



# 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: **BOTCHERBY INITIATIVE**

2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence: **Anti-social behavior, damage and violent crime.**

#### **Author contact details**

3. Name of application author: Adrian Sowerby

4. Organisation submitting the application: Cumbria Constabulary

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#### **Secondary project contact details**

8. Name of secondary contact involved in the project: PC 1679 Kath Paterson

9. [kath.paterson@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:kath.paterson@cumbria.police.uk)

10. Telephone number 01228 558480.

**Endorsing representative contact details**

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organization: Chief Superintendent Andy Davidson

12. Endorsing representative's email address:andy.davidson@cumbria.police.uk

13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your organization is covered by; - **GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST**

**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:**

Botcherby estate is a relatively small housing estate of predominantly social housing owned by Carlisle Housing Association (CHA) and comprising five streets. The estate is part of the City North and East Local Policing Team (LPT), one of four wards covered by the team. During 2006 levels of anti-social behaviour and violent crime on the estate began to alarm local residents, CHA and police. There were a number of violent incidents, including racial attacks and calls to police to deal with anti-social behaviour were at an all time high.

**Analysis:**

During 2006 there were 79 violent crimes, 150 offences of damage and almost 500 anti-social behaviour calls in these few streets. A problem profile was conducted by a member of the LPT to try and establish repeat offenders, locations and victims. A 'street safe' operation was conducted to establish the thoughts of the local community to the problems that were occurring. Survey forms were handed out asking for feedback on quality of life issues. Youth disorder, general anti-social behaviour, better CCTV, 'more police needed' and criminal damage were the main areas that the public saw as priorities. A review of more serious violent crimes was undertaken to establish offenders and trends.

**Response:**

A targeted approach was adopted to the estates problems involving CHA and other agencies. Dedicated resources were deployed to the estate. The 'street safe' operation resulted in 120 householders being spoken to. Homes were referred for immediate prevention work. Graffiti was removed. Fire service referrals were made for fire checks and safety alarms. A portable CCTV camera was installed at a 'hot spot' location on the estate, an area that had never before benefitted from CCTV. Perhaps most importantly local residents felt confident enough to talk to police and provide information about a number of individuals and households 'terrorising' the estate. Civil injunctions and undertakings were obtained by CHA with support of police. One of these resulted in a main offender receiving two terms of imprisonment.

**Assessment:**

During 2007 there was a reduction of 20% in violent crime, 20% in anti-social behaviour calls and a 29% reduction in criminal damage offences. Prison sentences were imposed following investigations into racist public order offences. Police learned that in order to make a long lasting difference, a commitment in terms of resources and time must be made and that working with other organisations was essential.

**State number of words: 395**

**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:**

The 'Botcherby Initiative' sought to address violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour on the Botcherby Housing Estate, Carlisle.

The 'Botcherby Estate' is to the east of Carlisle city centre and is a small housing estate comprising five main streets, namely Borland Avenue, Botcherby Avenue, Hollywell Crescent, Merith Avenue and Ennerdale Avenue. It is fairly self contained in that it is bordered by a large park area, a railway line and main arterial road, There are approximately five hundred houses and flats, 90% of which are owned and managed by a social landlord, Carlisle Housing association (CHA). The housing stock was built between the wars and comprises 2 and 3 bedroom semi detached houses and flats together with sheltered accommodation for elderly residents and those with learning difficulties. The estate has a high level of unemployment and single parent families. It forms part of the City North and East Local Policing Team (LPT), a neighbourhood policing team, one of four wards covered by the team. At the beginning of 2006, as well as being covered by normal patrol constables, had one dedicated community constable. During 2006 levels of anti-social behaviour and violent crime on the estate began to alarm local residents, CHA and police. There were a number of violent incidents, including a violent racial attack on a Portuguese family and calls to police to deal with anti-social behaviour were at an all time high. Feedback from local residents groups, local councillors and Neighbourhood Forum meetings all pointed to there being serious concerns amongst law abiding residents over crime and anti-social behaviour levels.

**Analysis:**

In an effort to establish the extent of the problem data and information was analysed from a number of sources.

- Crime statistics for the calendar year 2006 revealed the following across the estate: -

Total number of offences	351
Violent crimes	79
Criminal damage	152
Anti-social behaviour calls	493

- During late 2006 a 'Street Safe' operation was conducted, led by police but involving CHA, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, victim support and Carlisle City Council. A total of 226 addresses were visited with the residents of 128 homes being spoken to in person. Survey forms were left with these residents asking for feedback and views on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Results revealed that residents wanted the police to tackle the following issues : -

Youth Disorder  
 Anti-social behaviour  
 Illegal use of motorcycles  
 Alcohol and drugs  
 Damage  
 Dog fouling  
 Lighting  
 CCTV  
 Noise  
 Parking

In addition to the above by speaking directly to residents police encountered a flow of information about a small number of key individuals for whom there had previously been little or know evidence or intelligence for fear of reprisals.

- A problem profile was conducted by a member of the North and East Local Policing Team (known as the 'Problem Solving Officer'). This highlighted repeat victims, locations and offenders. A number of key locations for repeat calls regarding anti-social behaviour were identified. A small number of repeat offenders/suspects were also identified, corroborating the information mentioned above.
- Local ward councillors were asked for their information, feedback and views.

Although the estate had had its own community constable for a number of years, this constable predominantly worked on his/her own without the support of a dedicated team of officers. Data for previous initiatives on the estate did not exist so in response to the issues highlighted LPT staff took their lead from best practice elsewhere in policing circles and were not afraid to listen to advice and assistance from the main stakeholders in the estate, i.e. CHA.

A number of key factors came out of the analysis; these were used to formulate the response of police and partners.

Key factors : -

The 'wall of silence' amongst residents was a problem but the 'Street Safe' showed that with effort people were prepared to talk and give valuable information.

Agencies needed to target repeat offenders, locations and victims.

Lack of CCTV was a factor.

Long term solutions were needed and police should not just throw additional resources at the estate.

Agencies should build on the already good working practices.

Expert guidance on anti-social behaviour responses should be sought.

### **Response:**

Using the analysis and key factors from above the North and East LPT formulated an initial action plan for the estate for 2007. This was developed, reviewed and enhanced as the year progressed. The LPT support sergeant and problem solver oversaw the action plan and tackled much of the work themselves.

- As well as the community constable, two PCSO's were recruited as part of the general recruitment of PCSO's across Cumbria Constabulary, one full time the other sharing his responsibilities with a neighbouring area.
- From the 'Street Safe' operation 52 homes received security checks and additional security measures at the cost of Cumbria Police or CHA. The Fire and Rescue Service were able to action 44 referrals for advice and smoke detectors etc. Graffiti was removed from numerous locations across the estate. 'Skips' for household rubbish, which would otherwise have been left in the street to become a fire hazard, were deployed and the estate 'cleaned up.'
- Advice was sought from Cumbria Constabulary's recognised anti-social behaviour expert, who at this time was fronting the force's RESPECT campaign. He was able to suggest innovative measures for tackling the repeat offenders highlighted during the problem profile process. This involved CHA being asked to take the lead and use evidence admissible in civil court to take out civil injunctions through the local county court. Police and CHA worked together to gather witness statements from local residents. All in all there was a full anti-social behaviour injunction and three 'undertakings.' The formal order was breached on two occasions almost immediately and the individual sentenced to 2 terms of imprisonment. This sent out a very clear message to people on the estate.
- Funding for a portable CCTV camera was sourced from the local Crime and Disorder reduction partnership. The camera was located at a 'hot spot' highlighted through the calls for service data used during the analysis phase. The portable element allowed the camera to be moved around the state as hot spots moved.

- Three repeat locations for anti-social behaviour were prioritised and police and CHA worked together to tackle the different issues. In one location a resident repeatedly called for police reporting anti-social behaviour. There were two or three calls each night. The portable camera was deployed and evidence gleaned tended to suggest the incidents were not occurring. A multi agency approach including police, CHA, social services put together a package of help for the elderly occupant, including mental health services. At another location two neighbours became the target of sustained anti-social behaviour and criminal damage from local youths. Police asked for and organised multi-agency interventions for both these males. One had significant learning difficulties yet was receiving little or no support. There properties were in isolated and vulnerable parts of the estate. CHA, social services, police and the Benefits Agency all worked together to provide support, including the provision of 'life skills.' Subsequently due to their significant learning difficulties they were found more appropriate accommodation elsewhere in the city.
- A community newsletter (Neighbourhood Bulletin) was prepared by the police and distributed across the estate to include the 128 properties visited during the original 'Street Safe.' This provided an update regarding the issues originally raised and an outline of what police would be tackling in the future.
- Twenty nine acceptable behaviour contracts and 2 ASBO's were taken out by police, some with the assistance of CHA.
- Five problem families/tenants were evicted by CHA with the assistance and evidence provided by police.
- CHA established an estate office on Botcherby which police used as a meeting place/office, linking in with housing officers on an almost daily basis.
- Formal monthly meetings between police and CHA to discuss crime and disorder amongst problem tenants.
- Police participated in local estate community meetings (Botcherby Residents Action Group)
- Police used the Ward based 'Neighbourhood Community Forums', organised by Cumbria County Council as a means to promote community working, providing policing updates into issues affecting the estate as well as crime prevention advice and guidance. These meetings have been accepted as the main 'beat meeting' for the ward.
- During 2007 30 young people from the Botcherby Estate were invited to attend an activity scheme on Friday evenings at a local leisure centre. This scheme, known as SAFE (Sport, Activity, Fitness, Exercise) was the 'brainchild' of the North and East Local Policing Team problem solving constable. She identified that anti-social behaviour across the whole of the LPT was a particular problem on Friday evenings. Groups of youngsters consistently protested that there was 'nothing else to do.' As a means of directing young people, who were on the edges of criminal and anti-social behaviour, into more meaningful activities, the officer set about obtaining funds from a variety of sources. A partnership was formed with a local leisure provider (Carlisle Leisure) and agreement reached to utilise a local leisure centre on Friday evenings for two and a half hours, providing invited youngsters with professional sports coaching and activities. The young people were nominated by the local community beat officer, PCSO or by CHA.

#### **Assessment:**

The base line crime figures for 2006 were used as an indicator of the success of the work undertaken. In 2007 the following improvements were noted.

Total number of offences	256	27% reduction
Violent crimes	63	20% reduction
Criminal damage	108	29% reduction
Anti-social behaviour calls	408	17% reduction

Although specific targets had not been set for the initiative an overall reduction in violent crime, damage and anti-social behaviour was the target. The average 22% reduction surpassed all hopes and expectations.

KIN survey results also highlighted the improvements across the estate. Baseline figures were obtained during the

October 2006 'streetsafe.' This was followed up in autumn 2007.

In relation to 'general crime,' 50% of residents surveyed felt that levels had improved and no one felt they were worse. With regards to anti-social behaviour, 59% of respondents felt the situation was better, with only one person feeling levels were worse.

During 2007, in recognition of the work already undertaken CHA and Police received a 'Respect' award from Cumbria Constabulary for the work on the Botcherby Estate.

The work undertaken on the Botcherby estate was a real challenge for the City North and East Local Policing Team. Although the city of Carlisle has had dedicated community policing for years, this was the first time a dedicated team had worked together with partnership agencies, and in particular a housing association, to deal with the crime and anti-social behaviour problems of a whole housing estate. It is hoped that the legacy of the work undertaken in 2007, i.e. new CCTV, dedicated PCSO's, local liaison/beat meetings, 'SAFE' and the partnership working with CHA are all long term measures that will contribute to continuing reductions in crime and Anti-social behaviour across the estate.

**State number of words used: 1837**

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

The Botcherby estate although relatively small had been cause for concern within the BCU for some time. As a geographically small high output area it demanded a joint agency response specifically tailored to its needs. Positive action has been delivered spearheaded by a cross-cutting implementation team working to a joint action plan. The results have been outstanding and have made a significant difference to a local community particularly in terms of crime reduction and quality of life issues. The measures taken to achieve these results mean that they will be sustainable for the future. A once closed and somewhat marginalized community is now working with responsible authorities and Social Landlords towards building a brighter future. This initiative has been highly impactful upon the immediate area as well as the BCU as a whole.

C/Supt A Davidson  
Area Commander

**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](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.