



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: **Tackling City Centre Alcohol Related Disorder and Violence – Festival Period**

Name of force/agency/CDRP/CSP: The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership

Name of one contact person with position and/or rank (this should be one of the authors): Jacqui Doig, Acting Community Safety Strategy Manager

Email address: [jacqui.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Full postal address: The City of Edinburgh Council, Community Safety Unit, Level 4, Chesser House, 500 Gorgie, Edinburgh, EH11 3YJ

Telephone number: 0131 469 3827

Fax number: 0131 529 2280

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

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s): Mr Gordon Greenhill

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s): The City of Edinburgh Council, Head of Community Safety

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s): Business Centre C5, Courtyard, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, EH8 8BG

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 (400)

The **Tackling City Centre Alcohol Related Disorder and Violence – Festival Period Initiative** was developed in response to rising levels of alcohol related violence in the city.

The links between alcohol and crime are well established. The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnerships 2004 Audit and subsequent analytical reports highlighted alcohol related violence as a significant problem. There was also increasing concern amongst the business communities that alcohol related violence and general disorder was on the increase while transportation providers were becoming increasingly concerned with the level of disorder and the safety of passengers using services.

A number of agencies were affected by the costs associated with this type of violence/disorder. It was clear that the problem could be best tackled by adopting problem solving partnership approach. The Partnership set up a working group to discuss the problem and possible solutions. The group identified common attributes and conditions (place, time, people involved, physical environment, causes) which aided them in developing a package of interventions to reduce, eliminate, better handle or lessen the impact of alcohol related disorder within the City during the festival period.

### **Package**

1. **Safe Zone Transport Marshals/Police Officers (Operation Artesian):** To facilitate the movement of people and help those who aren't able to care for themselves (under the influence). To prevent/control behaviour and assist with effective dispersal.
2. **Covert Police/Council Operation (Operation Academy):** To prevent/control behaviour.
3. **Detached Youth Work (Winter Wonderland):** Engaging young people in hotspot areas to change culture and behaviour.
4. **Mobile CCTV (Winter Wonderland/George Street):** To prevent/control behaviour and assist with the effective dispersal.
5. **Enforcement Support for Problem Premises (Operation Anchovy):** To discourage and prevent licensees from selling alcohol to young people and that persons acting as agents are identified and apprehended. Proactive level of enforcement and prosecution of problem premises, including enforcement of licence conditions.
6. **Gateway Checks (Operation Abseil):** To prevent underage drinking and identifying those in possession of weapons/drugs.
7. **Additional CCTV (George Street):** To prevent/control behaviour and assist with the effective dispersal.

### **The main outcomes of the project**

1. Reduction in violence and disorder in Central Local Policing Area (LPA)
2. Reduction in youth related violence in Central LPA
3. More effective exodus of night time economy users from city centre
4. Increasing public reassurance through highly visible presence
5. Reduction in numbers of young people in receipt of alcohol/weapons
6. Increase level of joint up working to tackle the problem

### Section 3: Description of project (4000)

#### 1. Objections of the project:

This issue of alcohol related violence was initially raised as a priority within the Community Safety Audit in 2004. There were a number of agencies involved in targeting work in this area. However measures involving a range of partners with a problem solving focus were limited. The issue was further flagged up as a priority of the business community through the City Centre Management Company who act as the liaison between the business community and council.

The well established Community Safety Partnership has strong links with a number of agencies involved in community safety. A working group was established which consisted of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The group was tasked with identifying the problem by grouping recurring incidents to identify hot spots and commonalities; gaining an understanding of the problem by identifying links between incidents and causes; and developing responses by pulling together a tailor made package of interventions which could tackle the aspects of the problem which were amenable to intervention. The objective of the group was clear and specific: *to reduce alcohol related violence in known city centre hot spot area between December 2006 and March 2007.*

The resources to deliver the package of interventions was secured by The Partnership who submitted the proposals to the Scottish Executive who had funding available to take local action on alcohol related crime. The Partnership was awarded £60,000 in 2006/07.

The Partnership placed significant emphasis on joint working to achieve the best outcome. This was built into the project from the onset. Community Safety staff operated from West End Police Station for the duration of Operation Academy. Licensing Standards Officers were co-located with Police Officers at the City Centre Policing Unit for the purposes of Operation Anchovy. Police Officers also operated from CCTV Central Monitoring Facility in support of all the exercises.

#### **Working Group Membership:**

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC): Representatives from a number of divisions (inc Community Safety, Anti-social Behaviour, CCTV suite, Trading Standards, Education and Social Work).

Lothian and Borders Police (LBP)

City Centre Management Company (CCMC)

6VT (voluntary youth group)

Lothian Regional Transport (LRT)

First Bus

Detailed activity reports were completed by frontline staff and assessments made by the working group as to where early intervention prevented arrest and/or escalation of problems on the ground. Daily monitoring in conjunction with all relevant partners was taken to ensure that the planned responses remained relevant to the problem. A master log was created for all activity related to this initiative with details of all arrests, knife, drug and alcohol seizures and offences detected.

Notable arrests and success stories were passed for consideration for press release after consultation with partners increasing public awareness of the ongoing work in this area.

#### 2. Definition of the problem:

##### **Main data sources:**

1. Community Safety Partnership Audit 2004
2. Towards a Plan for Action on Alcohol Misuse: Summary of Evidence, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2002
3. Lothian and Borders Police

The night economy of Edinburgh is burgeoning, and comparing all Scottish cities and towns, Edinburgh has the highest proportion of on-sale licensed premises per 10,000 population. In terms of public house licenses alone, Edinburgh has 747 compared to 713 in Glasgow. The greatest concentration of licensed premises is in the Central policing area which has 56 entertainment, 49 hotel, 177 off sale, 368 public house, 60 refreshment and 119 restaurant licenses.

The night economy is characterised by people frequenting the city centre to socialise in restaurants, theatres, public houses and licensed clubs. Whilst it is difficult to estimate numbers, it is thought that as many as 50,000 people visit the city centre each night at the weekend to socialise with even greater numbers using the city centre over the festive period.

Policing issues are centred around antisocial behaviour, minor disturbances, assaults and robberies. Invariably, alcohol is a contributory factor in these incidents. On average, in the Central area, 375 incidents in licensed premises are recorded each month. These are reported incidents and therefore only a representative proportion of what actually occurs.

Although relatively speaking, the level of serious and violent crime in the city centre is low, the reassurance gap (the difference between reality and perception) is a significant activity for the police, City of Edinburgh Council, commercial activity and the public.

The City of Edinburgh Community Safety Audit 2004 highlighted the following:

- Between April and September 2004, 730 incidents relating to violent, sexual and offensive weapon offences were reported within A Division. Of the 730 incidents 338 incidents occurred at licensed premises, which is 46% of all crimes reported.
- Minor assaults made up 91% of violent, sexual and offensive weapon offences taking place in licensed premises.
- Serious Assaults peak around 0300-0400 while assault and robbery peaked between midnight and 0000hrs. The majority of offences being reported within the city centre. While admissions to Accident & Emergency peak between 0100-0300.
- That 19 licensed premises suffered four or more incidents within a six-month period representing 52% of the total of reported crimes at licensed premises. Thirteen of these premises were nightclubs with extended licensing hours until 0300hrs.
- In a six-month period over 8% (3,282) of A&E attendances were alcohol related whilst the most common age range for alcohol related issues in the 18-29 year old bracket, with 60% of these being male.
- In 2002, there were 163 deaths registered in Edinburgh where alcohol was a known underlying or contributing cause of death.

Towards a Plan for Action on Alcohol Misuse: Summary of Evidence

This report highlighted the perceived link between alcohol misuse and violent crime, vandalism, disorder, fear of crime and threats to public safety. It noted that alcohol misuse contributed to crime levels in a number of ways:

- Through offences relating to alcohol (being drunk and disorderly, drunk and incapable, driving while under the influence of alcohol and being drunk in charge of a child);
- Selling / serving alcohol to people under age;
- Committing offences whilst under the influence of alcohol.

It also identified that:

- 64% of offenders and 44% of victims of crime had been drinking at the time of a violent offence.
- Police time accounted for 75% of the costs of alcohol misuse to the Scottish criminal justice system and emergency services (with prosecutions, custodial sentences and drink driving campaigning accounting for the remainder).
- The cost to the criminal justice system and emergency services associated with alcohol misuse in Scotland is £267.9 million per annum.

The information provided by Lothian and Borders Police Divisional Intelligence Unit identified areas with a high incidence of alcohol related crime and disorder. The problem profile also highlighted trends in relation to crime and disorder. The report identified that several new licensed premises opening in George Street had had an influence on alcohol related issues and dispersal in the surrounding areas. The provided details on the number of incidents between: 1 November 2005 – 31 January 2006 and 1 between 1800-0600 (taking into account later opening hours during the festival months). Theft was the most frequently reported crimes during the period in George Street were theft (170), minor assault (91) and breach of the peace (43). (See Table 1.1 for a full breakdown). The analysis identified peak times as Friday night/Saturday morning (2100-2300, 0000-0200) and Saturday night/Sunday morning (0000-0300).

### 3. Response to the problem

### **1. Introduction of Safe Zone Transport Marshals and Police Officers (Operation Artesian)**

Transport Marshals were positioned at a number of principle taxi ranks (Lothian Road, West End of Princes Street, Waverly Bridge) throughout the city centre to ensure the safety of members of the public travelling home after a night out. Seven Transport Marshals patrolled these safe zones between the 1-30 December (2200-0400hrs) for a total of 12 evenings from 13-31 March (2200-0400hrs) for 1 night per weekend.

Safe Zone Police Officers were deployed to three areas covered by the Safe Zone Transport Marshals to provide public reassurance and timely support to Marshals as required. These officers were in addition to City Centre Policing Unit resources. All sites were in direct and indirect contact with public space CCTV and Police Force Control.

During this period four males were arrested for fighting in the vicinity of taxi ranks. Numerous positive comments were received throughout the period of the initiative from the public regarding the Transport Marshals presence and there was a general consensus that feelings of safety and security in the area had increased (Outcome 4). Feedback from a number of taxi drivers during December was in support of this pilot project being continued and expanded. Many agreed that with Transport Marshals in place they now pick up from ranks they would once have avoided.

During this period The Partnership also commissioned and produced business card sized fold out maps of the city which included information on night buses, taxi stance details, personal safety messages and useful telephone numbers. These were circulated to users within the areas of intervention. All of these measures allowed for more effective exodus of night time economy users from the city centre (Outcome 3).

### **2. Covert Police/Council Operation (Operation Academy)**

Covert officers (police and council) were responsible for targeting known youth alcohol hotspots, focussing particularly on early evening alcohol seizures at known drinking haunts, and primary access corridors to the city centre thereby providing early intervention. Four covert police/council officers operated on Friday and Saturday evenings (1730-2300hrs) from 8-30 December. Links were established with the Central Youth Action Team who could involve parents to provide 'real time' intervention.

During this operation a total of 90 youths were stopped with approximately 191 litres of alcohol confiscated. On the weekend of the 16 and 17 December 2006 officers stopped 41 youths and seized 46 litres of alcohol. The total alcohol haul included 39 litres of cider and 18 litres of vodka (See tables 1.2 and 1.3). A number of weapon searches were also conducted but all returned negative results. The details of a number of the youths have been recorded by the police. This intervention contributed to Outcomes 1,2,4 and 5.

### **3. Provide Detached Youth Work in support of police operations at Winter Wonderland**

Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December (1800-2200hrs) 6VT provided detached youth work support (2 youth workers) within Winter Wonderland and East End of Princes Street on seven priority evenings. Friday nights were busier and more aggressive than others, but workers found fewer groups of young people drinking as weeks progressed. Some recruits were identified for the 6VT Turnaround Project and other youth café services.

### **4. Provide Mobile CCTV support to police operations at Winter Wonderland/George Street**

The mobile CCTV unit was deployed to support police and 6VT operations at Winter Wonderland and the East End of Princes Street on 6 weekends. Thursday-Saturday from 23 November (1800-2300 hrs) and for 3 weekends on Thursday-Saturday from 7 December the unit was re-deployed to George Street (corner of George and Hanover Street) to provide CCTV coverage from 2330-0400 hrs.

The footage from these units was used to direct police officers on the ground to incidents and for court productions upon arrest. Police Officers involved in the element agreed that the units had significant impact on crime and disorder.

### **5. Provide Enforcement Support for Problem Premises (Operation Anchovy)**

Police Officers operating 1500-0300hrs and 2 Licensing Standards Officer operating 2200-0300hrs Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December and Friday and Saturdays between 15-30 December and on Thursday 21 December

Early evening the unit patrolled off sales and supported their management to ensure that sales of alcohol to young people are prevented and persons acting as agents identified and apprehended. Fifty-two licensed off-sales premises within the Central LPA were visited prior to the first weekend of joint operations where officers distributed pack providing detailed information on:

- Staff training
- ID Policy: Highlighting a number of schemes, which require staff to ask for proof of ages where the customer looks under 21. The pack included a poster highlighting the policy to be displayed in the premises.
- Refusal book: Introducing the idea of refusal books where details of refused sales were recorded for inspection by the management.

A total of 295 visits were made to 52 off sale licensees on the dates specified. During the operation 2 off sale licensees and one-adult acting as an agent were reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Agencies involved believe that the operation has had a significant impact on the availability of alcohol to young people in the city centre. There is intention to maintain the profile of the operation through regular visits over the coming months. Visits were well received by traders.

Late evening the unit supported high profile policing and searches at Public House and Nightclub premises using hand held metal detectors to apprehend patrons carrying weapons and drugs dogs to detect drugs offences. In total 120 licensed premises visited with 888 patrons scanned by the metal detector and drugs dog (where possible). No weapons were seized during these searches. However there were 10 positive drug searches and subsequent charges. During these searches Licensing Standards Officer advised licensees in relation to preventing over consumption of alcohol and the problems that can arise as a result.

### **6. Gateway Checks (Operation Abseil)**

On the weekends 8-9 and 22-23 December Gateway Checks, by Police and Bus Route Managers (LRT and First Bus) were carried out on the main arterial routes to the city centre. The emphasis was on seizures of alcohol and weapons from youths, as well as providing reassurance to members of the public and reinforcing the message to offenders that antisocial behaviour on buses would not be tolerated.

Six Police Officers boarded 104 buses at two locations on Friday 8 and 22 and Saturday 9 and 23 of December. The team were also supported by a mobile unit. Checks were carried out between the hours of 1730-2300. Intelligence gathered from these checks will also be passed to officers working to secure the city centre Safe Zones, as well as the parallel operation at Winter Wonderland.

One hundred and four Gateway Checks were completed and 12 litres of alcohol were seized during the first weekend and a very small quantity over the second, no disorder was reported. Opinion of bus drivers was that word had spread between the first and second week of operation that disorder would not be tolerated. Positive comments received about the levels of reassurance being offered to both bus drivers and law abiding members of the public bringing their families into the city centre for the festivities.

### **7. Install Additional CCTV (George Street)**

The increase in licensed premises opening in George Street had resulted in an increase in alcohol related issues, particularly dispersal issues, in the surrounding areas. Funding was secured to purchase and install two dome cameras in George Street to fill gaps in the existing coverage. Cameras were to be installed initially for a 3 month period in order to overcome planning issues. However problems with the premises in which one of the systems was to be located meant that this element of the project was delayed. The Partnership recognises that problems with disorder and dispersal can still be improved by a CCTV system therefore the installation will go ahead although later than anticipated.

As a direct result of the strong partnership working the multi- agency group have been able to respond to new and emerging issues identified through the ESCP TAC i.e. an immediate multi-agency response to problems street furniture and rubbish being thrown from bridges.

Indeed the success of this initiative has resulted in ongoing partnership working with full partner buy in to extend the operations beyond the festive period. The joint working has been extended to include Wardens enforcement of late night table & chairs and catering licenses thus supporting the effective exodus of the night time economy.

Further successes in other areas were achieved during the period of the initiative. An unlicensed street trader operating a hot food takeaway in an unsafe and unhygienic manner was dealt with swiftly with 67 cases of meat products seized and destroyed. An investigation continues in relation to this with a view to a report being made to the Procurator Fiscal. Mobile CCTV Units identified a number of registered sex offenders within the Winter Wonderland event area leading to immediate Police action.

Table 1.1: Incidents on George Street: 1 Nov 2005 – 31 January 2006.

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>No</b>
Theft	170
Minor assault	91
Breach of the peace	43
Shoplifting	33
Vandalism	24
Mal mis (motor vehicle)	21
HB – business	13
HB - domestic	7
RTA offences	37
Resisting arrest	7
OLP	10
Theft pedal cycle	6
Racially aggravated conduct	5
Poss offensive weapon	7
Poss drugs	5
Autocrime	14
Fraud	7
Assault and robbery	2
Serious assault	4
Rape	1
Indecent assault	3
Public indecency	3
Sexual breach of the peace	1
Communication Act	-
Drugging	-
Other	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>552</b>

Table 1.2

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Weekend 1</b>	<b>Weekend 2</b>	<b>Weekend 3</b>	<b>Weekend 4</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Youths Stopped	50	40			90
Alcohol Seized (litres approx.)	60	42	30	59	191
Licensed Premises Visited	120				120
Buses Boarded	64	0	40	0	104
Patrons scanned (Drugs Dog)	500	0	362	0	862
Positive Drugs Searches	5	0	1		6
Weapons Searches	16	10	-	-	26
Positive Weapons Searches	0	0	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1399</b>

Table 1.3

<b>Alcohol Seized</b>	<b>Weekend 1</b>	<b>Weekend 2</b>	<b>Weekend 3</b>	<b>Weekend 4</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Mixed (ltrs)	29	14	15	14	72
Vodka (ltrs)	5	7	2	4	18
Beer (bottles)	17	6	24	0	47
Beer (litres)	0	0	0	24	24
Lager (ltrs)	0	6	0	0	6
Wine	0	0	0	3	3
Fortified Wine (ltrs)	0	0	1	0	1
Buckfast (bottles)	4 bottles	2 bottles	0	2 bottles	8
Cider (ltrs)	15	11	0	13	39
<b>Total (litres approx.)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>191</b>



SERVICES for COMMUNITIES

Alex Blackwell	Date	26 April 2007
Home Office		
Effective Practice, Support and Communications Team	Your ref	
6 <sup>th</sup> Floor		
Peel Building (SE Quarter)	Our ref	Tilley Awards
Entry 2007		
2 Marsham Street		
London		
SW1 P4DF		

Dear Mr Blackwell

Entry for Tilley Awards 2007: The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership

Please find attached the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership entry for the Tilley Awards 2007. I can confirm that all agencies who have contributed to this initiative have been informed of this entry to prevent any duplication.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this entry please do not hesitate to contact Jacqui Doig, Acting Community Safety Strategy Manager on 0131 469 3827 or email [Jacqui.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqui.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

[signed copy in post]

Gordon Greenhill  
Head of Community Safety  
Services for Communities

GORDON GREENHILL  
HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3YJ, Tel 0131 529 7966 Fax 0131 529  
2280/529 7281  
[Gordon.greenhill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.greenhill@edinburgh.gov.uk)