



## Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

### Tilley Awards 2007

#### Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. ***By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the guidance.*** Please complete the following form in full, **within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB.** Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should **be e-mailed to [tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 27th April 2007**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811. Any queries regarding publicity of the awards should be directed to Chaz Akoshile on 0207 035 1589.

#### Section 1: Details of application

Title of the project:

**“Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes”  
A Safer Leicester Partnership approach to tackling night time violence in Leicester City Centre**

Name of force/agency/CDRP/CSP:

Leicestershire Constabulary (City BCU) & the Safer Leicester Partnership.

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

Chief Inspector Chris Haward

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0116 222 2222 ext 4673

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If known please state in which Government Office area you are located e.g. Government Office North West, Government Office London etc:

Government Office East Midlands (GOEM)

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s):

Cllr. Carlym Sandringham

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s):

Cabinet Lead (Community Safety)  
Chair, Safer Leicester Partnership

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s):

Care of:

Mr. Alistair Reid  
Service Director  
Safer & Stronger Communities  
Leicester City Council  
New Walk Centre  
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Direct Line: (0116) 252 7915

**Please tick box to indicate that all organisations involved in the project have been notified of this entry (this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project):**

## Section 2: Summary of application

### **“Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes”**

#### **A Safer Leicester Partnership approach to tackling night time violence in Leicester City Centre**

In the four years to May 2005 Leicester City experienced an increase in night club numbers and a rise in violence. Isolated efforts were made by the police to curb the violence but this had only temporary effects, resulting in sharp rises and falls in violence levels. For example, Operation Sandstorm targeted peak times for violence over short periods, but was reliant on overtime. It cost approximately £250,000 in the first year and did not prove a long-term solution.

Between February 2004 and January 2005, there were 997 ABH assaults within the City. Analysis showed 45.2% happened on Friday and Saturday nights from 19:00 – 04:00hrs. The majority of offenders and victims were 18-25 year-old white males. Leicester City was identified nationally as one of the most violent cities in the country. Analysis of the causes identified several hotspots and strong correlations between the location of nightclubs and licensed premises, common gathering places and levels of violence experienced.

Other contributory factors included the slow movement of revelers leaving the city, the lack of buses and taxis to take them away and of a consistent and visible police presence, an associated problem with illegal parking making emergency access difficult and the lack of a cohesive and sustainable partnership solution. The sense of insecurity felt by visitors was undermining the commercial prosperity of the city.

A multi-agency plan incorporating a number of initiatives and interventions was developed with the Safer Leicester Partnership (SLP) who allocated funding of £245,000. Interventions undertaken included:

- Operation Fortify – dedicated patrols on Friday and Saturday nights
- SafeRoutes – the safe movement of people into and away from the city
- SOS Safe Haven Bus – immediate access to first aid
- Introduction of Street Marshals
- Introduction of Street Pastors
- Dispersal Zones
- Multi-agency Licensing Group
- The Chaos Theory – educational tool looking at alcohol abuse
- Street Drinking Bans
- Environmental improvements

Since May 2005 there have been significant falls in city centre violence, particularly in the more serious categories of ABH and GBH. The results have been:

- ✓ ABH down by 25%
- ✓ GBH down by 37.5%.
- ✓ Assaults on police down by over 44%.
- ✓ Common assault down by 19.5%
- ✓ Overall violence down by 17%
- ✓ Incidents on Friday and Saturday down by 15%

### Section 3: Description of project

Between May 2001 and May 2005 Leicester City saw a rise in numbers of night clubs and licensed premises and an increase in violence. Adverse media coverage hailed Leicester as the most violent city in the country. The police saw increased demand, as did hospitals and the ambulance service.

A problem profile was developed by a police analyst attached to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which presented detailed analysis and recommendations to solve the problem.

#### Objectives

- To reduce the number and severity of assaults
- To work with partners and the community to make Leicester a safer place.
- To reduce fear of crime.
- To improve working conditions for those involved in the late night economy.
- To provide safe waiting areas for those wishing to get home.
- To provide a 'free bus' to convey people to safe waiting areas

#### Desired Outcomes

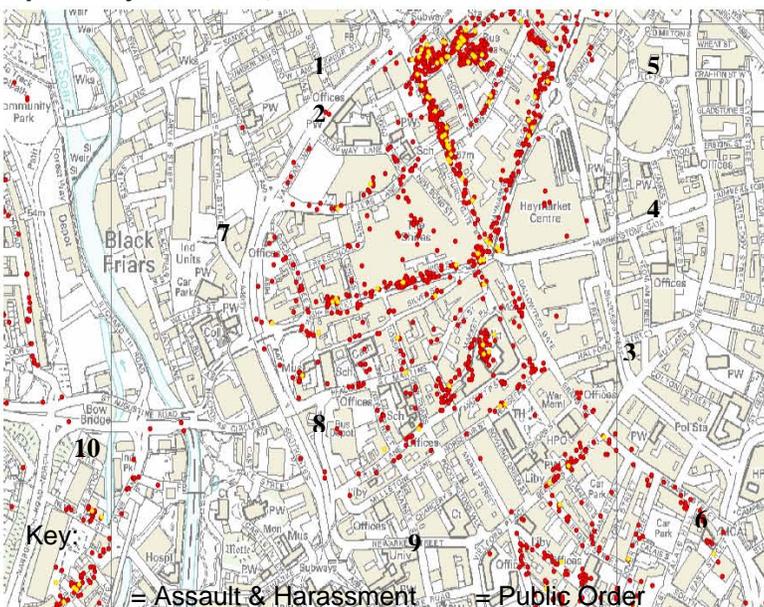
- Sustained reduction in all violent crime
- Reduction in the severity of offences
- Reduction in demands on other services
- Improved conditions for taxi and bus drivers
- Environmental changes result in reduced offending levels
- Users of the city feel safer

#### Problem Definition

Between February 1, 2004 and January 31, 2005 there were 997 ABH assaults within the city. It was anticipated the number of licensed premises, and those operating beyond midnight, would continue to rise placing further pressure on services in the city.

The profile of both offender and victim showed them to be 18-25 year-old white males, although clearly people outside this category are sometimes involved. Mapping established a strong correlation between the location of licensed premises / night clubs, common gathering places and the level of violence and offending seen, with 45.2% happening on Friday and Saturday nights from 19:00 – 04:00hrs.

#### Op. Fortify: Assaults, Harassment & Public Order Offences – Leicester City Centre 2005

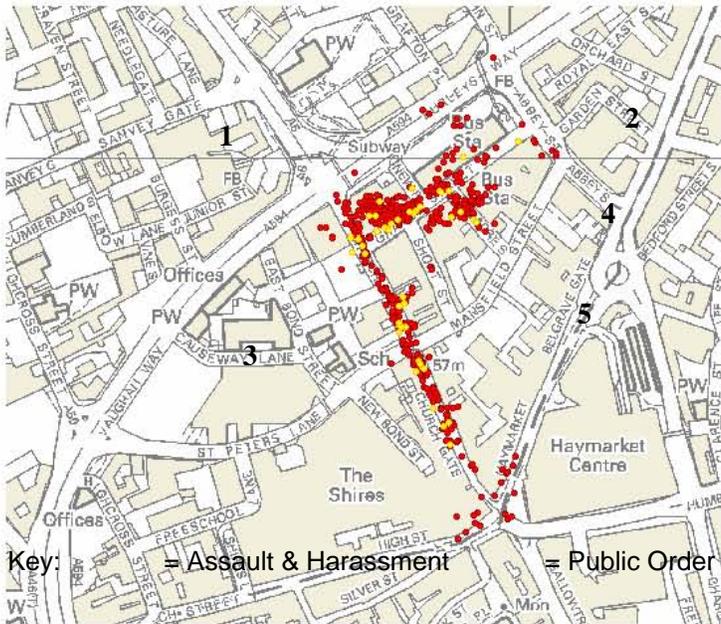


#### Key locations:

1. Churchgate - Liquid nightclub & taxi rank
2. Gravel Street - Zanzibar nightclub
3. Market Place - Lloyds bar
4. Clock Tower
5. Fan Club
6. New Walk – Numerous bars
7. High Street – Numerous bars
8. Hotel Street – Numerous bars
9. Belvoir Street – Numerous bars & taxi rank
10. Braunstone Gate – Numerous bars, student area, alternative drinking area to city centre

On leaving the clubs/pubs, people found it difficult to get home due to a lack of taxis and buses. Large groups gathered, leading to confrontation. Taxi drivers and bus drivers were reluctant to come into the city to collect fares. This provided a second phase of hotspots as the clubs emptied.

**SafeRoutes: Assaults, Harassment & Public Order Offences**



- 1. Liquid nightclub
- 2. Zanzibar nightclub
- 3. Undecided bar
- 4. Taxi rank
- 5. Late night food outlets

Key: = Assault & Harassment = Public Order

More serious offences of GBH and ABH were rising sharply.

Offence	Offence Count		%
	03/04 (May-Apr)	04/05 (May-Apr)	
ABH	638	754	18.18
Harassment, alarm, distress	314	424	35.03
Common assault	333	308	-7.51
Fear / provocation of violence	113	78	-30.97
Affray	71	70	-1.41
GBH	56	72	28.57
Assault/obstruct PC	61	71	16.39
Offensive weapon	52	34	-34.62
Violent disorder	20	19	-5
Threats to kill	19	35	84.21
Other assault / harassment	24	11	-54.17
Other public order	6	6	0
Fear of violence	0	6	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1707</b>	<b>1888</b>	<b>10.6</b>

Information from the Royal Infirmary and Ambulance Service showed similar patterns of demand.

Car parking was a peripheral problem with the main parks closing in the evening, causing congestion and unnecessary obstruction of both footpaths and roads, which in turn prevented the speedy dispersal of revelers at the end of the night. There was also a significant impact upon emergency vehicle access.

Analysis identified the need for a dedicated and structured response by police to night-time violence, linked into a cohesive and sustainable partnership response to the problem.

## Response

It was clear a broad range of interventions were needed, including tactics to stop offending, tackle anti-social and drunken behaviour before it escalated into violence and remove the contributory factors identified. It was necessary to tackle this problem as a priority due to the adverse publicity, the volume of offending and the pressure this placed on all the partners and agencies involved.

The partners involved are:

- Safer Leicester Partnership
- Police
- City Council
- Licensees
- Taxi Drivers
- Bus Companies
- St John's Ambulance
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Street Pastors
- Street Marshals

The response includes:

### **1. Violent Crime Team**

This team of a sergeant and four PCs was set up in February 2005 to identify opportunities to reduce violent crime, improve the response to victims and increase enforcement activity around offenders. Their aim is to improve understanding of violent crime, its causes and contributory factors, and design solutions, particularly to night-time violence.

The team looked at recording practices to ensure these were ethical and not wrongly classifying crimes leading to a detrimental impact upon the fear of crime.

### **2. Operation Fortify**

This operation is the primary police response to reducing and detecting violent crime in the city. The operation began in May 2005 and operates between 10pm and 4am every Friday and Saturday night. Fortify places dedicated patrols in the city targeting phase 1 hotspots - covering pubs to clubs movement – and phase 2 hotspots - covering club closing. A Silver Commander is based in the CCTV suite, where additional operators are on duty to help monitor incidents. Officers are allocated for Saturday and Sunday mornings to deal with persons arrested overnight.

Fortify aims to reduce the severity of assaults through early intervention. In addition, the Safer Leicester Partnership introduced:

#### ➤ **Dispersal Zones**

Two zones have been established for the City Centre and West End. These are directed at the hotspots and allow constables to disperse groups of two or more from the city centre if their behaviour is intimidating, harassing, distressing or alarming to others. Officers can also prevent them from returning.

These zones allow officers to use their power to prevent offences occurring without members of the public being criminalised through arrest or charge. This power has been used extensively, preventing such groups from becoming involved in violence.

### ➤ Street Drinking Ban

This covers numerous streets in the city centre and has been regularly reviewed, leading to a recent expansion of the scheme in February 2007.

The extension was granted by Leicester City Council at the request of the police, based upon data from the 101 anti-social behaviour hotline and the Inter-Agency Community Safety Bureau (ICSB).

This allows constables to require persons to desist from drinking and surrender any intoxicating liquor or containers. There is extensive enforcement of this ban.

### 3. SafeRoutes

SafeRoutes tackles violence and anti-social behaviour associated with the late night economy. It is designed to tackle fear of crime by encouraging a wider mix of people to enter and enjoy the city at night. Trialled in January 2006 in the Churchgate area, it has now been expanded to four more areas of the city. SafeRoutes provides safe waiting areas with good lighting, CCTV and a dedicated police and partnership presence for those waiting to return home.

Working closely with partners has been a key objective. The scheme relies on close working relationships between the police, city council and businesses / individuals involved in the late night economy. The scheme recognises all parties have relevant experience to help tackle violence and a responsibility to share ownership for the problem.

A key element of SafeRoutes is the support given by the City Council in allowing significant parts of the city to be closed to vehicular traffic during the hours of operation. SafeRoutes splits the city into eight zones (A – H), creating pedestrian only areas during key times. This allows revellers to move freely to taxi and bus points and return home safely protected by officers.

SafeRoutes was initially granted £245,000 in 2006/7, which was used to fund:

- Street marshals – salaries and training
- The SOS Bus (£10,000 per year)
- Dedicated officers for the SafeRoutes zones
- CCTV operator on Friday and Saturday night (linked to Op Fortify)
- A free bus service for Victoria Park (aimed at university students to alleviate fear and remove them safely)
- Media campaigns to promote the scheme.

Other initiatives undertaken include the provision of sick bags to taxi drivers to improve their working conditions, deliver anti-drunkenness messages to those who need to see it most, and to reassure taxi drivers that they are involved in the resolution of these problems.



#### **4. Street Marshals**

Street Marshals work in partnership with the police and are deployed in areas where there is no police presence at that time. They act as the eyes and ears of the police, reporting incidents with potential to escalate into violence. They are linked to Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes through the CCTV control and City Watch radio and are provided by a regional security company and trained to Security Industry Association (SIA) levels. They receive training from the Violent Crime Team in responding to incidents and calling for police assistance.

Easily recognisable in bright orange jackets, they create a heightened presence, improving feelings of safety.

#### **5. Street Pastors**

Part of a wider national initiative, the street pastor scheme in Leicester was set up in April 2005 by 'Churches Together'. It is one of the first schemes to be set up in the country aimed at the night time economy to tackle yobbish behaviour. Street pastors offer a new dimension to previous operations, giving revellers support and spiritual guidance. The scheme is linked to Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes and has received favourable comment locally and nationally.

Street pastors receive training from the police, including an input from the Violent Crime Team, an input on drugs and a session on conflict resolution. Using these skills and their pastoral training, they provide reassurance to drug and alcohol abusers, collect bottles preventing them being used in assaults and intervene in fights offering guidance and counselling.

#### **6. SOS Bus**

The SOS Safe Haven bus operates between 22:00 and 03:00hrs on Friday and Saturday nights at the Clock Tower in the city centre. Staffed by St John's Ambulance volunteers, it provides immediate first aid to reduce demand on hospitals and ambulance services. Linked in to the City Watch Radio Scheme, the bus offers a safe environment for those who need advice away from the hustle and bustle of the city at night.

#### **7. Chaos Theory**

This is an educational resource (DVD) for young people and has been developed to highlight the consequences of alcohol misuse and binge drinking. This resource was linked into the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy aimed at achieving a long term change in attitude towards drinking.

The DVD is entitled "The Chaos Theory" and is hard hitting, relating specifically to the experiences of young people.

The education authority provided an education consultant to advise on the content and style of the DVD and how to use this tool effectively. The Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) advised on engaging with young people on this topic and the key messages to include. The health service provided data and resources to assist in the making of the DVD. The young people themselves helped by developing the storyline and feeding in their own experiences. The Home Office provided £15,000 from the Recovered Assets Fund to develop the DVD.

#### **8. Lighting and Environmental Improvements**

Hotspots identified through analysis are subject to environmental visual audits involving police, the City Council, local councillors, security staff, licensees, residents and users of the area. Where necessary, environmental factors such as lighting and walk ways have been improved. Examples of such improvements include improved lighting in the New Walk area, together with the addition of CCTV cameras around Victoria Park where the buses depart from under SafeRoutes.

## **9. Multi-Agency Licensing Forum**

The Multi Agency Licensing Forum was set up in 2005 to tackle problem licensed premises in a co-ordinated way. The group is chaired by the police and includes representatives from the Fire and Rescue Service, City Council Licensing Department, Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Pollution Control and Consumer Protection.

The Forum's objectives are:

- Identification of problem premises
- Discuss options available and deploy most appropriate tactics
- Prevent duplication of work and ensure joint targeting
- Identify best practice and share with licensees
- Introduction of 'Best Bar None' in the city.

The Forum had a number of successes in the past year and co-ordinated the alcohol misuse enforcement campaigns, using both police and City Council staff to target premises believed to be serving underage people.

It also targeted several licensed premises where standards have been poor, deploying various measures and tactics from fire regulation checks to full licensing visits. A number of premises have had their licenses revoked while others have seen poor licensees replaced and standards improved.

The Forum has also introduced Best Bar None.

## **9. Best Bar None**

The most recent development in the problem solving approach to making Leicester a safer city, Best Bar None is a UK-wide awards scheme backed by the Home Office and piloted three years ago in Manchester. The scheme promotes responsible management and operation of licensed premises with the aim of offering and maintaining a high quality, safe and enjoyable drinking experience.

The scheme is a collaboration of public and private sector with a local solicitors firm (Freeth Cartwright) as the title sponsor. Officially launched in June 2006 with a target to enrol between 75 and 100 premises in the first year, the scheme achieved this target had been achieved after six months. The first awards ceremony is scheduled for May 2007.

There has been widespread publicity for the scheme on local radio, in the Leicester Mercury and several magazines in the county.

### **Project Evaluation**

Evaluation was completed in 2006 and in 2007\*. Each separate element to the project has been evaluated with yearly reviews feeding into the Safer Leicester Partnership. (\* due to Force restructuring year two evaluation runs to April not May)

### **Operation Fortify**

This operation has been running for two years and has been reviewed three times. It is now in its fourth version with further review scheduled for August 2007. Violent crime figures are reported monthly in the BCU Achieving Performance Excellence (APEX) meeting and are submitted to the Safer Leicester Partnership every six weeks to the Violent Crime Theme Group. The figures are also reported through the partnership performance meeting (Achieving Performance Excellence in Leicester – APEL) which includes senior executives of the City Council, senior police officers, primary care trust executives and other partners.

The Silver Commander completes debrief forms detailing dispersals, arrests, key incidents and strengths or weaknesses in the operation. This informs the review process.

The impact has been dramatic since May 2005:

- ✓ ABH down 25%
- ✓ GBH down 37.5%.
- ✓ Assaults on police down 44%.
- ✓ Common assault down 19.5%
- ✓ Overall violence down 17%
- ✓ Incidents on Friday and Saturday down 15%

Unlike Operation Sandstorm, this operation does not rely on overtime, saving £250,000 per annum.

Offence	Offence Count		%	Offence Count	%	Offence Count	%
	03/04 (May-Apr)	04/05 (May-Apr)		05/06 (May-Apr)		06/07-to-date (May-Mar)	
			Change		Change		Change
ABH	638	754	18.18	675	-10.48	566	-16.15
Harassment, alarm, distress	314	424	35.03	494	16.51	418	-15.38
Common assault	333	308	-7.51	245	-20.45	248	1.22
Fear / provocation of violence	113	78	-30.97	133	70.52	102	-23.31
Affray	71	70	-1.41	92	31.43	95	3.26
GBH	56	72	28.57	77	6.94	45	-41.56
Assault/obstruct PC	61	71	16.39	68	-4.41	38	-44.12
Offensive weapon	52	34	-34.62	31	-8.82	26	-16.13
Violent disorder	20	19	-5	24	26.32	14	-41.67
Threats to kill	19	35	84.21	19	-45.71	13	-31.58
Other assault / harassment	24	11	-54.17	6	-45.45	4	-33.33
Other public order	6	6	0	8	-33.33	2	-75
Fear of violence	0	6	600	2	-66.67	1	-50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1707</b>	<b>1888</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1874</b>	<b>-0.75</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>-16.2</b>

The most significant problems have been encountered on Saturday and Sunday mornings when the prisoner volume can be high and divisional cover is reduced to handle these prisoners. Recent reviews increased the dedicated team of officers for prisoner processing from six to ten each morning, while maintaining 'recommended cover' on the Local Policing Units.

Furthermore, when the operation was originally set up the late shift officers were used to provide the staffing for Fortify. These officers were not being released before 4am, leading to overtime claims and additional costs. By swapping the cover to night shift officers, late shift officers are able to stand down on time, reducing overtime costs.

The evaluation of the operation also includes customer call backs to people dispersed from the city. Overwhelmingly, they have responded positively to such actions, which have allowed them to reflect on their actions without being criminalised.

The street drinking bans are monitored through the Inter-Agency Community Safety Bureau in their NIM tasking meeting every two weeks. Problem profiles have been raised and each of these have now been resolved. The situation is monitored through the 101 service. Problems arose in recording interventions as intelligence systems require named persons to attach the information to. A new 'organisation' field has now been created to capture this performance information.

### SafeRoutes

SafeRoutes runs between 22:00 and 04:00hrs on Friday and Saturday nights so the evaluation concentrates on these times and the specific geographic area where SafeRoutes is in operation. It is formally evaluated every quarter and includes customer satisfaction surveys of people using SafeRoutes.

The evaluation is completed by the Violent Crime Team and results are reported into the Violent Crime Theme Group of the SLP. The SafeRoutes scheme has delivered the following results:

<b>ZONE A to H</b>	<b>05/06</b>	<b>06/07</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>%</b>
Robbery	37	23	-14	-18%
GBH	34	15	-19	-56%
ABH	233	202	-31	-13.00%
Common Assault	59	68	9	15%
S4 POA	44	39	-5	-11%
S5 POA	186	182	-4	-2.00%
Indecency	19	13	-6	-32%
Total	612	542	-70	-11.50%

Common assault has risen due to earlier intervention by officers and marshals, increasing the reporting of such offences. This is an expected and foreseen result of reducing ABH and GBH through the tactics used.

SafeRoutes has been recognised nationally and forces such as Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Lancashire have visited to see how the scheme works. It is soon to feature in the SHARP END magazine. It was also commended by the Leicester Mercury, who have featured headlines such as

***'Police winning battle against violent crime'***

The scheme has been successful as a result of the partnership approach taken and much effort has been put into resolving the conflicting priorities of the different organisations. Partnership working presents many challenges but the benefits are clear. As a result of the success of this scheme, the SLP have agreed to extend it to a further four zones in the city and have employed a marketing consultant to sell the scheme to private businesses and remove the need for continued reliance upon public funding.

Street marshals and street pastors are also evaluated under the banner of SafeRoutes and have had significant impact on the success of the scheme. Over the past year, they have made contact with and offered counseling on the streets to over 1,700 people and have attracted headlines in the Leicester Mercury including

***'A great benefit to us all'***

The street marshals are measured through the reduction figures but notable interventions include their identification of a man responsible for damage to 12 cars and their detention of a man found committing a serious sexual offence against a young woman in the city.

**SOS Bus**

This scheme is supported by SafeRoutes, which allocates £10,000 per year to the running costs. The evaluation is completed by St John's Ambulance and, in the first year of operation, they had 348 visitors and treated 331 casualties. Of these, 250 did not require any further treatment, avoiding them being referred to the Royal Infirmary or for an ambulance being required to tend them.

In the second year, their target was to receive 1,440 visitors. Due to redevelopment of the city centre they have been unable to achieve this as the power supply necessary for the bus to operate has been taken away by the building contractors. Nevertheless, they still received over 1,000 visitors in 2006/7, with 821 receiving treatment and only 82 needing referral to hospital, reducing demand on the hospital and ambulance service.

The data they have provided also helped in profiling of offenders and victims, with age, gender and time of visit all recorded. This revealed most victims of assault are men aged between 16 and 23, with the majority of incidents occurring from 00:00-03:00hrs.

## **Multi-agency Licensing Forum**

This group meets every four weeks. It follows a NIM based structure, deciding priority areas and tasking each agency directly. In 2006, there were interventions against nine premises, including repossession orders, noise abatement orders, licence revocation and action plans agreed and implemented with landlords.

The Forum co-ordinated four test purchase operations targeting the sale of alcohol to underage people. Thirty-one premises were prosecuted.

Initially there was limited understanding of the powers of each agency and it soon became apparent that broader powers were needed. This resulted in representatives from Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Pollution Control, and Consumer Protection being invited to the Forum, which has allowed more effective and co-ordinated tasking.

## **Best Bar None**

Best Bar None was officially launched in June 2006, funded by the SLP, with specific objectives to ensure that between 75 and 100 premises were enrolled in the first year of operation. Within the first six months, 90 premises enrolled and the process of independent assessment for the Best Bar None Award has now started.

The scheme is subject to scrutiny through the BBN Project Board in which key milestones are checked including number of assessors recruited, number of pubs/clubs enrolled, sponsorship obtained, marketing campaigns commissioned and released and financial expenditure checked.

Despite the project being delayed in its launch by six months due to difficulties in funding being released, the first year targets have been met and the award ceremony is now scheduled for May 2007. Due to the identified problems with funding streams and strict rules around use within the financial year it is intended to reschedule the awards event for 2008 to the first week of April. This will allow for the funding application and spending to be completed in that financial year.

## **Impact on the City Centre**

Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes is a success with:

- a sustained reduction in violent crime for 2 years
- the severity of offences reduced
- the demand on other services reduced
- taxi and bus drivers conditions improved
- environmental changes reducing offending levels
- users of the city feeling safer

The impact is summed up by one reveller:

***“It’s great for women – even if they’re on their own – to know they can come out of a club, see plenty of police and go safely to a taxi rank and wait safely.”***

The editor of the Leicester Mercury wrote in support of the scheme:

***“SafeRoutes create a safer image for the city.”***

***“Concerted efforts to make life safer for innocent drinkers are starting to show results. According to the latest figures assaults have fallen by half in Leicester’s main clubbing areas...This is most encouraging. Congratulations are due to everyone involved in the initiative.”***

#### **Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative**

Please ask for: Alistair Reid  
Service Director  
Safer & Stronger Communities  
Direct Line: (0116) 252 7915  
Our ref: AR/DC  
Your ref:  
Date: 17 April 2007



#### **TILLEY AWARD 2007**

As Cabinet lead for Community Safety in Leicester City Council and chair of the Safer Leicester Partnership I am delighted to be able to support this application for the Tilley Award 2007.

Reducing violence in the city of Leicester has been a priority for the Partnership for several years now. It is essential that a safe, friendly and welcoming atmosphere is created to bring people in to the city, reflecting the many millions of pounds of regeneration investment in the city centre.

In 2004 and 2005 it was evident that a significant amount of work had to be done to create this safe, friendly and welcoming atmosphere and to create a sustainable solution to the problem of rising levels of violence.

The response has been impressive. Not just because of the results of each strand, but because this was achieved through an unprecedented level of cooperation and partnership between all agencies, organisations and volunteers. This represents an excellent example of how partnership in practice can deliver robust and sustainable results. It is also a good example of the value of engaging volunteers in designing the solution. The Street Pastors and the SOS Bus are a crucial element in this success.

The success has been a result of the willingness to share information to allow proper definition of the problem and a shared responsibility in the solution. The work of the Police and the City Council in co-ordinating and developing this project has created a safe, friendly and welcoming atmosphere in Leicester, and this will help to secure the economic development of the city in the future as people are encouraged to visit the city.

Operation Fortify and SafeRoutes has been an outstanding example of Problem Solving involving a wide range of partners and initiatives, making Leicester a safer place. It has received local and national recognition already and I am happy to give my full support to this application.

Yours faithfully

Cllr. Carlym Sandringham  
Cabinet Lead (Community Safety)  
Chair, Safer Leicester Partnership



### **Checklist for Applicants:**

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public?
7. Have you saved you application form as a PDF attachment and entitled your message 'Entry for Tilley Awards 2007' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please **email it to [Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**. Two hard copies must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice, Support & Communications Team, 6th Floor, Peel Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.