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
• 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)
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
• 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
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
### Type of Injury (%, LAS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Injury</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuts / Bruising</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Injury (includes eye injury, abdominal, concussion)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laceration / Weapon Wound</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Solent News & Photo Agency
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
• Violence takes place predominantly in the street

• An acute temporal pattern
Analysis – Locations and crime script
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
Our Target

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
• 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

- 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

**BARRED**
FROM ONE - BARRED FROM ALL

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
Assessment - safeguards

• 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

Havering Community Safety Partnership
Assessment – removing offenders and consequences

- 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%)
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

3-years to March ‘12

3-years to March ‘15

Figure 15 Map showing before and after hotspot concentrations of violence in Romford
Assessment – comparator data

Rate of Violence Per 100,000 Night Time Visitors (London Ambulance Service)

- Romford Town
- Metropolitan Centre average (London)

Year | Rate
--- | ---
2008/09 | 3.0
2009/10 | 4.0
2010/11 | 4.0
2011/12 | 4.0
2012/13 | 3.0
2013/14 | 2.0
2014/15 | 2.0

Havering Community Safety Partnership
Diffusion of Benefits

- 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
Questions?

Contact Details
Presented by: Sergeant Neal Donohoe, Metropolitan Police, Neal.Donohoe@met.police.uk

Author: Iain Agar, Community Safety Partnership Analyst, IAIN.AGAR@havering.gov.uk

Alcohol/Night Time Violence Projects Manager: Jane Eastaff, Alcohol and Violent Crime Community Safety Officer, Jane.Eastaff@havering.gov.uk