

# **TILLEY AWARDS 2004**

## **SEDBURGH GANG**

**LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY**

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## **SUMMARY**

The area affected mainly consists of ex-local authority housing namely Burnley & Padiham Community Housing and in close proximity to 2 local primary schools. The persons affected are those living and visiting the area, those attending Casterton Primary, St John's Primary Schools on Thames Avenue, Burnley General Hospital and Avenue Service Station. The problem had an immediate effect on the lives of the community and also had a dramatic effect on number of incidents reported in relation to the estate.

The problem relates to a gang related anti-social behaviour including motor vehicle crime, arson, assaults, criminal damage, threats and intimidation, motorcycle nuisance, graffiti, drunk and disorderly conduct.

The problem had an immediate effect on the lives of the community and also had a dramatic effect on number of vehicle crime offences committed in Burnley.

An initial meeting took place at the local school with concerned parties and other agencies. It was from there through determination to help tackle the problem that the Casterton Neighbourhood Watch Group was formed.

The local CBM upon being appointed took ownership of the problem and work began in tackling the primary group. A multi-agency approach took place in decision making as to the appropriate way to tackle the problem and also involved the local community in gathering evidence against the primary group.

Due to the seriousness of offences being committed the appropriate and necessary route was to apply for Anti Social Behaviour Orders. Within three months the primary group had been targeted and as a result all four had been made subject to Anti Social Behaviour Orders on Conviction.

The Anti Social Behaviour Orders have received a positive response from all parties concerned and together with a positive approach from local residents has had an impact on numbers of incidents taking place. These efforts have been highly published on local television, radio and newspapers.

The local Neighbourhood Watch Group has continued to go from strength to strength taking part in fundraising and encouraging others to take a stand and get involved. As a result the group are improving their community and quality of life for local residents and their efforts are a source of inspiration and ideas in other areas of the Ward.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

The objective of the initiative was to primarily reduce anti social behaviour on the Casterton Estate.

Local Councillors together with local residents attended an initial meeting at the local schools to discuss ongoing problems and to seek a way forward. The attendance at the meeting reflected the scale of the problem and was as a tool to vent anger and frustration by the residents at the individuals concerned and also lack of support from other agencies. However as a result of the meeting a number of residents were empowered to act and work together to help tackle the problem with the aim of an estate to feel proud of. It was through the help of local PCSO and local councillors that the Casterton Neighbourhood Watch group was formed. The role of the Head Teachers from both Casterton and St John's Primary Schools was

beyond their job description and was beneficial and crucial in the support they gave to residents living on the estate. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator began completing incident forms of incidents taking place and person involved.

The local Community Beat Manager upon appointment took ownership of the problem and work began in tackling the primary group. A multi-agency approach took place in decision making as to the appropriate way to tackle the problem and who included the Anti Social Behaviour Officer of Burnley Borough Council, Burnley and Padiham Community Housing, Burnley Borough Council, Youth Offending Team and Education Authority.

An anti social behaviour case conference took place at the Town Hall with all relevant agencies in order to share information with a view to deciding upon the way forward. As a result of liaison and information sharing it was decided to build up a case against the primary group and due to the seriousness of offences being committed Anti Social Behaviour Orders were considered the appropriate option.

It was decided from the onset that the Police would act as the agency in relation to applying for the Anti Social Behaviour Orders on conviction. Action would involve gathering evidence not only from incident logs and crime reports but also as a result of working alongside Burnley and Padiham Community Housing visiting the area speaking with residents and also the collation of Neighbourhood Watch Incident Forms. Once applications had been submitted for Anti Social Behaviour Orders against the primary group, a tracking file was created to track each court appearance and any further incidents or arrests. The implementation of the tracking file helped to monitor the group and incidents taking place on the estate. All relevant agencies kept informed of progress and difficulties experienced were recorded.

During this time work continued to be carried out by other agencies in-particular Burnley and Padiham Community Housing in building a case for eviction against target properties and also Casterton Neighbourhood Watch Group in improving the safety of the estate. Local residents took a positive approach in working together with the local primary schools and were able to bid for funding for CCTV equipment to be installed at Casterton Primary School that would benefit all living in the immediate vicinity. The group were also empowered to apply for funding for gates to be erected in ginnels situated in between properties with a view to deter and prevent offences being committed. A number of the individuals had also been raised as core nominal believed active in motor vehicle related crime with a view to be targeted by specific teams targeting best value crime.

The implementation of Anti Social Behaviour Orders against the Primary Group were aimed to prevent the individuals acting in further acts of an anti social manner affecting the lives of those living in the community thus reducing crime. As a result of strict prohibitions being imposed and also the fact that local residents standing up against the behaviour and seeking a way forward to improve the estate has helped to reduce crime and make it less conducive to crime. The Warden Service has also contributed by way of removing gang-related graffiti in order to target gang related culture, which is visible not only to the individuals but also those affected. As a result of targeting these individuals not only by seeking Anti Social Behaviour Orders but specifically targeting the individuals and the area in general by specific teams, uniformed patrol and special patrols have helped to detect and reduce crime.

As a result of time and effort Anti-Social Behaviour Orders have been made against all 4 individuals of the primary group. The Anti Social Behaviour Orders have received a positive response from all parties concerned and together with a positive approach from local residents has had an impact on numbers of incidents taking place. These results were culminated in an item on Anti Social Behaviour featured on local Television and Radio. These efforts have also been highly published in local newspapers. Padiham and Community Housing have been active in taking a firm approach with those who are under tenancy agreements and as a result have served notice for eviction and are in the process for seeking eviction.

Casterton Neighbourhood Watch Group together with the local primary schools has been successful in their bid for funding for CCTV equipment and which has now been installed at

Casterton Primary School. The Group has continued to be proactive and have been successful in their bid for gates to be erect between properties. Feedback has been received that the gates have been erected and the residents are extremely happy with the result. The Group has continued to go from strength to strength taking part in fundraising and encouraging and encouraging others to take a stand and get involved. They have recently extended the area they cover hoping to achieve the same positive results and to encourage others to take some degree of ownership in the area where they live. The group has recently started up a football team and feedback has been received that 1 individual who is subject to an order and has at present has stayed out of trouble has been asked to take part in the team. As a result the group are improving their community and quality of life for local residents and their efforts are a source of inspiration and ideas in other areas of the Ward.

Working together has proved to be the overall strength and success of the initiative by agencies and those affected. As a result close working partnerships have been formed not just in relation to key agencies but in particular between residents and other residents.

The initiative has highlighted the fact that the problem could have been addressed by earlier intervention by relevant agencies at the time when offences were initially being committed and persons being affected. However lessons learnt and action taken by all serves to be an example when dealing with any other anti social behaviour taking place in other areas of the ward.