



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**

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:

CHILDSAFE

Name of force/agency/CDRP/CSP:

Northumbria Police & North Tyneside Crime & Disorder Reduction and Misuse of Drugs Partnership

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

Inspector 7567 Tony Blacklock

Email address:

tony.blacklock.7567@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

Full postal address:

Whitley Bay Police Station, Laburnum Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear. NE26 2HY

Telephone number:

08456043043 ex. 63237

Fax number: **01661863288**

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

Government Office North East

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s):

Mr. Alan Robson

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

**Community Safety Operations Manager
North Tyneside Council**

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s):

**Community Safety Team
Town Hall
High Street East
Wallsend
Tyne & Wear
NE28 7RR**

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

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project (see guidance for more information).

Childsafe - tackling drink related youth disorder and anti social behaviour

- Whitley Bay is a north east seaside resort with a traditional heavy drinking culture which attracts hen & stag parties and other groups from all parts of the Country. These influences permeate through to younger age groups who replicate the antics of their elders by drinking in streets, parks and other open spaces. Inevitably, under the influence of alcohol youths become anti social, involved in and vulnerable to crime and their behaviour alienates residents who feel threatened and intimidated.

Whist police powers are limited in relation to seizure of alcohol or arrest for specific offences this often leaves gangs of children on the streets and detracts from resident's quality of life.

- In order to address the problem and at the same time protect children, inebriated youths are intercepted on the street by Childsafe and returned home. Anti social behaviour and agency support letters are then served and parents are required to accept back responsibility for their child's behaviour.

Repeat returnees are identified and fall within the Area Command ABA/ASBO remit for further action as well as being reported to the Local Authority Parenting Coordinator for consideration of further intervention or in extreme cases Parenting Orders.

- Childsafe interventions are co-ordinated by Local Authority transport managers and community sergeants. Transport managers ensure mini buses, drivers and insurance are provided and community sergeants ensure staffing of the vehicles with a combination of police officers and/or PCSO's and special constables.

Deployments are either NIM dependent or respondent to incident recording and designed to reduce youth crime and disorder, protect vulnerable children from the affects of alcohol and crime and to improve the quality of life for residents by removing gangs of inebriated youths off the streets.

- Childsafe resources are targeted at weekends and school holiday periods but maintain the flexibility of responding to time or location hotspots such as last day of school term or youth discos etc.

In its first year Childsafe was used on 33 separate occasions, 152 children were returned home, 15 were repeat returnees and 7 were made subject to either ABA or ASBO proceedings.

In 2006 incidents of youth disorder in the Sector decreased by 13%.

- Evaluations focused upon statistical reductions in crime and youth disorder, the number of youths returned home, repeat returnees and parents and residents responses.

Section 3: Description of project

Describe the project in no more than 4000 words (see guidance for more information *in particular Section 7 - judging criteria*).

Objectives of the project

- The objective of Childsafe is to reduce levels of crime and disorder, protect vulnerable children and improve residents quality of life.

This objective compliments the three aims of the North Tyneside Crime and Disorder Reduction and Misuse of Drugs Partnership which are to create a safe and secure environment for young people to make informed life choices, preventing and deterring them from crime, anti social behaviour and from becoming problematic substance misusers of tomorrow. To combat serious and violent crime by understanding the nature and causes of violence particularly that which is domestic or alcohol related and using the problem solving model to deal firmly and quickly with behaviour that is causing harassment alarm or distress to residents of the Borough in locally identified areas and Using a multi- agency, coordinated approach target prolific and other priority offenders who have been locally identified as causing the most harm to the community.

These aims are further emphasised by all Partners in the North Tyneside Local Area Agreement and the North East Alcohol Misuse Statement of Priorities where commitment is made to “reduce the harms caused by alcohol and reduce illegal use of alcohol by children and young persons”, and to “ Enforce the child protection clauses set out in the Licensing Laws to safeguard children and young people from alcohol related harm”.

- Success is objectively assessed by analysing statistical reductions in youth disorder and overall crime levels and subjectively by the response of the public and parents, the removal of troublesome youths from the street and the inclusion of repeat returnees onto ABA/ABS0 schemes.
- Alcohol related youth disorder and crime are recognised both nationally and locally as of major concern to the public many of whom are intimidated and fearful of confrontation with groups of underage youths openly consuming alcohol in public.

Research conducted by the Local Authority indicates that within North Tyneside 73% of underage girls and 52% of boys drink alcohol and over 50% of both sexes drink on a regular basis and at least once a week.

North Tyneside Children and Young Peoples Alcohol Strategy 2005

Whilst the elderly feel most intimidated the youths and their peers are themselves statistically more vulnerable to victimisation and susceptible to the damaging long term affects of alcohol.

- Many alcohol related youth disorder reports come directly from the public whilst others are either found by police, identified by partner agencies within the Local Authority, or become environmentally apparent via ‘hot spots’ where empty bottles, cans or evidence of graffiti occur.

“ The culture of underage drinking is a ‘big’ issue that needs to be addressed by ‘big solutions’, both within individual agencies and within agency partnerships”.

*The North Tyneside Children and Young People’s Alcohol Strategy (Sept 2005)
Opening Executive Comment .*

Definition of the problem

- The problem of alcohol related youth disorder is well documented in Governmental papers on health, crime and disorder and earlier this year a UNICEF Child Welfare Report placed the UK last of 21 industrial nations expressing “serious concern” in relation to child welfare. The report highlighted underage drinking and teenage pregnancy rates as of particular concern.

In March 2004 the Government published a national strategy on alcohol related harm in England (AHRSE).

“For Government, the priority is to work with the police and local authorities so that existing laws to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder are properly enforced.... “

The North Tyneside Children and Young Peoples Alcohol Strategy and the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006 – 2009 both provide in depth analysis of the regional problem and relate underage drinking to increased teenage pregnancy rates, other substance abuse and over the course of the last decade an 11% increase in hospital admissions.

Locally prime information sources emanate from the NIM and include Area Command incident recording, crime and disorder figures, community intelligence and Childsafe returns.

- These local sources of information allow themselves open to precise statistical analysis and tend to be reliable in classification as well as being date, time and location specific.
- Whilst nationally the underlying causes of alcohol related youth disorder include social deprivation, poor education standards, unemployment and social trends, locally the problem also possesses other distinct characteristics. Initially many ringleaders were identified as coming from outside the area, they tended to be slightly older (many having attained the age of 18yrs) and more street wise than the local children who admired their drinking and adult challenging behaviour which they perceived as exciting and even admirable and worthy of replication.
- Access to alcohol though restricted by responsible retailers is, nevertheless, relatively simple for underage drinkers to obtain by means of adult or underage purchase or theft from home or shops. Whilst police and trading standards have reduced the supply by use of test purchases underage experimentation is inevitable and ingenious and includes hidden drinking dens, pre arranged meetings and alcohol disguised within soft drinks.
- The extent and evolution of the problem is difficult to accurately ascertain because of changing fashions and wider social trends together with a constant supply of children attaining experimental age, even so, widespread publicity and the deterrent value of children being returned to their parents is proving effective in reducing the problem.
- Alcohol, children and disorder issues attracts the attention of many strategic groups and stake holder partners. Childsafe is an initiative of the North Tyneside Crime & Disorder Reduction and Misuse of Drugs Partnership and is supported by the Area Children’s Strategy Group and The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, together with individuals including the local MP Alan Campbell (who has accompanied Childsafe patrols), North Tyneside’s elected Mayor, Cllr John Harrison and all local Ward Councillors.

The Crime and disorder Reduction Partnership were instrumental in obtaining funding and resourcing Childsafe. Their commitment has evolved over the course of Childsafe and now includes up to four separate vehicles utilising Local Authority drivers and insurance (one in each Area Command Sector) on each night of Childsafe.

North Tyneside Council's Children Services also provide a parenting co-ordinator who receives referrals from the Police and separately through her own agency contacts each parent in order to offer the agencies assistance, but in extreme cases may obtain parenting orders.

Response to the problem

- An analysis of the problem produced quite specific geographic and day and time disorder hotspots which are also seasonal and weather dependant. Clearly, alcohol related youth disorder is not occurring during school hours no more than it occurs on the streets on cold and wet winter evenings, rather it happens after school on Friday and Saturday evenings and is displaced during inclement weather to covered areas such as bus and metro stations and park shelters.

The Childsafe response remains flexible to changing disorder hotspots and deployment is targeted to where the NIM and crime pattern analysis indicates the problem will develop or where spontaneous calls indicate a problem already exists.

- Previously to Childsafe alcohol related youth disorder was addressed either by 24/7 shifts or community teams, however, solutions tended to be inconsistent and arbitrary. The current law is viewed as either too robust, (i.e. curfew orders) or ineffectual and often in the absence of specific offences the most that can be expected is for youths to be spoken too, drink seized and disposed of and groups dispersed.

Similarly, in the past, once officers had left the scene groups would quickly reform, gain access to more alcohol and continue in their pursuit of anti social behaviour whilst unsatisfied residents would again call for attendance which they perceived as being soft and boarding on negligent.

These responses were also tying up valuable police resources but neither resolving the problem nor providing public reassurance and whilst other initiatives were adopted none could remove groups of youths from the street nor protect them from the risks of alcohol or themselves becoming involved in or victims of crime.

- The first full year of childsafe was completed in 2006 when 152 children either carrying or under the influence of alcohol were intercepted by Childsafe officers either as a direct result of NIM tasking, calls from the public or pro active cycle patrols.

Within a few months the outside ringleaders had been stripped of their entourage of young 'hangers on' without whom they were themselves exposed and vulnerable to police intelligence and enforcement.

On each occasion and without exception parents served with anti social behaviour and child agency support letters were in full support of Childsafe, indeed, many were astonished that their own child could be involved in such behaviour but also thankful that they had not been criminalised. Furthermore, because of the circumstances in which their child had been returned home parents were more able to exert pressure on them and influence their future behaviour.

Whilst it is not possible to statistically isolate alcohol related youth disorder from youth disorder in general, during the first year of Childsafe Area Command youth disorder calls reduced by 13% and crime by 10%.

Repeat returnees numbered only 15 indicating that the vast majority of children who were returned home by Childsafe were effectively dissuaded from street drinking and anti social behaviour.

- Partnership working permits non police vehicles and drivers to be utilised thereby maintaining effectiveness whilst reducing costs and further efficiencies are achieved by adopting a Police Officer/PCSO/ Special Constable combination for interceptions rather than staffing vans with only Police Officers.

Financial Support from the CDRP, via the SSCF, BCU and NRF bids, which has financed Childsafe in its first eighteen months of operation, demonstrates their commitment and support for the project which they are keen to develop still further.

Whilst Childsafe has not yet been utilised throughout the Force or by other Forces it has been adopted as good practice and from initial deployment in only one Sector already it is being used effectively by all four North Tyneside Area Command Sectors.

- When planning Childsafe it was felt essential that the combined Local Authority and Police resources were not drawn from existing services. Rather, the intention was to provide extra resources specifically targeted to addressing the problem in a way that increases rather than diminishes or merely redistributes existing uniform presence on the street. In this way the burden on existing resources attending disorder incidents would be reduced thereby releasing them to address other aspects of the control strategy.

The unit cost of each Childsafe operation was also minimised by the Local Authority agreeing to provide vehicles and insurance free of charge. This did not affect the Local Authorities own efficiency as their pre existing insurance cover required no change and surplus vehicles were always available on evenings.

After resolving Local Authority issues planning became relatively simple and the Sector Neighbourhood Sergeant via the NIM and TCG process merely identified suitable dates to run operations and together with the Local Authority Transport Manager arranged for a driver and two officers to staff each vehicle.

The total costings for each childsafe van was limited to six hours overtime for three staff on each evening vans were deployed. This simple costing was multiplied by the desired number of vans deployed and devisable into the total funding made available.

An initial SSCF and BCU grant of £ 8,000 followed by an additional £4,000 allowed Childsafe to operate in one Sector on 40 occasions over a six month period and subsequent evaluation proved so successful that further NRF funding of £70,000 was approved to extend the project over all four of the Area Command Sectors for a period of two years.

Previous funding grants which provided cycle and head cam equipment have proved sufficient to maintain all the necessary equipment and it is not perceived that any additional funds will be required. The operational effectiveness of cycle officers and their ability to record incidents is not confined, and was never intended to be confined to Childsafe alone rather officers also deploy on regular patrols and to specific tasking in line with the control strategy.

- Whilst few difficulties have been encountered with the aspect of intercepting youths on the street, co-ordinating simultaneously deployments of local authority employees and vehicles together with police resources requires close links between the partner agencies.

The maximum number of vans deployed on any one evening will not normally exceed one in each of the four Sectors, however, depending upon NIM information some Sectors may go several weeks without a deployment whilst others may justifiably require the use of two vans. It is therefore crucial that close liaison be maintained between the NBM Sergeant and the Local Authority transport manager to ensure correct resourcing.

- NRF accountability requires comprehensive and regular updates in order to ensure compliance with and continuance of the funding bid.

Quarterly reviews require statistical analysis of crime and disorder trends, an account of the effectiveness of the project and evidence of reductions in disorder.

- Long term mainstreaming of the project cannot be reliant upon NRF, however the relatively low unit costs per Childsafe van and especially so when used in a police officer/PCSO/special constable combination together with the flexibility of deployment may allow area commands to utilise other budgets with relatively minimal financial impact.

Childsafe also lends itself to simple replication as has occurred in the other Area Command Sectors

- Childsafe recognised a desire within the community not only to remove rowdy and drunken youths from the streets but also to protect those same individuals from the harmful effects of alcohol.

The aim of the project was to improve residents quality of life, to highlight the Childs drinking and anti social behaviour and to return responsibility back to the parent.

The NIM indicated an endemic problem of underage street drinking with groups of youths spread across the entire Area Command making curfew orders neither desirable nor appropriate. Similarly, the practice of disposing of alcohol and moving on groups was ineffectual and merely provided a temporary solution, so long as officers remained present, or displaced it to other localities.

Childsafe focuses upon what could be described as a “gap in the market” between robust but indiscriminate curfew orders and ineffective traditional policing responses. Clearly, the solution had to be legal, balanced and in accord with the individuals human rights. This was achieved by a recognition that children on the street, either under the influence or together with others who are under the influence of alcohol are vulnerable and in need of protection and that the office of constable holds a duty of care for such individuals. Whilst protection orders would only be made in extreme cases the children are, nevertheless, considered to be in need of protection and officers are under a common law obligation to return them to a place of safety, in this case the Childs home.

Early Childsafe deployments concentrated on just one sector and included Friday and Saturday evenings. Whilst the number of interceptions and returns were high they also included a disproportionate number of individuals from outside the Sector. After only eight weeks these outside influences had diminished to virtually zero and after the first six months total numbers of intercepts also fell considerably. Further, it became apparent that Saturday nights produced less intercepts than Fridays and it was not therefore necessary to deploy Childsafe on every Saturday, rather alternate or random targeting proved to be more cost efficient.

A concentration of effort on Fridays, selective use on other nights and accurate NIM evaluation contributed to an efficiency of spend thereby allowing more deployments and other sectors to benefit from Childsafe.

Evaluation of the intervention

- The concept of Childsafe was first trialled in the Whitley Bay Sector in mid June 2005 following a successful funding bid of £8,000 from the CDRP. This allowed two units to run each Friday and Saturday evening for the first two weekends to achieve an initial impact and then one unit on each of the following three weekends whilst still leaving substantial funds for targeted deployments over

The trial was evaluated and demonstrated that whilst youth disorder incidents in the other three Area Command Sectors had remained constant the proportion of those occurring in the Whitley Bay Sector had reduced from 40% to under 20% of the total Area Command incidents.

Evaluation of the trial indicated that 98 children were intercepted and returned home and a further 6 were arrested as a result of anti social behaviour.

Evaluation corroborated the NIM in identifying and targeting day, time and locality hotspots and tailoring future deployments in order to achieve maximum impact.

Following the initial trial and Childsafe deployments during the school holiday period the CDRP responded by provided a further £4,000 in order to allow the project to continue until the end of 2005 when the findings were presented to the NRF Sub Group who, impressed by the results authorised a more substantial grant of £70,000 in order to extend the project for a further two years.

- The evidence from statistical analysis indicated reductions in alcohol related youth disorder, anti social behaviour and minor crime. The number of returnees removed a large number of vulnerable children from the streets thereby protecting them from the risk of harm and parents were made aware of the dangers in which their children were placing themselves.
- Evaluation focused upon reducing the number of youth disorder calls whilst protecting the children and gauging public reaction. Statistical analysis provided an unambiguous and fruitful means of establishing that vulnerable children were being returned to a place of safety whilst reduced disorder calls indicated the community were suffering less anti social behaviour.

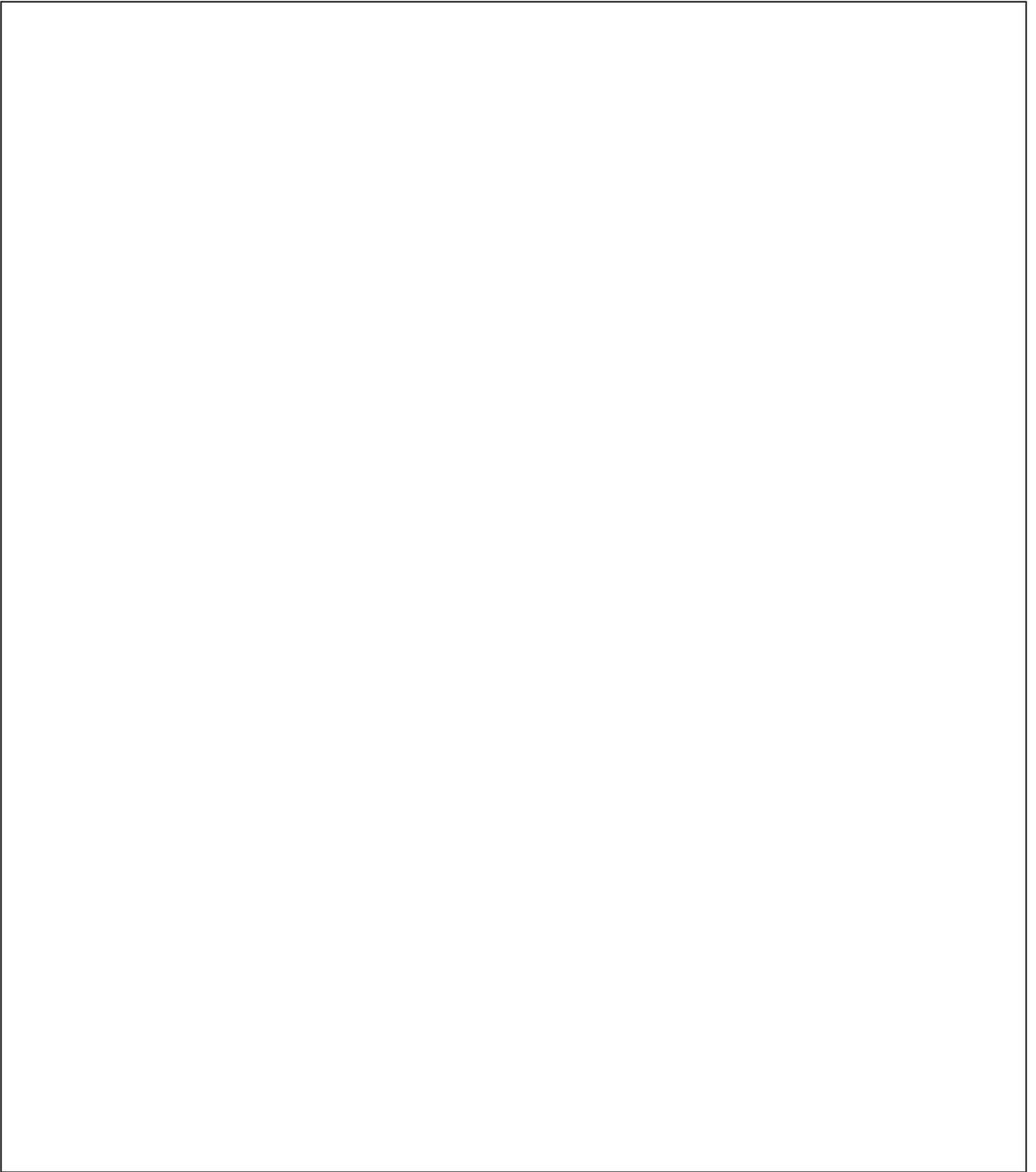
The statistical method of evaluation is simple, practical and appropriate and impact can be assessed by performance related results in relation not only to each individual deployment but to the project as a whole.

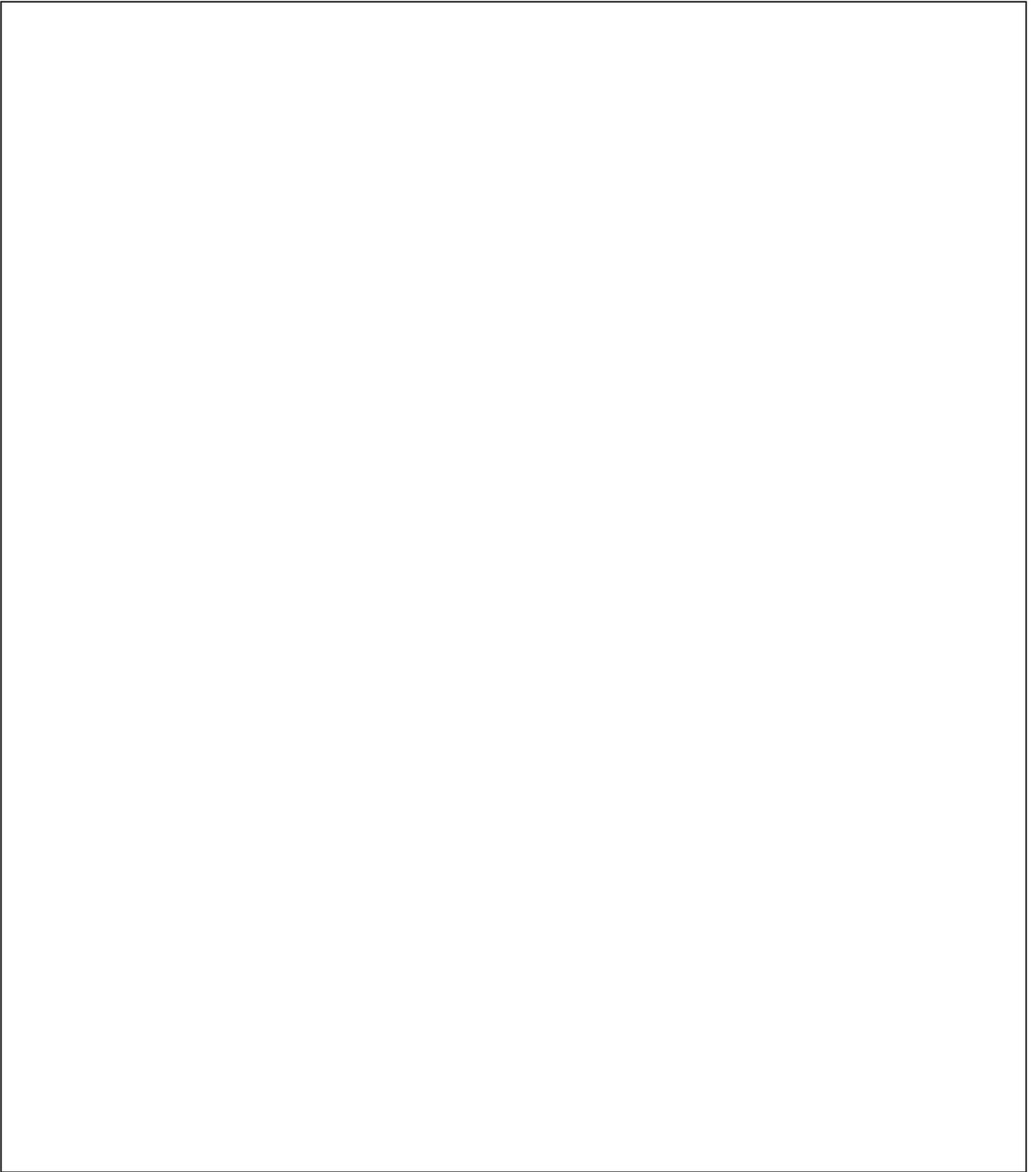
- The Local Authority, the CDRP and the NRF all contribute either with funding or resources and all partners are equally involved in the success of the project as each has responsibility for reducing crime and disorder in the community.
- Whilst the Police maintain national and local criminal records of individuals involved in committing recordable offences those involved in low level anti social behaviour and/or alcohol related youth disorder are less likely to be recorded. Similarly, the NIM whilst efficient in identifying disorder trends and patterns and predicting future occurrences rarely identifies those individuals involved.

Childsafe provides a youth disorder profile not only geographically unique but one which also identifies trends, patterns and individuals thereby permitting better appreciation of the aetiology of the problem whilst offering a solution which protects and provides public reassurance without drawing children into the criminal justice system.

This presentation also includes a seven minute DVD compiled by Childsafe officers during a deployment and demonstrates Childsafe in action.

Go to Section 4





Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative

Please insert letter from endorsing representative:

See below



North Tyneside Council

COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

Town Hall
High Street East
Wall send
Tyne and Wear
NE28 7RR

This matter is being dealt with by:

Alan Robson, Community Safety Operations Manager
Tel (0191) 200 6875
Fax: (0191) 2007273
E-mail: alan.robson@northtyneside.gov.uk

Our Ref: AR/AM

Your Ref:

Date: 3 April 2007

Dear

Tilley Awards 2007 – CHILDSAFE

On behalf of North Tyneside Council I would like to wholeheartedly endorse the Childsafe initiative as an excellent example of using problem-oriented policing principles to address a particular problem that was impacting on the quality of life for some residents of our Borough, and putting young people at risk.

Childsafe is a Partnership initiative targeting young people who gather in public places to drink alcohol. Alcohol misuse is often at the heart of youth disorder. Through this initiative, the North Tyneside CDRP are targeting underage drinkers in the streets, parks and other public areas of North Tyneside.

The initiative involves Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Council staff and the initiative is concentrated on the Whitley Bay area. Officers patrol areas where children meet up with their friends to drink alcohol, this can lead to problems of disorder. They focus on hot spot areas i.e. those which have attracted a high number of calls from members of the public, including streets, parks and the Metro system.

When officers find children with alcohol, it is seized and to reduce the risk of them committing or becoming the victims of crime, the young person is taken home in the van to their parent or carer for their own safety. Parents or carers are given a letter from officers and offered advice.

By returning them home to their parents we are reducing the risk of their committing or becoming the victims of crime. Those who persist in street drinking can be made the subject of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and ultimately Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

Operation Childsafe has been running since June 2005 with over 300 young people returned home. It has proved very successful in dealing effectively with youth disorder. It works alongside our continuing joint operations to target off-licences and supermarkets selling alcohol to children.

The CDRP submitted a bid to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) which has financed Childsafe in its first eighteen months of operation. This demonstrates the commitment and support for the project which they are keen to develop further.

Childsafe recognised the desire within the community not only to remove rowdy and drunken youths from the streets but also to protect those same individuals from the harmful effects of alcohol.

The aims of the project were: to improve residents' quality of life, to highlight the child's drinking and anti social behaviour, and to return responsibility back to the parent.

This initiative has achieved what it set out to do.

Yours sincerely

Alan Robson
Community Safety Operations Manager
Community Safety Team



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**. 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.