Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new
Developments

Community Involvement in Crime Prevention; Abstract of Research Paper commissioned by the UK Home Office, Paul Ekblom (UK)

Statements submitted by experts

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and invited Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to support financially, organizationally and technically the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

2. In its resolution 54/125 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to make preparations for the Tenth Congress, including by establishing national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion of the topics and to participating actively in the organization of and follow-up to the workshops, the submission of national position papers on different agenda items and the encouragement of contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies and institutes and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate effectively in the Tenth Congress and to contribute to the formulation of regional and international measures aimed at preventing crime and ensuring justice.

3. Pursuant to rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (A/CONF.187/2), written statements related to the work of the Congress submitted by the designated representatives, individual experts or observers are to be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to the secretariat for distribution, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is on a subject in which it has a special competence.

* The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
10\textsuperscript{th} United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Abstracts of research papers commissioned by UK Home Office

2. Community involvement in crime prevention
Technical workshop: Community involvement in crime prevention

Abstracts of relevant research papers commissioned by the UK Home Office

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/prgpubs/lcpu38.pdf

This paper describes the development of community safety strategies in the first 16 Safer Cities projects. It charts mid-term progress in corporate strategy development; identifies obstacles; and highlights potential points of leverage available to aid strategy development. It identifies 5 phases in the 'life cycle' of externally-initiated partnership projects like Safer Cities.


An assessment of targeting crime problems, selection of preventive methods and implementation of preventive schemes from Phase 1 of the Safer Cities Programme in England & Wales.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/prgpubs/lcpu65.pdf

This paper aims to provide the police with guidance on the forms of analysis which are relevant to the local treatment of high volume crime, in terms of crime patterns, trends, clusters and series. It considers analysis in relation to specific areas of police work including crime prevention, repeat victimisation and problem-oriented policing. It also covers practical issues to be considered before undertaking local crime analysis.


These linked papers cover various aspects of partnership working, based on a study of a wide range of inter-agency groups in England & Wales. Topics and contexts considered include: the structures for the delivery of local crime prevention; forms of leadership; the structure of local government; demographic or economic factors such as poverty or unemployment; the presence of significant ethnic minority populations; and crime rates. Emerging themes covered: the background to local crime prevention activities; the structure and forms of participation in the work; targeting and the development of crime prevention measures; the quality of cooperation among participants and others; and factors facilitating or impeding the development and implementation of partnership crime prevention in local areas.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/prgpubs/lcpu70.pdf

This report describes a risk-management approach to crime, developed by the local government of Wigan in partnership with the local police. This involves working strategically with other agencies to identify solutions to local problems making substantial demands on police and borough resources. Small task groups analyse and address specific issues, crimes or problem locations. Significant reductions in crime, and in demands on resources were achieved. Case studies are presented on School Watch, Local Government depot and vehicle security; and a Central Watch Station monitoring fire and intruder alarms and CCTV in local government premises.


A detailed and systematic summary of the principles of crime prevention, written for an audience of practitioners. (not available electronically)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/prgpubs/lcpu91.pdf

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local councils, police and other agencies in England & Wales, in partnership, to: conduct and publish an audit of local crime and disorder problems; consult locally on the basis of the audit; set and publish objectives and targets for the reduction of crime and disorder; monitor progress; and repeat the process every three years. This paper presents the guidance on how to develop, implement and monitor local crime and disorder strategies, drawing heavily on research and practitioner experience of effective crime prevention practice. Wider guidance on the structure of partnerships, information exchange between partners, and training is at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/cdact/cdaquid.htm .
A description of the Domestic Burglary Task Force in Cambridge, established to examine the nature of the problem and design and implement initiatives to prevent it. The report provides a candid account of the issues involved in implementing and evaluating the strategies.


Best Value is a statutory duty, from April 2000, on local authorities, fire and police authorities in England & Wales. It aims both to engender closer links between their work and the priorities of local communities, and to encourage continuous improvements in local service delivery. Authorities must review all their services every 5 years: challenging whether each service is needed in the first place; consulting on its provision; comparing it with other providers’ services; and examining competitive alternatives. This report examines the preparations being made by police for Best Value; the models and techniques under consideration; the relationships between police authorities and police forces; and the early lessons emerging from forces and authorities most advanced in their preparations.


The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities and the police, with other key agencies and the community, to work together at district level to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area. This publication is the first of a series which supports the continuing development of partnership working under the Act, in particular through the visiting of a set of ‘Pathfinder’ sites by a team of practitioners seconded to the Home Office. It is not a guidance manual, but presents many useful and practical examples from each of the Pathfinder sites, reflecting their experiences in implementing the community safety provisions of the Act.


This paper presents the detailed ideas behind a multi-purpose conceptual toolkit based on a complete map of the immediate causes of criminal events. The toolkit aims, among other things, to sharpen thinking about crime reduction policy and practice, draw together situational and offender-oriented approaches, aid problem-oriented action, and supply a framework for CR training and support through organizing knowledge bases of 'what works'.

See also


Results of the evaluation of the Safer Cities Programme in Scotland. A wider picture of the partnership approach in Scotland is at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc01/scis-00.htm


Community safety is a major public concern affecting most people's lives in some way. With the Crime and Disorder Act, it is now a top priority for local government and other public agencies. This report tracks the development of the Act, with recommendations for government on providing sufficient central support and advice for local partnerships on local delivery. Highlighting best practice, it suggests how all the agencies involved can improve joint working to tackle the problem.


A summary report describing the implementation and impact of the second phase of the Safer Cities Programme in England & Wales, involving over 1,400 schemes set up by community safety projects in 29 cities.
This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.