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date 28 May 2003

The person dealing with this matter is

Glynis Rogers
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Ms Tricia Perkins
Crime and Policing Group (Rm 246A)
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H9AT

Dear Ms. Perkins,

**The Tilley Award 2003 - Partnership Projects
Slade Green Community Safety Action Zone**



Please find enclosed Bexley Community Safety Partnership's submission for the Partnership Projects category for this year's Tilley Awards. We are pleased to commend the work of the Slade Green Community Safety Action Zone to the Panel.

When planning the work in the zone the Steering Group were confident that this would deliver significant contributions to reducing the fear of crime that stops so many people living their lives as they would want to. The project has far exceeded our expectations.

The multi-agency team leading the project have adopted the problem solving method, using the SARA principle, as a means of delivering this initiative, as indeed we do for most of our crime reduction work. We believe this is a testament to the efficacy of POP and look forward to developing this further in our future Community Safety Action Zones. We would ask the Panel to particularly pay regard to the results of the crime perception survey which has been conducted in four wards in the Borough, including the one which has benefited from this approach and which is attached to the submission at Appendix 4.

...

twelve youngsters were considered as being largely responsible for much of the crime and disorder. The Council's Legal Service examined the evidence with the ASB Group and decided that it would be appropriate to seek ASBOs against six youths, naming three others for non-association, and to seek ABCs where appropriate amongst the rest of the group. Whilst targeting the offenders the Team continued to work with victims and one by one criminal cases were heard in the courts and the community had brief periods of respite.

The Council agreed the plans for delivery of CSAZ and these were adopted by the Community Safety Partnership. At the same time work to promote Community Cohesion started in the zone area. The Project was officially launched in September 2002. Funding was provided by the Home Office through SCI and CAD to deliver many of the initiatives detailed below:

Police:

- High visibility police and branding of vehicles with CSAZ logo
- More regular liaison with victims of crime, including race crime, was conducted by the ward officer
- Targeting of known offenders and processing of outstanding warrants
- The use of the Metropolitan Police mobile police bus throughout the CSAZ in different locations over a two week period to give residents the opportunity to learn about CSAZ and give information
- Schools Involvement Team working in schools
- Involvement of local schools in Junior Citizen initiative

COUNCIL:

YOT:

- Working with those at risk of becoming involved in criminal behaviour
- Monitoring ASBO and ABC and other orders
- Developing youth diversionary activities and interventions, e.g. work with the Fire Service
- Developing restorative justice interventions

Environmental Services:

- Removed all graffiti and fly tipping on a rolling programme and daily thereafter
- Identified Alleygates sites in consultation with residents and arranged free installation
- Improved lighting on streets, play areas and by the train station
- 450 abandoned/illegal cars removed from Slade Green in three weeks
- Planted shrubs and prickly bushes
- Provided additional security in parks and open spaces

Community Education:

- Established a new community facility at the Howbury Centre and the establishment of young people's activities within the neighbourhood including basketball, karate, table-tennis, football, life-skills and a jigsaw group

- CRIBs ran an Energise project, offering music, drama and sporting facilities for 16-18 year olds

Young People's Support Service:

- Establishment of YPSS
- Youth work with the most hard to reach young people on the verge of criminality and exclusion
- Use of detached youth workers to consult with local young people

Other partners (using CAD and BCSP funding):

- Charlton Athletic delivered a programme of Football in the Community running five-a-side estates league at a local sports centre, attracting 200 local young people every Friday evening and also worked with the PRU in Slade Green
- Contributed to a new skateboard facility as part of a redevelopment led by Orbit Bexley Housing Association in the Dale View open space
- Victim Support's Bobby Van secured the homes of people in roads and blocks with the highest burglary rates, free of charge
- Outreach provided by Women's Aid to victims of domestic violence
- Slade Green Youth Forum was established
- Use of Victim Support's Witness Support Service for those giving evidence in court re ASBO

Some of the key initiatives are explained in more detail below:

Police:

The work of the Community Disorder Team is intrinsic to the success of CSAZ. It should be noted that the work carried out with the Partnership Team and the Council's Legal Services in sustaining and supporting witnesses was key to the success of the ASBO applications. In recognition of the real fears felt by witnesses a meeting was held the week before the hearings with the Partnership, the Legal Service and the Police explaining the process. The Sergeant gave his mobile phone number to all the witnesses and invited them to call him direct if they feared any reprisals. 40 witnesses attended court the following week. Training has now been given by the Council's Legal Department in taking statements for civil proceedings and Police Officers can take these statements and produce them using a laptop and mobile printer at the time in the victims' home, getting them printed and signed at the time.

The Ward Officer has been tireless in working with victims and the Crime Prevention Officers took part in the environmental audit identifying areas for improvement and vulnerable homes and in promotional and education campaigns.

Mother/Toddler Group equipment and training

The project provided funding for new toys for a toddler group in the heart of the Slade Green CSAZ. In exchange the mothers took part in drug training and were part of community empowerment for both parents and children, where they were asked to tell us what was happening in their community so that appropriate provision could be targeted in the area.

Restorative justice work:

The initiative funded a course for 12 officers from the Partnership and partner agency staff to learn about the principles of restorative justice and how schemes would work in Bexley. Work has already been started with those offenders responsible for graffiti repainting the walls on the Arthur Street estate they had defaced. This work is particularly focused on the CSAZ areas and we believe has contributed towards a reduction in the fear of crime in the areas.

Neighbourhood Watch:

The Partnership has supported and funded the work of the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the borough, helping them in their drive to increase the number of watches. This year there has been an increase of 21 watches in the borough and in the CSAZ area of Slade Green specifically there are now 10 watches where previously there were none.

Operation Keepsafe:

One of the key issues in the area was the use of alcohol by minors which led to disorder and much of the car crime and vandalism in the area, it also greatly contributed to the fear of crime. Operation Keepsafe targeted licensees offering them help to run their premises legally, but also reminding them of the enforcement action which could be taken. The operation was staffed by the police, trading standards' officers and police cadets who carried out test purchasing. This has been very successful with a number of licensees being called in, and some licensees having lost their licence at the courts.

Orbit Skatepark:

Funding was provided towards a BMX track and skateboard park on open space in the heart of the Dale View area of Slade Green. The area has been landscaped, brick walls and old garages have been demolished and the open space is now visible through railings to all the houses that surround it. The park allows for 'supervised' play for the young people in the heart of their estate (see Appendix 5 for photographs).

Slade Green Forum Youth Project:

The Youth Forum was funded to set up a disco to attract young people into facilities being established in the area and to identify further needs with the young people. The youngsters then took part in a survey to find out what young people wanted in the area. The project is also looking at the proposal for a mobile phone text network as a way of disseminating information about what is going on in the area for young people.

Arthur Street Project:

Arthur Street was a hotspot area for serious disorder, property crime and drug use. The area had a disused garage site in the heart of the estate that was run-down. Abandoned vehicles were prevalent in the area and there was evidence of drug use as needles and empty alcohol bottles were found there. Anti-social behaviour prevailed in the area and local residents felt it was both unsafe to live and visit. A youth shelter was erected to give the young people somewhere safe and visible to gather (see Appendix 5 for photographs). The garages were demolished and the area cleared of those other fear-of-crime generators, abandoned vehicles were removed and drugs outreach workers targeted the area.

It is difficult in a borough like Bexley where crime figures are relatively low to impact on the fear of crime. It is disproportionately high compared to the reality of crime in our borough. A survey was carried out before the start of CSAZ, and in April 2003 an independent survey was commissioned. This was part of the pilot for the Metropolitan Police 'Citizen's Perspective' Initiative, in which Bexley is participating, and which will allow us to develop and roll CSAZ out to three other wards in the Borough. The questions addressed the fear of crime.

Before CSAZ

22% of residents in Slade Green who responded felt safe at night in their area

After CSAZ

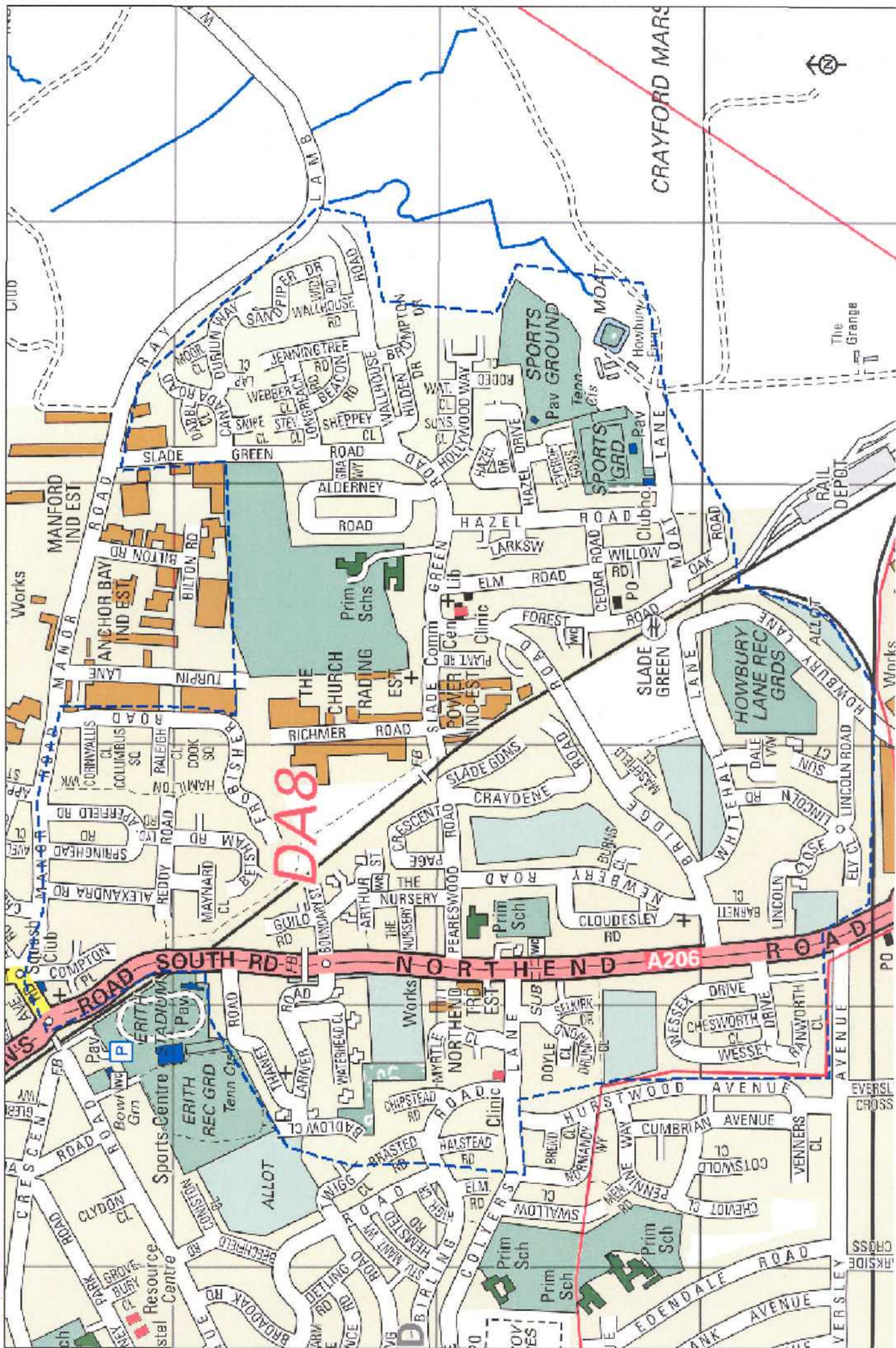
93% of residents surveyed in Slade Green felt safe at night in their area

This shows how a multi-agency presence in an area, working with local people to provide and deliver local solutions with a problem-solving approach, can impact on that fear of crime.

The survey results in Slade Green compared with those in areas where CSAZ has not been delivered are startling and should be read so as to glean the real impact that this work has had. These are attached at Appendix 4.

3828 words (excluding title page, summary and attached tables)

Slade Green & Erith Area



Slade Green CSAZ – Examples of Branding Materials

Stickers



Window stickers



Fridge magnets



Street signs



CSAZ Slade Green statistics:

Slade Green	March-August 2002 (before CSAZ)	September 2002- February 2003 (after CSAZ)
Robbery	20	3
Car Crime	214	154
Burglary	93	96
Disorder	472	460

Borough-wide crime figures:

	% reduction 2002/03 over 2001/02	Position in Met. in terms of crime reduction
Total notifiable offences	6.8%	1 st
Burglary	2.2%	16 th
Autocrime	14.2%	1 st
Disorder	8.4%	10 th
Street Crime	26%	4 th

Appendix 4

Tables to compare residents' perceptions in Slade Green CSAZ compared with two wards where there is less social deprivation and less crime and disorder but where CSAZ has yet to be implemented (This work will start in 2003/04)

	Slade Green	Christchurch	East Wickham and Falconwood and Welling (two wards)
Neighbourhood has become worse in last year - yes	12%	42%	41%
Neighbourhood will become worse - yes	1%	25%	36%
Has become worse and will continue to become worse - yes	0%	19%	32%
I am satisfied with neighbourhood as a place to live - yes	94%	84%	79%
There is more crime than one year ago - yes	23%	59%	60%
Would feel safe being alone outside in this neighbourhood at night - yes	93%	62%	76%
This is a fearful place - yes	21%	59%	48%
I worry about having my home broken into and something stolen - yes	10%	51%	46%
I worry about being mugged and robbed - yes	10%	58%	38%
I worry about having my car stolen - yes	8%	17%	35%
I worry about having things stolen from my car - yes	9%	30%	39%
I worry about being physically attacked by strangers - yes	14%	60%	29%
I worry about insulted or pestered by anybody while in the street or public place - yes	10%	27%	27%

	Slade Green	Christchurch	East Wickham and Falconwood and Welling (two wards)
1 worry about being subject to a physical attack because of skin colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or disability-yes	11%	0%	16%
These things are a problem in my area:			
Youths	8%	74%	76%
Vandalism	8%	49%	55%
Speeding motorists	14%	66%	44%
Traffic and parking	23%	69%	37%
Burglary	3%	29%	48%
Graffiti	4%	27%	50%
Litter/rubbish	26%	18%	32%
Street robbery	5%	45%	28%
Dogs	37%	9%	26%
Abandoned/burnt out cars	8%	6%	29%
People cycling on pavements	10%	7	24%
Poor street lighting	1%	10%	22%
Presence of drug dealers	2%	7%	22%
Presence of drug users	2%	8%	21%
The police are responsive to community concerns in this neighbourhood - yes	98%	63%	70%
The police are doing a good job in tackling neighbourhood problems-yes	89%	15%	45%
The police are doing a good job in working together with residents - yes	74%	8%	43%
The police are good at helping people after they have been victims of crime - yes	74%	9%	48%
The police are preventing crime in this neighbourhood -yes	82%	10%	40%
The police are doing a good job keeping order on the streets - yes	84%	8%	39%
Have the police got better or sores in this neighbourhood in the last year-better	44%	10%	15%



We are sure the Panel will agree that the results are truly incredible, in terms of reducing the fear of crime within the zone. This has only been achieved as a result of the CSAZ initiative. We commend this project to you and to the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ball".

Cllr. Chris Ball
Leader of the Council and
Chair, BCSP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Merrett".

Chief Superintendent Robin Merrett
Borough Commander

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Costello".

Peter Costello
Head of Service Delivery
London Probation Area Bexley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natasha Bishopp".

Natasha Bishopp
Policy Manager, Community Initiatives
Bexley Council

	Slade Green	Christchurch	East Wickham and Falconwood and Welling {two wards)
What do you think the police will be like in this neighbourhood in a year from now - better	72%	17%	21%
Have you seen any evidence that the police in this neighbourhood are doing anything new to co-operate with the community- yes	52%	19%	15%
Are you satisfied with the level of service provided from the police - yes	91%	47%	66%
Are the local authority doing a good job tackling community concerns - yes	76%	19%	6%
Are the local authority working together with residents in this neighbourhood to solve local problems -yes	72%	10%	4%
Are the Council good at promoting community safety in this neighbourhood -yes	72%	0%	6%
Are the local authority doing a good job in reducing crime in this neighbourhood	60%	3%	2%

Research carried out by Quality Fieldwork & Research Services on behalf of the Police Federation

Slade Green – November 2001



Slade Green – May 2003



Summary:

Title of Project:

Slade Green Community Safety Action Zone

The nature of the problem addressed:

The Community Safety Action Zone initiative is project targeted at key locations in the Borough that suffer disproportionate levels of crime and disorder and also experience real issues relating to the fear of crime. Slade Green is an area of high social and economic deprivation, which the 2001 crime audit showed experienced one-third of all crime committed in the Borough.

The initiative aims to use the problem solving approach to:

- Build community capacity and involvement
- Improve the public's perception of the key agencies
- Remove fear of crime generators
- Reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime
- Increase the engagement of young people
- Increase the involvement of drug and alcohol users in services
- Deal speedily and effectively with offenders
- Involve residents in the design of community solutions
- Provide sustainable solutions to bring about real change
- Bring about community cohesion

Evidence used to define the problem:

- The 2001 crime and disorder audit
- Police statistics for 2001/02
- Socio-economic data

Data from:

- Health
- Education Welfare
- YOT
- Anti-social Behaviour Standing Case Conference
- Transport Operators
- Environmental services
- Fire Service
- Children's Social Services
- Probation
- Voluntary organisations, eg Victim Support, Women's Aid

Anecdotal evidence from:

- Surveys conducted for the audit
- Community consultation with a range of organisations and groups

- Have A Say Days and formal surveys

Collation of data was followed by an environmental audit of the CSAZ area

Description of the response to the problem:

A multi-agency team was set up to analyse the data and to work with the community to develop real solutions to the problems they were experiencing. The programme was both strategic as well as being reactive and continually evolving to take account of changing trends and patterns and needs identified by the group.

Impact and how it was measured:

The impact of CSAZ has been incredible. Bexley has enjoyed the largest crime reduction in London - 6.8% in 2002/03. Crime and disorder levels in the CSAZ fell, though the marked success is the effect the initiative has had on addressing the fear of crime in a community which largely felt abandoned by the main agencies. This has been achieved in eight months. This has also been measured by a public perception survey which was commissioned by the Metropolitan Police and was undertaken by an independent source.

400 words



Working for a safer London



SUBMISSION TO THE TILLEY AWARD 2003

SLADE GREEN COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION ZONE



Category: Partnership Projects

Police Force and CDRP: Metropolitan Police (Bexley Borough) and Bexley Community Safety Partnership

Endorsing Chief Officers:

- Cllr. Chris Ball, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership
- Ch. Supt. Robin Merrett, Borough Commander
- Peter Costello, Head of Service Delivery London Probation Area Bexley
- Natasha Bishopp, Policy Manager, Community Initiatives

Contact Details:

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Title of Project: Slade Green Community Safety Action Zone

Description of Project

Introduction:

Slade Green Community Safety Action Zone (CSAZ) seeks to improve the lives of residents experiencing disproportionate levels of crime and disorder and also to address the fear of crime, in an area with significant levels of social exclusion. This project represents the essence of partnership working bringing together partner agencies and the community to initiate an innovative approach to a set of problems that the community identified as being of concern. The project was delivered by taking the problem-solving approach which is intrinsic to all our working, considering the victim, offender and location and adopted the SARA model as a method of delivery. The initiative has had incredible success, in terms of effective use of resources and development of partnership working both between agencies and with the community, and has delivered in terms of impacting upon crime and disorder both in the CSAZ area and across the borough. It has enhanced the quality of life of residents in one of our most deprived neighbourhoods and substantially reduced the fear of crime in those neighbourhoods.

How did we define the problem:

Members of the Community living in an area called Dale View contacted the Council, the Police and their housing association Orbit asking for an urgent meeting to discuss disorder and crime in their neighbourhood. They also raised the issue of racial victimisation of local residents. This was a particular concern as in June 2000 the area hit the headlines when the British National Party came second in a local by-election. Following this The Guardian in July 2000 published an article which stated "North End (Slade Green) lies just south of Erith at the eastern edge of Greater London - a cluster of low-rise estates centred on a forlorn precinct of shops and Slade Green Railway Station Vandalism, burglary and drugs blight the lives of residents."

In June 2001 a meeting was hosted by the local CRE and attended by representatives from the Community Safety Partnership, the Police, the local Registered Social Landlord and fifteen residents who described the way they had been living for the previous year, the disorder they suffered, the abuse they faced on leaving their homes and the level of criminal activity in the vicinity. They stated that the area was extremely run down, with large numbers of abandoned cars which were often set alight, open spaces which had become 'no-go areas', fly-tipping and graffiti. One resident described how he had had his car window smashed every night for a week and had had to resort to parking elsewhere, another described how she ran the gauntlet of abuse and threats of violence every time she collected her young daughter from school. The residents knew the perpetrators but there was a real and understandable concern about giving evidence for fear of reprisals. Residents had no faith in any agency to help provide a solution, but expressed a willingness to work together with the Partnership to combat the problem.

At the same time as this meeting was being called Bexley Community Safety Partnership was conducting its statutory three-year audit of crime and disorder in the Borough. The Audit showed that some areas of the borough experienced higher levels of crime and disorder and that these areas were identified as being those which also suffered the greatest social deprivation.

The Audit showed that Slade Green was the site of a disproportionate amount of crime and disorder compared to the rest of the Borough. The area is one of the most deprived, Bexley is relatively prosperous - 237th most deprived of the 354 authorities in the ODPM's 2000 Indices of Local Deprivation. However North End Ward, which covers Slade Green, was amongst the top 16% of wards in England. Unemployment was 88% greater than for the rest of the Borough. The Audit showed that:

- Whilst there had been a large decrease in residential burglary across the Borough the highest intensity was in Slade Green
- Slade Green experienced the highest level of non-accidental property fires
- Slade Green had the third highest rate of malicious fire calls and derelict car fires had increased from 65 to 118 across the borough between 1999/2000, an increase of 81.5%, Slade Green experienced a rise from 5 to 28 burnt out cars - 24% of the problem was happening in the ward.
- Domestic violence in the area had increased
- One quarter of violent offenders and one third of all burglars lived in Slade Green
- One third of all those clients accessing drugs services and one quarter of all individuals arrested for possession of Class A drugs lived in Slade Green
- Maps supplied by Bexley Police BIU identified that Slade Green was a hotspot for residential burglary, non-residential burglary, autocrime, disorder, domestic violence and race crime
- In summary, one third of all crime in the Borough took place in Slade Green

Following the audit process the Partnership was required to produce a strategy detailing its crime reduction plans for 2002/05. The Partnership agreed that one of five key strategic aims was to deliver short, medium and long-term sustainable solutions to problems in areas to be designated Community Safety Action Zones, the first of these was to be Slade Green (map attached at Appendix 1). It was evident that this approach would impact on the CSAZ, but looking at crime patterns would also impact on crime and disorder across the Borough. The Council, in full support of this proposal set aside £250,000 pa to deliver environmental improvements in the CSAZ and a further £250,000 pa to develop a Young Person's Support Service to provide early intervention with those young people who were at risk of becoming involved in criminality.

A full residents' meeting was organised to inform local residents of the audit findings and to discuss with them the way forward. Over 150 local people attended. The agencies represented took the opportunity to break into small groups to discuss key issues, adopting a problem solving approach so as to identify possible stakeholders and solutions, and following that meeting an outline project plan was drafted. However in order to ensure that the plan was effective, it was necessary to meet with stakeholders and residents to gain their views and to ensure that the proposed solutions had their backing and, where possible, their involvement.

A multi-agency management group was established to examine the evidence provided by the audit and the anecdotal evidence collected from the audit's public consultation, but also to consider information provided by the community conference held with Dale View Residents, the public meeting and the subsequent community consultation.

The multi-agency team included:

- Bexley Police
- Council: including Partnership Team, Environmental Services, Education Welfare, Environmental Health, Youth Service, YOT, YPSS, Community Education
- Registered Social Landlords
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Local community representatives - Slade Green had an effective Community Forum led at the time by the local vicar.

Looking at victim, offender and location the team agreed to:

- Draw up and maintain detailed profiles of crime and disorder within the zone and to regularly map crime and disorder to inform the group's work
- Conduct an environmental audit of fear of crime generators
- Gather information and data on the needs of young people in the zone
- Provide statistical data on offenders
- Share information on young people in school who may be in need of intervention
- Gather feedback from the local community via the forum, Neighbourhood Watch and the community at large
- Gather information on families in need of help
- Measure perceptions and fear of crime to establish baselines
- Provide data and information on streets, buildings, neighbourhoods re specific concerns

An operations group was established to provide, analyse and prioritise this information. It was agreed that the Partnership should work should to:

- Consult with BME and asylum seeking communities
- Work with Registered Social Landlords to support witnesses in giving evidence
- Provide Magistrates with briefings *on* the work in the zone
- Draw up a press and media strategy to ensure that the zone was not stigmatised
- Brand the CSAZ with window stickers, car decals, fridge magnets and badges (see pack enclosed Appendix 2)
- Establish a freephone line to encourage community participation
- Provide a high-visibility police presence to reassure residents and complement the work
- Provide a high-visibility multi-agency presence to reassure residents
- Promote policies with RSLs to ensure vulnerable residents are dealt with appropriately

- Use and publicise the work of Crime Prevention Officers
- Work with RSLs to ensure homes are adequately secured
- Link vulnerable residents to the Council BELL Scheme
- Use Neighbourhood Watch to promote crime reduction
- Investigate all incidents in the zone and prosecute wherever possible
- Use outside police resources, eg police bus
- Work to access appropriate funding
- Work with known drug and alcohol users to reduce their involvement in crime and disorder
- Work with schools to address drug and alcohol issues
- Identify graffiti and remove it free of charge wherever it may be placed within the zone
- Work with traders to discourage the selling of 'graffiti material'
- Train local residents and businesses and community groups in the use of Council's environmentally friendly graffiti kits and to encourage their use for removal of small amounts of graffiti
- Review the quality of street lighting in the zone and upgrade if necessary
- Consider the installation of alleygates
- Enhance park security
- Work with the police, fire service, highways enforcement and Council Contractors to develop a programme for the efficient removal of abandoned and illegal cars
- Work to ensure all building work 'designs out' crime and, where possible, is subject to Secure by Design
- Involve young people in the design of community solutions
- Provide local relevant provision for young people
- Publicise youth provision
- Provide and maintain a database of sports clubs and groups
- Work with young offenders on initiatives to prevent reoffending
- Undertake targeted work with persistent young offenders to address issues regarding shoplifting and car crime and street crime as gateway crimes to more serious offending
- Establish a youth disorder panel
- Carry out Health Promotion work in the zones
- Assess the effectiveness of the project

How did we deal with the problem:

In order to deliver the multi-agency response and to ensure sustainability and ownership it was necessary to undertake the process of community and Partnership consultation.

Whilst this consultation was ongoing the Police used existing resources to establish a Disorder Team, comprising a sergeant and six constables. They reviewed all criminal activity in Slade Green, principally in the Dale View area, and visited each victim assuring them that they would assist taking these matters to court. They provided a constant daily presence in the area, targeting, arresting and prosecuting offenders where appropriate. This targeted action and the work they did to support the community led to a sea change in the local community's thinking. One by one residents came forward willing to give evidence. An analysis of the evidence was undertaken and

Security in parks:

Additional security was funded using the Council's parks security company to ensure that some of the open spaces in the CSAZ were more regularly patrolled.

Operation Cubit:

A multi-agency operation targeting abandoned and illegal vehicles in key areas, Cubit has removed 1000 cars across the borough (including 450 in the Slade Green CSAZ) in the last eight months. This has greatly contributed to the perception of Bexley and the CSAZ areas as a safe place and is very popular with local residents. Non-accidental derelict vehicle fires in Bexley fell from 45 in Jan-March 2002 to 26 in Jan-March 2003, a 42% reduction and non-accidental vehicle fires fell from 59 in Jan-March 2002 to 43 in the same period this year, a reduction of 10%.

How successful was your approach:

In assessing our success it is important to remember that the objectives were threefold:

- To reduce crime and disorder in the CSAZ area through short, medium and long-term sustainable solutions
- To reduce crime and disorder across the Borough
- To have a positive impact on the fear of crime in the CSAZ

Crime in Bexley has fallen by 6.8% in the last year which makes Bexley the best performing Borough in the Metropolitan Police area in terms of crime reduction for 2002/03. Bexley is now the second safest borough in London with just 90 crimes per thousand population. Street robbery in Slade Green has reduced by 85% and car crime by 29%, probably as a result of the young men subject to ASBOs going to prison for related criminal offences and the breaking-up of the gang. Disorder reduced slightly and whilst burglary reduced it started to rise again following the release from custody of prolific offenders. Targeted action is underway to redress this trend. Tables showing crime trends are attached (Appendix 3).

Reducing the Fear of Crime:

The change in the community's perception in CSAZ has been startling in its success.

One local resident recently said: "We used to feel that there was a lack of response from the Police and Orbit and the job element was laying down the law to the community. Things have now improved 75% and I'm optimistic this will continue."

The local Housing Association said: "The CSAZ provides a clearly focused initiative with strong leadership and a bias for action. It cuts across bureaucratic fences and gets the right people looking at the right things... with Community Safety being in the Leader's portfolio there is a clear message about the priority for the Borough."