



# Home Office

## Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

### Tilley Awards 2008 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 [tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008**. 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.

#### Section A: Application basics

1. Title of the project: 'The Community Safety Action Zone'

2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence:

A multi-Agency Team that concentrates on Crime & Disorder geographical hotspot areas.

#### Author contact details

3. Name of application author: Ray Williams Community Safety Manager Essex Police Basildon. (Vice Chair of Group)

4. Organisation submitting the application: Basildon CDRP

5. Full postal address:

Basildon Police Station

Great Oaks

Basildon

Essex

SS14 1EJ

6. Email address: ray.williams@essex.pnn.police.uk

7. Telephone number: 01268 244023

#### Secondary project contact details

8. Name of secondary contact involved in the project:

Chief Inspector Mark Wheeler (Chair of Group)

9. Secondary contact email address:

mark.wheeler@essex.pnn.police.uk

10. Secondary contact telephone number:

01268 532212

#### Endorsing representative contact details

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation:

Bala Mahendran Chief Executive of Basildon District Council & Chair of the Basildon CDRP.

12. Endorsing representative's email address:

bala.mahendran@basildon.gov.uk

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13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your organisation is covered by e.g. GO East Midlands:

Eastern Region @Cambridge.

**14. Please mark this box with an X 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 B: Summary of application - In no more than 400 words use this space to provide a summary of your project under the stated headings (see guidance for more information).**

**Scanning:**

The Community Safety Action Zone was set up about six years ago to concentrate on local crime & disorder hotspots within the Basildon District. The CSAZ is a multi-agency group which having identified an area then proceed to work in partnership to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the residents. The group stay in each area for three months and focus on a small geographical area to reduce recorded crime and incidents of disorder. The concentration of resources ensures that residents notice there is action taking place and get a feel that the agencies really do care about their wellbeing.

**Analysis:**

The areas selected are analysed by the local Police Researcher who also endeavours to collect as much data and information as possible from the other agencies so that each location is selected in partnership. Because Basildon has high levels of deprivation finding suitable venues is not a problem and the hotspots are well known to each individual agency.

**Response:**

Each time the CSAZ Delivery Group moves into an area the issues are discussed in great detail not just within the group but by co-opting local residents and elected members onto the group. Much of our work is to assist and guide the local residents, schools and clubs in how to best manage their activities with a view to reducing crime and disorder using the knowledge and expertise of our members.

**Assessment:**

During and at the end of each three month period the group evaluates the effect of its work by studying police statistics other agency referrals and by monitoring the general feeling from the residents. We ask the residents co opted onto the group questions such as 'do you feel we tried to make a difference' , 'do you feel safer as a result of our efforts' 'has the fear of crime gone down'. A priority for the group is to ensure that when it moves out of an area some of the interventions instigated continue so that residents don't feel abandoned .

**State number of words: 338**

**Section C: Description of project** - Describe the project in no more than 4,000 words. Please refer to the full guidance for more information on what the description should cover, in particular section 11.

**Scanning:**

To respond to the Crime and Disorder act in 1998 the Basildon CDRP decided it needed to organise a group that would be made up of all the partner agencies which could concentrate on small geographical areas of the District., By all agencies working together in small areas the aim was to ensure that not only did we reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents but that the residents themselves realised we were working for their benefit. . Initially a small group of core members compiled a list of all the Partner Agencies to be invited to the first meeting. During the second and subsequent meetings the whole group then suggested further names to ensure representation from all those Agencies that would be needed, this included Residents, Elected Members etc. Over the last six years the membership has continued to grow with some members only co-opted according to the area being targeted Since the group was set up we have had some major successes and a few less impressive outcomes but overall the residents have welcomed our involvement whether or not all desired outcomes have been achieved.

Whenever we move into an area we start by holding an initial meeting of core partners and then proceed to identify those people we need to co-opt onto the group. Normally we manage to get such people as local residents, members of the church, people from minority backgrounds and elected members to join us.

From experience we ensure our meetings during the three month period are located within the heart of the community i.e. local village hall or school etc. It is essential the local people can attend the meetings and realise we are serious about trying to bring about a change. To ensure all the residents were aware of our presence we delivered flyers to each household giving brief descriptions of what we were intending to achieve. We began by delivering them personally but after a few years due to resource implications we had to let our local newspaper take over.

Each area is chosen after careful analysis of crime & incident data plus any other partnership information that can be obtained. This includes information such as Fire & Rescue hoax calls & the number of arson fires, reports of ASB to our ASB Team , amount of graffiti & other vandalism. . Additional to this we include data from the Council on noise complaints, numbers of abandoned vehicles, pest control incidents, data from the PCT on levels of teenage pregnancies, obesity and smoking.

**Analysis:**

Each month the group records the issues discussed and the actions agreed by the multi-agency team.

Although the local police researcher provides details of recorded crimes and incidents once the meetings commence the various agencies and community members around the table are also asked what they consider to be the problems in the area. Sometimes this results in perceptions rather than evidence of actual problems being put forward, e.g.:- our estate is the subject of continued drug dealing with people selling drugs everywhere. We set out to establish from police figures and other agency knowledge whether such statements are valid true or just a perception. Where the issue is young people causing ASB and nuisance we also try to get a representative of the young people themselves to attend the meeting and tell us their side of the story. Experience has shown us that sometimes an adults perception of nuisance can be seen in a totally different light by the young people. Is a group of youths standing outside someone's house talking really ASB or just a group of youths talking with nowhere else to go.

Part of the groups remit is to establish the facts from all sides before proceeding to try and come up with appropriate actions. One of the things we have tried, as a result of experience, is to ask the local residents what they would like us to achieve while in their area. We have found that residents can start by being very aggressive towards us because they feel we are just another talking shop but they quickly turn positive once they see we actually mean business. We ask the question 'what would you like us to achieve whilst we are here' and then setting out to try and achieve those goals where finance and resources allow. We find that by using this technique they then have ownership and become active members of the Group themselves Being an active member with the other Agencies also brings a sense of reality to the views of the residents, as they discover its one thing to ask for something but totally another to deliver everything people ask..

**Response:**

Our response is based on agreement from all sides as to what we are seeking to achieve and why.

Each time we spend time in a particular area the specific issues tend to be different but the overall problems are

*Insert Project name*

normally very similar. Youth nuisance is always an issue and has been since the group started in 1998. The CSAZ view has been to identify why the youths are behaving in a certain way and then look to develop short term and long term solutions. Generally problems with young people arise from a lack of suitable facilities and here we normally try to encourage local residents to get involved in setting up a club or drop in centre something the young people actually want. This process has worked well and in our current & previous area a Youth Club has been set up with local residents assisting. Initial start up funding has often come from the group itself by way of CDRP Safer Stronger Communities funding. Very often the local residents and others just need a guide from the professionals e.g. the Youth Service and Council Community Development Workers. Other ideas the Group has used over the years include Art Walls to divert the young people away from graffiti and here we have employed an expert to ensure the young people get fully involved in the project and therefore have a sense of ownership. In most cases Art Walls stay graffiti free long after the project has been completed. A common approach to all our chosen areas has been the multi-agency site visits. Rather than just talk about the problem group members have visited the venue and walked around the area in question. This approach has resulted in target hardening initiatives such as the Parks Department cutting back hedges around car parks to improve natural surveillance, removing branches of trees that have surrounded lamp columns and improving the light output from old street columns. In recent years we have encouraged PCSO's to assist in local youth clubs and ensured they get to know the local people as part of the Neighbourhood Policing concept. Several years ago the Partnership purchased a Drugs information bus manned by drugs outreach workers which is now an integral part of the Action Zone initiatives. The bus goes out at times (identified by residents) as most likely to engage with the young people at risk of drug abuse. A more recent approach to tackle drug issues has been to set up awareness evenings for Parents and Teachers so they know what to look for in a young persons behaviour and also to give them detailed information on the types of drugs and associated side effects.

In July 2006 we decided to improve the work of the group by a slightly different approach. We identified the next four areas the group were going to target and then set about expanding our Partnership membership by holding a special one day event (The Partnership Action Day). The four areas chosen were Pitsea Market, King Edward Estate, South Green Billericay and Shotgate in Wickford. The areas were identified using Police data on crimes and incidents, Council data on noise nuisance, abandoned vehicles, pest control, PCT data on teenage pregnancies, obesity, smoking, and data from the Fire service on burnt out vehicles and malicious fires. Having identified these areas we then invited our Partner Agencies to choose which area they wished to be involved in, these partners were in addition to the core team. The Day started with introductions and a briefing from the Chair of the CDRP. We arranged for four buses to take the delegates to their respective chosen areas. Each bus had a facilitator and a full briefing pack was made available showing location, population, crime and other relevant information. Once at the venue the delegates who included residents and elected members were asked to walk the area and see for themselves the problems. The buses then returned to the starting point and each group formed a workshop to discuss the issues & possible remedies. (Government Office at Cambridge also attended this event).

This was extremely successful and led to future meetings of CSAZ being far better attended. In fact so good that several meeting venues after the event had to be cancelled to make way for larger rooms. The day was deemed to be a success because of the very high turn out by people who had not engaged with the partnership before and also the ideas and solutions that they put forward at the workshops. Many of those attending were also local residents, elected members, parish councillors & church members.

#### **Assessment:**

Measurement of success takes several forms starting with basic police statistics to measure our 'before' and 'after' effect and also comparing the crime & number of incidents for the same period the year before. In some cases we have decided to concentrate on an area for longer than three months providing all the Partner agencies agreed this was for the benefit of that community. For us however, the main thrust of success is to hear from the residents themselves that they feel better as a result of our work & that we leave each area with some initiatives still continuing. While reducing crime & ASB is always a priority but the CSAZ is more about trying to empower the local communities to get involved and help themselves.

Since 1998 we have worked in many areas of the District and listed below are some of the outcomes achieved.  
Craylands Estate July-August 2004 Summer Holiday initiative.

This included a day of action by the Partnership on the Estate with such things organised as skate boarding for young people, medical advice from the PCT for young mothers, advice from local housing officers & general crime prevention & safety advice. Also during this period the Positive Futures project set up football coaching with participation from members of West Ham football club to give the youngsters something to do during the school

holidays. Various activities were also laid on at a local school for young girls not interested in the football. During the period in question incidents reported to police fell by 24.3% compared with the same period the year before.

Shotgate Wickford January –April 2005.

Extra High Visibility Patrols were set up to address ASB by young people, extra graffiti clean up teams were used to target the area, drug advice information evenings were arranged for parents, a rubbish amnesty was initiated , abandoned vehicles were targeted and removed and a Partnership day similar to Craylands took place. During this period reported crime reduced by 31% compared with the same period a year before.

Queens Park Estate Billericay June –September 2005

A day of partnership action was organised in a local community hall, Essex Fire & Rescue offered free smoke detectors to residents, additional High Visibility Patrols took place during times when ASB was at its highest, extra facilities were laid on to remove rubbish & remove abandoned vehicles. During this period reported crime reduced by 40% compared with the same period a year before.

Vange Estate October –December 2005

Additional high Visibility patrols were increased, the local drugs agency set up its services in the local library for several hours a week, a general rubbish & graffiti clean up took place, support was given from the partnership to the local youth club , the partnership drugs bus with detached workers targeted the area and there were many other activities during the period in question. During this period we have to confess reported crime did go up by 4.4% compared with the same period a year before but local residents & young people were left in no doubt about our efforts to assist them.

Pitsea Market Area. October 06-January 07.-

As always extra High Visibility patrols took place in target areas, an art wall for young people was set up, various partnership site visits took place to witness graffiti & vandalism first hand followed by the clean up teams. Negotiations with the local secondary school took place over the behaviour of the pupils when they entered the market at lunchtimes, a 'Truancy Free Zone' was set up so that shopkeepers would refuse to serve young people who obviously should be at school & then they contacted the school with the pupil's descriptions. Information on Crime Reduction & Housing issues was also provided at the local library. During this period incidents reduced by 18%, incidents of ASB reduced by 42% & reported crime reduced by 5 % compared with the same period the year before.

King Edward Estate. February-April 07

Extra High Visibility Patrols were set up, an art wall project was set up to help with a bad graffiti problem, a youth club was set up by the partnership with local residents then taking ownership, clean up teams were moved in to make the estate look better, Trading standards undertook several test purchasing initiatives due a problem with under age drinking, Police & partner agencies took part in visits with the mobile police station, 5 young people from the estate were put on the Essex Fire Service youth diversion scheme 'Firebreak & a mother and toddler group was set up. During this period incidents were reduced by 56%, incidents of ASB reduced by 63% but reported crime stayed static compared with the same period a year before.

South Green Billericay. November- 07 – January 08.

Extra High Visibility patrols were set up, the local Parish Council agreed to fund four young people for the Firebreak diversion scheme, trading standards organised test purchasing at local shops due to severe under age drinking problems. The Parish Council realised that other areas had a Community Development Officer who worked with the community so they agreed to fund one themselves. The Partnership assisted the local members to set up a youth club & the CDRP helped with funding. . At the last meeting of the group, local parish councillors commented as follows:-'You are no longer faceless people and a lot has been achieved whilst you have been here' , 'It has all been very positive'. Evaluation is still taking place.

**State number of words used: 2492**

**Section D: Endorsement by Senior Representative - Please insert letter from endorsing representative, this will not count towards your word or 1MB size limit restrictions.**

As the Chair of the Basildon Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership I am delighted to support and recommend this application for consideration of a Tilley Award.

The Community Safety Action Zone Group (CSAZ) implements a multi-agency response to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and in other ways improve the quality of life of people living in specifically identified geographic areas in need of extra attention.

This Group has been active in several geographic areas between 2005-2008 with outstanding outcomes in terms of crime and disorder reduction and public satisfaction.

You will have seen within this application the wide range of interventions that are applied and the mix of agencies and resources that are used to benefit the communities served.

GO East, Regional Office, Cambridge has identified this Group as 'best practice' within the Region particularly with regard to it involving members of the community, elected members and representatives from the different agencies in the planning and implementation processes.

I commend this application and hope it receives your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely



Bala Mahendran  
Chair of the Basildon CDRP  
and Chief Executive of Basildon District Council

**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 e.g. civil or criminal proceedings pending in relation to your project?
7. Have you inserted your project name as a footer note on the application form?  
Go to View-Header and Footer to add it.

*Insert Project name*

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

8. Have you saved you application form as a word document and entitled your message '**Tilley 08 entry (followed by project name in brackets)**' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to [Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk). One hard copy must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice & Communication Team, 4th Floor, Fry Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and be received by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

*Insert Project name*