



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.

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25th 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: PAC against ASB

2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence:
Anti –Social Behaviour

Author contact details

3. Name of application author: Ali Gillings-Husbands

4. Organisation submitting the application: Partners Against Crime

5. Full postal address: Midsummer Place Police Station, 417 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3DX

6. Email address: ali.gillings@btconnect.com

7. Telephone number: 01908 696660/07789 167959

Secondary project contact details

8. Name of secondary contact involved in the project: PC Dave Goodwin

9. Secondary contact email address: dave.goodwin@milton-keynes.gov.uk

10. Secondary contact telephone number: 01908 254671/07970 145968

Endorsing representative contact details

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation: Paul Tilbury

12. Endorsing representative's email address: paul.tilbury@midsummerplace.co.uk

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: Government Office South East

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:

This project has targeted anti-social behaviour around the central shopping complexes in Milton Keynes. The problem was highlighted in local press causing the local community to become increasingly concerned. At the initial stage the problem had a visual as well as a psychological effect on local community.

The behaviour highlighted included begging, drunkenness, abusive and aggressive behaviour.

As the local crime reduction partnership we were approached by local businesses and our key stakeholders to address the problem. The project involved many key representatives from Central Shopping Centre management/security, Thames Valley Police, community safety partnership and local businesses.

Analysis:

The scale of the project was assessed taking into account complaints to Police, recorded crime, complaints to shopping centre stakeholders and newspaper articles. As well as reports to our partnership.

The original problem began with a large group of drinkers in the area surrounding the main shopping centre. The police dealt with any criminal incidents and the shopping centre's as well as Partners Against Crime issued banning notices to the most prolific offenders.

Other avenues were explored and dealt with specific issues at specific times but did not address the overall issue.

Prior to the start of problems in 2005 anti-social behaviour had not caused our stakeholders any major concerns.

Response:

It was clear to PAC and stakeholders that we had to make a stand and show the local community that such behaviour was not acceptable in our town centre and therefore Ant-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) were applied for.

Our previous responses had only tackled problem in the short term, ASBO's not only reduced the problem they stopped it.

The press coverage on the original issues and offenders allowed general public and would be offenders to see that in Central Milton Keynes all the partners work together to tackle such problems and since the original 10 ASBO's in the town Centre a further 2 have been successful, most recent being in December 2007 and a further 2 cases are now being looked at.

Assessment:

Calls to police have dramatically reduced since the original case, and although the problem has not disappeared any further cases are highlighted much more quickly and the partnership working is a much smoother process allowing anti-social behaviour to be dealt with quickly and affectively.

The shopping centres no longer receive complaints about such behaviour compared to a large number of complaints in the build up to our first ASBO's in 2006.

State number of words: 404

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:

This project has targeting anti-social behaviour in and around the central shopping complexes in Milton Keynes since 2005. In 2005 the area in question saw a huge rise in anti-social behaviour with the main cause being one particular group of individuals. The behaviour of this group was alarming to the local community and visitors of the shopping complexes and this was heightened by the press coverage of the group in question. The group consisted of between 5 and 25 people with the main offenders being a key 10 of these. This group would meet around the shopping area and drink alcohol from around 9am until the early hours of the morning. The behaviour of the individuals ranged from general drunkenness to aggressive and sometimes violent behaviour. Males in the group would urinate in public, expose themselves and harass lone females with verbal abuse.

In the year leading up to the first ASBO case there were 5787 offences recorded in the town centre this figure reduced by 436 the year after the ASBO's were put in place. There was a clear and visual impact on the community, cash machines in the area were avoided, parking spaces adjoining the area where the group congregated were rarely used (these particularly spaces were usually filled early in the day).

The project to rectify this problem involved ourselves (PAC), central shopping security/management, the local council, Thames Valley Police, local businesses and the community safety partnership.

Data was collated from each of the above stakeholders and ranged from CCTV, complaints and incident reports from various businesses. All of the stakeholders had an interest in tackling the problem

Analysis:

The scale of the project was obvious to all who lived, worked or visited the area at this time as the group had a very negative visual affect on the area. Data was collected from complaints to police, recorded crime, complaints to city centre stakeholders, including ourselves, and newspaper articles.

The police had dealt with any criminal incidents, the shopping centres and PAC issued banning notices to the most prolific of offenders in order to prevent the problem escalating. At this time alcohol was the biggest influence so a 'drinking control zone' was also applied for. All of these measures dealt with specific issues at specific times but did not address the overall problem.

Prior to the start of the problem in 2005 anti-social behaviour had not caused our stakeholders any major concerns. Due to the fact that the area the group gathered in was very public the behaviour was highly visible and affecting many people but the perpetrators were difficult to identify due to the large number.

PAC collated evidence gained from major stakeholders and shopping centres which was then analysed by PAC along with a police officer, attached to the community safety partnership. Once the data had been analysed Thames Valley Police used the relevant evidence to take formal statements and proceed with criminal and ASBO proceedings.

This process was not always easy and one of our later cases proved very difficult as there were ongoing issues and complaints over a long period of time. Once we believed we had all the evidence needed for court the case was complicated further by the offender moving out of the area. This would have been grounds to stop the action in normal circumstances as the offender was no longer in the area, but she then returned some 6 months later. We then discovered that in those 6 months she had been causing the same problems in Bedford town centre with her aggressive and sometimes violent begging.

It is important to note at this point that all of the offenders we have taken action against have had underlying causes whether it is alcohol, drugs, or psychological problems. The process we follow tries to address these problems first but as we are dealing with adults we cannot force them to seek help for addictions or address personal problems we can only offer assistance if this is declined we must deal with the offending behaviour in order to protect our community. Individuals who are acting in an anti social manner and who have been highlighted to the team are spoken to on a one to one basis, they are given a pack containing information on where they can seek help regardless of their problems. This includes information from CDAC (community drug and alcohol centre), DAT (drug action team), shelter (for housing needs), Milton Keynes counselling service and the arrest referral team (usually based in custody suites). However these people cannot be forced into accepting or seeking help.

ASBO's in Central Milton Keynes are always a last resort, if everything else fails then an ASBO will be applied for.

Response:

It was clear to PAC and all our stakeholders that we had to make a stand and make it obvious to the local community that such behaviour would not be tolerated in our town centre and therefore ASBO's were applied for against the 10 key offenders in the group.

All of our previous responses tackled the issues and were successful in reducing the problem in the short term. In each case ASBO's did not only reduce the problem they stopped it completely for the mentioned offenders. In each of these cases the police dealt with the criminal elements, PAC and the shopping centres issued banning notices to help protect customers and staff, however these banning notices were only for specific buildings and did not prevent the individuals being in the surrounding area. Applying for the 'drinking control zone' was successful but it was a long, time consuming process which was not finalised until after the original ASBO hearing. PAC was approached by our stakeholders and local businesses and they made it clear they were affected by the issues of anti-social behaviour to the extent that cars would not park in the area, cash machines near by were avoided by customers and people would divert their route of passage around the area. This whole issue involved a great deal of management time and resources and impacted on parking revenue and a fall in retail trade nearby. This personally affected the stakeholders and motivated them to resolve the issue by working together. There were two main difficulties in resolving this issue the first being time and evidence gathering and the second was that to apply for 10 ASBO's in one proceeding was a first for Milton Keynes. We also had to keep 27 witnesses organised and motivated. The initial 10 ASBO's has impacted on PAC's partnership working with the ASBO team in a positive way, allowing the other stakeholders to free up their time with regard to new ASBO proceedings and leave PAC to collate evidence, making the anti social behaviour cases since this date a much smoother process.

Assessment:

Since 2006 anti social behaviour in the area has dramatically fallen. Those individuals who do offend are highlighted much more quickly and due to our ongoing working relationship with the ASBO team ASBO proceedings are started as soon as necessary. The quality of the evidence we now receive is much better and our ASBO cases to date have all been successful. Although 5 of the original 10 offenders appealed against the ASBO's they were upheld at the appeal court largely on the grounds that in the 2 months leading up to the court case the police had been called to the area 46 times and in the 2 months after the case police were only called there on 1 occasion. This figure alone highlights the severity of the problem and how drastically we reduce the it. Since the original 10 ASBO's in 2006 we have obtained a further ASBO for persistent aggressive beggar and in late 2007 a verbally abusive and highly aggressive female. We have worked closely with a female youth to address her anti social behaviour as well as to help her address her alcohol and psychological difficulties. She has agreed to sign an acceptable behaviour contract in order to help her deal with her behaviour. We are also currently working on two further cases of anti social behaviour which appear to be heading towards court orders. As stated previously all of the above people have been offered help to address personal problems and ASBO's were sort as a last resort, however they have had both a positive impact on the local area and the local community with breaches of such orders being very low. Milton Keynes city centre is now almost an anti social behaviour free zone and we are very proud of our successes and the impact on the local area.

State number of words used:

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

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.
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. 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 25th April 2008.