



Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

Tilley Awards 2008 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 tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25th April 2008**. 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.

Section A: Application basics

1. Title of the project: Gang-related drug dealing and related antisocial behaviour in Camden Town
2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence: Gang related drug dealing and associated antisocial behaviour

Author contact details

3. Name of application author: Inspector Taylor Wilson
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Endorsing representative contact details

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation: Chief Superintendent Dominic Clout

12. Endorsing representative's email address: dominic.clout@met.police.uk

13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your organisation is covered by e.g. GO East Midlands: GO London

14. Please mark this box with an X 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 B: Summary of application - *In no more than 400 words use this space to provide a summary of your project under the stated headings (see guidance for more information).*

Scanning: A gang of Somali youths were engaging in gang related drug dealing and associated antisocial behaviour in the Inverness Street area of Camden Town. They dominated the area and were involved in a level of violence not seen in the area before. They were linked to robbery and assaults.

Analysis:

Analysis confirmed that the problem. The PSP sought to reduce the level of gang related drug dealing and associated antisocial behaviour in the Inverness Street area of Camden Town. To date drug dealing in Camden Town had been treated as one large problem by separating the problem into a manageable chunk with set tactics we believed we would succeed where we had failed before.

Response:

We worked in partnership to address the issues. Key elements were; extensive redesign of the market, use of intensive policing methods including drug dogs, dispersal powers, antisocial behaviour orders and a media campaign.

Assessment:

The PSP was successful. There is no longer gang related drug dealing or the associated antisocial behaviour in Inverness Street.

Key indicators for us are that 59% of respondents felt that there was less crime in the area when compared to the previous 2 years, 55% of residents felt that ASB had decreased and 59% of respondents felt safer than they did 12 months ago. Crucially one year on this situation remains positive. There has been an overall crime reduction in the area of 16% and visible drug dealing has decreased by 26%.

State number of words: 244

Section C: Description of project - *Describe the project in no more than 4,000 words. Please refer to the full guidance for more information on what the description should cover, in particular section 11.*

Scanning:

The open drugs market in Camden Town is large and entrenched. The area around Inverness Street constitutes one of Camden Town's drug markets and is predominantly a cannabis market. Residents and local businesses were suffering from significant levels of intimidation, harassment, nuisance and harm associated with open drug dealing and misuse. A gang of Somali youths dominated Inverness Street and were involved in a level of violence not seen in the area before. They were also linked to robbery and assaults. The PSP sought to reduce the level of gang related drug dealing and associated antisocial behaviour in the Inverness Street area of Camden Town. The original PSP was agreed by the Camden Town with Primrose Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and by the Camden Town Operational Group (C.T.O.G.) (a multi-agency CDRP that addresses crime and disorder in the area).

A scanning exercise was undertaken and several hypotheses were identified following discussions with the community and partner agencies that work in the area:

Those consulted included:

- Camden Town with Primrose Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Panel
- Community and resident groups including Somali groups
- Business groups
- Council departments including; Community Safety, Street Trading, CCTV, Council Street Wardens, Planning (design out crime)
- Youth workers
- Local elected members
- Partnership Information Unit

Analysis:

Several hypotheses were identified for analysis. (Taken in detail below)

Because the PSP involved drugs a number of different datasets had to be examined, this is because drugs offences are not reported to the police like other crimes such as burglary. Drugs data then, particularly police drugs data, is a reflection of police work rather than actual incidents.

Datasets used:

CRIS: This has extensive data on both offences and offenders, which is unique among the datasets used. Results must be backed up by other non-police evidence.

CrimInt: This has the downfall of being a police database, and thus being a record of police activity, however, the benefits are that it also records intelligence from PCSO's, and it records where both police and PCSO's have found supplies of cannabis 'stashed' in the area.

Daris: This data is based on calls from members of the public, it doesn't suffer the same problems as police data.

Street Wardens: This database is small and was only used where information could not be gathered from any other database.

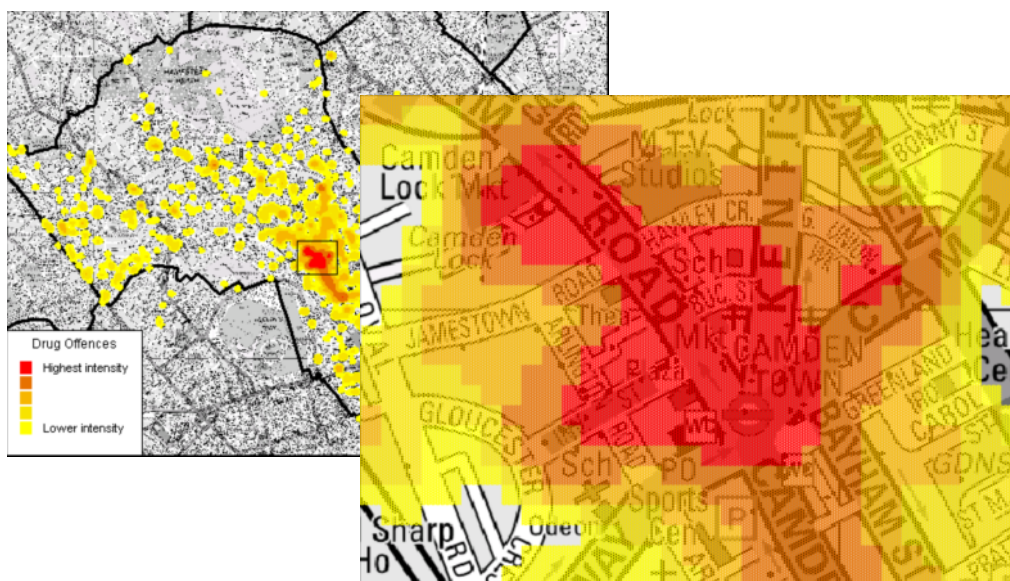
CCTV: This data was used as an independent source of data, not restricted by police data limitations. This database does not provide any detail on the offender, nor the type of drug, however, because of the large amount of cannabis compared to other drugs used around Inverness Street.

Key Individual Network Surveys: They are standardised surveys used by the MET to measure fear of crime. In this case the KIN surveys were conducted just prior to the PSP analysis.

Hypotheses One:

That the area around Inverness Street constitutes one of Camden Town's Drugs markets.

Plate 2.2: All drugs offences in LBC in the year 1 March 2005 – 28 February 2006 – CRIS Data. Close-up of main hotspot. It can be seen that Inverness Street is definitely within the most intense part of the hotspot, meaning it suffers from a high level of drug activity.



Inverness Street is part of the high intensity drug offence area in Camden Town. However, this is CRIS data and needs to be compared to other data sources.

DARIS data also showed that Inverness Street is within an area that receives a high volume of calls from the public regarding drugs.

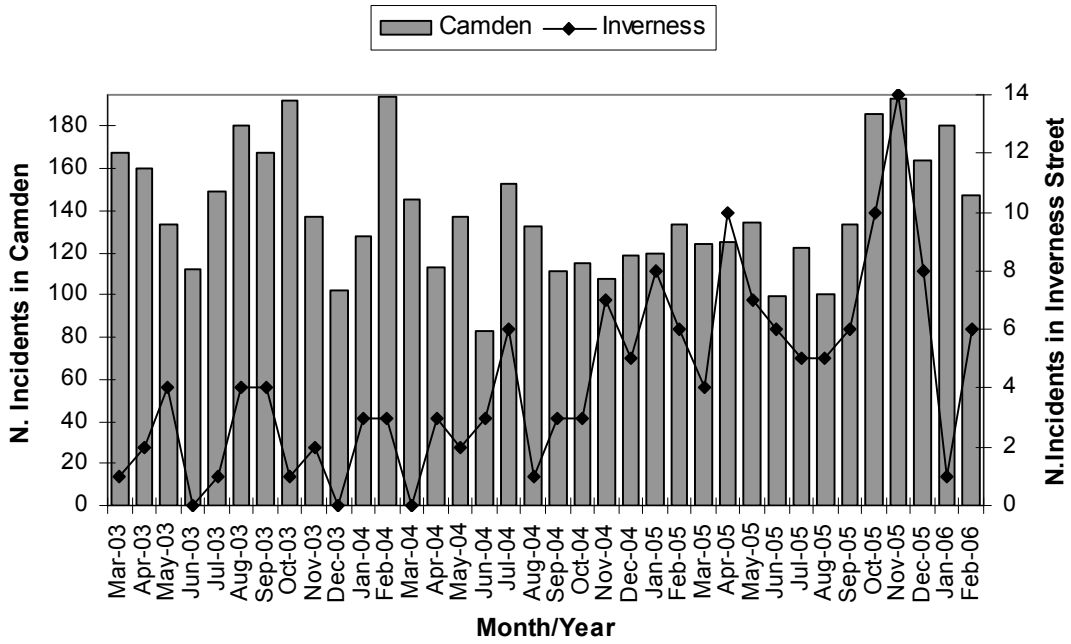
We had initially expected to be able to draw evidence from KIN surveys to support this hypothesis, but unfortunately they were unavailable.

It was felt that enough quantitative evidence was present to back up qualitative assumptions about the Inverness Street area. It was therefore decided to limit further analysis to the "Inverness Street area". The whole of Inverness Street was chosen to focus on, as well as the northern end of Arlington Road.

In CrimInt data there were 11 'drug finds' in the Inverness Street area between 1 September 2005 and 28 February 2006. Street Warden data also has some limited information on their finds.

When comparing the Inverness Street area to the whole borough for drug related offences over the past three years, it can be seen that the Inverness Street area was suffering an increase against the borough-wide trend (figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Trend for all Drug Offences in LB Camden and Inverness Street - CRIS Data.

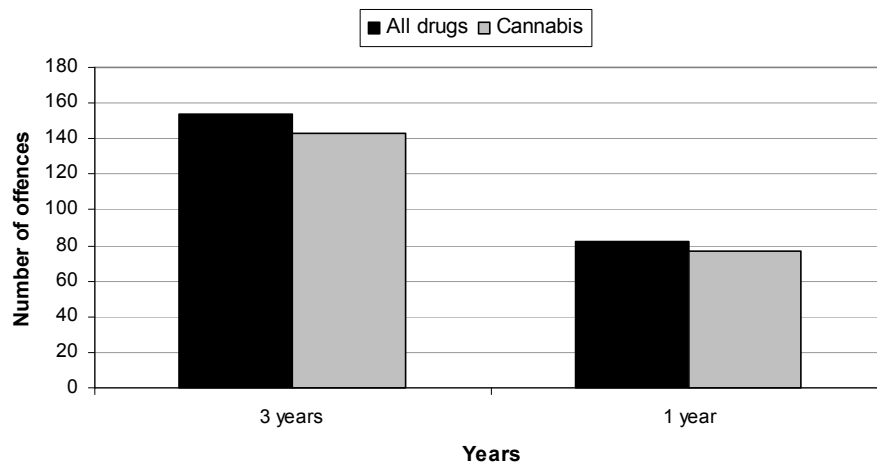


Hypotheses Two

That the Inverness Street Drugs Market is typically a cannabis market

Figure 3.1 below shows that the majority of drug offences in the Inverness Street area are Cannabis related.

Figure 3.1: Drugs offences in Inverness Street area – CRIS data.



The type of cannabis offences was also analysed. 'Possession with intent', and 'supply' showed up in quite low numbers (indicating perhaps a small number of dealers). It is important to note that the modus operandi of drug dealers in the area is to hide drugs.

Seasonality analysis showed that cannabis offences have become an increasing problem over the past three years in the Inverness Street area.

CCTV data also showed that cannabis offences were increasing in Inverness Street. This is not simply down to increased police patrol, as CCTV data confirms the pattern seen in police data.

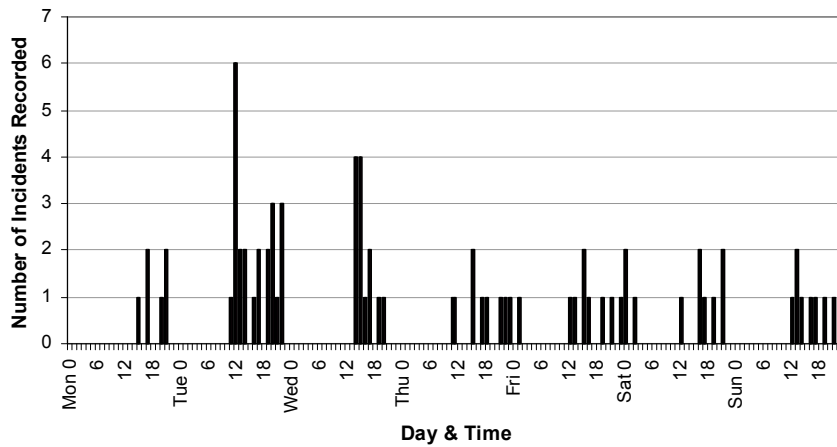
Hypotheses Three

That the drugs market is most prevalent during the evenings and during the weekend when visitors to the area are at their maximum

Camden Town is a major tourist destination with a thriving night-time economy, it was assumed that more activity would occur at these times.

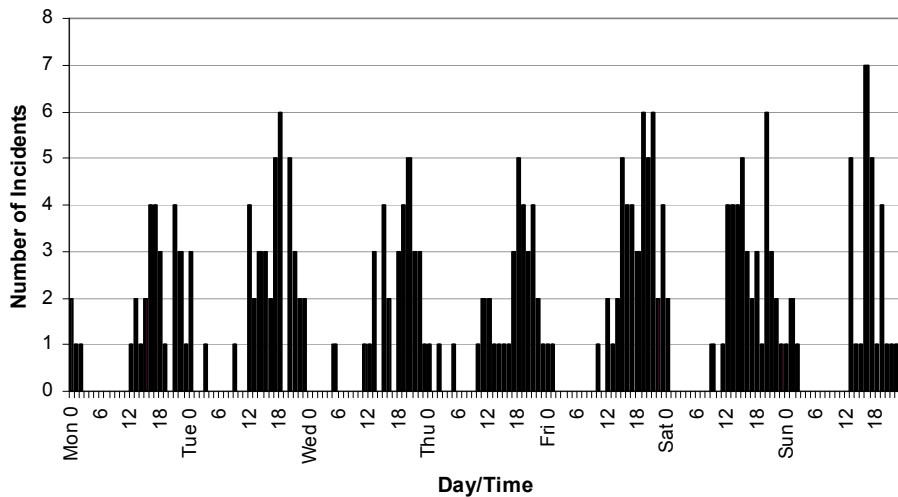
Three sets of data were examined to determine whether the drugs market was specific to any time of day or day of week. Data was restricted to the previous year (1st March 2005 – 28th February 2006).

Figure 4.1: Time of day and day of week, 1 March 2005 – 28 February 2006. CRIS Data



Data in figure 4.1 above is quite sparse, making it difficult to see any patterns. The only remark possible is that all the offences occur between 12noon and just after midnight.

Figure 4.2: Time of day and day of week, 1 March 2005 – 28 February 2006. CCTV Data



CCTV data is not specific to drug type – however, similar to figure 4.1, figure 4.2 shows that offences seem to start after 12noon, and in particular they pick up around 18:00hrs. There also seems to be more density around the weekend nights of Friday and Saturday.

DARIS data showed results that are comparable with figures 4.1 and 4.2. While the bulk of the offences shown in DARIS data occur after 12noon, there are a few that occur in the morning before midday. The offences tend to pick up from about 16:00, peaking between 18:00 and 22:00. Many of the offences occurred on a Friday night, followed by Saturday and Wednesday nights.

Overall, it would seem fair to say that drug offences around Inverness Street occur mostly during late afternoon to late evening, and tend to be slightly more numerous on Friday and Saturday nights than other nights of the week.

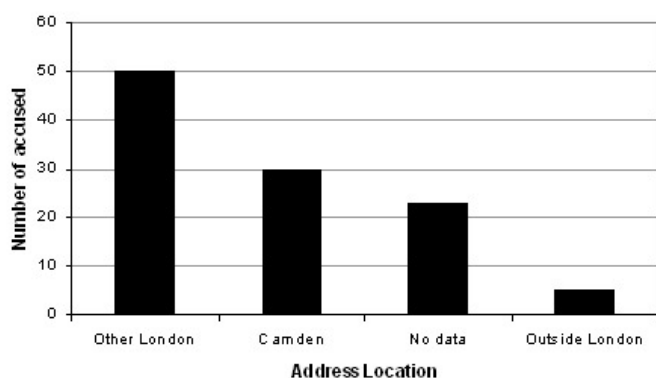
Hypotheses Four

The majority of drug dealers who frequent Inverness Street are Camden Borough residents.

Knowing which borough the accused comes from is very important. It may signal a need to work more closely with another London borough.

Figure 5.1 If an individual has been accused on more than one occasion the home address for the most recent incident has been taken as their home address.

Figure 5.1: Boroughs where accused addresses are located 1 March 2003 – 28 February 2006 – CRIS Data.



The top two boroughs other than Camden for accused are Barnet and Haringey, which both border Camden. This indicates that overall there is a tendency for the accused to live locally, while not necessarily in the same borough.

Over the same period, where only the repeat accused are considered (those who have been accused of two or more offences between 1 March 2003 and 28 February 2006), the majority have been Camden residents (n=6), followed by Brent (n=3), and Haringey (n=2).

Hypotheses Five

That the drug dealers that frequent Inverness Street are young Somali males.

There was significant intelligence to suggest that a group of Somali males, known as the African Nations Crew (ANC) gang, were dealing in the Inverness Street area. These young men were related to the older 'Centric Gang' who had been prolific drug dealers in the area until they received ASBOs banning them from the area. The ANC had been linked with the murder of Mahir Osman in January 2006.

Therefore it was important to establish exactly who was buying and selling in the Inverness Street area. Figure 6.1 shows the nationality of the accused both over the longer term three-year period (1st March 2003 – 28th February 2006), and the more recent one-year period (1st March 2005 – 28th February 2006).

Figure 6.1: Nationality of accused, over both the 3year and 1year time period – CRIS data

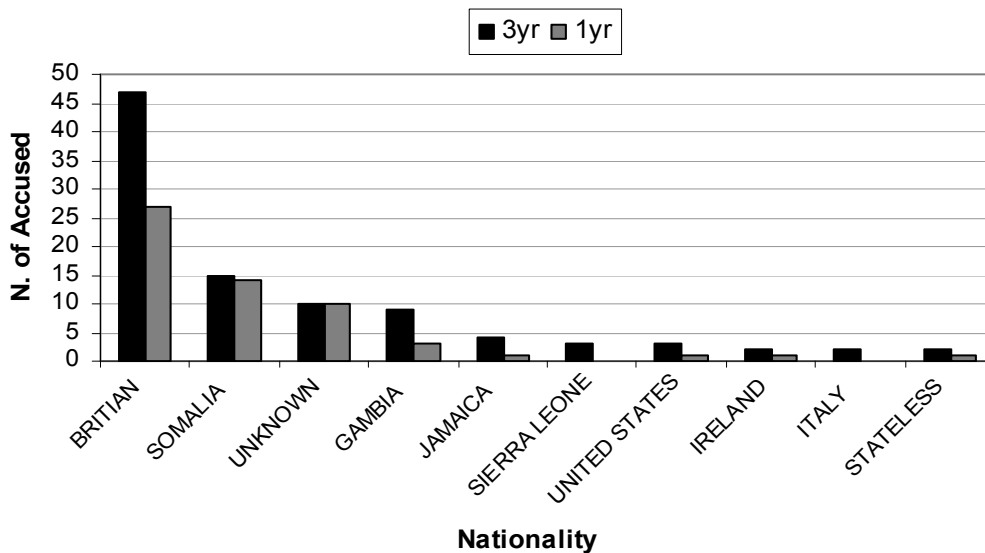


Figure 6.1 shows that the majority of accused were of British nationality, followed by Somali, then unknown. Compared to the ward population of less than 1%, there are a disproportionate number of Somali accused, however, it is often difficult to draw too much inference from small sets of data. Also there are a large number of accused whose nationality is unknown.

The age of the accused was also examined. At both the 3-year and 1-year periods the accused tended to be in the 15-24 age group. As age increases the number of accused reduces. This implies that dealers and users of cannabis are most likely to be young men.

Recommendations

Drug dealing in Camden Town has been treated as one large problem by separating the problem into a manageable chunk with set tactics we believed we would succeed where we had failed before.

Activity:

- **Reduce fear of crime by coordinated patrolling, with overt intelligence led stops and searches on both users as well as dealers, increased uniform presence, use of drugs dogs, and focus on stall holders and small business who are intimidated by the drug dealers**
- **Dispersal enforcement**
- **Effective use of CCTV for enforcement against dealers, i.e. better coordination between partners**
- **ASBOs provide a good preventative enforcement, especially as they exclude dealers/users from drug hotspots**
- **Broader education/disincentive work with casual/leisure cannabis market users**
- **Large video screens projecting onto the street areas where dealers congregate, thus certain areas under constant observations, and dealers able to see themselves on the screens**
- **Design Out Crime – influence forthcoming Camden Town redevelopment (such as loose paving slabs, street furniture), so that hiding places for ‘stashing’ drugs are reduced.**
- **Engagement with the Somali community, especially the youth.**

Response:

The project aims were set as:

- Reduce drug dealing in Camden Town
- Reduce antisocial behaviour associated with drug dealing
- Reduce the effects of drug dealing on local businesses, including intimidation and reduced revenue
- Reduce the demand for drugs in Camden Town

At this point it would be useful to add some life to the datasets.

Location:

Inverness Street was a busy street market, in a run down condition requiring substantial financial backing to rejuvenate it, and had gained a reputation as an open drugs market. It had inadequate lighting and poor quality CCTV.



Sgt Nick Peters with his team Camden Town and Primrose Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team in Inverness Street market.

Offenders:

They were identified as young Somalian males aged 16-17yrs old who lived outside the ward and in some cases outside the Borough. They had no legitimate connection with Inverness Street but they saw it as their territory and they challenged the right of the police to patrol the market. They would loiter in large groups and offer drugs for sale and then conduct the drug deal in the safety of the crowded market. They would hide their drugs amongst street furniture and market barrows. They obstructed and assaulted police and often outnumbered them.

Victims:

These included those affected by the economic impact of the dealers, such as local businesses, café and bar owners, stallholders, but also local residents, tourists and visitors. The fear of crime was increasing. We received daily complaints and there were regular articles in the local press.

Tactics used

Proactive drug search dogs:

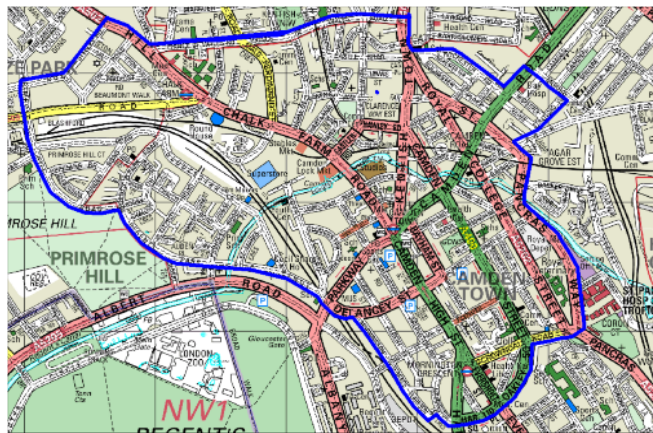
Dogs were frequently used to locate cannabis hidden in the area. They were the only method of finding well-hidden drugs. The gang became aggressive to handlers so we began to use a German Shepherd dog in tandem. This provided a measure of protection to the officers and sends out a strong message. Over £5,000 of drugs were seized in and around the market. Once discovered, hiding places were sealed up by the Council authority or by property owners.

Constant uniform presence:

We maintained a constant uniformed presence close to the market entrance to deter dealers and drug users, we occupied their territory and provided reassurance. Street briefings were held which showed traders and residents we were taking the problem seriously.

Dispersal Order:

A Dispersal Order was obtained (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2000). This was very effective since the majority of our offenders came from outside the ward. CCTV located groups of dealers who were loitering to deal or smoke drugs. Police patrolled in sufficient numbers so they outnumbered the groups of dealers. We took them to the police station for a thorough search under s.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (they were hiding drugs in their underwear). If in possession of drugs they were arrested and if not were served with a 24 hour Dispersal Notice. We obtained Overt Filming Authority to photograph these individuals and used the picture for identification and intelligence purposes. Before the 24-hour period expired we actively patrolled the area to arrest those who breached the notice. These were charged and bailed with a condition not to enter the market. This served like a mini ASBO.



Dispersal Area

Antisocial Behaviour Orders:

We constantly gathered intelligence with a view to applying for ASBOs to ban the worst offenders from the area for several years. This was the long-term tactic and everything else led into it. Police, PCSOs, Camden Council Street Wardens and CCTV submitted intelligence and images. A hard core of drug dealing gang members emerged. 15 Somalian youths were all served with an ASBO warning letter. It stated they had to stop

this behaviour or we would apply for an ASBO. As the group acted as one we would seek to obtain the ASBOs collectively. We proceeded against 10 individuals and evidential packages were prepared. At court the evidence was contested but interim ASBOs were granted. The youths were granted ASBOs with a prohibition from entering the centre of Camden Town and prohibited from associating with certain members of the gang. We continued to prepare for fully contested ASBO hearings. We also obtained some footage, which showed the gang were still associating with each other and smoking drugs in the block in clear breach of their ASBOs. Evidence was prepared. An operation was undertaken to arrest and charge all of them. All youths admitted the breaches in interview and pled guilty at Youth Court. We were now in a much stronger position to deal with the contested hearings for the full ASBOs since many of them now had a conviction for breaching their original interim ASBO. Full ASBOs for two years were granted at court due to overwhelming evidence.

Media campaign:

A publicity campaign was held denouncing drugs in Camden Town and advising people of the measures we were taking to tackle drugs, such as how many arrests have been made and how many CCTV cameras were in the area.



Design Improvements:

There was a major development planned for Inverness Street. The works had community safety issues and designing out crime at its core. The £1.1M project installed new CCTV linked to the 24-hour control center and new lighting got rid of dark spots. The paving was improved to give the new street a 'quality' feel. New market stalls were designed to stop drugs being hidden in them and the market layout was changed to reduce areas for drug dealers to hide out of sight.

Monitoring and importance of partnership support:

The site was monitored through the Camden Town Operational Group, which supplied funds to enforce the dispersal notice, for drugs dogs and to gather evidence for the ASBO cases. The Council Street Wardens also gathered evidence.

The Council assisted with the ASBO process; collating information from agencies and services that had knowledge of or worked with the young men and presented this in court. The legal team took cases through the court process, giving advice on evidence, arranging court dates and negotiating with the defence to agree the unique prohibitions.

Projects were also developed with the Somali community, and were commissioned in light of the Osman murder. They aimed to bring young Somali men into employment or training and looked at parenting and conflict resolution. Gang members were engaged by our detached youth team, but success was limited as they were so far down the offending route.

Timeline

DATE	ACTION
January 2006	Mahir Osman murder. Camden Council introduce the ' <i>Somali and BME Youth Project</i> '
July 2006	Public highlight Inverness Street as problem area A month long joint partnership operation in Camden Town was undertaken.
September 2006	Environmental work begins (1 st phase)
26/10/2006	Intelligence picture developing
20/10/06 – 05/11/06	ASBO warning letters served on 10 gang members
10/11/2006	ASBO consultation on 10 gang members initiated. Interim Court date of 11/01/2007 set.
11/11/2006 – 26/11/2006	Operation ongoing
30/11/2006	SNT attended a Somali Welfare Association function
04/12/2006	All 10 ASBO files submitted to Camden Legal department
09/12/2006	SNT patrols with dogs
19/12/06 – 07/01/2007	Home visits by SNT to 10 members of ANC gang to serve ASBO hearing papers
08/01/2007	Operation ongoing
11/01/2007	Interim ASBO's imposed on 5 ANC gang members after hearing at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court (HCMC)
19/01/2007	Two of the ANC gang arrested for breaching Interim ASBO conditions of non-entry to Inverness Street area
22/01/2007	Operation ongoing
25/01/2007	Interim ASBO's imposed on 5 remaining ANC gang members after the hearing at HCMC
31/01/2007	Two members of ANC gang sentenced to one-year imprisonment and one year supervision order for affray
05/02/2007	Operation ongoing
07/02/2007	One ANC gang member arrested for breaching his Interim ASBO conditions.
15/02/07 – 17/02/07	Plain-clothes operation
22/02/2007	Preliminary hearing for all 10 ANC gang members. Interim Orders were extended
24/02/2007	Dog patrols
03/03/2007	Dog patrols
05/03/2007	Operation ongoing, Environmental works completed
08/03/2007	Patrols took place in Inverness Street
09/03/2007	Street Briefing took place in Inverness Street

19/03/2007	Operation ongoing
27/03/2007	Positive article in Local Press
02/04/2007	Operation Ongoing
16/04/2007	Operation ongoing
20/04/2007	SNT monitored ANC gang activities elsewhere on Borough and identified numerous breaches of ASBO conditions.
28/04/2007	SNT patrolled with drugs dog.
22/05/07 – 24/05/07	All ten members of the ANC had Full ASBOs granted against them at HCMC
19/07/07	Press release regarding Inverness Street

Assessment

Outcome Evaluation

Data Sets

The data sets used in the evaluation are not all those used in the original PSP, this is largely because those datasets either did not provide much information in the first instance (Street Wardens), or they are difficult to measure in terms of evaluation (CrimInt).

Comment:

Comment: Will people know what this is?

Comment:

Results

CRIS

CRIS data from March 2003 to September 2007 shows the Inverness Street area both, during, and after the PSP responses. In order to better understand this data and the impact the responses had on the area, the Inverness Street data was compared to data for the whole borough (figure 12.1).

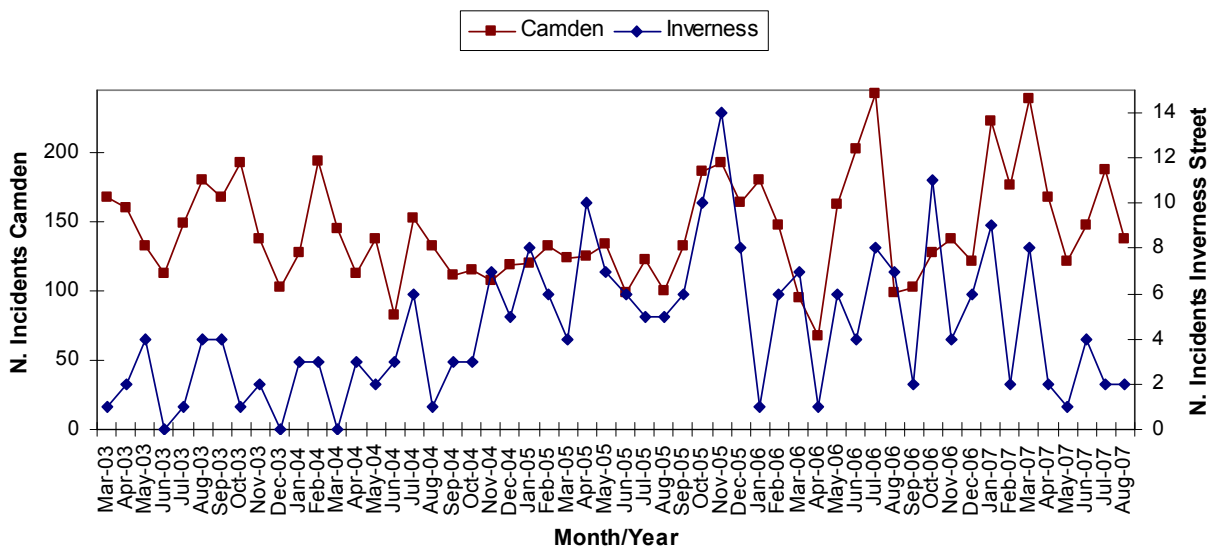


Figure 12.1 Shows a distinct drop in the trend line when the PSP began in October 2006. Even after specific PSP responses end in May 2007, there is still a divergence of the Camden Borough and Inverness Street trend lines.

Therefore, on the basis of *this* analysis it can be said that the PSP was successful.

Daris

DARIS calls relating to drugs in the Camden Town area could only be analysed in six-month periods. Table 12.1 (below) shows the total of the top range for each six-month period. As can be seen, the highest volume was for the period April – September 2006, after this point the call volume drops dramatically to 150 from October 06 – March 07, then 146 for the period April – September 2007.

Table 12.1: True number of calls in the 100-300 range per 6-month period

Time Period	Count
Apr 05 – Sep 05	209
Oct 05 – Mar 06	157
Apr 06 – Sep 06	253
Oct 06 – Mar 07	150
Apr 07 – Sep 07	146

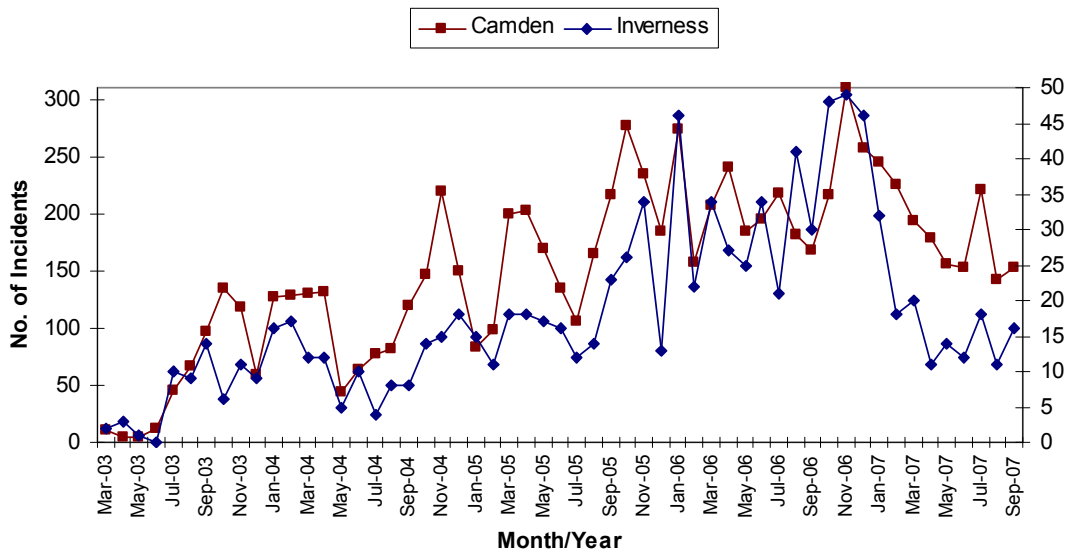
Calls to Inverness Street dropped, as evidenced by table 12.1.

Therefore, on the basis of this analysis it can be said that the PSP was successful.

CCTV

Similar to the CRIS data, the CCTV data is shown firstly as raw number of drug offences viewed by CCTV operators.

Figure 12.2: CCTV data comparing Inverness Street with Camden Borough on Drugs Offences (pre and post PSP).



CCTV data comparing Inverness Street with Camden Borough on Drug Offences (pre and post PSP). The difference between the two trend lines has increased to become larger than it has ever been in the last 4.5 years.

Therefore, on the basis of this analysis it can be said that the PSP was successful.

Kin Survey

The results of a K.I.N. survey conducted in May 2007 survey highlighted amazing results.

- **59% of respondents felt that there was less crime in the area when compared to the previous 2 years.**
- **55% of residents felt that ASB had decreased**
- **59% of respondents felt safer than they did 12 months ago**
- **86% of respondents felt police presence in the ward had increased**
- **55% felt that the police had contributed greatly to community relations whilst 45% felt they had improved relations to some extent.**

Conclusion

The CTOG was a guiding hand throughout the PSP, by putting in place the appropriate responses and it allowed the partners to buy in and manage the delivery of the operational responses to the problem.

Key factors were strong policing, design changes to improve the market and long-term solutions via the ASBO process to deter offenders. Community support was gained by positive action and distribution of key messages of success to businesses and residents affected by the gang. Ultimately the PSP was judged a success by all parties - most importantly the residents and businesses in Inverness Street.