

Tilley Award 2005

Application form

The following form must be completed in full. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the competition.

Please send completed application forms to Tricia Perkins at patricia.perkins@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

All entries must be received by noon on the 29 April 2005. Entries received after that date will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Tricia Perkins on 0207 035 0262.

1. Details of application

Title of the project **OPERATION MISCHIEF**

Name of force/agency/CDRP: **South Yorkshire Police**

Name of one contact person with position/rank (this should be one of the authors):

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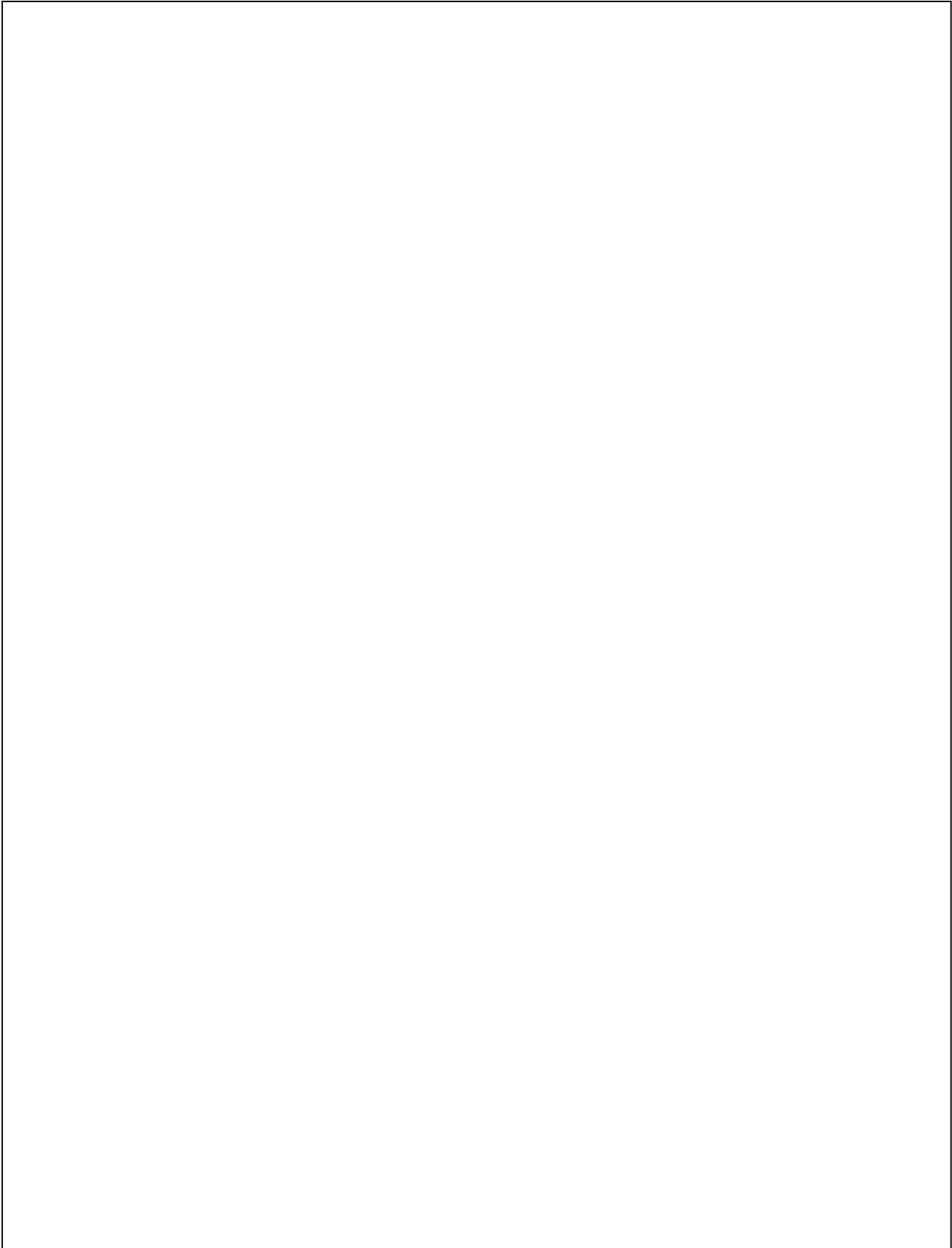
Telephone number: **0114 2963208**

Fax number **0114 2963312**

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s) **Mr Robert Dyson**

Position and rank of endorsing senior representatives(s) **Assistant Chief Constable**

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s) **South Yorkshire Police, Snig Hill, Sheffield, S3 8LY**



2. Summary of application

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project. Include details of the problem that was addressed a description of the initiative, the main intervention principles and what they were designed to achieve, the main outcomes of project particularly in relation to the problem, evidence was used in designing the programme and how the project is evaluated.

The Problem

- The period leading up to Bonfire Night has traditionally been a particularly troublesome period for the Police service and local communities. From the end of October, extending to Bonfire Night itself, there had previously been considerable levels of crime with telephone boxes being blown up, vehicles set alight and people injured due to fireworks being thrown around irresponsibly.
- A force wide anti social behaviour operation was seen as an ideal vehicle to demonstrate how South Yorkshire Police, in conjunction with partners, could actively respond to this serious problem profile.

The Initiative

The Operation was co-ordinated by Headquarters Community Safety Department in partnership with the four Local Authorities and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The intentions were:

- Prevent or reduce incidents of Anti Social behaviour by 10% compared to 2003
- Proactively deal with offenders committing anti social acts
- Effectively deal with instances of violence and disorder
- Reassure the public of South Yorkshire
- Make effective use of Police powers as a means of reducing and deterring anti social behaviour

Phase One (Scanning/Analysis/Response) (1st October 2004 – 3rd November 2004)

In order to pinpoint the range and extent of the problem, a comprehensive analytical package was prepared by the Force Intelligence Bureau. This was used to target activity in subsequent phases. High profile public reassurance patrol in hotspot areas, Test purchasing operations dealing with Firework and Alcohol sales and a media strategy.

Phase Two (Response) (4th November 2004- 6th November 2004)

Targeted high profile public reassurance patrol in areas specifically identified by intelligence - Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, Special Constabulary and Community Wardens. Extra resources from Headquarters Departments to supplement District patrol activity.

Phase Three (Assessment) (7th November 2004 – 12th November 2004)

Formal debrief and evaluation of the Operation involving all the partners. Intelligence analysis demonstrated what worked and variation against the previous year. Press releases informed local communities about activity across the period of the Operation.

Funding for the Operation was secured from the central Force budget totalling £50,000.

The Outcomes

- Cumulative decrease of 8.3% anti social behaviour incidents compared to 2003
- Firework misuse decreased by 7.2%
- Arson decreased by 47.2%
- General nuisance/disorder decreased by 26.8%
- Vandalism decreased by 11.2%
- Youth related nuisance/disorder decreased by 6.5%
- Truancy sweep – 62 returned home / school
- Test Purchase operation – 362 premises - resulting in 6 warnings and 35 offences being processed for Court
- 57 schools in hotspot areas for anti social behaviour visited. 13,166 pupils engaged with.

3. Description of project

Describe the project following the guidance above in no more than 4000 words

SCANNING/ANALYSIS

Between Monday 27th October and Sunday 9th November 2003, South Yorkshire Police organised the first Operation Mischief. The aim of the Operation was to combat anti-social behaviour incidents and associated problems before and during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. In particular, the Operation focused towards "Mischief Night" on the 4th November, where the Force has historically experienced high levels of criminal damage and youth nuisance complaints. Initial scanning of other forces revealed that this was a unique phenomenon to the South and West Yorkshire area.

The encouraging results of this first Operation yielded notable reductions in the levels of anti-social behaviour and malicious use of fireworks compared to previous years. The combination of effective partnership working and intelligence led activity contributed to the success and informed subsequent planning for Operation Mischief 2004.

Initial planning for Operation Mischief 2004 began during the Summer. Overall responsibility for its co-ordination was again given to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Unit of South Yorkshire Police Community Safety Department. From the outset it was recognised that wide consultation was necessary to ensure the initiative would have maximum effect. A working group was formed, comprising representatives of all Police Districts in the county, support Departments, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the four Trading Standards Units of each local authority.

To gain an appreciation of overall incident types, historical data was extracted from the force Command and Control system (**ProCad**) by Strategic Intelligence Analysts.

The analysis centred on the period between 1st October and 10th November 2003.

ProCad contains 91 different result headings that classify the outcome of the many wide ranging incidents reported to the Police. The table below shows the breakdown of the largest incident result categories (those with over 1000 incidents) over this period:

INCIDENT RESULT	No. INCIDENTS
NOT AN INCIDENT	5204
INFORMATION ONLY	4186
YOUTHS - NUISANCE	3729
SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR	3172
DOMESTIC FAMILY	1995
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1983
THEFT	1889
LINKED INCIDENT	1878
GENERAL COMPLAINT	1720
ABANDONED VEHICLE	1658
THEFT OF/FROM M/VEHICLE	1595
BURGLARY DWELLING	1460
AMBULANCE	1254
CALLER ADVISED	1254
VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON	1198
SILENT CALL - CHECKED	1169
CRIME OTHER	1131

As can be seen, just under 10% of all incidents are classified as in fact "Not an Incident". Further analysis of this category revealed a significant proportion to be nuisance telephone calls from public kiosks. These are labelled with assorted titles by each individual Communications Room operator and made the task of filter searching somewhat difficult.

A search of all incidents containing kiosk telephone numbers allowed a clearer picture of the scale of this problem thereby capturing the differently recorded titles of such incidents. Many kiosk calls appear to involve youths or children but accurate statistics were unavailable due to the divergent recording system – many incidents may involve youths but are not logged as such.

The main issues identified from initial scanning were then analysed:

1. NUISANCE PHONE CALLS FROM KIOSKS

These incidents cause inconvenience to police call handlers, waste time and resources when deployed, increasing the risks to public safety where genuine emergencies are not dealt with as quickly.

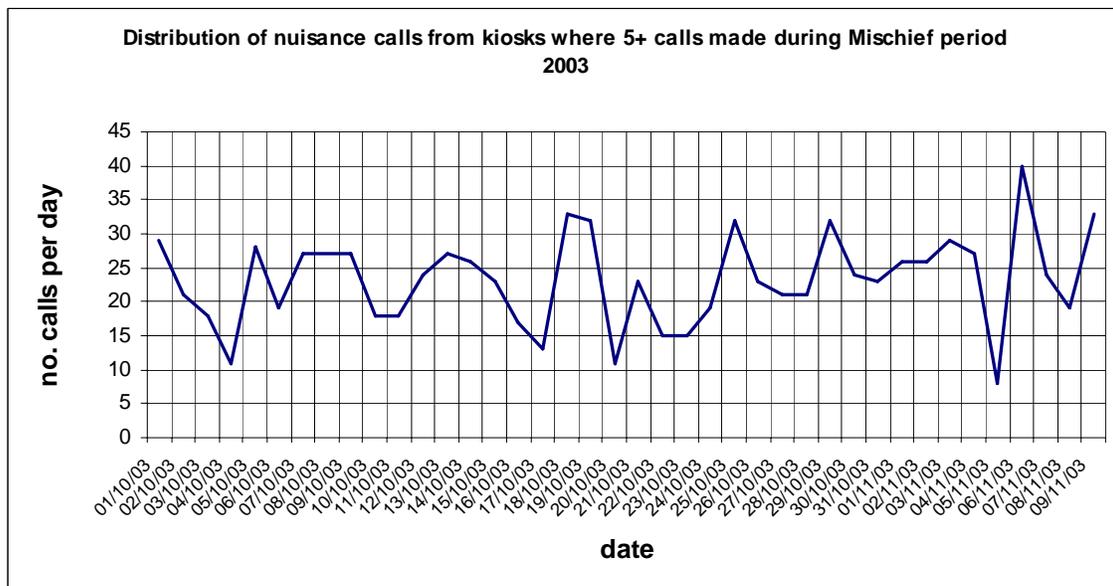
96 kiosks were identified where more than 5 nuisance calls were made during the Mischief period.

21 kiosks were identified where more than 10 such calls were made, the most being 45 calls from one kiosk.

Calls from these 117 “hot” kiosks were distributed throughout the entire period but interestingly they decreased on Mischief Night itself (4th November) which may reflect a crime displacement as the callers responsible migrate to involvement in other incidents and crimes. Peaks were evident over the October weekend periods with the main peak of 40 calls made on Thursday 6th November 2003 in the aftermath of Bonfire Night where the least calls were made – only eight.

Analysis of the kiosk locations revealed a significant number to be located in close proximity to schools indicating possible involvement by pupils.

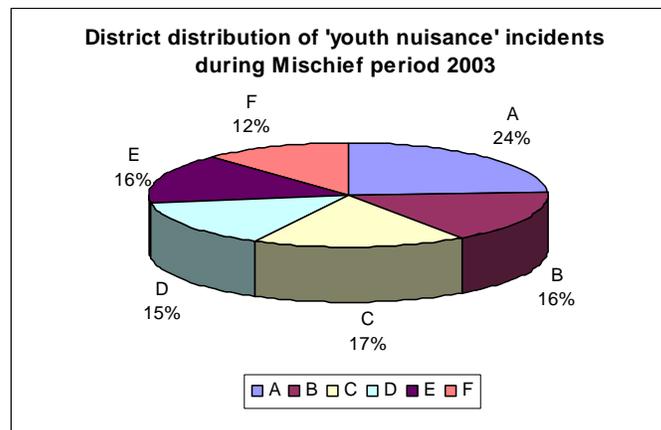
Whilst these calls are not violent acts of criminal damage posing immediate physical implications to public safety, it was clear that they had to be considered as an important feature in the response for 2004. If it was true that nuisance youths were responsible for a large proportion of these calls, then the kiosks themselves could be useful predictive indicators to the location of these individuals.



2. YOUTH NUISANCE

The nuisance calls referred to previously implicate high youth or child involvement and, as such form one type of youth nuisance behaviour. Youth Nuisance was the third highest category recorded during Mischief 2003 with 3,729 incidents.

DATE	No. inc	DATE	No. inc
04/11/03	194	02/11/03	89
11/10/03	130	06/11/03	89
30/10/03	126	09/11/03	88
12/10/03	121	10/10/03	87
01/11/03	118	13/10/03	86
31/10/03	117	21/10/03	84
05/11/03	117	03/10/03	83
02/10/03	110	15/10/03	83
18/10/03	109	07/10/03	82
24/10/03	104	23/10/03	82
27/10/03	101	16/10/03	80
29/10/03	100	17/10/03	80
14/10/03	99	08/10/03	75
09/10/03	96	22/10/03	72
07/11/03	96	20/10/03	69
03/11/03	95	25/10/03	68
19/10/03	93	01/10/03	67
26/10/03	92	08/11/03	67
05/10/03	91	28/10/03	65
04/10/03	90	06/10/03	34



As expected, incidents rose sharply on 4th November 2003 and remained high on Bonfire Night. However, the three day period surrounding Halloween (31st Oct) cumulatively accounted for a large percentage of incidents which may be due to youths "trick or treating" and calling door to door at houses in their local areas.

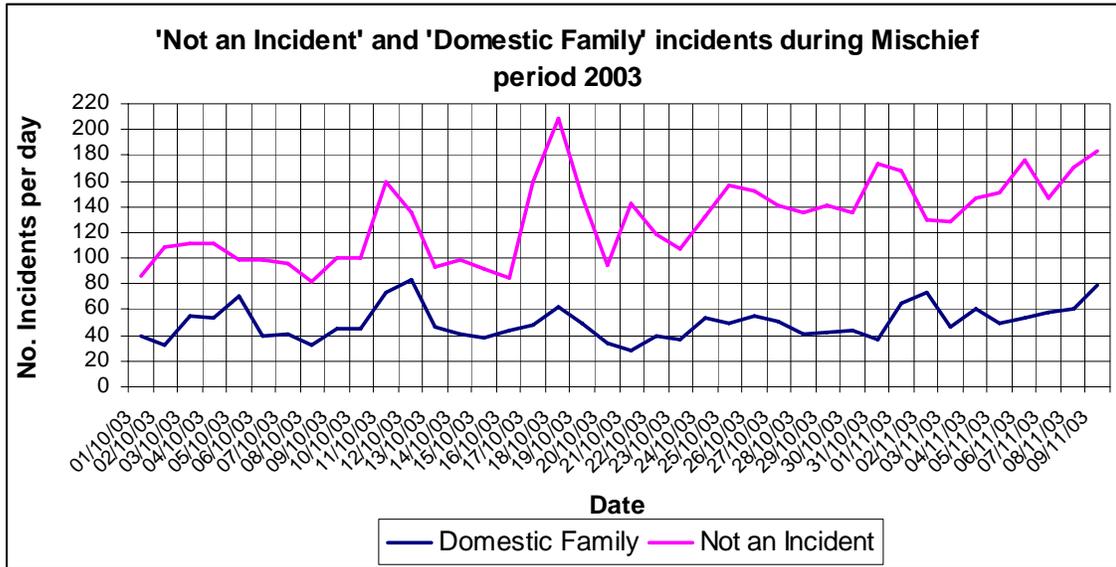
Additionally, weekend periods during October 2003 saw higher numbers of youth nuisance incidents.

Of all youth nuisance incidents, there were 493 containing a reference to Fireworks. Again, there were other incidents effectively "hidden" in other categories, for example within "not an incident" there were an additional 50 references to Firework misuse, 11 of which explicitly mention youths/children.

Despite the difficulty in gauging the extent of all firework incidents it was clear that Firework incidents posed a very real problem.

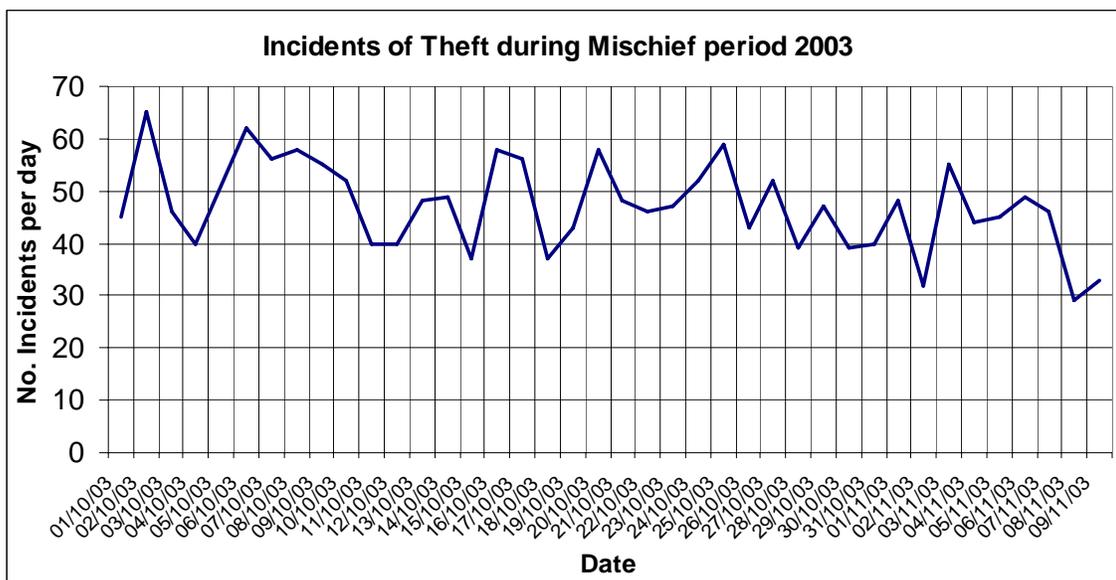
3. DOMESTIC FAMILY

Although these incidents displayed minor rises on Mischief Night, they were not as pronounced as other incident categories considered so far, therefore it may be deduced that these were incidents more associated with weekend activity, but slightly compounded by the events of Operation Mischief. For example, domestic incidents may arise from family tensions where members of a family are involved in Mischief activity, such as youth nuisance and criminal damage.



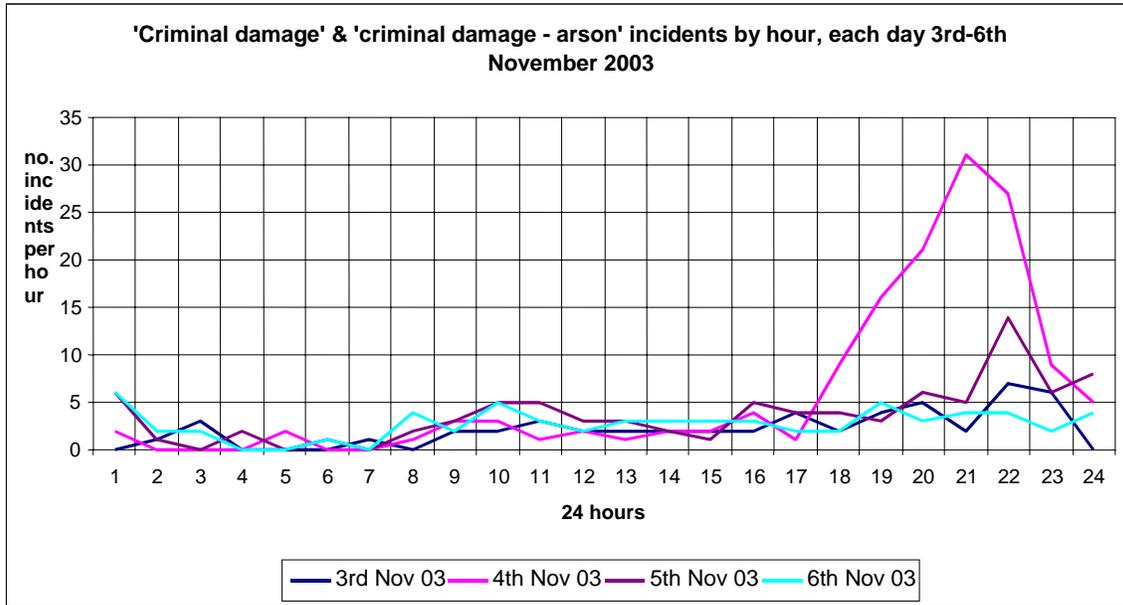
4. THEFT AND SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Suspicious behaviour and domestic family incidents were shown to peak at a similar time although the overall distribution of offences was dissimilar. These did not correspond with Theft incidents which gradually decreased on the approach to Mischief Night. After a small rise on the 3rd November 2003, figures actually decreased on Mischief Night itself. This could have reflected a possible crime displacement whereby offenders who usually commit thefts were involved in other crimes/incidents on Mischief Night, such as the sharp rise in Criminal Damage.

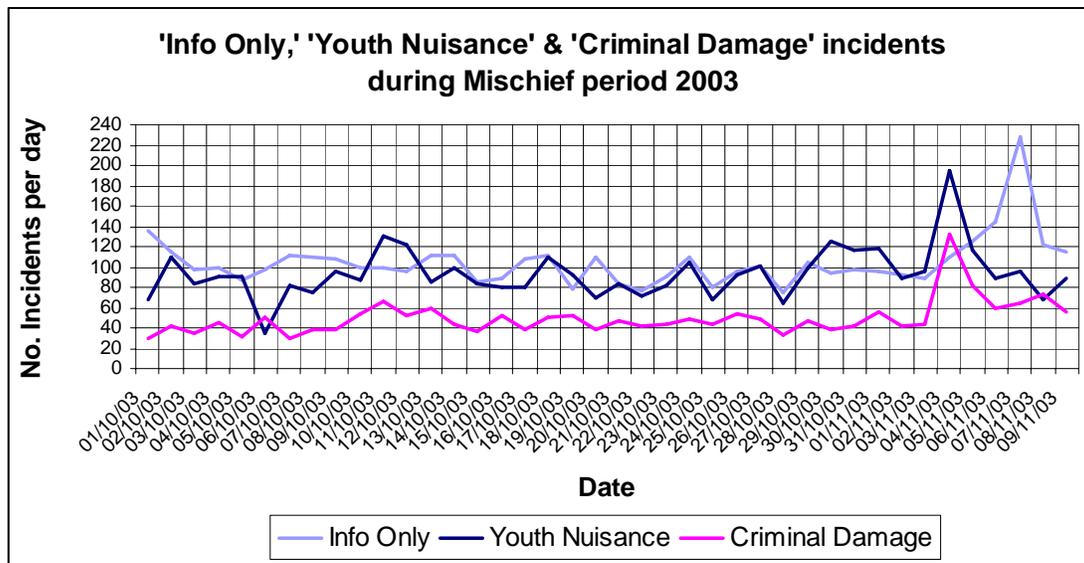


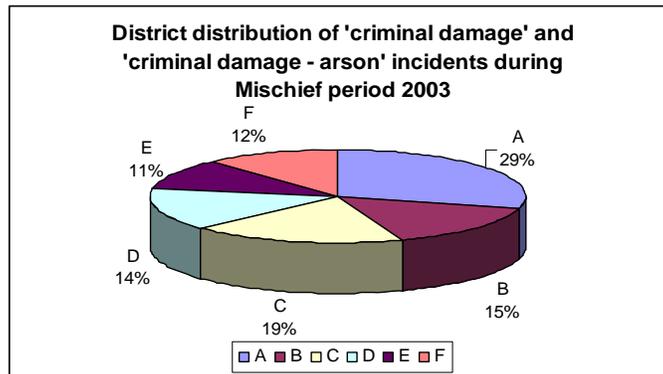
5. CRIMINAL DAMAGE

As with the nuisance youth category, the criminal damage incidents are recorded under a variety of titles but taken together account for some 2261 incidents. The table below shows the incident spike for a 24 hour period over the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th November 2003.



The table below shows the sharp peak of Criminal Damage incidents on or just after Mischief Night. It is interesting to see how this trend is closely mirrored by Youth Nuisance incidents over the entire period also. If Nuisance youths were responsible for the many criminal damage incidents on Mischief Night, the distribution over the 24hour period suggested that the absence of incidents during the day indicates youths were not active and so either at school or home. The 10am peak shown in the analysis above could therefore be attributed more to adults.





Due to the fact that the Criminal Damage “spike” was so pronounced on Mischief Night, closer analysis was conducted to highlight hotspot areas (**Fig 1**) affected in 2003 and to provide an indicator of areas likely to be affected in 2004

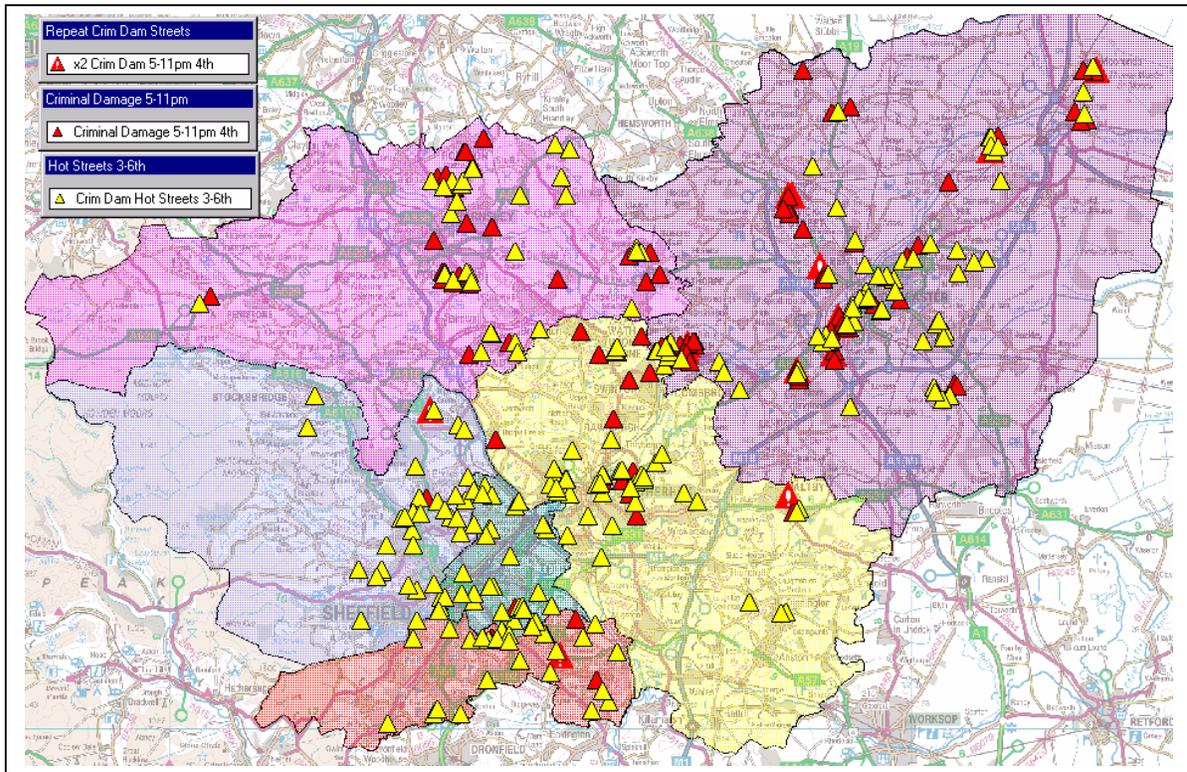
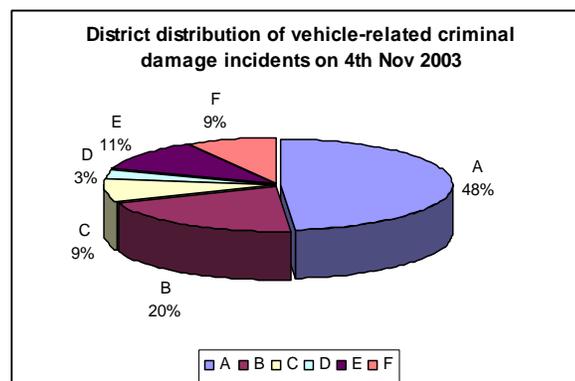
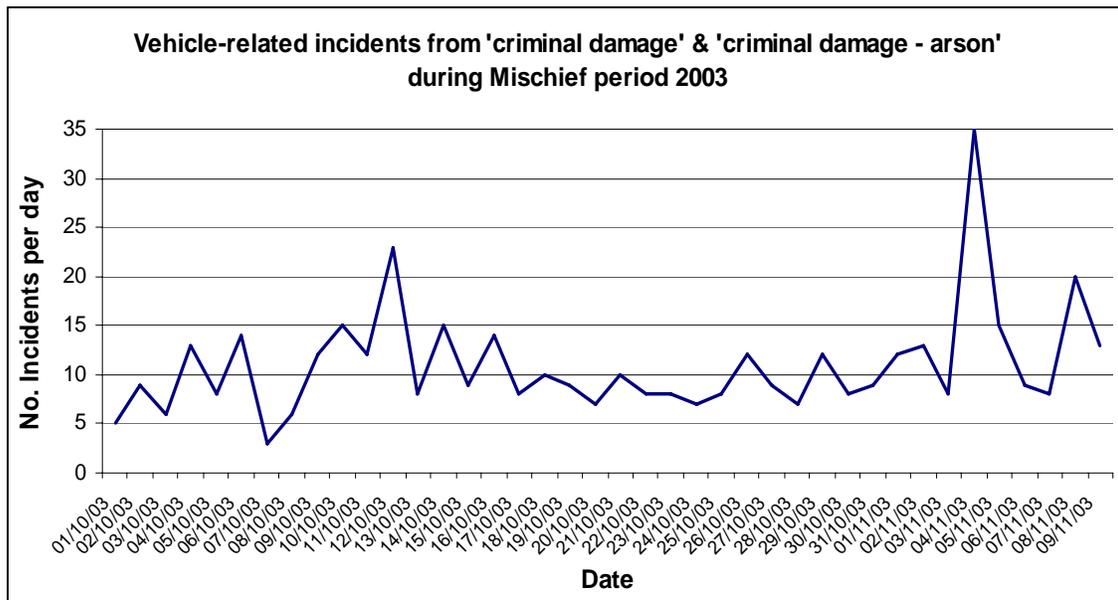


Fig 1 Distribution of three types of hot streets/areas experiencing criminal damage incidents in 2003

The majority of incidents related to windows being smashed or vehicles being damaged. Again, difficulties were encountered in incident recording due to many overlapping categories and the ambiguous nature of some incident entries when the type of "window damaged" was not specified.

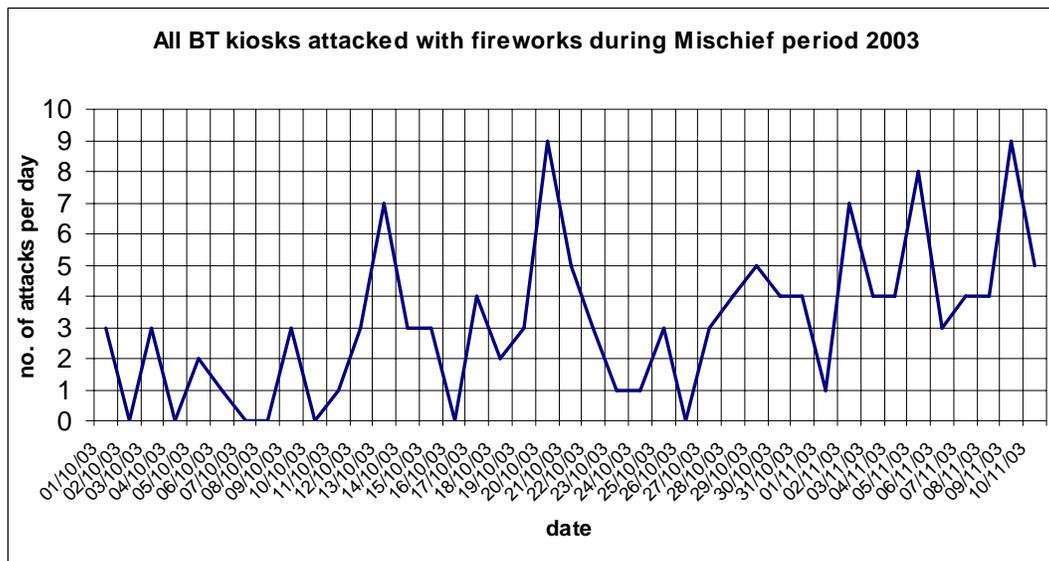
As the incidents with smashed glass form such a broad category, a clearer indication of a common type of criminal damage is the analysis of vehicle related criminal damage. This encompasses motorbikes, cars, trams, buses as well as the various modus operandi of causing specific damage such as throwing stones at bus windows, slashing car tyres or smashing van windscreens.

Analysis revealed 437 vehicle related criminal damage incidents. The distribution of these incidents across the Mischief period mirrored those of Youth Nuisance with a sharp spike on 4th November 2003, peaking at 9pm. Most offences occurred in Doncaster.



Telephone kiosk damage had received media attention in October 2003 after a kiosk was blown up in Barnsley due to a high powered firework being thrown into it. British Telecom (BT) log every incident of firework damaged kiosks. There were 89 kiosks damaged during the Mischief period alone with a total repair value of £11,062.18. These incident logs provided an independent means of approaching the scale of firework vandalism. Analysis of the kiosk locations identified possible areas where individuals possess explosives and are operating.

The graph below shows the distribution of kiosk attacks over time during the Mischief period. The pattern was varied because the numbers are relatively low, ie: under 10 per day. As with theft and nuisance kiosk calls, this type of criminal damage did not peak on Mischief Night as might have been expected, but remained at a relatively average 4 incidents. This type of criminal damage therefore occurred more randomly than other incident trends and would be more difficult to police.



6. ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENTS OVER THE PERIOD

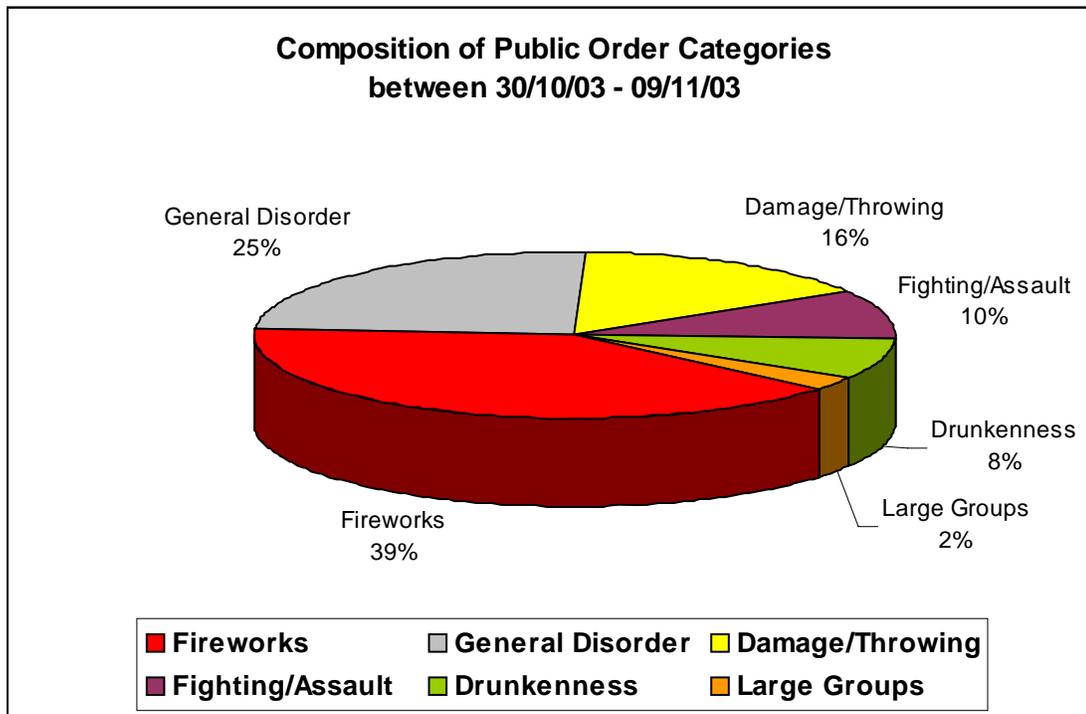
Analysis showed that over a third of the Force's 1440 public order incidents took place between 6-9pm and 15% of incidents peak at 7pm. Nearly three quarters of public order incidents on 4th November 2003 took place in one half of the Force: Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham (the "Mischief Districts"). However, in contrast on the 5th November 2003, incidents were split almost 50/50 between the Sheffield Districts and the Mischief Districts, reflecting the Force divide.

District	No. Public Order Incidents	% of Total Force Public Order Incidents
A: Doncaster	367	25.5%
C: Rotherham	265	18.4%
D: Sheffield Central	235	16.3%
E: Sheffield South	224	15.6%
B: Barnsley	199	13.8%
F: Sheffield North	150	10.4%
Grand Total:	1440	100%

A key finding common to all Districts is the higher density of drunkenness, fighting/assault and general disorder in town centres. Sheffield Central accounted for the most notable cluster, which may be attributed to the higher number of pubs, clubs and bars serving alcohol. Other District's experienced this trend to a lesser degree, but across the Force this finding was more weekend specific. Therefore, drunkenness and fighting/assault did not appear to be key Mischief/Bonfire night public order issues, which in turn suggests that alcohol is not a key factor involved in the other public order problems experienced by the Force on 4th/5th November.

Date	District						Grand Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
30-Oct-03	31	17	18	10	20	12	108
31-Oct-03	28	13	19	14	28	10	112
01-Nov-03	38	15	33	29	21	12	148
02-Nov-03	22	14	20	23	23	10	112
03-Nov-03	21	16	10	15	12	8	82
04-Nov-03	80	39	34	20	15	19	207
05-Nov-03	30	27	28	34	38	20	177
06-Nov-03	14	11	25	27	18	19	114
07-Nov-03	35	20	19	22	18	12	126
08-Nov-03	38	15	25	29	15	16	138
09-Nov-03	30	12	34	12	16	12	116
Grand Total	367	199	265	235	224	150	1440

The table above shows the clear force divide in the distribution of public order incidents over an 11 day period. The incident peak dates are shaded for each District



Clearly, firework related incidents posed the biggest Public Order problem for the Force, accounting for almost 40% of all Public Order incidents over the 11 day period alone. This is followed by General Disorder which account for nearly a quarter of the Force's incidents.

The fewest incidents related to those involving large groups, however due to the potential number of people involved in one reported incident, these groups must be taken as real indicators of possible Public Order problems.

Category	Sub-Type	District						Totals
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
FIREWORKS	F1: Throwing	23	19	27	52	25	13	159
	F2: Damage/Injury	12	7	12	6	11	9	57
	F3: General noise/concern	72	27	61	53	87	49	349
	F4: Selling	1	1			7		9
Total		108	54	100	111	130	71	574
GENERAL DISORDER	GD0: General disorder	75	34	32	31	26	19	217
	GD1: Youth-related disorder	47	13	31	14	21	10	136
Total		122	47	63	45	47	29	353
DAMAGE/THROWING	D1: Throwing missiles	38	35	29	8	8	10	128
	D2: 'Firing' - arson and rifles	6	5	7	2	6	9	35
	D3: General criminal damage	23	7	13	9	6	3	61
Total		67	47	49	19	20	22	224
FIGHTING/ASSAULT	FA: Fighting/Assault							
Total		36	28	25	30	10	12	141
DRUNKENNESS	Y0: General drunkenness	17	12	20	24	13	11	97
	Y1: Youth drunkenness	7	3	3	1	1	1	16
Total		24	15	23	25	14	12	113
LARGE GROUPS	L: Large Groups							
Total		10	8	5	5	3	4	35
Grand Total		367	199	265	235	224	150	1440

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OPERATION MISCHIEF 2004

The Strategic Analyst was able to plot district hotspots which displayed clustering of

- Nuisance kiosk calls
- Firework vandalised kiosks
- Vehicle related criminal damage incidents on 4th November 2003
- Locations of other criminal damage incidents that occurred on the surrounding Mischief days, ie: 3rd, 5th and 6th November 2003

Analysis showed that the "Mischief Night" concept is one upheld most strongly in Doncaster, followed by Barnsley and Rotherham.

The three Sheffield Districts did not appear to suffer such concentrated incidents between the spike time 5-11pm on 4th November 2003, therefore the problem profile was not universal to the whole county.

However, the three Sheffield Districts appeared to have a higher concentration of kiosk based incidents throughout the whole Operation Mischief period. There were also more criminal damage incidents in the days surrounding Mischief Night, suggesting that these days and particularly 5th November are key dates for these districts.

After completing the analysis the following recommendations were common to all Districts throughout the county:

- Several Police Districts suffered Mischief related incidents close to their borders with other Districts. It was recommended that cross border strategies be implemented to deal with known hotspot areas and ensure problems are tackled cohesively

- Many of the kiosk incidents occurred close to schools, as did some criminal damage incidents. This was a strong pattern and in some instances, incidents were contained within a boundary area of schools. It was recommended that intelligence be gathered to analyse the extent of local school pupils involvement in the nearby incidents
- It was recommended that early liaison take place with Local Education Authorities and the Schools identified in hotspot areas to develop prevention plans. This could take the form of organised Police visits to give talks to students in the weeks leading up to Mischief and Bonfire Night 2004 or the co-ordination of events to take place around the peak times/nights to divert youths away from anti social behaviour.
- It was recommended that patrols take place in the streets surrounding hotspot schools throughout the Mischief period 2004, with high visibility patrols between 3 - 6th November 2004. Furthermore, that high visibility patrols are located close to schools on the afternoon of Thursday 4th and Friday 5th November 2004 to deter youths from engaging in potentially anti social acts and to reassure the public of a strong Police presence.

RESPONSE (1st October – 6th November 2004)

The objectives for Operation Mischief 2004 were set by Community Safety Department:

- To prevent or reduce incidents of Anti Social behaviour by 10% compared to 2003
- To proactively deal with offenders committing anti social acts
- To effectively deal with instances of violence and disorder
- To reassure the public of South Yorkshire
- To make effective use of Police powers as a means of reducing and deterring anti social behaviour
- To be partnership enhanced with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authorities to actively respond to quality of life issues

The Operation was divided into a three phase structure, building upon the pre operation activity that had taken place during the year.

PHASE 1 (1ST October-3rd November 2004)

Partnership activity

A telephone hotline was established, working on behalf of South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Local Authority Trading Standards Departments. "Crime stoppers" would collate information from members of the public about premises suspected of breaching fireworks legislation. The information would then be routed to the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) within South Yorkshire Police who could analyse the information for criminal intelligence. Information would then be passed on to the Fire Service/Trading Standards for action, with any enforcement activity being pursued by them.

South Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch Association would be tasked with coordinating its membership to provide information to South Yorkshire Police, feeding intelligence and tasking.

Test Purchasing Operations

These would be conducted throughout Phase 1, although it was recommended that Police Districts gave particular emphasis to the period Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st October when pupils were on half term holiday. A Best Practice guide was prepared to assist Districts in preparing for this part of the Operation, along with a comprehensive risk assessment document.

The key focus was shop based sales of fireworks and alcohol.

Volunteer Police Cadets would be utilised, assisted by local students on a Public Services Course. All would be deployed in areas where they were unknown, to protect the individual

Tasked School Liaison Visits

These would be conducted by Youth Services Officers at targeted "hotspot" schools identified from earlier scanning. A bespoke package was created, highlighting the dangers of firework misuse and the consequences of engaging in anti social behaviour.

Force wide Truancy sweep

Coordinated by Community Safety Department, Police Districts across the force area were tasked with conducting a minimum of 3 truancy sweeps during the period 1st October to 3rd November 2004, excluding a half term holiday between 25th-29th October and weekend periods. These were to be conducted in partnership with representatives of the Local Education Authority.

Media Campaign

The main focus of the media campaign would be enforcement of anti social behaviour legislation. A number of ad hoc stories could be released during the operation as and when significant operations and arrests occurred. This was to be supported by an extensive advertising campaign. The primary audience were offenders and victims, the overall objective being to reassure and deter.

Activity

- Top 100 – publicise fact that South Yorkshire Police have contacted the top 100 anti social behaviour offenders from the previous year's operation, focusing upon the letters and personal visits carried out
- Publicise the partnership hotline for the public to give information about the illegal sale and storage of fireworks/alcohol.
- Publicise that South Yorkshire Police have contacted every Member of Parliament to highlight new legislation dealing with anti social behaviour / fireworks and asking them for their help.
- Appeals to shopkeepers for cooperation in dealing with firework/alcohol sales as well as eggs and flour to teenagers, publicising intended test purchase activity
- Highlighting that the Co-op group fully supports Operation Mischief. Store staff will receive briefings and display posters in store
- Photo call with a branded Operation Mischief bus
- Publicise fact that Police Districts would be engaging children in diversionary activities on the key nights of the Operation
- Video produced for use in schools featuring footage of a firework victim.
- Radio campaign utilising Hallam FM between last week in October and first week in November 2004 to highlight fireworks/anti social behaviour message
- Bus exterior and interior advertising for one month from 18th October 2004 to highlight fireworks/anti social behaviour message

PHASE 2 (4TH November- 6th November 2004)

Anti Social Behaviour Policing

High profile public reassurance patrol would be carried out by Police Officers across all six Police Districts in areas specifically identified as being affected by anti social behaviour. This was to be supplemented by the wider Policing family including Police Community Support Officers- PCSO's, Special Constabulary, Community Wardens, Local Authority Housing Officers.

Additional resources (Chief Constable's Reserve) were made available to Districts from Headquarters Departments and deployed according to intelligence from the previous operation in 2003

In line with the National Intelligence Model, hot updates were to be fed in to the Operation tasking process by the Force Intelligence Bureau to ensure activity was meaningful and directed.

Public Disorder Policing

South Yorkshire Police Operational Support Services Department would co-ordinate the provision of specialist Public Order trained officers including the Tactical Support Group to cater for the potential for serious public disorder. In addition each Police District were responsible for ensuring that they provided a Police Support Unit comprising 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 24 Constables.

Evidence gathering teams would also feature, to act as a support to any instances of serious disorder. Public Order staff would be utilised on high profile patrol when not allocated to incidents of disorder.

Media strategy

The results from the earlier Truancy sweep would be publicised along with the extra staffing arrangements for the period (Chief Constable's Reserve, Public Order officers)

ASSESSMENT - PHASE 3 - (7TH November-12TH November 2004)

Operation Mischief 2004 was a notable success for South Yorkshire Police and its partners. The comprehensive district Policing efforts during Bonfire weekend supported by a full Public Order structure and the deployment of the Chief Constable's Reserve resulted in no instances of large scale public disorder.

Only one negative piece of correspondence was received, compared to a significant number of letters of thanks for the relief provided during this period.

A formal debrief took place upon conclusion of the Operation which took into account views of all partners

Performance Outcomes

Mischief Period 1st October- 7th November 2004 compared to same period in 2003

The parameters for comparison of anti social behaviour incidents mirror those in earlier scanning and analysis – ie: Fireworks, Throwing Missiles, Large Groups, Vandalism, Arson, Drunkenness, Fighting, General Disorder/Nuisance

- **8.3% less anti-social behaviour incidents**
- **The following types of anti-social behaviour decreased:**
 - incidents involving Fireworks by 7.2%
 - incidents of Arson and Rifle sightings by 47.2%
 - incidents of general nuisance/disorder by 26.8%
 - incidents of vandalism by 11.2%
 - incidents of youth related nuisance/disorder by 6.5%
- There was a shift in the Force peak date for anti-social behaviour incidents – from 4th November 2003 (222 incidents) to 6th November 2004 (212 incidents). This is still 4.5% lower than the 2003 peak date.
- Halloween (31st October) saw more anti social behaviour incidents than Mischief Night (4th November)
- Doncaster District saw the largest decrease in overall anti-social behaviour incidents by 18.2%
- Overall, there were 18.6% less malicious firework incidents (throwing, aiming, damage, etc) across the Force between 1st-7th November 2004 compared to 2003
- There were 17.2% less malicious firework incidents between 13th October - 7th November 2004, compared to the same period in 2003.
- Incidents of drunkenness increased by 38.4%, as did incidents of large groups and fighting by 23.8%.
- Between 1st- 7th November 2004, the Force experienced 11.6% less anti-social behaviour incidents compared to the same period in 2003.

Contributory factors

Positioning of weekends – Last year, Mischief (4th November) fell on a Tuesday, this year it was on a Thursday, closer to the weekend. It is possible that anti-social behaviour incidents were delayed or gathered momentum into the weekend following Bonfire Night on the Friday

Drunkenness/Fighting Incidents – As these traditionally peak at weekends, this may account for an increase in the number of incidents on Saturday 6th November 2004.

Weather – Between 4th-6th November 2004, weather conditions were dry and mild. This may have encouraged outdoor anti social activity in the absence of inclement weather to provide a deterrent. Weather conditions in 2003 were similar.

Improved Intelligence – Operation Mischief 2004 has seen more co-ordinated preparation and effective tasking of resources to identified hotspots, both leading up to and during the operation.

Section 30 Dispersal Powers – The effective use of Police powers to disperse groups of 2 or more from designated streets has prevented congregation of groups who may be responsible for committing anti social acts

New Firework legislation – It is possible that the public may have been wary about risking fines of up to £5000 as a result of primary legislation passed during the Summer of 2004 dealing with firework use. This may have encouraged more people to visit organised displays on Saturday 6th November, which may in turn have led to an increase in anti social behaviour incidents at the weekend.

Performance Outputs

Truancy

Hotspot Truancy patrol	103.75 hours
Children spoken to	179
Parents spoken to	82
Children returned home/school	62

Test Purchase Operations – Fireworks/Alcohol

Premises visited for Test Purchase	362
Cadets utilised	67
Offences processed	41
Warnings issued	6
Offences to Court	35

Intelligence led School Visits

Schools identified as key to Anti Social behaviour and visited for intervention	57
Children engaged	13,166
Proactive reassurance visits to previous victims	87
Crimestoppers intelligence	7 reports

Media Campaign

As a result of the campaign, positive coverage of the Operation and its key messages were as follows :

- **Press and MP on patrol**
 - **8 local newspaper articles**
 - **1 regional newspaper article**
 - **5 local radio station features**
 - **10 day, 120 advert campaign on Hallam Fm/Magic AM (Sheffield and Rotherham), Trax fm (Doncaster), Dearne fm (Barnsley)**
 - **1 regional radio station feature**
 - **1 national radio station feature**
 - **2 regional TV news features**
 - **1 national TV news feature**
 - **20 adverts on bus exteriors**
 - **100 adverts on bus interiors**
 - **40 Co-op store adverts**
 - **8 bus station adverts**
 - **Video for every Secondary school**
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- Feedback from the South Yorkshire Police Press Office highlighted two areas for improvement in 2005; the first in relation to the consistency and quality of information from each Police District about specific incidents, to enable appropriate press releases to be given out; the second concerning enforcement statistics – ie: a regular request from journalists was to establish the number of Fixed Penalties issued for Disorder, surprisingly this information was not available at short notice. Both of these will be acted upon in 2005 to ensure a designated person is responsible for collating returns of incidents and prosecution information.
 - Similarly, difficulties were experienced in ensuring that Districts completed daily return sheets to Headquarters Community Safety Department detailing activity during the Operation. This prevented an accurate assessment of the total number of arrests, persons reported on summons and those issued with Fixed Penalty notices. This was due to difficulties with the named point of contact within each Police District. This will be addressed for the planning of Mischief 2005.
 - The logistical preparation at the beginning of the Operation was considered sufficient and the hot spots identified were accurate. The practice of utilising the Chief Constable's reserve in a high profile role was considered as good practice.