to the wider Criminal Justice System?

The Wirral Pier Project is responsible for auditing the 'fast tracking' of all PPO subjects through the Criminal Justice System. They closely monitor the Premium Service Conditions from arrest through to the final sentencing process. All efforts are concentrated on retaining non-compliant subjects in custody to prevent an offending spree occurring, while they are awaiting trial or sentence. This close monitoring of PPOs enables the Team to provide very accurate and detailed pre-sentence court reports to assist the court when sentencing.

Valuable links have been forged with Wirral's Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) Team and Criminal Justice partners and data is openly shared to great effect when dealing with PPOs. (Section 115, Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Current Position:

As at February 2007 Wirral BCU currently has **52** identified PPOs. 20 of these individuals are 'at liberty', 13 of whom are in drug treatment and 8 are regularly testing 'illicit drug free'.

Wirral BCU's crime performance/crime reduction figures between January and December 2004 were as follows:

- Robbery offences down by **43.4%**
- Burglary offences down by **26.4%**
- Unauthorised Taking of Vehicles (UTMV) down by **25%**
- Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV) down by **10%**

The crime performance/crime reduction figures between January and December 2005 were as follows:

- Robbery offences down a further **11.1%**
- Burglary offences down a further **15.5%**
- UTMV offences down a further **37.2%**
- TFMV offences down a further **7.8%**

The crime performance/crime reduction figures between January and December 2006 are equally encouraging:

- Robbery offences up **5.03%** (on 2005 figure)
- Burglary offences down a further **13.57%**
- UTMV offences down a further **14.41%**
- TFMV offences down a further **11.69%**

There is a definite correlation between the significant reduction in the Wirral BCU's crime statistics and the commencement of the Wirral Pier Project.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC), members of Government Office North West (GONW) and the National Treatment Agency (NTA) have all identified the Wirral Pier Project as being 'best practice'. They all have recommended that the systems and processes used by the Pier Project should be adopted by other similar projects throughout the country.

On 24 November 2006, the Wirral Pier Project was successful in winning The Justice Award 2006, presented by Baroness Scotland MP (Minister for Offender Management) and John Reid MP (Home Secretary), for 'Outstanding Contribution (Team) to Working with Offenders'.

Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representatives

Mrs. Mindy Rutherford (DAAT):

The Pier Project is particularly unique in relation to the direct positive impact it has on the local community by both reducing crime and improving health and social care of offenders and communities alike. The respective project elements of enforcement and support are interdependent and are of equally importance.

The project has been carefully planned and designed on a broad multi-agency multi-disciplinary basis taking into account the views of service users and practitioners from the Criminal Justice System and health and social care agencies for the statutory and voluntary sector. The project has also been openly applauded by drug using offenders who have now successfully rehabilitated.

I would have no hesitation in commending this project for an award.

Mr. Andy Stelman (Probation Service):

The Wirral Pier Project is one of 5 such projects across the county. In all of them, police, probation and relevant service providers work together to support offenders identified as the most prolific in the area. Since the great majority of the offenders we deal with are Class A Drug 'misusers', it soon became apparent that rapid access to drugs treatment services was essential to the development of the project. Fast-tracking offenders into drug services is a big inducement (a "carrot") that the project can offer.

Formal joint probation and police supervision (either as a Community Order or a prison licence requirement) is structured around four appointments a week which includes attending joint appointments with drug workers and also includes weekly home visits from the police officers. This lasts for a minimum of six months. With Class 'A' drug misusing offenders, assessment and treatment planning must be the first priority. Complementing this is an overall assessment of criminogenic need - basic skills training, employment opportunities, accommodation, counselling courses, thinking strategies and development of constructive leisure activities. It should be emphasised, however, that at the core is drug misuse.

Access to immediate treatment is exceptionally important. On one level, there is no doubt that the offender is at his or her most vulnerable at this point and if the offender can access treatment immediately then there is an argument that chances of successful rehabilitation is increased. At another level, however, it is often argued by both opinion formers and individual offenders alike that offences are committed to survive an illness called drug addiction and if only treatment was available, reform is at hand. By such a close working relationship, the project endeavours to ensure that no offender has an excuse for not availing him or herself of treatment. If we offer the best possible service, then the offender cannot blame the 'system'. By closing down all avenues of rationalisation, the offender must then confront the truth about their behaviour. If they then continues to offend, they will be removed from the community.

The team is acutely aware of the need for prompt and strict enforcement. Given the very nature of the offenders who are being supervised, strict enforcement is not a requirement but rather a prerequisite. By being both proactive in terms of enforcement and pursuing immediate recalls, it is believed that further offending is stopped. If a person's drug use escalates to such a level that they are unable to keep scheduled appointment, then it is a reasonable assumption that the person has returned to offending to facilitate drug use.

With a good working relationship with the Sentence Enforcement Unit, immediate recall can be affected within seventy two hours (initiating breach to prison cell). Most are effective within a week.

It is a principle of the project that once an offender is on the scheme, they will remain one of our cases until rehabilitation - we will write the PSR and supervise all his future licences. Continuity of supervision is a principle that underpins the project.

Recent Home Office research ("An Impact Assessment of the Prolific and other Priority Offender

Programme" 08/07) identified that in general such projects have ensured that PPO offenders reduced their offending by 43% once on the projects. This global figure is reflected in John Holmes' statistics earlier in this submission. I would argue that PPO projects (and the Wirral project in particular) are shining examples of what can be done when agencies work together with a common purpose, utilising all the strengths available from the statutory, private, voluntary and community sectors.

Superintendent Darren Martland:

The PIER Project has undoubtedly contributed to the impressive and sustained reduction in acquisitive crime seen in the Wirral over the past 3 years.

Analysis of crime led to a clearer understanding of the impact that drug taking, and the significant part that it plays in the cause of acquisitive crime, which led to the development of the PIER team. The principles of the programme are simple but have proven to be highly effective in offering support to divert people from drug taking in order to reduce offending and increase confidence in our communities.

The success of the PIER Project is self evident and attributable to the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of each member of the team and willingness of each organization to support the programme by providing appropriate resourcing. The level of support and expertise of the people involved has clearly been influential in encouraging clients to join the programme and make a conscious effort not to re-offend.

We are very proud of the achievements of the PIER Project and believe that everyone involved deserves the acknowledgement and national recognition of their efforts that would be gained by entry for a Tilley Award.

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**. 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.