



# Home Office

## 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](mailto:tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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: Project 'Isis'.
2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence: Theft and burglary against school premises.

#### **Author contact details**

3. Name of application author: Sgt. John Skilling
4. Organisation submitting the application: Gloucestershire Constabulary
5. Full postal address: Community Partnership Department, Police HQ, No. 1, Waterwells, Waterwells Drive, Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
6. Email address: john.skilling@gloucestershire.police.uk
7. Telephone number: 01452 752149

#### **Secondary project contact details**

8. Name of secondary contact involved in the project: PC Darren Peters
9. Secondary contact email address: darren.peters@gloucestershire.police.uk
10. Secondary contact telephone number: 01452 752156

### **Endorsing representative contact details**

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation: Supt. Alex Drummond

12. Endorsing representative's email address: alex.Drummond@gloucestershire.police.uk

13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your organisation is covered by: GO South West

**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:** The project addressed the growing problem of thefts and burglaries in schools. In March 2006 Gloucestershire County Council Risk Management Services, who provide premises insurance to 305 schools in the county, identified that the cost of thefts from schools in the period 01.04.03 to 13.03.06 totalled £240,000, and were rising year on year. This represented a significant drain on resources, which was in turn passed on to schools in the form of higher insurance premiums. The thefts represented not only a financial loss to schools, but also frequently involved the loss of data stored electronically, often of a confidential or sensitive nature.

**Analysis:** Year on year figures relating to claims submitted by schools were analysed identifying annual increases in the number and value of claims for theft of equipment. Further analysis identified that theft of information and communication technology equipment, (ICT), and 'walk-in' thefts were particularly prevalent. It was also identified that schools were increasingly vulnerable to thefts because of their need to be open and accessible to students and parents, and because it was relatively easy for thieves to identify which schools had valuable equipment and where it was stored within the premises. Previous attempts to raise awareness within schools had achieved only limited, and short-term success.

**Response:** County Council agreed to fund the purchase of 'Smartwater' property marking system for all schools in the county, at a cost of £42,300. Police Schools Unit undertook to deliver the product to all schools, preparing seminars for staff and presentations to pupils. Both partners worked together to publicise the project through letters to schools, local media and development of promotional materials such as posters and leaflets. It was anticipated that completion of the initial phase of the project, installation of 'Smartwater' in schools, would take 18 months – 2 years.

**Assessment:** The project was launched in April 2006. In order to recoup expenditure, a 25% reduction in the value of claims using 04/05 as a base year was needed over the two year period the project was intended to run. The initial phase of the project was completed by December 2006, 8 months after launch and 16 months ahead of schedule. By the end of 06/07 year claims had reduced by 61.8%, representing a saving to the county of £80,000. In particular, theft of ICT equipment was down by 83.4%. The savings enabled a reduction in schools' premiums of 6%.

<b>State number of words: 399</b>

**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 project addressed the growing problem of theft and burglary offences committed against schools in the County. Gloucestershire County Council, the main insurer, identified that claims had risen sharply year on year for several years, and this had necessitated a corresponding increase on premiums charged to schools. A significant development in recent years was identified to be the theft of information and communication technology equipment, (ICT), including lap-tops, projectors, digital cameras and interactive white boards, with schools often becoming the victims of offences a short time after taking delivery of such equipment.

It became clear that schools have become increasingly dependent upon ICT equipment to deliver lessons in classrooms. There is also extensive use of this equipment by students, who are encouraged to use internet sites as a research tool, use data bases, spreadsheets, Power Point and Word documents to undertake course work and presentations, and make increasing use of intranet pages and e-mail as a means of sending and receiving information throughout the school and beyond. Theft of this equipment therefore has a significant impact on the ability of schools and pupils to meet curriculum targets.

In several cases, theft of lap-tops also involved loss of personal data, some of which was of a confidential or sensitive nature, such as student names and addresses, health and welfare issues, etc., and which often related to vulnerable individuals or families. This data also needed to be replaced once new equipment had been purchased, representing a duplication of effort and additional work for teachers and staff.

The problem was identified by County Council Risk Management Services as a part of their on-going monitoring of claims submitted by schools. Findings were supported by environmental scanning by officers of the Police Schools Unit, who were able to confirm growing numbers of theft and burglary offences committed against schools. In some cases a 'cycle of offending' could be seen to be developing, where schools would be attacked by thieves and repeat offending take place once replacement equipment had been purchased.

In addition to police, County Council and School managers, it was also identified that the project would benefit teachers and support staff, pupils and the wider community, who all had an interest in making schools safer.

It was the objective of this project to reduce the value of property stolen from schools by 25% within 2 years, taking the 04/05 insurance year, the last full year before the introduction of 'Smartwater' as a base. **(NB: insurance year runs from 15th June to 14<sup>th</sup> June, therefore 04/05 year runs from 15<sup>th</sup> June 04 to 14<sup>th</sup> June 05.)**

**Analysis:**

The extent of the problem was measured from the value and numbers of claims submitted by schools to County Council, but this was also confirmed by environmental scanning and examination of crime statistics.

It was identified that schools were particularly vulnerable to 'walk-in' thefts because of their need to be open and accessible to pupils, parents and other members of the communities they serve. The increasing use by schools of ICT equipment also contributed to making schools vulnerable to theft offences.

Previous responses to the problem centred on making schools aware of their vulnerability, and conducting crime reduction surveys of schools premises. Whilst schools were willing to accept the premise of the crime reduction messages, no impact on the incidence of theft could be seen. Various reasons were identified to explain this, including the size and accessibility of premises, reduced security of 'temporary' classrooms increasingly used by many schools, inability to identify key personnel within schools to take responsibility for secure storage of equipment and difficulties in maintaining the profile of the crime reduction message within staff and pupil communities. It became clear that an alternative method of protecting schools was needed to address the problem.

Data produced by County Council is accurate and reliable, and is audited by outside bodies in accordance with local government regulations.

Schools are increasingly at the centre of local communities, and this is certain to increase with the continued development of the Government's extended schools programme, requiring schools to be accessible to different elements of the community for differing purposes and at various times of the day. Analysis suggested many

opportunistic thieves were targeting schools because of this accessibility, and because of the high value equipment present. The challenge became how to preserve the role of schools in their communities whilst reducing their vulnerability to theft and burglary. Information from local policing teams and crime statistics suggested that there was a strong demand for ICT equipment, such as digital projectors which could be used with games consoles, and that schools were a ready source of this, with items often reported to be stolen to order. The consequences of thefts for the school communities included loss of data, disrupted lessons and project work and restricted access to resources.

From the outset the project was intended to reach all members of the school community, and then to the wider community through active use of publicity tools.

**Response:**

As has been stated, previous experience suggested that alternatives to simply making teachers and students aware of the risks of theft were needed. After careful consideration a property marking system was considered to be the most viable option, and of these 'Smartwater' the most likely to deliver success.

With support from senior managers in County Council and senior officers within the Constabulary, County Council agreed to the purchase of quantities of 'Smartwater' sufficient for all the 305 schools insuring their property with Risk Management Services, an initial outlay of £42,300. Police Schools Unit, comprising a police sergeant and four PC's undertook to deliver the individual kits to each school, commencing in April 2006. The initial delivery phase of the project was initially expected to last for 18 months – 2 years. As part of the delivery process, Schools Unit officers developed a number of seminars for school staff and presentations to pupils, outlining the scale of the problem and the benefits of the technology supplied. Schools Unit and Risk Management Services worked in partnership to develop and fund promotional resources such as posters and leaflets.

Schools were given initial notice of the project via a letter bearing the signature of the Chief Constable and County Council Chief Executive. Contact was then made with each school to arrange times for delivery and presentations. Local media were alerted to the project via press release and a number of broadcast interviews. Schools were also advised that once 'Smartwater' had been delivered to them they were under an obligation to install it on their property, and that failure to do so could mean that any claims they made would not be paid.

An environmental scanning exercise was undertaken which identified the most vulnerable schools in the county, based on historic crime figures, and these schools were approached as a priority before the school summer holidays commenced in July. Following a concerted effort by the officers of the Schools Unit the delivery phase of the project was completed sixteen months ahead of schedule in December 2006.

During the delivery phase presentations were delivered to over 32,000 school pupils of all ages. Because of the wide range of ages and abilities different presentations were developed for primary and secondary groups, and tailored to compliment not only the needs of the project but also school curricula activities. For example, presentations in schools during the period leading to Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, emphasised the use of ultra-violet light to identify property marked with 'Smartwater', enabling the presentation to 'dove-tail' with PSHE education and cultural awareness. At other schools pupils were frequently 'deputised' as 'Smartwater' special agents, with a mission to inform all members of their community that their school was protected by 'Smartwater' and what that meant for school security.

As a means of informing and reassuring local communities many schools chose to include an item in newsletters and magazines. In addition, and with the support and co-operation of Youth Offending Service, young offenders were tasked as part of the restorative justice elements of their orders with delivering 'Smartwater' posters to pubs, clubs, shops and other public areas. This raised the profile of the project to the general public, but also within specific areas traditionally difficult to reach, e.g. young offenders.

Throughout the duration of the delivery phase there was a clear emphasis on the partnership approach being taken to crime reduction involving the police, County Council, schools, pupils and communities. However, it was also clear from the outset that County Council and police Schools Unit were the lead partners in delivering, whilst schools would lead on installing 'Smartwater' on their own property.

Both lead partners on delivery fulfilled the demands placed on them, whilst schools were contacted in the period following delivery to ensure that they had installed the technology and that there were no unforeseen problems.

The ability of schools to timetable seminars and presentations was the only major problem encountered during the delivery phase of the project. This was overcome by officers of the Schools Unit adopting a patient and flexible

approach, enabling them to visit schools whenever possible. However, strong support from County Council Risk Management also assisted in encouraging schools to receive and install the technology.

**Assessment:**

As previously stated, insurance year 04/05 was taken as base year, this being the last full year before the introduction of 'Smartwater', which commenced in April 2006. Year on year results are shown below:

04/05 year: 68 claims, total value £115,545.

05/06 year: 36 claims, total value £41,538. - 64% reduction on base year.

06/07 year: 31 claims, total value £33,687. - 71% reduction on base year.

07/08 year: 6 claims, total value £3,157. \* partial year only – insurance year will end June 08. (projected figures = 9 claims, total value £4735)

(If projected figures are accurate this will constitute a 95.9% reduction on base year figures.)

Figures for the last full year available show a decrease in claims of over 70%.

As part of the project all schools were encouraged to display posters around school premises and mark equipment with stickers advertising the use of 'Smartwater'. The overwhelming majority of schools in the county now do this. Information received via intelligence reports suggest thieves are now actively avoiding schools which display 'Smartwater' posters.

The next phase of the project will be to develop a DVD package for distribution to all primary schools in the county. This will be partly funded by the savings achieved in reduced claims. The package will follow on from the 'Smartwater' element of the project, which heightened awareness of property protection among teachers, teaching assistants and pupils. The DVD will focus on opportunist theft within school premises. As part of a classroom based activity the pupils will see an opportunist theft take place in a classroom, and then undertake a series of exercises during which they will identify the series of events, a description of the offender and a photographic identification of the thief. The package will conclude with the arrest of the offender and the recovery of stolen property – a mobile phone. As part of the 'follow-up' to the package, pupils will be encouraged to identify their own valuables, and also consider ways they could protect and identify them. There will also be scope for a wider discussion of how to reduce crime, why crime is committed and what consequences may result from criminal activity.

The programme is designed to be run as a 'whole class' activity, or as a competition within the class. Support materials, such as certificates of achievement, posters and facsimile statement forms which can be used by the school as part of national curriculum literacy targets, will be provided on the Constabulary internet site. The package as a whole will empower pupils to challenge strangers they see in their schools

Since the introduction of the project no other county-wide initiatives aimed specifically at schools have been launched. Therefore it is assumed that the significant reductions seen are directly attributable to the introduction of 'Smartwater' into the county's schools.

**State number of words used: 1730**

**Section D: Endorsement by Senior Representative** - Please insert letter from endorsing representative, this will not count towards your word or 1MB size limit restrictions.

**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 e.g. civil or criminal proceedings pending in relation to your project?
7. Have you inserted your project name as a footer note on the application form? Go to View-Header and Footer to add it.
8. Have you saved you application form as a word document and entitled your message '**Tilley 08 entry (followed by project name in brackets)**' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to [Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk). One hard copy must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice & Communication Team, 4th Floor, Fry Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and be received by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.