Safe & Sound Partnership: Reducing violent crime in the night time economy

Neil Donohoe, Havering Borough, Metropolitan Police





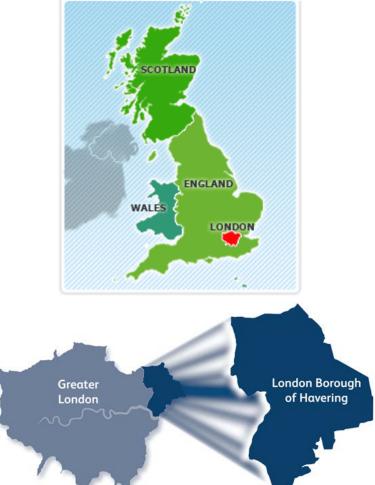




London Borough of Havering

- Havering is one of 32 boroughs that make up Greater London
- Created in 1965 from the combination of several towns
- Approx. 242,000 permanent residents over 43 square miles (23 square miles of protected green belt surrounds the urban area)
- Most ethnically homogenous London borough (83% White British, compared to 55% for London)
- Less deprived (median household income \$62,000)
- Holds title of "Luckiest town" in the UK for number of National Lottery winners







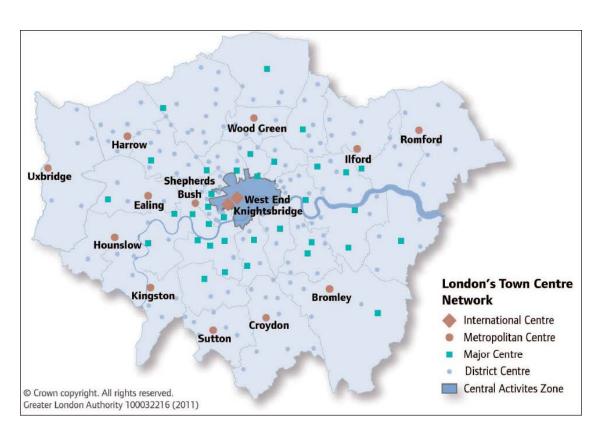
Scanning - Background

- Urban Decline 1990's Romford Town Centre (central business district)
- Lack of amenities and reduced footfall after dark
- High fear of crime after dark (perceived as a no-go area)
- Romford Urban Strategy (1996-2006)
 - Relaxed Planning policies
 - Stimulated growth of late night venues



Scanning – Background (cont.)

- 41 restaurants, 21 bars/pubs and 4 nightclubs
- Huge social and economic benefits
- Romford key regional Metropolitan Centres
- Key role in London's night time economy (NTE)
- 1.1m+ night time economy visitors annually (Fri/Sat)







Scanning – New Challenges

- Night time violence and disorder linked to burgeoning NTE
- By 2009/10 Romford Town had:
 - Highest rate of violence per 100,000 visitors for regional centres
 - Highest volume of violence outside the West End
 - A 3-year increase of +27% for recorded violence

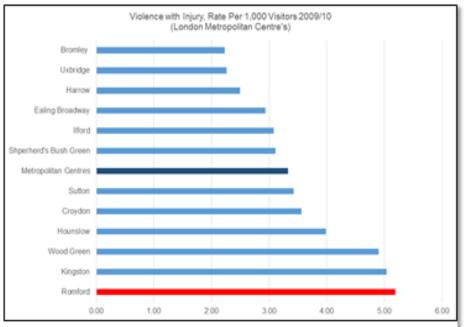


Figure 2 Rate of Violence in Metropolitan Centres 2009/10 (Source Metropolitan Police crime data and GLA Workday population estimates)



Scanning – New Challenges (cont.)

- A priority for the partnership
- Negative media attention
- 37% of residents thought drunk and rowdy behaviour was a problem
- Just 55% of residents felt safe after dark

Recorder

Alcohol sales blamed as Romford revealed as London's most violent area outside Westminster

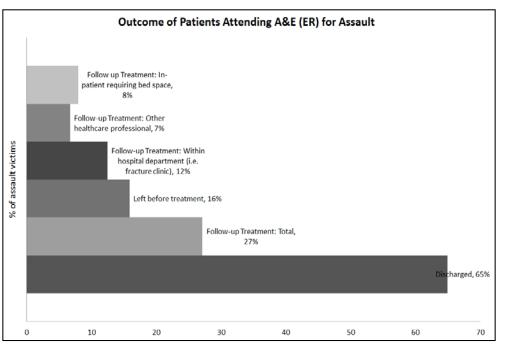
🔀 Ramzy Alwakeel, Reporter





Scanning – Impact

- Disproportionate amount of violence occurring within NTE – the 80/20 rule
- High socio-economic cost of £5.1m (\$8.1m)
- Data triangulation highlights significant under-reporting to police
- Impact on victims extends beyond the initial event (i.e. health)



Outcome of assault patient data for those attending Accident & Emergency departments (ER) in Havering 2012-13





Analysis – Data sources

- Development of a strategic problem profile
- Victim / Offender / Location analysis
- Data sources:
 - Metropolitan Police violence data
 - Ambulance & Hospital violence data
 - Officer & front line worker statements
 - Details of investigations reports
 - Academic Research





Analysis – Background



- 11-15,000 18-24 year olds each Fri/Sat Night
- High proportion of "binge drinkers"
- Intoxication = exposure to risk
- Irresponsible drinks promotions



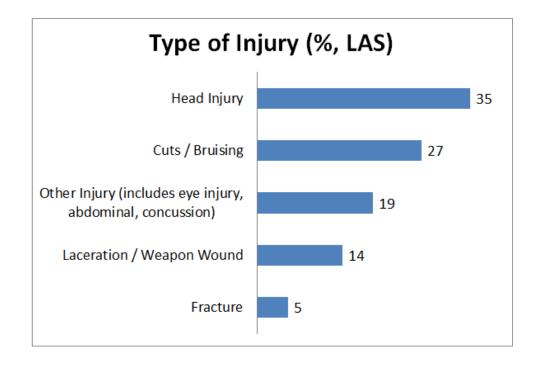


Analysis – Victims

- 18-29 year old males
- 85% of victims had consumed alcohol
- 58% could not remember the circumstances
- Half of victims from outside Havering
- Typically involving persons unknown to one another



Analysis – Victims (cont.)









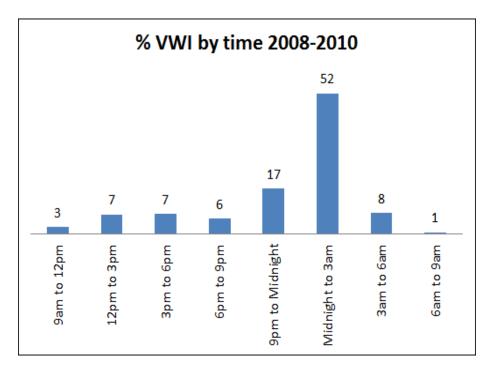
Analysis – Offenders

- 18-29 year old males
- Suspects believed to be intoxicated
- Police time dominated by prisoners in custody
- Minimal risk of apprehension and punishment



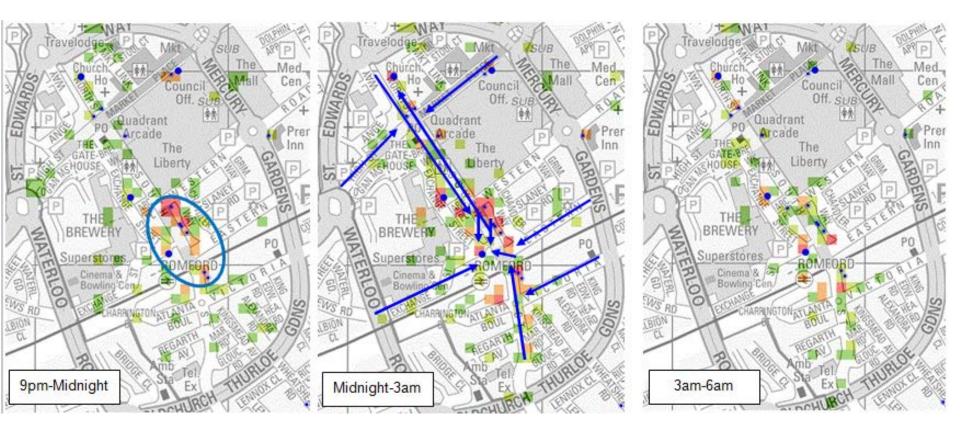
Analysis – Locations

- Violence takes place predominantly in the street
- An acute temporal pattern





Analysis – Locations and crime script





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Analysis – Overview of specific problems

Victims

- Inadequate safeguards for intoxicated people
- Higher cost and risk of injury from glass/bottles
- Customers enter Romford already intoxicated (potential offenders also)

Offenders

- Activity was aimed towards detecting offences late rather than removing potential offenders (or victims) at an early stage
- No fear of consequences of behaviour

Locations

- Unregulated space and street furniture leads to crowding
- Closing times of venues mean large numbers leave together
- Insufficient transport to remove people at the end of the night





Reduce Metropolitan Police and London Ambulance Service assaults by 25% between 2009/10 and 2011/12

From 2011/12 in line with our policing commissioners demands, a further target to reduce violence by 20% by March 2016





Response – Previous responses

- Educating people about harmful drink levels not immediate
- Saturation policing ineffective
- Best Bar None didn't address issues outside
- Safe & Sound enhanced partnership





Response – Safeguards against the intoxicated

- Extending guardianship, removing vulnerable targets and controlling tools and weapons
 - Radio-link system
 - Deeper lounge (10pm-3am)
 - Street triage (10pm-4am)
 - Marshall taxi rank (10pm-3:30am)







Responses – risk of serious injury

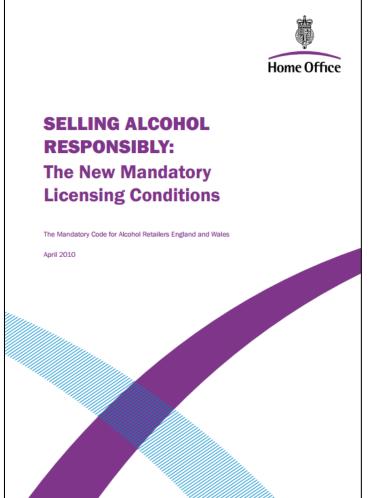
- Controlling tools and weapons
 - Toughened glass / polycarbonate glasses
 - Restrictions on times and locations of waste removal
 - Street Pastors securing discarded bottles brought into town







Responses – addressing intoxication



Havering Community

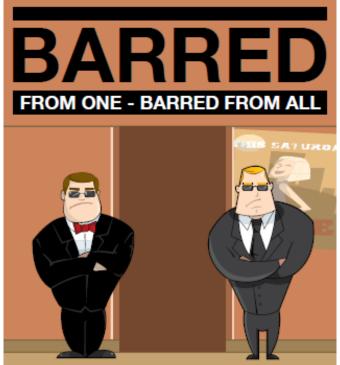
Safety Partnership

- Removing excuses
 - Mandatory licensing conditions
 - Banning drinks promotions
 - Raising minimum price
 - Local regeneration and highways policies
 - Licence required for advertising boards



Responses - offenders

• Removing excuses, denying benefits, reducing anonymity



We have a zero tolerance policy to anyone behaving in a manner likely to cause offence to our staff and to other customers

www.havering.gov.uk







Responses - offenders

- Controlling access, strengthened formal surveillance
 - CCTV
 - ScanNet/ClubScan



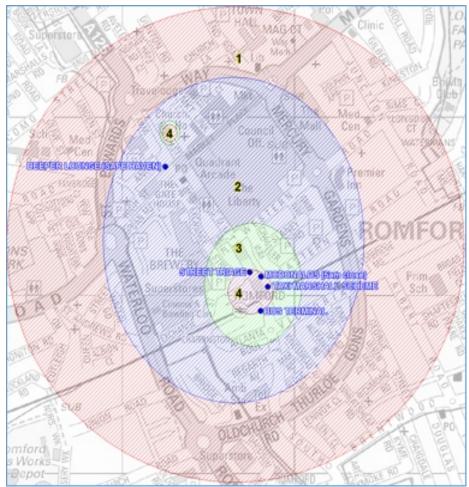






- Control access and screen exits
 - Staggered closing times
 - Encouraging late licences

Red – premises open until midnight 1am Blue – premises open until 1am-2am Green – premises open until 3am Purple – facilities open later than 4am



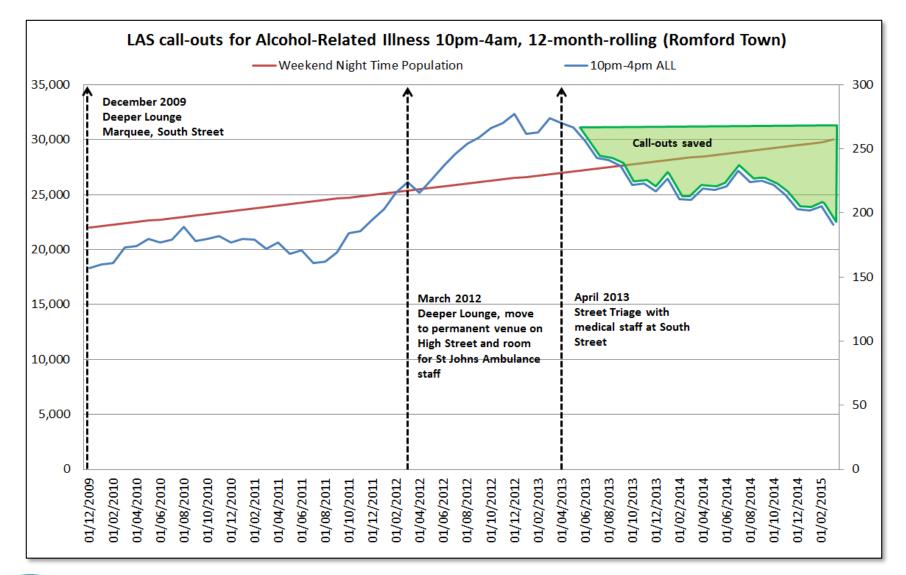




- Deeper Lounge and Triage
 - 10 persons per month treated on site
 - 57% referred via radio-link from other frontline workers
 - 29% reduction in alcohol related ambulance call-outs since (274 down to 191)
- Prevention of serious injury by glass/weapon
 - From 20 per year to average of 3 per year



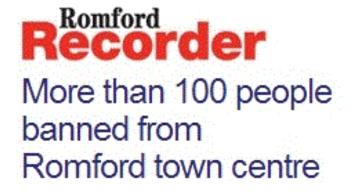
Assessment – safeguards (cont.)





- 103 persons banned in first 12-months
- Periods of 3-weeks to 5-years
- Increase in offences with suspect (almost doubling to 70%)
- Sanctioned detections increased from 36% to 45% (not incl. bans)
- Dramatic reduction in victims not wishing to proceed (from 33% to 3%)





Safira Ali, Senior Reporter Monday, April 11, 2011



Target 1: 2009/10 to 2011/12

Reduce NTE violence by -25% over 3-years

Actual – reduced violence by -42.7% from 529 to 303

Target 2: 2011/12 to 2015/16

Reduce NTE violence by -20% over 3-years

Actual – year 2 end (2014/15) was -27.4% from 303 to 220



Assessment – concentration of incidents

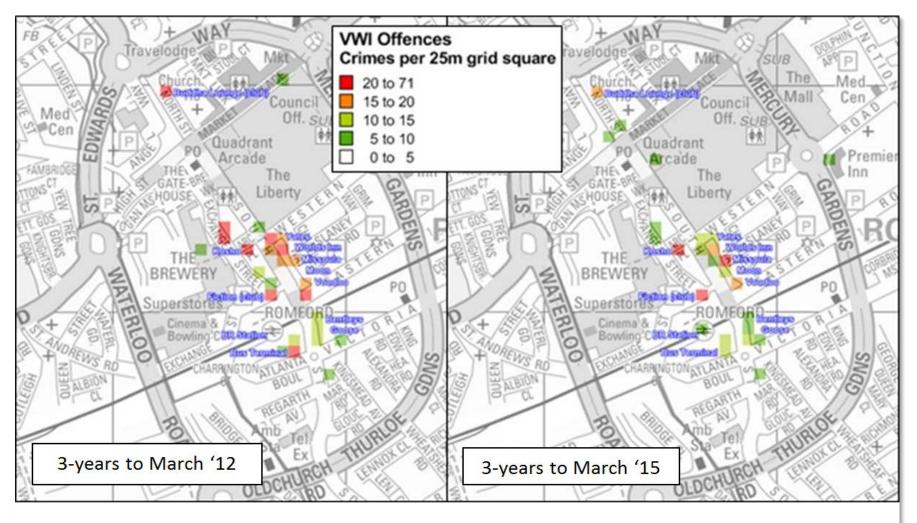
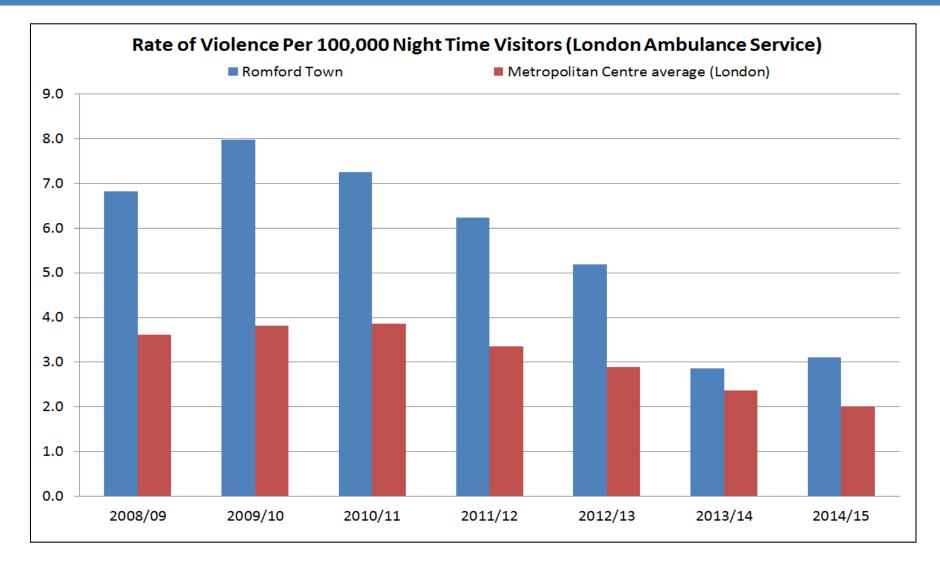


Figure 15 Map showing before and after hotspot concentrations of violence in Romford



Assessment – comparator data







- Night time crime overall -35%
 - -46% in criminal damage
 - -29% in street robbery
- 22% residents perceive drunken behaviour as an issue (down from 37%)
- Challenge mobile phone thefts





Closing Remarks & Questions

Questions?

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