

COVER SHEET

Title of Project: Reducing Student Victims of Crime

Name of Force: Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Crime Reduction Strategy Unit
Force Headquarters
PO Box 37
Valley Road
Portishead
Bristol BS20 8QJ

Endorsing Officer: Superintendent Peter Kelk

Author/Contact: Heather Thomas
Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator

Address: Royal Fort Lodge
Tyndall Avenue
Bristol
BS8 1UH

Telephone: 0117 3311186
Mobile: 07919017102
Fax: 0117 9254856
E-mails: heather.thomas@bristol.ac.uk
heather.thomas@avonandsomeset.police.uk

Reducing Student Victims of Crime

2002 - 2004

CONTENTS

	Page No
Title Page	3
Acknowledgement	4
Summary	5
10 Description of Project	6-
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim & Objectives• Why Students are Victims of Crime• What has been implemented to date• Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinators Way Forward• Examples of Schemes• Developing and Learning	
Evaluation	11-16
Abbreviations	17

APPENDIXES

- A. Freshers Safety Survey 2003 Evaluation
- B. Student Safety Pack
- C. Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinators Schedule 2002/03
- D. Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Brochure
- E. City of Bristol College Analysis of Personal Safety Week
- F. Secure Storage Poster
- G. Operation Market Gate Analysis
- H. Web Chat Poster

TITLE PAGE

Title of Project: Reducing Student Victims of Crime

Name of Force: Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Crime Reduction Strategy Unit
Force Headquarters
PO Box 37
Valley Road
Portishead
Bristol BS20 8QJ

Endorsing Officer: Superintendent Peter Kelk

Author/Contact: Heather Thomas
Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator

Address: Royal Fort Lodge
Tyndall Avenue
Bristol
BS8 1UH

Telephone: 0117 3311186
Mobile: 07919017102
Fax: 0117 9254856
E-mails: heather.thomas@bristol.ac.uk
heather.thomas@avonandsomeset.police.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Those connected with the Student Crime Reduction Initiative would like to take this opportunity in thanking all associate partners for their assistance and support over the last 18 months. In particular Avon Fire Brigade, Bristol City Council, City of Bristol College, University of Bristol, The University of the West of England, Unite (Accommodation providers for students) University of Bath, Bath Spa College University, Bath & North East Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Filton College. A big thanks also to fellow Crime Reduction colleagues within the Avon & Somerset Constabulary and in particular Amanda Aldridge, Criminal Intelligence Analyst for her help in the preparation of this report.

SUMMARY

Reducing Student Victims of Crime 2002 - 2004

Students account for just over 1/5th of the population of Bristol and therefore have become a major target for criminals, particularly on the streets. Students come to Bristol not only for the excellent education opportunities but also for the vibrant club and bar life and as such have become vulnerable to the criminal fraternity.

Some 8 years ago it was first identified by the Avon and Somerset team in North Bristol that crime against students was becoming more and more prevalent. At this point they began to work closely with the University of Bristol, University of the West of England and City of Bristol College. The numbers of students at that stage were considerably less but trends had started to appear with regard to robberies and burglaries. The additional opportunities and temptations for the modern day criminal were inevitable, as students do not exist without a mobile phone, PC and laptop in the 21st century.

The current numbers of students either residing or studying in Bristol during the 2003-4 academic year:

City of Bristol College (CofBC)	Full and Part Time	47,000
University of Bristol (UOB)	Full Time	16,900
University of the West of England (UWE)	Full and Part Time	23,300

In Bristol there are a number of large residential areas where students predominantly reside and this emphasises that students are a community in their own right.

To address this problem in September 2002 the new post of Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator was created to oversee the delivery of crime reduction measures to students. This corporate approach in delivering a complete crime reduction package has been fundamental in reaching a wider audience within the student population.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

AIM

To have in place a structure whereby Avon & Somerset Constabulary via the Student Crime Reduction Team have a robust and effective information and advisory service to students and associate partners.

OBJECTIVES

- Reduction in the key crime areas of robbery, burglary and vehicle crime against students
- Reduce fear of crime amongst student population
- Determine which methods work best in creating awareness
- Build and facilitate relationships between all partners involved in the Student Crime Reduction initiative

The below gives an overview of students attending the teaching institutions in Bristol:

WHY STUDENTS ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME

A comparison against total crime within Bristol shows that Students account for;

- 1 in 4 robberies (25%)
- 1 in 20 burglaries (5%)
- 1 in 20 vehicle crime incidents (5%)

This highlights that fact that students are one of the most vulnerable groups within the city. Many of these students are leaving home for the first time and have never been responsible for renting property, managing budgets or fending for themselves. In these days of mobile phones, laptops, designer gear they appear to be sitting targets. Education is the key to informing students of their vulnerability and giving them the tools and skills to take responsibility for themselves and their property.

In order to gauge the perceptions of students coming to university for the first time in September 2002 a Freshers' Safety Survey was devised and sent out via the web to some 8817 freshers' in 2003. The Survey was prepared in partnership with Henry Shaftoe, Lecturer at UWE. Some 1194 returned completed surveys, which equated to some 12% of those who had been contacted. From the information received a report was produced (**Appendix A**) and schemes such as the introduction of Secure Storage was introduced. Other issues raised from the survey such as night buses are currently being researched.

WHAT AVON & SOMERSET HAS IMPLEMENTED TO DATE

For a number of years the Avon & Somerset Constabulary have been working closely with Bristol City Council, City of Bristol College, University of Bristol and UWE Bristol and have built partnerships, which meet and implement initiatives via the following forums:

- **Student Crime Reduction Forum**
- **Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme**
- **Bristol Landlords Forum**

The Student Crime Reduction Forum, which held its initial meeting in October 2000, consists of representatives from each of the following departments within each teaching institutions, Accommodation, Security and Student Union Offices. It also has representation from Bristol City Council, Bristol Policing Districts and local landlord groups. This group shares intelligence and discusses initiatives and planning for future activities including:

- The production of Student Packs (**Appendix B**)
- Moving in Briefings to freshers' as outlined in the "Student Crime Reduction Schedule 2002/03 & 2002/04" (**Appendix C**)
- Purchasing of safety devices such as Alarms, locks etc

The Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme was conceived by North Bristol Crime Reduction Unit and in partnership with Avon Fire Brigade, Bristol Association of Letting and Management Agents (BALMA), Bristol City Council's Environmental Health Department, City of Bristol College, University of Bristol and UWE Bristol. This scheme has now been running for 2 years and to date some 95 properties have been accredited and due to its success a full time officer was appointed to project manage this scheme in October 2003. The next exciting stage of this scheme will be the introduction of managing and letting agents, which will incorporate the main bulk of residential properties to let in the Bristol area. Attached (**Appendix D**) is a copy of the Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme brochure.

The Bristol City Councils Landlords Forum encourages landlords to develop policy and procedures with regard to the accommodation they offer generally across the city. It also is an excellent platform from which the Avon and Somerset Constabulary has an opportunity to update landlords on new initiatives with regard to students as victims of crime and how they as a group can upgrade and enhance their accommodation.

STUDENT CRIME REDUCTION CO-ORDINATOR WAY FORWARD

The Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator has been working closely with Police from Bath and Bath & North Somerset Council (BANES) and later this year a Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme in Bath will be launched in partnership with University of Bath, Bath Spa College University, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and BANES.

In September 2003 the Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator and police representatives from South Gloucestershire were invited to attend Filton Colleges' Freshers' Fair. This was the first time there had been a crime reduction presence at this event and some 250 students received safety packs and personal safety briefings.

The above are examples of how the initiative can and is expanding into other areas.

It is the vision of the Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator that in the future the initiative can be progressed by:

- Each district having its own Student Crime Reduction Forum with the SCRC as its chair and that these groups would meet 4 monthly to plan events and share information.
- A Strategy Group, again headed by SCRC would be set-up with a nominated representative from each SCRF. This group would meet 6 monthly and it is anticipated that this would be the forum to share best practice and put in place robust communication systems to plan force wide events.
- Finally, to ensure all participants have the skills, knowledge and expertise to deliver information to students. It is proposed in the next 6 months to run a training programme, which will be delivered, to all relevant partners to address this.

EXAMPLES OF SCHEMES

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – PERSONAL SAFETY WEEK 3rd – 11th November 2003

Following the success of the first City of Bristol College Personal Safety Week in January 2003 the Student Crime Reduction Team was approached to run a similar event in November 2003. This was to extend over a 10-day period from Monday 3rd November through to Tuesday 11th November.

Each day the road show visited a different campus and carried out briefings to a variety of student groups i.e. Internationals, Health & Beauty, Business Studies, Learning Difficulties, and Preparation for Independence etc. Tutors were invited to book slots. Avon and Somerset Crime Reduction Officers would be scheduled to go along and brief these tutor groups. After evaluating feedback from Officers and Tutors on the event in January it was decided that the Student Safety Video would be used as the main tool in these briefings followed by group discussions led by Avon and Somerset representatives. Evaluation of second safety week (**Appendix E**).

SECURE STORAGE SCHEME

When students decide to study in Bristol they arrive with everything but the kitchen sink and therefore are targets of burglaries during the holiday periods. To address this problem during Christmas 2002 and New Year 2003 a pilot scheme was run in partnership with UWE for residents of property managed houses, A & S and Spaces Personal Storage. Although the uptake was not overwhelming and following review meeting, this initiative was offered to the same group of student during Easter 2003. In Summer 2003 this scheme was rolled out to the wider Student population in Bristol and from 90 enquiries some 71 students lodged their items with Spaces – Storage Poster (**Appendix F**). There has now been interest about the scheme from other Police Forces across the country i.e. South Wales, Thames Valley and this scheme is being seen as best practice.

In October 2003 the Student Crime Reduction Initiative was successful in securing funding of £10,000 from the Home Office to promote reducing burglaries in student accommodation. This funding was used to promote the Secure Storage Scheme via local radio stations (GWR & Vibe 101). It also assisted the funding of grants to landlords to up grade security through the Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme and the purchasing of light timers to be distributed to student properties as well as the Smartwater produce to assist with property marking.

VULNERABLE ROOMS

At the beginning of the academic year 2003/04 first year students at UOB and UWE Bristol received a Student Safety Pack. To check if students had noted information displayed in booklet and marked their items with the UV pen supplied, A & S carried out visits to University halls of residence.

A visit was also made to Market Gate a 460-bed development based in central Bristol. Market Gate accommodates UWE students from all years but is not managed by the University. This exercise was carried out in partnership with Unite who were responsible for handing out student safety packs and briefing residents on personal safety as they collected their keys. Attached (**Appendix G**) Operation Market Gate Results Analysis.

From just these three examples one can see that the Student Crime Reduction Team are working in true partnership with a variety of different groups; local businesses, teaching

institutions, tutors, students, accommodation offices, A & S district staff. From these groups new initiatives will be developed and nurtured.

DEVELOPING & LEARNING

Over the last few months a number of new schemes have been trialed i.e. Student Web Chat (**Appendix H**) that took place under the guidance of Scott Fulton, Internet Manager, Police HQ, Portishead. Posters were produced and flyers handed out to all fresher's at fairs and welcome meetings stating that student could participate in a live web chat on a specific date, between certain times. Unfortunately there was very little interest shown and a review is currently taking place as to reasons behind this.

In December 2003 the Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator was approached by the Safer Bristol Partnership to facilitate the introduction of a loan service of property marking kits in the three teaching institutions libraries. There have so far been meetings with the Head of Library Services at UWE & UOB and a pilot scheme is currently running at UWE's St Matthias Library. Once this pilot has been completed a full report will be prepared prior to installing kits in all 27 teaching institutions libraries.

To conclude the Student Crime Reduction Initiative has moved at some pace since September 2002 but there is still a long way to go. But with the best interests and well being of the student population being core to any work carried out, the Student Crime Reduction Initiative can only move forward building on the partnerships already in place and developing future contacts not only sharing best practice in Avon and Somerset but across the country generally.

EVALUATION

Purpose:

The purpose of the analysis is to show how effective the SCRI has been in terms of reducing crime, the fear of crime and educating students in how best to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

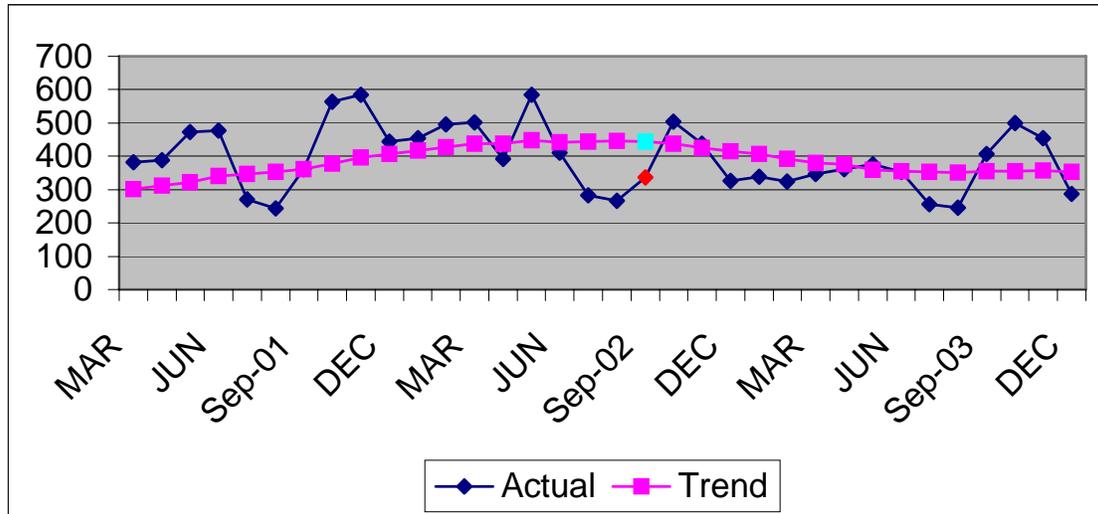
Methodology:

The data used in this document was taken from a variety of different sources. Crime data has been used from the Force's crime recording system (CMU2). Information has also been extracted from pieces of results analysis completed on each individual service provided from SCRI. Data will also be used from a questionnaire on the fear of crime completed by the University of West England.

Current Picture:

Fig 1.0 is a chart, which depicts the crime rate where the victim is a student by month for the last 4 years. Trend analysis has been performed and plotted on the chart also.

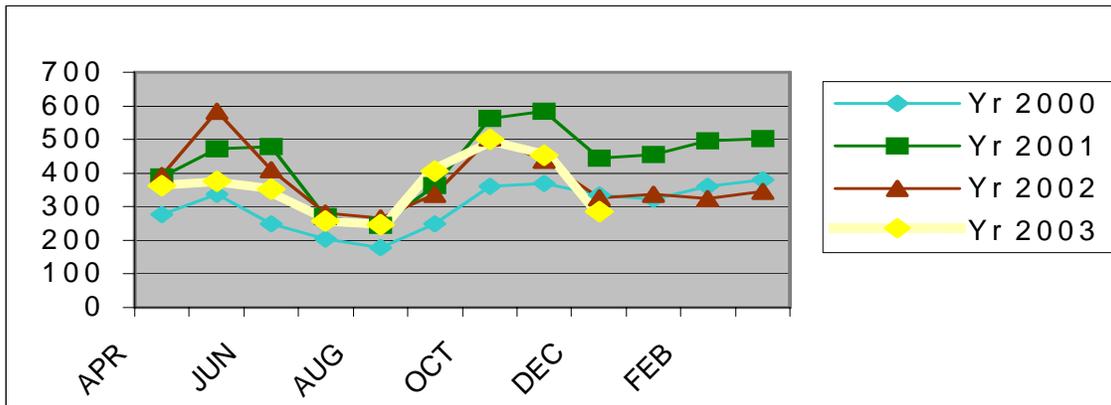
Fig 1.0



On this chart you will see that the dark blue line is what the actual crime rate is per month and it can be seen to be quite sporadic. The pink line is the trend line (12-month Moving average). This takes out any anomalies such as prolific offenders going in or out of prison. You will also notice that on each line there is a point that differs from the rest of them. It is at this point that the Student Crime Reduction Initiative began. After this point for the first few months the trend remained static, however after this the trend has started to decrease and continued to do so until September of 2003 after which time it has remained static. It is suggested that in the

months of January 04 onwards the trend will start to decrease, as the actual crime rate will also start to decrease. This suggestion has been made, as there are definite seasonal trends as will be seen in fig 1.1. Also each September there is a new intake of students who may not have received the information given by the SCRI.

Fig 1.1



As would be expected there is always a dip in figures during the summer months when the majority of students have gone home. This is true of all crime types including dwelling burglary even though some would expect there to be an increase due to the student's premises being left empty. The thought on this is that because the summer is such a long break and many students will only stay in a premise for one year they will tend to take their entire property home with them. The Christmas holidays along with 'Easter' holidays are a different matter as they are much shorter and students will be more inclined to leave their valuables at their premises and so is a much more vulnerable target for acquisitive crime (dwelling burglary).

Crimes such as violence, robberies and other such crimes against the person will of course increase and decrease according to the holidays as we only record the offence if it is committed within our area. If offences take place against the students whilst they are on holiday and not within our area this data will not appear in the results (see Methodology).

CRIME REDUCTION PRODUCTS/SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE

One of the busiest times for the SCRI is during Freshers' and following weeks. This because a new set of students arrive, a new set of people who may never have lived on their own before, a new set of people who have probably never had to think about crime prevention for themselves and their property. It is at this time that the SCRI plays its most important role. The SCRI provides student crime prevention packs designed by themselves to every student. They also supply the three main teaching establishments Personal Attack Alarms (at a greatly reduced rate), which are handed out to freshers' when collecting their accommodation keys or at freshers' fairs. Crime prevention briefings are also given to the students during their welcome/induction meetings (in September 2003 sp,e 7039 students were briefed over a 2 week period). To evaluate these products and services and to also reinforce the crime prevention message the Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator prepares a schedule and leads uniformed officers and police staff on visits to student accommodation premises. These operations are entitled Vulnerable Room Initiatives/Operations. One such check that took place and the results of which have been analysed, was on October 21st when the SCRI made a visit to the UNITE student accommodation "Market Gate". Representatives from A District and HQ made visits to each flat. Part of this visit was to find out if the students had received crime prevention packs, gone to crime prevention briefings during fresher week and carried out the advice given.

The analysis of these visits showed that of 119 students visited 92% of them had received crime prevention packs. Of these 45% attended a crime prevention briefing. A further analysis showed that from the students that had received the packs and attended crime prevention briefings some 63% had then gone on to mark their property. This means that out of all students visited (119) 26% of them who had received a pack, gone to a crime prevention briefing then went on to mark their property. These people have already made themselves less likely to become victims of crime because if they have taken the advice on marking property they have most probably taken on the other crime prevention advice given in the packs and briefings. Further analysis shows that even just receiving a pack or just attending a briefing will more likely motivate a student to take on crime prevention advice.

This analysis shows that the SCRI has influenced approximately a third of the students they come into contact with, which in turn will inevitably reduced their chances of become student victims of crime. Therefore this confirms that there is a possibility of reducing crime where students are victims by a third because of the SCRI.

PERSONAL SAFETY WEEKS

At certain times of the year the SCRI carries out additional crime reduction briefings as at the CofBC in November 2003 as outlined on page 10 of this report. At the same time as the briefings display stands are set up in the refectories/students unions where extra advice and crime reduction literature is given. It has also been at this stall that crime reduction products such as the personal attack alarm has been given out and/or sold. This service has been evaluated by way of questionnaires filled out by the tutors and also by the Crime Reduction Officers in attendance.

The results of the evaluation have been very positive. All the tutors saw a great deal of worth from the Personal Safety Week and were in complete agreement that this service should take place on an annual basis.

There were some issues raised by the tutors about the intellectual level that the briefings were aimed at. This was not at every briefing but at those where the students had special needs and / or learning difficulties. The SCRI had not pre-empted this difficulty and so had only produced one type of briefing. The SCRI has taken the issues raised on board and is now developing a briefing that can easily be tailored for all groups of students.

Overall it was found that the preparation and the promotional material used were of a high quality and relevant to their objectives. This was the opinion of the tutors but the Crime Reduction Officers especially valued it, one such police officer stated.

“Due to the responsibilities that we Police Officers have, it means that the time available to give in the planning and preparation of freshers’ fairs, presentations to students groups, student packs etc in minimal. It has therefore been of a great benefit to know that there has been the Student Crime Reduction Team dedicated to the scheduling and servicing of events, presentations etc.”

In the majority of cases the tutors were of the opinion that the briefings encouraged the students to take responsibility for their own safety and that the sessions generated discussion between the students.

THE BRISTOL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION ACCREDITATION SCHEME

This scheme is designed to help both the landlord and student tenant by giving recognition and preferential advertising via the student accommodation offices to landlords whose property meets certain minimum standards. In turn this is displayed on websites and in accommodation offices where student tenants can view and be confident that the information given is reliable about each property with regard to basic safety, security and energy efficiency standards.

Since the inception of the accreditation scheme the SCRI has accredited 95 student properties and are in the process of accrediting a further 165 student properties. If we take the average number of students per household being 5 then the accreditation scheme has the potential of ensuring that 1300 students will be living in a secure house in both terms of crime and safety. The accreditation scheme is already delivering this to approximately 650 students.

The inference that has come from analysing this scheme is that it not only reduces the chance of the students who live in the property from being a victim of crime, but also reduces the student’s fear of crime. This inference will be tested shortly by way of a questionnaire which is being developed and is due to be sent out to student living in already accredited properties in May 2004.

SECURE STORAGE SCHEME

Secure Storage Scheme as outlined on page 10 of this report.

Feedback has been sought from those students using this service and the responses so far have been very positive. All the responses have stated that the process of taking up the service was very easy and all the personnel they came into contact with were helpful and polite. The responses also stated that the property was returned in good condition and at the pre-arranged date and time. The students who have responded with feedback have all said that they would definitely use the service again. What is interesting is that a large proportion of the students who have taken up this service have been international students as they do not wish to be taking their items all the way home 3 times a year. Since this service was first provided each university holiday has seen an increase in the amount of students taking up secure storage and it is forecasted that this trend will continue.

WEB CHAT

A pilot web chat took place on the 9th October 2003. Although there was a poor response, the worth of such a forum for students to voice their concerns with the police and to also ask any questions has been recognised. Through evaluation it has been established that the timing of the event and how it was promoted needs to be changed in order to increase the amount of people who use this forum. This initiative is designed to help further alleviate student's fear of crime and also develop the relationship between the students and police. It is proposed that second web chat will be scheduled in later in the year following further consultation with Student Reps.

INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT

A Freshers' Survey took place in 2003 in order to gauge students concerns and experiences in terms of crime. The results of this research has been very informative and so far to date two initiatives have been prioritised and are being developed.

The respondents of the survey highlighted that there was a need for a night bus service so that the students would have a safe and inexpensive way of getting home. The Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Deputy Security Manager at UOB are in talks with local bus operators to provide such a service.

A need for safer routes when walking home was also highlighted, the SCRI has acknowledged this requirement and in certain areas there has been additional and enhanced lighting provided around student accommodation. There are plans to extend this to other areas.

OTHER COMMENTS

Crime reduction officers who have been involved in the production and provision of the services provided by the Student Crime Reduction Initiative have given their thoughts on the overall initiative. Here is a sample of the comments given

“The fact that an issue which naturally spans a number of police districts is co-ordinated in a central location is a strength of the initiative”

“This initiative should be extended to cover ALL further education provision throughout the whole of the Force area. THIS INITIATIVE WORKS so it shouldn’t be a case of Bristol only, we are Avon and Somerset Constabulary, a student victim in Yeovil is still a student victim.”

“This needs (SCRI) to be formalised as a Force Initiative, and one which a continuity of provision is maintained.”

“Although B district has only a small percentage of students compared to other districts I feel that there has been a valuable input and contribution from the SCRI.”

“It has been very worthwhile having a dedicated unit resourcing and working among young people in the universities. It has constantly flagged up the various initiatives and has brought together agencies and placed Crime Reduction firmly on their agenda.”

CONCLUSION

The evaluation of the services and products of the Student Crime Reduction Initiative has shown that that the SCRI has had a positive effect in reducing the fear of crime of students and empowering the same students to reduce the chance of them becoming a victim of crime.

ABBREVIATIONS

CofBC	City of Bristol College
UWE	University of the West of England
UOB	University of Bristol
UNI	University
POP	Problem Oriented Policing
BALMA	Bristol Association of Letting and Management Agents
SCRC	Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator
BANES	Bath and North East Somerset
SCRF	Student Crime Reduction Forum
A & S	Avon and Somerset
PMS	Property Managed Houses
CMU	Crime Management Unit
HE	Higher Education
FE	Further Education
SCRI	Student Crime Reduction Initiative

Appendix A

Freshers Safety Survey 2003 Evaluation

REDUCING STUDENT VICTIMS OF CRIME INITIATIVE 2002-3

FRESHERS' SURVEY 2003

Henry Shaftoe, Cities Research Centre, University of the West of England. July 2003

1: Introduction

As part of the government sponsored "Action on Street Crime" initiative in Bristol, funding was allocated for measures aimed to reduce the victimisation risk of further and higher education students in Bristol. The targeting of students was based on evidence that young people are disproportionately at risk of being victims of property crime and street crime. A recorded crime analysis carried out by Avon and Somerset Police in 2002 found that crimes against students had increased by 138% since 1999 and were running at 250 crimes per month. The analysis found that, in Bristol, student victims accounted for a quarter of all robberies, and 5% of both burglaries and vehicle crime.

The Cities Research Centre at the University of the West of England was commissioned to undertake research that would evaluate the impact of the initiative and inform the direction of future work to improve student safety and security.

The principal aim of the student crime reduction initiative is to reduce the number of student victims. The four objectives are;

- 1: to reduce levels of robbery, burglary and vehicle crime against students
- 2: to reduce the fear of crime
- 3: to find out what is effective in terms of student crime reduction

4: to find out if communication between key partners has been effective.

2: Methodology

The core of this research is based around a large scale self-completion questionnaire that was emailed during Spring 2003 to all first year students at UWE (5,517) and Bristol University (3,300), totaling 8,817 students. 1,093 students returned completed questionnaires, which works out at a 12% response rate. This is a relatively good response rate for self-completion surveys. However, there was a much higher response rate from Bristol University students (29%) than from UWE students (2%). It is not clear why there should be such a huge variation in response rate between the two universities. A partial explanation might be that UWE has far more local and part-time students who perhaps felt the survey was not relevant to them, as they were already living in or around Bristol. It should also be pointed out that, although 1,094 is a very large response sample it cannot be claimed to be representative of the higher education student population as a whole. It could be that only students who were worried about crime bothered to complete the questionnaire, or that students on social science courses might be more interested in participating in such a survey. It was also significant that there more females (659) than males (421) responded, perhaps reflecting the higher levels of fear and concern among women. Despite these limitations, the survey has come up with some useful qualitative and quantitative data which should assist in reducing fear and victimisation amongst the next cohorts of University students in Bristol.

3: Findings

The students were asked a series of closed and open questions. The closed questions (yes/no or tick box) are tabulated below.

Q1.1 - Did you receive a safety pack?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	396	36.2	36.2	36.2
	Not answered	26	2.4	2.4	38.6
	Yes	671	61.4	61.4	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q1.2 - Did you receive an attack alarm?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	354	32.4	32.4	32.4
	Not answered	7	.6	.6	33.0
	Yes	732	67.0	67.0	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

When compared by gender, 73% of female respondents had received an attack alarm as opposed to 57% of males. This highlights the possible misapprehension that they are "rape" alarms (sometimes referred to as such by students) when, in fact, they are just as important for young men to carry, given their higher risk of being attacked in the street.

Q1.3 - Did you receive a marker pen?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	385	35.2	35.2	35.2
	Not answered	11	1.0	1.0	36.2
	Yes	697	63.8	63.8	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q2 - Did you attend talk about student safety?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	421	38.5	38.5	38.5
	Not answered	3	.3	.3	38.8
	Yes	669	61.2	61.2	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

The above tables show that about two thirds of the students had benefited from the crime reduction initiative in terms of advice and the supply alarms, marker pens and safety packs.

Q3 - Did you receive other advice about crime prevention?				
--	--	--	--	--

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	686	62.8	62.8	62.8
	Not answered	50	4.6	4.6	67.3
	Yes	357	32.7	32.7	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q4 - How worried are you about being a victim of crime while studying in Bristol?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not answered	45	4.1	4.1	4.1
	Not worried	591	54.1	54.1	58.2
	Worried	457	41.8	41.8	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

When running a project on crime risk awareness, there is always the risk that fear might be raised. 40% of students are worried about being victims, when, in fact only 13% had been victims in the last 6 months (see below). However, worrying about crime is a prevalent concern among the population as a whole, often fuelled by unbalanced mass media coverage of criminal incidents. Unsurprisingly, a higher proportion of the female respondents (49%) than males (31%) were worried about being a victim of crime. Despite the fact that males tend to be more at risk, for young women, becoming a victim can be more traumatic.

Q7 - Have you been a victim of crime in the last 6 months?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	928	84.9	84.9	84.9
	Not answered	19	1.7	1.7	86.6
	Yes	146	13.4	13.4	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

The six month time scale was deliberately used here as this would have been the period during which the respondents would have been in Bristol (As freshers they would only have arrived the previous September). A crude measure of annual risk could be achieved by doubling the percentage figures (27%). This then closely parallels the findings of a student survey in the East Midlands (Home Office 2003) which found that one third of the student sample had been victims of crime in the previous year. A MORI poll of students (2001) found that a third of students had been affected by crime during their time at university.

More males (17% of the male sample) had been victims than females (11%).

Respondents who answered "yes" to the above question were asked to specify the type of crime experienced and where it occurred. The verbatim responses are listed below, after the removal of irrelevant replies:

- Mobile phone theft in a club
 - (Possibly) Mobile phone vanished. I believe it was pick pocketed.
 - Attempted mugging in Churchill Hall grounds. 2. Lost my wallet on a night out. 3. A couple of times 'con men' have tried to get money from me on the walk to and from university. The 'I desperately need money for a cab to get to my ill wife' kinda thing. Didn't fall for it but I guess that they were breaking the law.
 - ABH - was beaten up, had bruises in the facial area.
 - all the mail got stolen because it is just left in pigeon holes, someone broke in and stole it all
 - assault in my first week in Bristol, police were not interested!
 - at a cinema, I lost my purse and it was never returned (theft)
 - At The Academy; a very drunk girl assaulted me after I apologised for accidentally bumping in to her.
 - Attempted attack by a tramp outside the Wills Memorial Building. 4pm. Phoned police. Didn't make a statement.
 - attempted theft of vehicle - damage to door frame.
 - bag and belongings stolen
 - bank cards
 - Beaten up outside a cashpoint at night, in public. Reported to police, but unfortunately no arrest. Also, bike has got vandalised.
 - Bicycles stolen (*listed by 10 respondents*)
 - Break in at our house
 - Burglary - nothing stolen
 - Burglary. Laptop computer and wallet were stolen within first two weeks of arrival.
 - Burgled twice, woke to find a man at the end of my bed with 2 others downstairs robbing my house
 - burglary at home!
 - A 'dodgy' looking bloke once followed me around Bristol City Center at night...
 - Car broken into and CD player stolen at night in Stoke Bishop.
 - car broken into in castle green.
 - car crash, hit and run
 - car crime, also someone broke into my room at university halls
-
- Car stolen from outside accommodation and joyrided. It was smashed up.
 - Car theft
 - car was "keyed" and scratched whilst parked on Woodland Rd at night. I was also involved in a fight outside club as man was heckling friend
 - Car was broken into outside my house (St Andrews) and several car audio items were stolen.
 - coat stolen from a pub
 - credit card fraud
 - Damage to my car while parked outside my house
 - damage to property
 - domestic violence
 - Wallet stolen from car.
 - Flashing
 - friends and myself were mugged on Churchill Grounds
 - got attacked by large group of 11-18 yr olds up Gloucester Road, but I avoided any kicking as fast runner - a friend not so lucky.

- got punched in the face outside Wax-Walkabout by a local man who knew the bouncers and called the police but the bouncers of the club denied everything and when the police inspected the video tapes they had been cleared at the point of me being punched.
 - had coat stolen in club
 - Had my bag stolen with purse, keys, mobile phone.
 - Had my wallet stolen at Creation. Had my bag stolen in a pub. Had my jacket stolen from Creation
 - Have been mugged twice
 - Have had two mobile phones and money stolen from me since October
 - Hit in the face, unprovoked. Wedgies(Evolution)
 - House burglary. Laptops, passports, travel tickets and other stuff were stolen. Came in daylight through the front door. It is a university residence.
 - I had a package stolen by someone else living in my building (private apartments)
 - I had my bike pump stolen in the centre of town, but nothing major.
 - I have had handbags stolen, money and phones (all at the same times) whilst out. I should probably stress that I was not so drunk at the time that I was careless but I simply thought that by putting my bag on the floor next to me whilst dancing meant it would be safe. I now don't pay any heed to the idea that you shouldn't let things out of your sight, I just don't let them out of my touch!
 - I have had my wallet stolen.
 - I lost my mobile and before I could cancel it £90 of calls were made.
 - I was assaulted down by the fountains after a night out at The Score, I was walking back towards the main road to get a taxi with some friends (there were 6 of us) and I got attacked by a man for no reason and I had to spend the night in hospital and have 6 stitches. A friend tried to stop him and was also assaulted, we were both taken to hospital in an ambulance and were kept overnight.
 - I was punched in the face by someone in the street, for some random reason... I didn't even talk to them.
 - In my hall the TV was stolen and on another occasion all the post was taken.
 - In the union, my wallet was stolen at the freshers fair
 - Jacket stolen from McCluskeys
 - Just near Nelson House on Rupert Street last term. a flat mate and I were attacked by a group of blokes.
 - Mail theft at my flat in Clifton. My bank card was stolen after the post was delivered to my building. The suspect spent approx. £500 on my bank card before it was discovered - the bank has since repaid me. Several days later, I happened to catch a mail thief in my lobby with my mail; he verbally accosted me. Both incidents were immediately reported to the police.
 - Main entrance of home building was vandalised, by group of drunk men who proceeded to harass occupants of flats.
 - microwave stolen from hall of residence kitchen
 - mobile phone stolen (*listed by 15 other respondents*)
-
- My bag was stolen at the Arnolfini Art Gallery at the Waterfront. It contained my keys, my phone, and all of my credit cards/ID/debit cards/cash.
 - my bag was stolen containing my wallet and phone last week
 - my bike was stolen from St. Michael's Hill and my bag was stolen in transit
 - my car was stolen (but later retrieved thanks to gps) and it was also vandalized on 3 other occasions (broken mirrors and key scratches)
 - my handbag was stolen from a bar in Bristol
 - my handbag was stolen from a bar in Bristol
 - my purse was being stolen from my bag.
 - My purse was stolen
 - My room got burgled. And insurance is a shambles.
 - My wallet was pickpocketed when I was in club, the money was taken but I got my cards etc. back.
 - physical assault.
 - pickpocketed on the dance floor at "level"

- Purse stolen from a university building
- QUEEN CHARLOTTE STREET, A MAN INDECENTLY EXPOSED HIMSELF TO ME AND MY FRIENDS, CONTACTED POLICE
- Signed cheques stolen, no financial loss
- someone drove into the back of my car causing damage and then immediately drove away from the scene.
- Someone had tried to steal my car. Not for me, but my downstairs' flat had been broken into and laptop computers were stolen.
- Someone stole the wing mirror off my car.
- Someone trying to steal my bike
- I witnessed an incident where a man broke into our hall and attempted to steal a lap top
- stealing a bag and trying to get me in a car
- theft
- Theft of a fleece from the student union (picked up in front of twenty people and casually walked off with).
- theft two times from halls.
- theft, but not directly, tv stolen from common room and washing machine dismantled to get money out
- Theft. Theft of hub caps on my car.
- thefts occur within the hall, e.g. someone had a computer stolen, a bike was stolen etc.
- think someone took my wallet at a club
- two people approached me in a bar while my boyfriend was at the toilet and took my wallet and mobile phone from my bag which was under the table which they and I were sat at
- University managed house that I live in was burgled
- Vandalism as mentioned above - nothing else
- vandalism to car.
- victim to apparent opportunist thieves
- Wallet pickpocketed in nightclub
- Wallet was stolen in the student union.
- Was attacked by a group of townies
- Was beaten up in an unprovoked attack by four people at Wedgies at Evolution, on the dance floor, bouncers did nothing
- was mugged
- Was mugged at knifepoint for mobile phone in Bristol City Centre
- Yes I have. I got robbed, purse and phone stolen out of room then they commenced to wipe my account of everything I have, in contact at the moment with the police

There is a fairly predictable pattern of property theft here - notably mobile phones, wallets, bags and bicycles along with some burglaries. What is of some concern is the number of offences occurring in and around certain night clubs. There also appears to be a problem of students getting assaulted in the street for expressive rather than acquisitive reasons. It is difficult to know how many of these attacks were unprovoked and how many were fuelled by alcohol. Furthermore, there may be a number of street attacks where students would be reluctant to give full details, such as, for example, students trying to buy drugs and then getting robbed.

Comparing victim risk with type of accommodation, the percentage of respondents living in private rented accommodation, who had been victims of crime, was no greater than those living in University Halls and developments.

Q8 - Likelihood that something will be stolen from you in Bristol

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid highly likely	26	2.4	2.4	2.4
Valid likely	246	22.5	22.5	24.9
Valid Most unlikely	114	10.4	10.4	35.3
Valid Not answered	27	2.5	2.5	37.8
Valid unlikely	680	62.2	62.2	100.0
Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q9 - Likelihood of being a victim of violence?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid highly likely	18	1.6	1.6	1.6
Valid likely	144	13.2	13.2	14.8
Valid Most unlikely	196	17.9	17.9	32.8
Valid Not answered	31	2.8	2.8	35.6
Valid unlikely	704	64.4	64.4	100.0
Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

In relation to the above two graphs, a higher percentage of the female sample (24%f/20%m) thought they would victims of theft, whereas a higher proportion of males 15%m/11%f) thought they would be victims of violence.

The following tables are included to show the demographic breakdown of the respondent sample:

Q13 - Gender					
		Frequenc	Perce	Valid	Cumulative
		y	nt	Percent	Percent
Valid	Female	659	60.3	60.3	60.3
	Male	421	38.5	38.5	98.8
	Not answered	13	1.2	1.2	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q14 - Normal place of residence					
		Frequenc	Perce	Valid	Cumulative
		y	nt	Percent	Percent
Valid	Not answered	16	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Overseas	163	14.9	14.9	16.4
	UK	914	83.6	83.6	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q15 - Would you describe yourself as...?					
		Frequenc	Perce	Valid	Cumulative
		y	nt	Percent	Percent
Valid	Bangladeshi	1	.1	.1	.1
	Black African	7	.6	.6	.7
	Black Caribbean	3	.3	.3	1.0
	Black other	2	.2	.2	1.2
	Chinese	50	4.6	4.6	5.8
	Indian	15	1.4	1.4	7.1
	Not answered	26	2.4	2.4	9.5
	Other	44	4.0	4.0	13.5
	other Asian	21	1.9	1.9	15.5
	White	924	84.5	84.5	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Q16 - University attending:					
		Frequenc	Perce	Valid	Cumulative
		y	nt	Percent	Percent
Valid	Not answered	12	1.1	1.1	1.1
	University of Bristol	969	88.7	88.7	89.8
	UWE Bristol	112	10.2	10.2	100.0
	Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

A cross-tabulation analysis reveals that the student crime reduction initiative achieved a greater penetration into Bristol University than UWE. 66% of the Bristol University student sample had attended a talk about student safety compared with only 21% of the UWE sample. Yet UWE students were more likely to have been victims of crime. It could be concluded that UWE students had a higher victimisation risk because fewer of them had benefited from the advice and resources provided by the crime reduction initiative. Or it could be that UWE students are at higher risk anyway. In either case it appears that more effort should be made to engage with the next intake of UWE students, so that a higher proportion benefit from the initiative.

Q18 - Type of accommodation presently occupying:				
	Frequenc	Perce	Valid	Cumulative
	y	nt	Percent	Percent
	2	.2	.2	.2
Living at home	41	3.8	3.8	3.9
Not answered	38	3.5	3.5	7.4
Other accommodation	8	.7	.7	8.1
Owner Occupier	31	2.8	2.8	11.0
Valid Private Rented	130	11.9	11.9	22.9
d Accommodation				
University	726	66.4	66.4	89.3
Halls/Developments				
University Property/	117	10.7	10.7	100.0
Managed House				
Total	1093	100.0	100.0	

Cross tabulating the above table with victimisation data and worries about crime found no significant variations according to the type of accommodation the student was in. Exactly the same proportion of students in University Halls/developments and private rented accommodation had been victims of crime. This differs from the national MORI poll (2001) which found that those living in private rented accommodation were more at risk of crime. There were insignificant variations in relation to worry about crime and expectation about having something stolen, but a slightly higher percentage (16.2%) of those in private rented accommodation thought they might become victims of violence, than those in University accommodation (13%).

4: Qualitative data

As well as the above quantitative responses some open ended questions were asked, which elicited a rich vein of comments and suggestions.

Students were asked what other advice they received about crime prevention in addition to the standard talks and resources offered. Numerous references were made to visits and talks by the police, plus leaflets and advice from other University staff. Some of the more particular and intriguing quotes are given verbatim below:

- A warning about the dodgy areas, and making sure the house is locked up.
 - About preventing burglary in student house.
 - about walking across the downs etc
 - About walking home at night, things like that, and not to flash valuable stuff around.
 - Additional information provided in halls of residence information guide and union guide
 - be aware even with friends, not to get too drunk, but also don't be unnecessarily worried about it.
-
- An amusing anecdote from the faculty head about always having £20 on you to give to Muggers quickly. Actually that doesn't prevent crime at all but I think the point was it might prevent them stabbing you.
 - An e-mail about keeping your property safe over Christmas - advice on lights on timer switches etc.
 - Can't remember, but was good.
 - certain places not to walk - especially at night. I received an alarm which worryingly didn't work and there were no more marker pens available even though I went twice to get one.
 - Don't go near St Pauls if you value your life!
 - From House Tutor: male rape more likely than female rape, avoid crossing Downs on one's own, and on absolutely no occasion is it advisable to travel to St Pauls.
 - I asked about extra information on house security, as I needed a new lock fitted to my front door. The police were very helpful and offered to check my property.
 - I think I received some at the fresher's fair possibly, but not entirely sure what it was.
 - Not to let tailgaters in, keep windows locked and valuable out of sight.
 - some guy came to our house and gave a very informative talk
 - The police stopped at the flat one evening and gave us a quick talk. This was the most beneficial since it was informal, personal and at a convenient time.
 - Was told by my housing officer about areas in Bristol that were not as safe as others.

The above comments show a wide range of additional information coming from a range of sources, but also imply the importance of repeating and reinforcing the same messages to avoid attrition and awareness-lowering over time.

Students were asked what precautions they had taken *before* arriving at University. Most of the responses were about taking out insurance and property marking. Some of the more interesting or intriguing verbatim responses are listed below:

- Chose to remain living in the countryside 20 miles from Bristol as I do not feel safe in the city. Ensured AA membership was up to date. Checked out the campus and safe places to park prior to commencing the course.
- Developed an air of authority (I am a mature Student).
- did not bring anything valuable with me
- Didn't buy anything new! (eg a bike) because the last ones were all stolen.
- I haven't taken many personal precautions other than what I am used to but, I have completely removed any items of value and any removable items in and on my car and installed a high visibility steering lock. (ie. no hub caps, no radio, no loose papers, no mobile charger in the glove box, etc.)
- I property marked my possessions and installed a window alarm in my room
- Keep my baseball bat handy and leave early for lectures

- Made sure I lived in a relatively safe part of Bristol. Although I have had my car broken into even though there was nothing in it to be stolen.
- made sure I wasn't living in St Pauls.
- Marked properties. Learnt 'dangerous' areas of Bristol
- marked property with pen, though this won't stop it being stolen in the first place.
- None (didn't own anything of material value and too young and naive to think about rough areas)
- None. This is one of the safest societies in the world. Safety has its place, but it oughtn't to be or become the overriding preoccupation.
- tried to get to know the place a bit better while accompanied by parents before moving here alone

Students were then asked what precautions they had taken since commencing their studies in Bristol, with the research intention that this would pick up how they might have changed their behaviour in the light of input from the student crime reduction initiative. The main changes were that students were more likely to carry attack alarms and walk in groups at night, as well as more property marking and physical security (locking doors, windows etc.)

A selection of other verbatim comments is listed below:

- After our house mate was burgled we have all taken much more care making sure windows/doors are closed and locked and looking out for unknown faces in the corridors.
- always lock my door when I am out of my room for more than a few minutes. Ensure windows are locked as well
- avoid certain areas of the city, particularly Hanover Lane at night even though it takes a lot longer to get home that way
- bought a gun
- carried an attack alarm, ensured that I had made arrangements prior to going out for transport home.
- carried my personal alarm and not going out alone after dark
- Carried on with the air of authority, as lots of people think I am actually a lecturer.
- CARRY A KNIFE ROUND WITH ME
- I always walk in groups, arranged a system of text messaging so we all know where everyone is at the end of a night, to avoid leaving people stranded
- I carried the personal alarm for 2 months but then it kept going off independently, so I stopped carrying that.
- I have alarmed my window and door at night, and now rarely go out at night time unless with many friends and with people I know who come back to my flat.
- I have marked and painted my bicycle in ugly colours. I have decided not to buy a new expensive mobile phone and to keep my outdated model, I keep no more than £20 in cash in my wallet
- I try not to carry a handbag with me and travel with a friend during the night and during the day if possible. Viewing property I never go by myself
- I'm extra careful with my handbags etc when I go out, in fact I don't take one any more since the opportunists in clubs are rife round here. I don't walk around anywhere in Bristol at night and I always have my phone to hand and make sure someone knows where I am.
- Don't stand around on your own to get a taxi at night; ask them to wait until I am in the house. Tell friends where I am going before I leave particularly at night. Bags carried between myself and a friend or on the side next to the wall when walking with a friend. Always tell someone what time I intend to be back and where I am going or I write a note of where and when I will be back and leave pinned to my fridge.
- Made it very clear to my fellow students that I would be unlikely to join them on nights out in the city as I do not feel it is a safe place to be. Carry a rape alarm with me. Carry a mobile phone, but not a model I am likely to get mugged for. Try to leave campus and be out of Bristol before dark whenever possible. Asked for as many placements as possible in the Weston-Super-Mare area to avoid spending more time than necessary in the city.
- makeshift chastity belt

- Making sure the net curtains at my window are always closed so my computer is not so obvious. Always making sure the windows are closed when I leave the room and locking the front and back doors every night.
- marked my bike with some radio tags and irremovable sticker things.
- marking my valuable items with the handy UV marker pen I was given in freshers week
- never take out bank cards on a night out, never walk back alone, never carry too much cash
- none (425 answered "none")
- none - not really sure how it could be reduced any more without becoming paranoid
- Not walking alone at night, or if I must then walking on well lighted or busy streets
- given safety pack and after talk realised I should UV mark valuables eg lap top
- our flat was burgled during fresher's week, so we all now make sure all doors are locked when ever we are not around
- property marked portable valuables (*mentioned 46 times*)
- started carrying personal alarm more often after hearing of friends being followed.
- Taking part in martial arts, to improve self defence
- try not to walk through St Pauls/ Stokes Croft alone at night
- Used to carry an attack alarm until it broke, not sure where you can get new ones!
- Vigilant, fast pace walking, carry as little as possible, permanent presence of attack alarm

Some of these responses suggest an inappropriate or over-reaction (such as carrying defensive weapons and not going out after dark). This suggests the importance of getting the right balance between reasonable risk reduction and resorting to counter-productive behaviour.

Students were then asked what safety-related information would have been useful, prior to coming to Bristol and, finally, what suggestions they had for reducing student victimisation risk. These questions were intended to inform revision of the information provided by the initiative for the next intake of students and to suggest what additional student crime reduction initiatives would be worth considering. There was a huge and interesting response to these two questions. The two most common suggestions were for information about crime "hot-spots" in Bristol and better late-night public transport. These will be discussed later. Below is a selection of the suggestions and comments made by the respondents.

What safety related information would have been useful prior to coming to Bristol?

- being told which areas have a particularly high crime rate, so can make an effort to avoid them
- a briefing on dangerous/violent areas/places - eg certain nightclubs, streets etc - to avoid
- A list of all the registered 'safe' taxi firms to use at night. A list of all the high risk areas of Bristol. List of places to stay away from totally.
- about the different areas of the city and their respective levels of safety
- Area reputation. I live in Fishponds near Stapleton Road and had I known what the area was like before I would have considered other places to live.
- Areas that are safe and not safe to go especially at night - everyone is too polite to tell you
- areas that are unsafe, clubs in a bad area, clubs with a bad reputation for violence, the attitude of the locals towards students was never divulged- and I know of many people (including myself) who find it unnecessarily hostile
- be confident enough to ask for help and run fast, have a lot of friends around you
- Best ways to get home at night. Info about night buses and safest taxi companies.
- Bristol is the same as any place just be sensible wherever you are.
- bus route and timetables and recommended routes to get around the place.
- Contact numbers for safe taxi firms? one that has female drivers
- CRIME EVENTS THAT OFTEN OCURRED IN BRISTOL

- crime figures for the different areas, to make you aware of what actually happens and a comparison of those figures with other big cities, ie: Birmingham, Manchester and London
- Crime hotspots so as to avoid renting accommodation in that area.
- crime information / statistics for different areas of Bristol, where to avoid at what time etc
- Don't think they could have given us much more than they gave us - its up to us to understand the dangers for ourselves. We're always going to think that we know all the answers and don't have to listen to anything until we learn for ourselves.
- emphasize the danger of living in a big city - I come from the country and it is difficult to adapt to being more careful
- Even Wills Hall is not safe!!
- figures on how many students get attacked each year, I know 4 who have been already... it seems quite high
- freshers pack I guess but there was so much information given to us at one that it was hard to sit and read it all and take it all in
- Further description of the true extent of crime in Bristol, e.g. figures / stats.
- General description about what sort of safety problems students are likely to face in Bristol and how to tackle them.
- general info about most common types of crime
- General information about the different areas in Bristol which are safe and which aren't, where the local police station is situated, crime figures for Bristol. Just to make me more aware of the current situation.
- it would have been good to have known how violent the city was before arriving although I am not sure how this could have helped.
- go to uni in a better city

- Having been living in the Bristol area for all my life, I was already aware of many safety related aspects of coming into the city. Found it strange that students were not given more information on 'safe' places to be in Bristol.
- I already live in Bristol, so know where some of the more dangerous places are, but perhaps to someone about to come, a guide about different areas of Bristol. It would be helpful to give out such security items and safety information to ALL students, not just the freshmen at Freshers week.
- I don't think Bristol is particularly unsafe compared to anywhere else don't think its more dangerous here than it is at home, and as such no extra information is really required. People just need to use their common sense and understand that they could become a victim at any time.
- I don't think that there is any specific info that is especially useful for Bristol only...it works for any other city anywhere you go...just plain common sense I guess, the thing is during autumn/winter, when it gets dark so quickly, just don't go walking alone in the dark esp. if you are a girl. Don't provoke fights...common knowledge..
- I got here mid-year, so I don't know if this information was given out, but a list of "unsafe" places should be handed out rather than having the students rely on hearsay from each other.
- I know its not very politically correct but a list of the rough areas would have been helpful because I had no idea where not to live as a lone female in Bristol
- I live on the outskirts of Bristol - I do not venture into the city at night
- I think a "Rough Guide" handbook for new students would be useful - something honest and written for a specific audience (new students) containing info on venues, pubs, bars, restaurants, book shops etc BUT also VERY honest opinions about the student areas so that people can move into accommodation with their eyes open. These sections would (in some cases) be very hard to get BCC to approve but could save some kids some real heartache. If written by people who had lived in the areas they would obviously feature the good as well as the bad points and allow future students to make an informed choice about where to live. A similar system for pubs and clubs would help to fore-warn students about premises where they are likely not to be welcomed with open arms!
- I think all the presentations should be after the first week, when people have had time to settle in, make friends etc

- I think if too much was said about what Bristol was really like I would not have chosen Bristol as my university choice.
 - I think some kind of comprehensive guide to moderate and high risk areas of the city and areas surrounding the campus/precinct. This could be easily achieved with something as rudimentary as a map with colour coded areas of increasing 'risk'.
 - I wasn't told about the fact that Bristol has a very high crime rate, especially in the area I'm living in (St Andrews, Montpelier) maybe this should have been highlighted to at least let people know before-hand
 - I would have like to have been told the areas to keep away from, as I have now found out that I should stay away from St Pauls, but I am still not sure what areas are fairly safe and where I shouldn't go
 - I would have liked to have known the risks in living in various areas i.e. if a particular area is safer than others and also stuff about insurance.
 - just to have been made aware that Bristol does have a high crime rate as I was not aware until I was a victim
 - to tell new students any crimes that have occurred. Warnings are not really effective they need real stories.
 - location of police station(s)
 - More information on the amount of crime in certain areas of the city and at what time of day. For example how likely am I to be a victim of crime whilst waiting for a bus in the city centre after dark on a Sunday evening?
 - Never consider living in Easton
 - None - it really is a safer place (Centre to Stoke Bishop is) and people don't need frightening.
 - None - coming from London I knew what to expect from a city.
-
- None - I don't want to sound arrogant but I think coming from south London makes you pretty aware (or maybe just more aware than others) of how to stay safe, although it doesn't hurt to be reminded every now and then.
 - None, I think we are sent far to much information as it is that you can't read it all so you end up reading none. I think we should only be sent the important stuff and then you'd know that you have to read everything you read.
 - Not much else, it was all well covered, anymore may frighten students too much
 - not much else, you have to be here, reading the news, seeing the people etc to really learn anything more than common sense (eg don't walk down dodgy alley after dark etc)
 - Not to walk alone in certain areas of Bristol e.g. Easton, St Pauls, Montpelier etc. Never have mobile phones on show in public, and put the ring tone on silent in certain areas. Avoid using cash points that are not over looked by cctv.
 - not under any circumstances walk across the Downs or in town by yourself at night. Take a smaller purse which does not contain cards which are hard to replace.
 - release of crime statistics, possibly to bring home to people the danger. I know for one I am fairly unaware of such dangers.
 - Self defence course info.
 - Some numbers for safe, cheap taxis because it is too far and too dangerous to walk back to Halls when you've been out in the city centre and it is expensive to take a cab. But if there were some reliable numbers available it would be worth the cost.
 - Some self-defence information, and actual statistics of crime so that its not a 'it'll never happen to me' thing.
 - statistics of crime and violence in Bristol, and a list showing which areas are more dangerous, that way we can make informed decisions on where we want to live and that way we would be touched by the statistics and prepare ourselves. I came thinking Bristol is a very safe place only to be given loads of talks about how unsafe Bristol is. Such a shock should not be faced when I am here, I should prepare while I'm at home.
 - Statistics of crime in Bristol and areas of high crime so people know where to avoid and around what times.
 - Students, especially overseas students, may choose to go to the other city if received this kind of information before coming here.

- Suggestions of places to avoid, especially at night - my friend got attacked in the first week because he had gone to the 'wrong place'
- What you should do if you feel that you are being followed.
- taxi phone numbers who you can pay back at a later date to enable you to get home at night if you have no money
- Tell people to make sure they are adequately insured just in case theft occurs and mark property.
- Tell students more about where should be avoided, e.g. St Pauls etc. Have a campaign on date rape drugs.
- telling us honestly about previous crimes and telling us which areas of town to avoid
- that it is a rough city and to be very careful
- that the centre is not a particularly safe place for students to go to at the weekend as the locals can often be very aggressive towards students.
- The fact that there are not any night buses would probably have altered my choice to live in Stoke Bishop.
- the general crime rate of Bristol, typical crimes committed against students, how these criminals normally work, the areas around Bristol that are generally regarded safer than others
- The importance of safety at night - especially during fresher's week as you know only a few people and are put in potentially dangerous situations - going out on pub crawl with new 'friends'
- the information I got once arriving sufficed, it is better to give it out upon arrival than prior to coming. I think freshers would not take much notice of a load of safety info sent to them during the summer holidays.
- The massive scag and crack problem relating to crime in Bristol
- The most common crime from past experiences of students and how to prevent it from happening to me. How to react in certain situations

- This is quite hard - too much info may scare you away!
- to know more about prevention of crime in certain areas. how to behave when being mugged
- truthfully- if you aren't from a city don't come - sorry but after what happened to me I wish I hadn't!
- Warning about risky areas of Bristol, and certain clubs where theft and fights are likely.
- Warning students that the student link bus is terrible so not to be out after dark if you live in Stoke Bishop - unless you are with loads of friends.
- What can I do in case that someone steals my bag while I am walking in the road? Where is the nearest police station to my accommodation/university department? What is the police phone number?
- Where not to get a flat as a fresher - some of the non-university owned accommodation is in rough areas. I didn't get into halls and had to sort out my own digs in a privately owned house. Luckily I ended up in a nice part of Bedminster, but if it hadn't been, I wouldn't have known until I got there.
- Where property marker pens are available from.
- a map of the city with the police stations marked on it, and the telephone number of the local police station
- how to recognise a safe taxi
- Would be useful to know of certain danger spots in and around Bristol.
- Would have appreciated some information about what neighbourhoods are like in the city; e.g. is St Pauls safe, is the City Centre safe, is Redland safe? Especially for women who walk alone in the evenings.. But more generally speaking, we don't know what neighbourhoods are known for what.
- You can't really state what would be useful, as different people find different information useful. I think a copy of police numbers (ie. NOT 999) would be good. Maybe contact information for victims of crime. Maybe specialised information depending on who you are (male/female) and where your living, however, this would cost loads to sort out and therefore maybe not very practical.

What suggestions do have about things that could be done to reduce the risk of students becoming victims of crime?

- A bus service running to the halls from town later at night from town centre/water front. i.e. 2-3 ish in the morning on Thurs-Sat nights.
 - A free number you can contact if you do end up alone and crossing the Downs so someone/uni staffing can take you back to halls safely, have heard stories of people ending up in that situation.
 - Add more students accommodation - most students live in private houses where they are faced with real crime and theft. My friends have lost a desktop and a laptop in a private house(...because they couldn't get to university accommodation)
 - Advice on what parts of Bristol to avoid, never go out alone after dark, keep mobile phones out of sight, and any belongings left in the car to be hidden.
 - advice on areas to avoid/crime hotspots, generally made more aware, especially anyone going home on their own
 - Advise people to adopt the attitude to calmly walk away from someone if they start agro with you in a club however annoyed they may get you - they may have a big group of friends behind them that you can't see.
 - At Uni of Bristol, we were given aerosol attack alarms, instead of the keyring one my friend at UWE was given. I don't carry mine, because it's too big. If I had a keyring one, I'd carry it with me.
 - attack alarm, keep security lights working on precinct - particularly dark entrances like the hawthorns
 - Attack alarms should be placed in freshers room, so they can carry them from day one!
 - Avoid getting drunk on ones own, make friends wisely - just common sense (but rather difficult sometimes).
 - Avoid house looking like a student one, leave no valuables in them over the long student holidays. Make house look lived in over the holidays.
 - Advise them not to get too drunk or to make sure they are with people who will look after them if they do, not to trust people you don't know very well. Don't cross the Downs at night
 -
-
- Again, information about dodgy areas - An attack alarm might scare an attacker off, but it won't stop them getting attacked in the first place. Whereas a map showing the mugging hotspots might stop them getting lost and wandering into one.
 - Awareness campaign for date rape and have a review of clubs and club nights and say which ones attract a violent crowd.
 - ban queues outside clubs - pickpocket's paradise
 - really stress that wherever you go (even Clifton) one has to be aware of surroundings, always watch drinks that are bought for you and never leave them unattended. Likewise beware of bouncers at clubs, they are no better than people on the streets and should not be trusted (especially at the Lizard Lounge) they think their position of authority gives them the right to behave badly towards both men and women.
 - become more aware of surroundings, potentially dangerous situations and how to avoid them, agreeing with flat/house mates to limit the number of expensive items in the property - you may not need a television, video and computer each.
 - Better (and free) night-time transport.
 - better information, free lesson by police explaining common crimes and showing the ways to deal with it, even some fighting tricks.
 - Make the buses run on time so students aren't left standing waiting.
 - better provision of lockers for personal belongings while attending laboratory practicals etc rather than leaving items outside the room and unattended.
 - Better safety alarms, my key chain one died on me
 - better warden patrol at Halls - main door to my block can't even be locked and there is no security code
 - Beyond the talks and free gifts that are already given, I don't think there is much more that can be done. It is then up to the individual student to either heed that advice or ignore it at their peril.
 - Buses should run to a later time, at least till midnight. The last bus back to my home is at 23.13, which is too early really if you consider the fact that pubs close at 23.00.

- Changing Bristol to prevent crime against students won't happen. You need create a more streetwise atmosphere amongst certain students
 - Changing their routine as regards going on nights out, so it is not predictable that a house will be empty.
 - cleaners not leaving windows open and doors unlocked
 - if you must get drunk, do it somewhere nearer your home...
 - compulsory self defence training!
 - Concrete information on exactly how dangerous particular parts of the city are at particular times, rather than blanket scaremongering.
 - continue safety talks - good to make them amusing. I vividly remember the fire-fighters demonstration from the beginning of term as it was entertaining whilst informative
 - Continue to have security guards around city centre student accommodation (Rackhay, Waverley). During the first week the majority of first year students did not have a clue of the layout of Bristol and where to go out on night out. If we had been told of good places to go, with directions then this would have easily prevented many of us walking around Bristol aimlessly trying to find pubs and clubs. Whilst drunk anyway!
 - Don't appear to be a student e.g. in cars when not at university remove parking permit from view.
 - don't be too flashy with your belongings!
 - don't walk down Stokes Croft at 5am
 - emergency transport if you find yourself alone, without any money and having to walk home. For example, if you can be found on a student data base you should be given the appropriate transport and billed at a later date.
 - For some students coming to Bristol to study might be the first time they are away from home, or coming to live in a city. It would be a good idea to have a talk about being street wise and maybe a self defence class which should also focus on the safest thing to do if you are being attacked, particularly if a weapon is used.
-
- have a better student link (bus) service in the evening. It is very unreliable at present and I have often ended up on my own late at night waiting for a bus that hasn't turned up. Would be useful to have a cheap minibus service or something that they have at uni's like Southampton - this would be far more reliable and reach more places than the bus accesses.
 - have a late studentlink bus e.g. 2am when the clubs shut to the halls in Stoke Bishop
 - have a university run program (like they do at McGill University) that provides free drives or walk escorts home anywhere in Bristol from university events.
 - Have the safety packs in hall rooms on arrival rather than having to find them.
 - having a panic number to ring and maybe a support group that people could join
 - having a reliable student link bus that starts earlier, finishes later and turns up that means that as suggested we do not have to walk across the Downs by ourselves at night. It should turn up to all the scheduled stops in the city as well so that students can get back to halls without having to wait for a city bus or pay for a taxi.
 - Hollybush Lane needs knocking through. It is a crime scene waiting to happen.
 - Some kind of guidance, where the safer student residential areas are pointed out and strongly recommended, might be very helpful to those about to look around properties.
 - prior to this I studied at Portsmouth University, They ran a safety bus for all students from the union to students homes, it cost 50p and went anywhere in the city.
 - I heard that the police offer storage facilities for large valuable items e.g. computers for during the holidays but am not sure if this is true. If it is it might be a good idea for students in areas of greater risk?
 - I think as well as the students being aware of the city, the city needs to be aware of the student population- there are two universities here - very high student count, and a lot of locals seem to think we're infringing on their territory. Students also need to be aware of particularly unsafe areas. Before coming to Bristol it would also have been useful to know which types of crime were the most common.

- In halls of residence, there should be more security measures including pin coded doors, swipe card mechanisms, exterior gates should be kept locked, 60s style windows should be replaced with something more durable and less breakable
- Increase awareness about risks through posters etc
- Increase the amount of respect people have for their neighbours by giving friendship building tasks in freshers week. Give a free self defence class in that week too - just for confidence.
- its not so much the student aspect, Bristol has the reputation of being an unsafe city (more so than some other cities). This is what is most scary. Was once told by a teacher to never stop at traffic lights in St Pauls, cos I wouldn't have any wheels left after.
- Maybe have someone who has been a victim talk about it so people will take it seriously.
- Keep up the student safety education and reminders.
- Have a free phone number to call if you get stuck in town on your own, run by the university, which will find a taxi/assistance for you.
- lights down Hollybush Lane
- Lights on the Downs!!
- Make attack alarms easier to obtain, I did not receive one at the beginning and consequently couldn't get one.
- Make sure students know all the risks; we had to learn the hard way after our friend was burgled but others shouldn't have to. He had left his top window open just a crack whilst he was in the kitchen getting lunch. Most people don't consider this a risk.
- more awareness I suppose - in small chunks - not huge volumes of literature, because no one will read it. I think the info we were given was good though.
- better services/facilities in deprived areas
- It is quite scary going to our halls of residence during the night being unable to see anything due to the darkness.
- The university may develop a website/ mailing list to distribute the information news about students' security to increase the awareness of the students.
-

- Much better locks on windows needed, mine is ground floor on very busy road and had no lock when I arrived. That is awful.
- e-mails circulated round university about recent crimes and how they could have been prevented.
- The best thing to do, short of armed escort and bullet proof limo, is to simply stay aware. Keep out of dark roads, stay in large groups, etc. It's all common sense in order to minimise the risk that someone might find you an easy target
- Perhaps by showing information about others in the university who have experienced crime so that others can avoid the same situations or making the same mistakes
- Proper window locks on Hampton House not the silly ones that were put in AFTER I got burgled. Also keep your curtains shut then they can't see in.
- Really putting the emphasis on the fact that you could be burgled or mugged ANYTIME not just at night, not just if you are out for a long time, and always be on the defensive, just in case
- REGULAR late night buses at a low priced ticket - Southampton uni do this, and its very good.
- Safety stall at Fresher's fair was only there for the first day. As a result many students missed out on it. I was preoccupied with other appointments on the first day, and could only go on the second. I then missed out on getting items such as the attack alarm and UV pens...etc
- Taxi companies that take student cards in case you lose your money.
- students should try to make it less obvious that their houses are 'student houses'
- the alarms are a very good idea, unfortunately a number of boys (mainly) wasted them and used them as toys. I didn't get one, so if perhaps a larger supply of them, or tell them how important they can be.
- the attack alarms only last five minutes... what happens when they run out of battery power??
- The main problem I find with students is that they don't know the area. If you look lost and unaware you are more likely to be a victim of crime, e.g. muggings. The best way to combat this would be for more information to be sent to students about the area, and maybe some well known 'hot-spots' that should be avoided.

- To be honest, most students probably put themselves in dangerous situations by getting absolutely hammered then walking home alone. I'm not entirely blameless myself...
- To be perfectly honest, the university and local police have done everything short of provide armoured vans to transport us about. Not that I'm suggesting the vans! Most of the students that get attacked were not following one or more bits of information already given to them.
- travelling in groups - 1 non drinker in each group to be aware of general safety issues.
- try and get students to use some common sense - don't use your mobile whilst trying to get money out of a cashpoint at 3am. Also more awareness of date rape as one of my friends didn't realise that taking a glass of water from a tray set out in a club could be dangerous as somebody could have spiked them.
- Try and show that students are good for the city, not a bad thing.
- trying to get students to employ "shark watch" when they go out. one of the group stays sober to keep an eye out for the rest
- when using a mobile phone in to town, stand in a phone box so that the mugger can't get to you easily.
- You can't reduce students becoming victims!! People who are the muggers, robbers, rapists, target students for who they are, and they know the sorts of places they go, valuables they have (ie mobile phones) therefore it is more an idea of personal safety and awareness that should be focused upon. Students will always be victims, you can reduce risk individually rather than as a group.
- Young men do not seem to be aware that they are at more risk of violent crime than women, and need to be careful not to make themselves vulnerable to attack.

The above comments offer a useful range of ideas, some of which are self-evident and feasible. Key issues arising from the students' feedback are discussed below.

5: Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Hotspots

The overwhelming request from students new to Bristol was for information about areas of the city where the risk of various types of crime is the highest, so that they could avoid them or at least be aware of the higher risk in these locations. This is a perfectly reasonable request but is fraught with ethical and moral problems. Should the authorities be stigmatising certain neighbourhoods by listing them as undesirable or "no-go" areas? Would the highlighting of crime-prone neighbourhoods compound their problems and make them even less amenable to improvement? Would landlords and local businesses be unfairly disadvantaged by subsequent avoidance?

In reality high crime risk neighbourhoods are already being "red-lined" by the authorities and commercial interests. Insurance companies adjust their insurance premiums according to post code and the Bristol Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership publishes publicly available "crime hotspot" maps of Bristol (See website below). In addition, the annual Bristol City Council publication "Indicators of the Quality of Life in Bristol" has crime and fear maps that allow identification of areas that are or are perceived as unsafe. As this information is already publicly available, it would be duplicitous not to make students aware of how they can access this data, if they want to. This might also be an opportunity to challenge some of the prejudices that blight certain neighbourhoods. For example, although St Pauls has some serious problems with drug-related street crime, it does not have a particularly high burglary

problem and you will not get your wheels stolen if you stop at traffic lights in City Road (contrary to the observation of one student respondent!). Bristol's crime problems are on a par with most other European Cities of a similar size and Bristol has much lower violent street crime levels than cities in the USA, Latin America and South Africa.

5.2 Clubs and Pubs

Although "naming and shaming" can be counter-productive in some contexts, there seems to be no good reason why night-clubs with bad records of crime and violence should not be publicised as such. These clubs make huge amounts of profit from Bristol's students, so, as part of the deal, they should be managed to offer a safe environment for users. Several clubs were named by respondents as being particularly "dodgy" and this information could be used as a lever for the owners to improve them or face avoidance by potential users.

5.3 Late night transport

After "crime-mapping", improvement of late night public transport was cited most frequently as the intervention most likely to reduce student victimisation. The current arrangements for getting students home were seen as being unreliable, inadequate and inappropriate. A number of interesting suggestions were made (see verbatim quotes section) and examples of successful schemes in other university cities were offered as a model. It would appear that both mass transit (buses) and individual transport (taxis) need sorting out. It is unlikely that purely commercial interests will ever provide a flexible enough service to ensure student safety and the issue of students being stranded without money needs to be sorted out. Again, a number of useful suggestions were made by the student respondents.

5.4 Safe routes

A number of students mentioned the idea of "safe routes" – the idea that well-used, well-lit and monitored pedestrian routes could be encouraged. This approach has been tried in other cities (eg: Sheffield's Safe routes for women), but has not been entirely successful, partly because it makes other routes, that some people may have to use, less safe by contrast. However, there is no reason why environmental and

physical improvements (see below) should not, by default, result in safer routes home. It is now possible to walk from Whiteladies Road, through the Centre and into Old Market under the continuous surveillance of a string of CCTV cameras. Perhaps specific locations on these monitored routes be signed as emergency help points where potential victims could stand under CCTV surveillance, make a phone call and wait until help arrives (as used in Doncaster city centre and on the London Underground).

5.5 Environmental and physical security improvements

Some streets and environments were cited as being particularly problematic. In some cases (eg: Stokes Croft) it will be up to the city council and the police to produce a safer environment. In other cases (eg: Hollybush Lane) it may be that the university can work with the council to upgrade lighting and remove potential entrapment spots. Areas that are under university ownership, such as halls and campuses should be subject to a full security audit, preferably involving a walkabout with a panel of students. Subsequent alteration might include lighting upgrades, judicious uses of CCTV, cutting back of shrubs and vegetation and "designing out" areas with hiding places and poor surveillance. The accredited landlord scheme contains a "secured by design" component and this should be an encouragement for students to rent only such accommodation.

5.6 Balanced information

There is evidence, from the responses, that some students have over-reacted to information about risks and dangers. This will have been compounded by gossip and rumours from fellow students and sensational reporting in the media. As a result, at the extreme, some students have arranged self-imposed curfews, avoid central Bristol as far as possible and are spreading the word that Bristol is a dangerous city. As mentioned earlier, Bristol is no more crime prone than any other European city of comparable size and, if many students avoid using the centre and other night-time facilities, it will just make it more risky for the remainder who do, (based on the principle of "crowding out" crime). Rather than solely dwelling on the dangers (and losing potential student enrolments), the universities, along with the council and police, should be promoting Bristol as a "Safer City" for students. This is exactly the basis of Edinburgh City Council's high profile information for students coming to study there. Given the income and kudos that students bring to Bristol, the council should seriously consider a similar approach. The current "Student Safety Guide" issued to all Bristol freshers, is a good starting point and could be enhanced with more Bristol-tailored and positive safety information. One possibility would be to produce a regularly updated on-line version that could have links to other official and student sites. The "crimereduction.org" website is a prototype for this approach, but could do with more focus and specific data. Perhaps a better approach would be a joint initiative between the authorities and the Students' Unions, incorporating a "rough guide" and support service information (see next section).

5.7 Peer support and experience sharing

A number of the respondents to the survey made the point that students who had previously been victims of crime would be well placed to advise other students on

prevention and also to offer a victim support service. There would be potential to develop a student-run peer support and information service for crime prevention and personal safety, if the student unions could be persuaded of the benefits. This could also be the source of “street-wise” publicity – perhaps, as one student suggested, a kind of “Rough Guide” to Bristol which candidly commented on the good and bad points of living and studying in the city. Such a guide could be available on-line with links to other websites (such as the council and police) and could have a newsflash section with details of recent incidents, warnings or risks.

5.8 Public relations with students and Bristolians

The survey suggests that some aggressive incidents are triggered by antagonisms between “town and gown”. It is important that Bristolians appreciate that university students bring wealth and kudos to the city that benefits many citizens either directly or indirectly. Some students make valuable social contributions to the city through voluntary activity and course placements. Some other students treat Bristol as their playground and need to understand that this is a working city that has a life beyond accommodating wealthy young hedonists. Positive two way public relations activities may help to reduce the tensions that sometimes lead to violence in the street and in licensed premises. Again there might be a role that the proposed joint website could play in achieving improved public relations.

5.9 Targeting the most vulnerable

The student crime reduction initiative is a universal service for all students and is valued for this. However, this survey and the police data shows that, unsurprisingly, risk is not evenly spread across the student population. UWE students seem to be at higher risk than Bristol University students and males more so than females. It may therefore be necessary to do more targeted interventions with particular groups most vulnerable to particular crime types. For example, some young men were cited in the survey as using the personal attack alarms as toys and there was a widespread misconception that these were “rape alarms”. In fact these alarms could be very valuable in stopping the escalation of street assaults, yet it is unlikely that they have been used much for this purpose.

5.10 Continuous information and resources

It is important to get the crime prevention message across to freshers at the earliest possible stage, particularly when there is some anecdotal and statistical data to show that the first few weeks at University are high risk times for crime. However, the initiative needs to sustain its input throughout the year and to students who have already been in Bristol for some time. Crime occurrences fluctuate and particular risks ebb and flow. Also students can be lulled into a false sense of security, can forget what they have been told or lose/stop using security devices.

6: Summary

So far, how has the initiative progressed in achieving its four aims?

6.1: to reduce levels of robbery, burglary and vehicle crime against students

According to Avon and Somerset Constabulary research (2003) there has been a 19% decrease in crimes against students since the initiative began. There have been reductions in all three of the above categories, with the biggest proportional reduction being for robbery. However, this must be tempered by the fact that recorded crime for these categories in Bristol as a whole went down by 47%. Also assaults on students have not decreased, according to the police research. In terms of future targeting it should be noted that the majority of assault victims (60%) are male, a small proportion of the incidents were racially motivated and the majority of the incidents occurred in the street or in licensed premises. Reducing student victimisation should remain a priority in the overall drive to reduce crime in Bristol.

6.2: to reduce the fear of crime

The student survey has found that many students have a realistic understanding of their risk and the precautions they can take. A minority of students appear to have become unduly fearful either as a result of what they have (correctly or incorrectly)

found out about the nature of crime in Bristol. On balance, it looks as though the crime reduction initiative has appropriately raised awareness, without causing unreasonable alarm.

6.3: to find out what is effective in terms of student crime reduction

This was one of the main outputs of the student survey. It is apparent from this that the information and resources provided by the initiative were valued and used. However there is still much to be done to reduce student victimisation and the respondents to the survey offered a wealth of useful suggestions.

6.4: to find out if communication between key partners has been effective.

There appears to have been effective communication and collaboration between the police and the two universities in terms of project implementation, although perhaps less so in communicating to students topical risks or warnings (as is achieved through the Neighbourhood Watch "Watchout" system which uses a cascading network of telephone messages about particular incidents that residents could help prevent being repeated). There appears to have been little communication with the City Council's Community Safety department, to collaborate on environmental and information initiatives. Similarly, although there was good initial communications with the Student Unions over the purpose of the initiative, there is potential to develop a closer collaboration with them over peer support, information and advice (as mentioned in previous paragraphs).

7. Conclusions: The Reducing Student Crime Initiative has achieved much in its first year of operation. As students will probably continue to be an "at risk" group in terms of property and street crime, it is important that the initiative continues and evolves, rather than being seen as a one-off "initiative" that can be terminated after a fixed term of resourcing.

Finally, it is important to remind ourselves, as some students pointed out, that preventing crime against people and property should entail more than just opportunity reduction. For durable solutions we need to tackle the roots of crime causality such as damaged childhoods, disaffected youth, relative inequality and social exclusion - conditions that can precipitate individuals into deviance, offending and addiction. Although this is well beyond the remit of the Student Crime Reduction Initiative, there is no reason why students cannot get involved in tackling some of these issues through voluntary social service and community projects, as indeed many of them do.

8: References and resources

Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Crime Reduction Unit (2003) *Reducing student Victims of Crime – problem profile*. Police HQ, Portishead.

Bristol City Council (2003) *Indicators of the Quality of Life in Bristol*. Department of Environment, Transport and Leisure.

Home Office (2003) *University Student Safety*. Findings 194. Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. London.

MORI (2001) *Student Living report*. Commissioned by UNITE Housing Association. Paper SA01/5/1

www.crimereduction.org

The crime reduction site of Avon and Somerset Police. Has a section on student crime prevention, but apart from specific "newsflash" incidents and some hints in the Chief Constable's Report, the site does not provide information on crime rates, trends or patterns in Bristol.

www.good2bsecure.co.uk

A student crime prevention advice website developed by the Home Office.

www.crimebristol.org.uk

The audit site of the Bristol Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which has "hotspot" maps for various categories of crime.

Appendix B

Student Safety Pack

Student Safety Guide

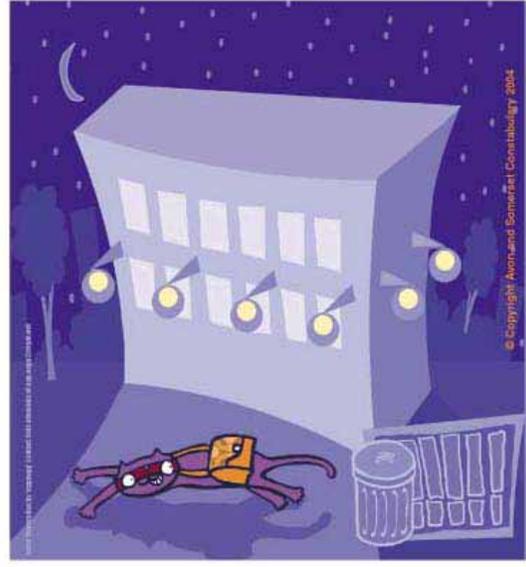


In partnership with



Included in this pack are:

- Safety guide
- Mobile phone leaflet
- "Burglar Beware" window stickers
- Permanent UV pen
- Secure storage leaflet
- Security products order form



© Copyright Avon and Somerset Constabulary 2004

Appendix C

**Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinators
Schedule of Involvement 2002/03 2003/04**

Appendix D

Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Brochure



Bristol Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme



Appendix E

City of Bristol College Analysis of Personal Safety Week

Avon and Somerset Constabulary



CITY *of* BRISTOL
COLLEGE

Personal Safety Week November 3rd – 10th November 2003

Student Crime Reduction Initiative

Results Analysis

Prepared by – **Amanda Alldridge**
Criminal Intelligence Analyst

For - **Heather Thomas**
Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator

On – **27/01/04**

Aim: The aim of this document is to evaluate the personal safety week, which ran from Monday 3rd to Tuesday 11th November 2003. This document will look at how successful the week was and highlighting any areas which need further development to make future Persona Safety weeks even better.

Methodology: The data used in this document has been extracted from feedback sheets filled in by the tutors of the groups listening to the talks being given. Other data was gained from the officers that lead the sessions.

Results from Tutors

Overall all the personal safety week was a success. All the tutors thought that the safety week should occur again with two thirds of the tutors suggesting it should happen on an annual basis. Overall the concerns that was given was that:

- 1. The session was not quite delivered at the right level.**
- 2. More could have been done to generate discussion between the students.**

1. The session was not quite delivered at the right level: When looking at the concern of the session not being delivered at the right level, after deeper analysis was done on this section of the feedback. It was found that this was not a general theme throughout the week but was born out of one particular session which went especially wrong and the results of this affected the overall analysis of this section of the feedback. The main reason that this session was not the success it could have been is that the first language of many of the students was not English. Many of these students had only been studying the English language for 2-3 years and found the session hard to understand. The comment was made that although the students found the session extremely helpful they only understand about a third of it. The tutors also thought that at this particular session the officer did not lead the session as well as he could have done. Further investigation of this has shown that the officer in question had very little experience of this type of crime prevention work and as previously mentioned was not aware of the type of audience he would be presenting to. These results have been highlighted to the Student Crime Reduction Initiative who have taken it on board with the following recommendation.

Recommendation: research into they type of students who will be attending the sessions will be done and the officers will be briefed accordingly.

2. More could have been done to generate discussion between the students:
This concern was a common theme throughout the week at the various locations where the sessions were presented. It was stated that the tutors thought that the students would have benefited more from the sessions if there was more discussion generated by the officers as the students would have had chances to ask questions about topics not covered in the sessions but were important to them. Also it would have given the officers a chance to check that the students understood what they were presenting. The Student Crime Reduction Initiative has considered this and has made the following recommendation.

Recommendation: To develop into the sessions a discussion period to check the level of understanding of the students and cover any issues not contained in the session.

Results of feedback from Officers

The majority of the feedback from the officers was very positive. All the officers without exception strongly agreed that the event was worthwhile both to the students and to themselves as officers.

Planning: 86% of the officers agreed that their involvement prior to the event was satisfactory and that the information received prior to the event was clear. This shows that the planning of these events by the Student Crime Reduction Initiative is very good and is extremely helpful to the officers leading the sessions.

Event: it was generally thought that the relevant equipment and literature was available at the venues including the area set-aside for the displaying of the stands. All the officers thought that both the tutors and the students were appreciative of the session, which is born out by the feedback given by the tutors. The officers were also of the opinion that the students listened and responded to the briefings.

Concerns:

1. A general theme across the feedback from the officers was that they thought the students had not been briefed prior to the event on the aims and objectives of the session, which would have been beneficial.

Recommendation: The SCRI should ensure that the students are notified of the event along with it's aims and objectives prior to the event.

2. Officers were concerned that the sessions did not generate as much discussion as they would have liked. This concern is made greater by the fact that the feedback from the tutors bears this out.

Recommendation: To develop into the sessions a discussion period to check the level of understanding of the students and cover any issues not contained in the session.

Conclusion

The Personal safety week was a success and should continue to be implemented on a regular basis. The students are receiving information which is relevant to them and which they can utilise in their every day life. Previous research has shown that when a student attends a crime prevention briefing they are more likely to implement crime reduction strategies such as property marking, than without the briefing. The concerns that have been highlighted by this document have been taken on by the Student Crime Reduction Initiative who are now taking steps to ensure that they are rectified.

Appendix F

Secure Storage Poster

Are you looking for Secure storage?



In partnership with

spaces  personal storage



**Secure your
computer and
associate
items from as
little as £20.00
per month.**

Simply call **0117 331 1177**, leaving your name and telephone number and a representative will contact you to arrange collection and return delivery of your property.

All you need to do is to ensure that your property has been marked using a UV pen with your house number and postcode.

Don't become a victim – ring us now!



University of the
West of England

Appendix G

Operation Market Gate Analysis

RESULTS

ANALYSIS

OPERATION

MARKET GATE

OCTOBER 21ST 2003

LEVEL 2

CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY UNIT

STUDENT CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE

Issued by;

Amanda Alldridge,
Criminal Intelligence Analyst
Ext.66569

AIM: On Tuesday 21st October the Student Crime Reduction Initiative made a visit to the UNITE student accommodation "Market Gate". Representatives from the initiative made visits to each flat. Part of this visit was to find out if the students had received Student Safety Guide Packs, received safety briefing from the sties Property Manger on arrival and carried out the advice given. This document will analyse the results of these visits.

PURPOSE: The aim of this document is to establish how effective the Student Safety Guide Packs and briefings had been in influencing the students behaviour and therefore reducing the number of student victims of crimes. This analysis will also highlight any issues highlighted about the recording of information from the visits, which may give ambiguity to certain results.

Methodology:

The data used for the analysis in this document has been gained from visits made by the Student Crime Reduction Initiative to the Market Gate student accommodation site. The representatives of the initiative in teams of two (1 police officer and 1 police staff) visited the flats of 119 students to find out if the student had:

- Had received a Student Safety Guide Pack
- Had been briefed on arrival at Market Gate
- Had security marked their property
- If they need assistance in marking their property.
- If they had received an attack alarm.

This information has then been aggregated and analysed, the results of which are in this document.

Findings:

1 in 4 students are security marking their property.

Of those students who received a Safety Pack, the students who also received briefings

are 26% more likely to security mark their property than the students who were not

briefed.

This shows that the most effective way of giving crime prevention advice to students is

giving them a Student Pack and reinforcing this with a verbal briefing.

This is explained in detail below....

92% (110) of the students who were visited received Student Safety Packs, of these 45% of them had been briefed when arriving at Market Gate. When looking at the students who had the pack and had been briefed 63% (31) of them had security marked their property. This means 1 in 4 students received packs, received briefings and went on to mark their property.

55% of the students who received the pack were not briefed. Of these, 40% of them marked their property.

Of the student who did not receive a Student Safety Guide Pack or were not briefed (9 students), 2 of them marked their items.

Appendix H

Web Chat Poster



