

# **TACKLING FEAR OF CRIME AND DISORDER IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Fear of Crime Team**

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## **Introduction**

“Tackling Fear of Crime and Disorder in the Community” is designed to encourage individuals and groups to get involved in reducing crime and disorder and fear of crime in their community. This guidance has been developed using a combination of information taken from the fear of crime toolkit and “Crime Reduction Basics – Tackling Crime and ASB in the Community”. A wide range of people, from youth groups through to the older community can use the guidance. Rather than looking at reducing fear of crime problems in general, our aim is to look at the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour as drivers for fear in the community, and ways in which you can become involved in reducing crime and disorder and thereby reduce fear as a consequence.

## **Aim**

This guidance will enable you to:

- Understand what drives fear of crime.
- Identify who is involved in your local crime and disorder reduction partnerships and what services you can expect from them.
- Describe a simple problem solving process you can use to reduce fear of crime.
- Describe some of the methods which can be used to reduce fear of crime.
- Identify what you can contribute to reducing fear of crime locally.

## Crime and Disorder Statistics

Each quarter the Home Office publishes the results of the British Crime Survey (BCS). The 2003/04 survey (published in July 2004) shows that overall crime has fallen by five per cent, although there has been an increase of one per cent in the number of crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03. Since 1995 BCS crime has fallen by 39 per cent, with vehicle crime and burglary falling by roughly half and violent crime falling by over a third during this period.

The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2003/04, the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981. More information about the BCS can be found on [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html). This will also take you to the latest published survey.

Property crime accounts for the majority (78 per cent) of both BCS and recorded crime.

Violent crime accounts for 23 per cent of all BCS crime and 19 per cent of all police recorded crime.

According to the BCS, the proportion of people believing that crime has increased over the past two years, both in their local area and in the country as a whole, has fallen compared with the previous year.

Levels of worry about the main crime types have fallen compared with the previous year, as has the level of perceived anti-social behaviour.

Levels of confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS) have improved in most areas compared with the previous year.

Out of all the victims of vandalism and common assault (which includes violence with minimal or no injury), 29 per cent were victimised more than once according to

2003/04 BCS interviews, compared with just seven per cent of victims of theft from the person.

The 2003/04 survey also recorded figures for anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour is not easily definable as the BCS notes. A definition which is widely used by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships is “[ASB is] Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant)”. This definition is taken from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Anti-social behaviour can include a whole range of problems. The British Crime Survey for 2003/04 reported the following percentages of adults as saying that the following were a very or fairly big problem in their area:

Noisy neighbours or loud parties	9%
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	27%
Rubbish or litter lying around	29%
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	28%
People using or dealing drugs	25%
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	19%
Abandoned or burnt out cars	15%

### **Questions**

- What do you see as the major crime and disorder issues in your area?
- Are any of the problems of anti-social behaviour found in your area?
- What effects do these problems have on the area?
- What effects do these problems have on you as individuals and as a community?

## **Crime and Disorder Reduction**

This section looks at:

- A definition of crime and disorder.
- Who is already involved in reducing crime in this community.
- Situational and social approaches to crime and disorder reduction.

### **What do we mean by crime and disorder reduction?**

Crime and disorder reduction means “reducing the opportunity for a crime or disorder to take place”. Although it is not possible to prevent all crimes from taking place, it is possible to reduce the fear of crime and its impact.

Crime reduction involves a range of activities, which include improving the physical security of vulnerable targets, improving the environment in an area and working towards a better quality of life. Crime prevention or reduction has usually been seen as the responsibility of the police, but a whole range of other agencies are now involved, including Local Government, the Health Service, Primary Care Trusts, the Fire Service and community groups.

Effective crime reduction does not have to be large scale and expensive. There are plenty of things which can be done locally on a small scale that have a significant impact on reducing crime.

#### **Question**

- Consider what kind of activities you might do to reduce crime and disorder.

## The “Situational” Approach

Crime and disorder reduction uses a variety of methods to achieve its aims. One of the approaches is called situational. Situational crime and disorder involves altering the physical conditions of potential sites where a crime might take place. Examples could include:

- Target Hardening, for example fitting better locks to homes or improving fencing round a home to make it more difficult to break into.
- Removing vulnerable items from places where they can be stolen or damaged.
- Removing the means to commit crime such as ladders and builder’s rubble which can be used as tools by an offender.
- Improving the visibility in an area, for example by cutting down high bushes and plants so that offenders can be seen more easily.
- Controlling access to areas, for example in blocks of flats or sheltered housing, so that unauthorised people cannot get in to commit an offence.
- Removing signs of neglect e.g. fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles etc.

### Questions

- Can you think of any other methods for improving physical security?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

## The “Social” Approach

Another approach to crime and disorder reduction is social. This involves working with potential or actual offenders to divert them from committing a crime. It also includes improving the quality of life for victims, potential victims of crime and people in general. Examples can involve:

- Providing alternatives to crime for young people such as clubs or youth shelters.
- Taking out Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or Acceptable Behaviour Contracts against people causing anti-social behaviour.
- Providing education programmes that divert people from crime.

- Forming Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- Setting up informal support networks for vulnerable groups such as older people.
- Regenerating areas by improving their appearance and improving facilities and then maintaining these improvements.

As well as actually reducing the chances of a crime taking place, using situational and social approaches can also reduce the fear of crime in an area. It is better if a combination of approaches is used. So instead of just relying on physical means of reducing crime, combine them with ways of improving quality of life in an area to greater effect.

### **Questions**

- Can you think of any other methods of social crime reduction?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

Both social and situational approaches can be used on small scale as well as large scale projects. Local projects focussing on small areas can often be more effective than large projects. Big is not necessarily better.

This section has looked at two different ways of approaching crime reduction and it is important that these approaches are used in a systematic and co-ordinated way. The next section looks at Problem Oriented Policing and Partnership working, which provide the means by which these approaches are put into practice.

## **Problem Oriented Policing and Multi-Agency Crime and Disorder Reduction**

The aim of this section is to introduce the concepts of problem oriented policing (POP) and partnership working. It also introduces a simple method of problem solving, SARA (see below for more details), and emphasises that any project, no matter how small, benefits from a structured approach.

Problem Oriented Policing is a systematic way of carrying out crime and disorder reduction projects that has been adopted by the police, other agencies and by groups in the community. Although crime reduction was traditionally seen as the responsibility of the police, it has been found that projects work more successfully if other organisations and the community are involved too. This section also looks at the importance of working in partnership.

### **Problem Oriented Policing**

In many areas crime reduction was a role which the police alone had responsibility for. Between 1975 and 1995 recorded crime rose sharply and for most of that time the police were reacting to single incidents without looking at the underlying causes of the problems.

Problem Oriented Policing is a method of problem solving which was developed in the United States and has been adopted by police forces and other agencies across England and Wales.

POP is about identifying and solving underlying problems with communities, rather than simply responding to just individual incidents. It is where the police, communities and local agencies work together to identify specific problems that cause incidents and tackle them together.

In order to carry out POP effectively many police forces and other organisations have adopted a systematic way of managing crime reduction work. This approach is called SARA and there are four stages to this process.

- **Scanning:** Where problems are identified using local knowledge and data from a wide range of organisations.
- **Analysis:** Where the data is used to identify the problems caused.
- **Response:** Where solutions are devised to the problem using the situation and social approaches described in the last section.
- **Assessment:** Looking back to see if the solution worked and what lessons can be learnt.

Problem Oriented Policing can be used just as easily for both large problems and small ones. This example shows how POP can be put into practice.

- **Scanning:** Shopkeepers and residents on an estate have been complaining about a group of youths congregating outside the local shops. The number of complaints about noise has increased in recent weeks and the police had attended a number of times.
- **Analysis:** Further investigation of the problem shows that most of the incidents occur on Wednesday evening between nine and ten when a group of between 15 to 20 youths gather outside the shops. Most of the complaints have been from older residents who live opposite the shop and who feel intimidated by the noise from the group. Some under age members of the group have been seen drinking alcohol, which may have been bought from the local off-licence. There is a youth club which opens every Wednesday, which the youths attend.
- **Response:** There were a number of responses to the problem. Firstly police spoke to the off-licence owner and warned him about selling alcohol to underage drinkers. The number of police patrols to the area were increased during the time that the youths congregated. Older residents were encouraged to keep notes of the kinds of incidents they saw, in case the information was needed at a later date. The youth workers at the club spoke to the group in an attempt to encourage the youths to go home immediately when the club closed. The police also spoke to the parents of the ring leaders of the group to get them to be more aware of the behaviour of their children.
- **Assessment:** The situation was monitored for three months after the initial action was taken against the group. This was done by speaking to the residents about whether they felt the situation had improved. Random police patrols continued in

the area on Wednesday nights and checks were made on the off-licence owner. After the initial action was taken the situation calmed down and no further action was required.

### **Multi Agency Working**

One of the major success factors in POP is getting the active involvement of the community and other agencies. In the example of POP in action above, local residents and youth workers were part of the solution.

It is vitally important that crime reduction involves everyone, and not just the police. The next section looks at what other agencies can contribute to crime reduction and the legal framework that requires them to do so.

## Who is Involved in Crime Reduction in Your Area?

When the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 became law it established partnerships between the police, Local Authorities, Probation Service, Health Authorities, the voluntary sector and local residents and businesses.

These partnerships, commonly known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) are working to reduce crime and disorder in their area by the following process:

- Auditing the levels of crime and disorder problems in their area. This includes consulting widely with the population of that area to make sure that their perception matches that of local people, especially minority groups, such as members of ethnic minorities or gay men and lesbians.
- Devising a strategy containing measures to tackle those priority areas. This is to include targets and target owners for each of the priority areas.

The strategy lasts for three years, but must be kept under review by the partnership. Stemming from the strategy are various projects and schemes, some of which will be very local and some of which will be borough wide.

In addition to local initiatives, there are also a number of national initiatives. These help to tackle local crime problems such as those on street crime, drugs and vehicle crime. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, crime reduction is the responsibility of the whole partnership and within each organisation there may be specialist staff or departments which have a specific responsibility for crime reduction.

To find out where your local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is located and for a copy of their strategy, visit [www.crimeredution.gov.uk/regions\\_map.htm](http://www.crimeredution.gov.uk/regions_map.htm).

## Questions

- Are you aware of your local CDRP?
- Have you seen a copy of their strategy?
- Do you know who your local crime reduction officer or community safety officer is?
- Are you involved in any crime reduction projects?
- If you are tenants of a local authority or housing association, do you know if your landlord has a policy to tackle anti-social behaviour? If so what is it?

## What Can You Expect From Them?

As well as being able to identify the agencies that are involved in crime reduction, you will also need to know what services you can expect from them.

There are a number of organisations that can provide help in reducing crime and disorder. These include:

- Local Authorities
- Health Services
- Fire and Rescue
- The Probation Service
- The Voluntary Sector
- Private Landlords

It is important that you are aware of what each organisation provides so that you can ask for help when it is needed. The local authority has a legal requirement, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act to review how their current service impacts on crime and disorder reduction and how they can take active steps to reduce crime

and disorder. You have a right to ask them for help in reducing crime and disorder. For more information about section 17 visit [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/section17](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/section17).

### **Questions**

- Which services are you aware of?
- Are there any services that you are not receiving?
- Are there any additional services available locally?

You should think about ways you can get involved, including how you can make sure you get a good service from local organisations.

## **Fear of Crime**

This section looks at:

- What is fear of crime and its impact on public perception.
- Examples of how crime and anti-social behaviour can be tackled, including using Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- What you can do to help reduce crime.
- Why you should get involved in crime reduction in your community.

### **What is the problem?**

Results from the British Crime Survey interviews conducted in 2003/04, indicated that 3.2% of households in England and Wales were victims once or more of burglary and that 4.1% of adults were victims of violent crime once or more. However, 13% and 16% of people, respectively, were very worried about becoming a victim of these crimes.

The BCS provides evidence that fear of crime is related to actual levels of crime. If concern about crime curtails freedom to a level beyond that appropriate to the actual risk of victimisation, this would make “fear of crime” a problem in it’s own right (as it is often said to be). However, the BCS has consistently shown that this is not the case for most people. For the vast majority, concern about crime may be a rational response to the risks and consequences of victimisation.

## **Why is it a Problem?**

Fear of crime is something that may affect people from all walks of life at any stage of their lives. This makes it different from actual crime which tends to be concentrated on particular areas, victims and committed by a small number of offenders. Whether it is an older person who feels nervous about walking home, parents who feel anxious about sending their child up the road to buy sweets, or a shop keeper who tenses up everytime a customer enters their shop, if we let it, fear of crime can have a devastating effect on our quality of life.

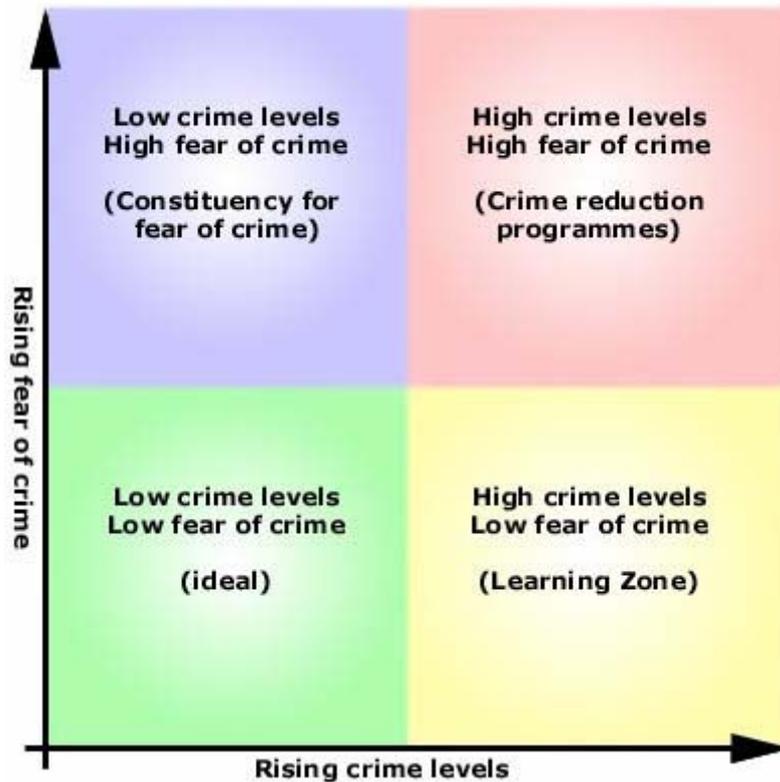
Attempts to tackle the fear of crime can also have some unexpected outcomes. For example, lighting a dark area may reduce fear, but it may also enable criminals to see their targets better leading to an increase in attacks. Similarly, encouraging people into the town centre at night might create more opportunities for crime, and telling people that their fear is irrational may create complacency. So partnerships are encouraged to tread carefully when considering what action to take to try and reduce the fear of crime.

## **The Fear of Crime Matrix**

In many instances, there is an obvious gap between the public perception of crime and the reality, but tackling the fear of crime can not be done in isolation. In order for any approach to be successful, it needs to take into account the many and varied social, environmental and personal factors that may be contributing to the fear of crime.

## **Fitting into the Fear of Crime Matrix**

The Matrix has been designed to help Crime and Disorder Partnerships identify local fear issues and indicate the approach best suited to their particular area.



Below is an explanation of each Matrix zone:

### **Crime Reduction Programmes (Areas of High Crime, High Fear)**

In those areas that are experiencing high crime, being fearful of crime is arguably a rational response. When this is the case, the first priority should be the introduction of an effective crime reduction strategy. High fear of crime can sustain high levels of crime (e.g. fearful to report crime, lack of confidence to challenge crime and lack of confidence in agencies). Alongside crime reduction measures should be some community crime prevention so that communities themselves become part of the solution, and long term have the ability to challenge crime so that it does not become tolerated and sustained in their community.

However, it should also be recognised that crime is usually only one of the factors contributing to fear of crime in these areas. Putting policies in place to regenerate the neighbourhood, improve local environmental quality, increase social cohesion and promote neighbourhood renewal will also have an impact on reducing fear of crime. An example of this type of area could be a deprived inner city with a transient population.

When action is taken to address problems, effective communication can help ensure that the community knows all about it. Action which is not visible to the community may not have an impact in terms of reducing fear.

### **Constituency for Fear of Crime (Areas of Low Crime, Higher Fear)**

Areas where local crime levels are low but the public audience is still unrealistically worried, constitute our main target audience. In these areas, a coherent fear of crime strategy could have a real impact on the public views and perceptions, and significantly reduce the fear of crime and therefore improve the quality of life.

Examples of this type of area could be a rural community and any areas that are adjacent to those with high crime e.g. the outer suburbs of London. This scenario shows that fear of crime is partially independent of crime e.g. the fear/risk paradox shows that, in some circumstances, people at the least risk of victimisation are more fearful of it.

### **Learning Zone (Areas of High Crime, Lower Fear)**

In those areas where crime is high but fear is low, then good communication and raising local awareness is key. The public should be encouraged to undertake crime prevention measures and remove the opportunity for crime in such a way which will not increase fear. An example of this type of area could be a university town, where many residents are relatively new to the area and unaware of any potential risks.

### **Ideal (Areas of Low Crime, Low Fear)**

Those areas where fear of crime and crime itself are low are the ideal towards which all other areas need to work towards. An example of this type of area could be a remote rural area where the community is small and has very high social capital.

## **From places to people – three theoretical models relating to the fear of crime**

Just as a particular area can be broadly characterised and put into the Fear of Crime Matrix, people's fear can also be broadly categorised via three main models of behaviour: Social Control, Vulnerability and Victimisation.

### **1) Social Control**

This suggests that social control, or rather a lack of it, can be the source of fear when compared with other issues, for example, the objective risk of victimisation. Concerns about perceived inactivity by those in authority and increased social disorder are also covered. Incivility, disorder and neighbourhood decline may lead to actual or symbolic threats which can enhance fear of crime.

### **2) Vulnerability**

This proposes that personal characteristics contribute to people's fear. Some people perceive themselves to be physically vulnerable and consequently unable to resist an attack on themselves or their property. Others see themselves as being socially vulnerable and fear being exposed to victimisation that they will not have the capacity to resist.

### **3) Victimisation**

This is where high crime levels lead to a high number of victims, resulting in people having a high level of fear in anticipation of being victimised.

Recent research suggests that each of these models, particularly the first two add to our understanding of the fear of crime, but are not sufficient by themselves to explain why fear of crime occurs and how it can be tackled.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

One of the most pressing problems facing communities is anti-social behaviour (ASB). This section looks at ASB in more detail, focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Reducing anti-social behaviour is a high priority for the Government, police forces, local authorities and communities.

At the beginning of this document anti-social behaviour was defined as any “Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant)”. This is a wide definition and has been made that way so that ASB can cover a wide range of problems.

So that all these problems can be dealt with effectively, the Government has introduced two new ways of dealing with the people who cause ASB – these are known as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). Most of the information in this section is taken from the Home Office Guidance on ASBOs and ABCs. This is the guidance that the police and local authority in your area will follow when dealing with anti-social behaviour.

## **Question**

- What activities can be classed as anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour can include, but is not limited to the following:

- Harassment of residents or passers-by
- Verbal Abuse
- Criminal Damage
- Vandalism
- Noise nuisance
- Writing graffiti
- Engaging in threatening behaviour in large groups
- Racial abuse
- Smoking or drinking alcohol underage
- Substance misuse
- Joyriding
- Begging
- Prostitution
- Kerb crawling
- Throwing missiles
- Assault
- Vehicle crime
- Abandoned/nuisance vehicles

## **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)**

ASBOs have been in use since 1999. Their purpose is to prevent anti-social behaviour by named individuals and can be applied for by police forces, local authorities registered social landlords and the British Transport Police.

The courts can grant an order if:

- The individual's behaviour is anti-social or
- The order is necessary to protect persons from further anti-social acts.

ASBOs are usually ordered when an application has been specifically made for them, but they can also be granted in addition to a sentence for an offence when the person is convicted.

An ASBO can cover any defined area within England and Wales or can cover the whole country. Orders last for a minimum of two years. There is no specified maximum, but the court should make the order for as long as it considers necessary for the protection of the community from the individual in question. Children aged 10 and over can be made the subject of an order.

The order should contain details of what the defendant is prohibited from doing. It should be specific about the exact behaviour, the time and place so that it is clear to the defendant and to those enforcing the order what constitutes a breach.

There are no reporting restrictions on ASBOs and they work well if they are widely publicised. The court may decide to impose reporting restrictions to protect the identity of a person under 18.

If an order is breached, the defendant can be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £5,000 or up to five years in prison. Juvenile offenders can be sentenced to a detention and training order that has a maximum term of 24 months.

## **Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)**

An ABC is a written agreement between a person that has been involved in anti-social behaviour and one or more local agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour. Islington Borough Council initially used ABCs, and their use is now being encouraged throughout England and Wales.

The contract is agreed and signed at a meeting with the individual. Where the person is a child or young person, parents or guardians should be encouraged to attend. The contract should list the acts in which the person has been involved and which they agree not to continue. If the individual can be involved in drawing up the contract, it may help them to recognise the impact of their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions.

Legal action in the form of an ASBO can be stated as the possible consequences of a breach of the contract. The threat of legal action provides an incentive to ensure that the contract is adhered to. An ABC is not necessarily a precursor to an ASBO, but a breach of an ABC can be used as evidence in an ASBO application. ABCs usually last for six months, but can be renewed.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)**

CDRPs are responsible for reducing anti-social behaviour as well as crime. Each CDRP has been encouraged to appoint an anti-social behaviour co-ordinator. All partnerships are also required to draw up strategies for the reduction of anti-social behaviour in their areas.

### **The Community's Role in Anti-Social Behaviour**

The community can become involved in collecting evidence and enforcing breached ASBOs. Evidence for ASBOs can be based on hearsay evidence. This means that a police officer can provide a statement on behalf of a witness or witnesses who remain anonymous.

Individuals or groups in the community could provide evidence for an ASBO in the form of diaries, video or audio recording. The evidence should contain specific information about dates, places, times, specific descriptions of actions, who was present and what was said.

If an individual or group is a witness for an ASBO they should have regular contact with the person managing the case who will give them advice and support throughout the process. Once an order has been made, the community has an important role to play in advising the police or local authority when a breach has occurred.

## **Dealing with Abandoned Vehicles**

Local authorities have a statutory duty to remove abandoned vehicles from the streets, and are therefore your first point of contact. No one should try to take physical action themselves.

Local authorities, the police and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) all have powers to remove abandoned vehicles – after 24 hours by local authorities, or immediately by the police where it is dangerous, or immediately by DVLA where it is untaxed.

Abandoned vehicles which the local authority considers to have some value can be removed immediately and the registered owner is given seven days to respond before their car can be destroyed. For vehicles which the local authority considers to have no value, there has to be a 24 hour notice period before the car can be removed. Vehicles abandoned on private land, are served with a 15 day notice. Within that time the owner can object to the vehicle being taken away. If there is no objection the local authority will remove the vehicle. Local authorities also have the power to recover the costs of removal, storage and disposal from the person responsible for abandoning the vehicle.

You can help as an individual or a group by taking an active interest in vehicles parked in your area and report the abandoned ones to the local authority as quickly as possible. Only report the abandoned vehicle to the local authority once, as multiple reporting is unhelpful. When you phone up, check with the local authority about how long the process will take and how quickly they can take action against the vehicle.

Where you have a local neighbourhood warden scheme, or police community support officers, targeting of car removal can be made a priority. Where there are no warden schemes, tenants or residents' associations can also do regular checks such as collecting evidence on the scale and location of the problem. This can also be

done on associated issues such as arson, abandoned vehicles being a danger to children and the vehicle becoming a focus of criminal activity.

Some local authorities have set up free disposal services for unwanted cars or have “abandoned vehicle hotlines”. Where this is not the case, groups can negotiate a contact officer in the local authority to act as a “hotline” person.

Any evidence collected should be made available to local authorities, who in their role as a member of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership can look at involving others, such as local schools, in addressing the problem.

You, as an individual or as part of a group, can usefully monitor the success of achieving speedy removal of abandoned vehicles and the extent to which the problem has been brought under control, and bring the results to the attention of the local authority.

## **What can You do as an Individual to Become More involved in Crime Reduction?**

Find out about the issues in your own community by visiting the Home Office website [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime). You could ask your local CDRP (usually located in your local council offices) for a copy of their Crime and Disorder Strategy. You could also find out if they have a public crime and disorder database for you to access crime reduction strategies or crime data, such as the Crime and Disorder Data Information Exchange (CADDIE) which is directed at the South East area ([www.caddie.gov.uk](http://www.caddie.gov.uk)).

Visit [www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk](http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk) to find out about projects, ideas, information, research, campaigns or training that could make your area safer.

Pass on to the police or local authority about crime problems or problem individuals.

This could include:

- What school uniforms are being worn by young people who are causing a nuisance.
- Registration details of vehicles where the drivers are acting suspiciously.
- A diary of events when there are problems with noise or anti-social behaviour.

Join a local tenants groups, Residents Association, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or Neighbourhood Environment Action Team if you have the time. Volunteer some of your time to a charity or a project within your local area. Go along to a local councillor's surgery and tell them about problems in your area.

Make sure your house and car are safe by taking common sense precautions. Make your family and friends aware of what they can do to prevent crime. Encourage them to report any damage to housing, street lamps and graffiti to the local authority. Seek the advice of the police or a crime reduction officer as a first step to being proactive in fighting crime in your neighbourhood.

## **What Can You do as part of a Group to Become More Involved?**

Form a residents or tenants group or Neighbourhood Watch Scheme if there is not already one in your area. Agree formally to keep an eye on each other's homes and vehicles, ensuring any problems are reported to the police.

Contact your local community safety officer or crime reduction officer if you have an idea for a project your group could become involved in or if your group want to volunteer for any local projects. Share information with each other if you hear of problems in your area.

## **How Can You Become More Involved with Your Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership?**

Find out who is involved in your partnership. Give them information and feedback about any problems in your area and how they are being tackled. Volunteer for any local projects if you have time.

## **How Can You find out what is Happening in Other Areas and How Other Residents are Helping to Reduce Crime?**

The local and national newspaper, radio and television have information about crime reduction. Contact one of the organisations listed in the Useful Contacts (the last section of this document) who have lots of information about what is happening in other areas. Speak to your local councillor, community safety officer or crime reduction officer who will have information about what is happening.

## **How Can You Make Sure You Get the Right Level of Service From Local Organisations?**

Find out what services the police, the local authority and other organisations offer as part of their Crime and Disorder Strategy. If you think you are not getting the right level of services tell the person responsible that you are not happy. Speak to your local councillor if you are not happy with the services you are getting. Provide

feedback to your local tenants or residents association so they can lobby on your behalf.

### **Why Should You Get Involved in Crime Reduction?**

Becoming involved in crime reduction makes your community a better place to live. Your area will become a safer place to live in and it will also reduce your fear of crime.

If the community becomes a better and safer place more businesses may be encouraged to invest in the area and increase employment etc. It can also pave the way for other improvements, such as in housing, facilities for young people etc.

Becoming involved will give you and your community more control over what is happening and it can help increase the sense of belonging to a community.

A range of small grants are available for groups of residents who may be able to use the money to reduce crime in their area or to learn about different approaches and best practice. To find out about some of the grants see the Useful Contacts list, which is the last section of this document.

## Useful Contacts and Websites

- **Active Communities**  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/index.asp?sfgdata=4](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/index.asp?sfgdata=4)
- **Age Concern**  
Information on ageing issues, campaigns, annual reports and a list of local chapters.  
[www.ageconcern.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk)
- **Association of British Insurers (ABI)**  
General Advice on insurance aspects of home security.  
51 Gresham Street  
London  
EC2V 7HQ  
Tel: 020 7600 3333
- **British Chamber of Commerce**  
This site provides contact details for local businesses.  
[www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)
- **British Crime Survey Website**  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html)
- **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)**  
A full list of the 376 contact details can be found at the partnership mini-site.  
[www.crimereduction.gov.uk/regions00.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/regions00.htm)
- **Citizen's Advice Bureau**  
They offer free confidential advice on a variety of topics.  
[www.nacab.org.uk](http://www.nacab.org.uk)
- **Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)**

[www.cre.gov.uk](http://www.cre.gov.uk)

- **Community Champions Fund**

Community Champions Team

W1129

Moorfoot

Sheffield

S1 4PQ

<mailto:community.champions@dfes.gsi.gov.uk>

- **Community Service Volunteers**

This is an UK based organisation that focuses on getting people more involved with their communities, improving social cohesion and improving the local environment.

[www.csv.org.uk](http://www.csv.org.uk)

- **Crime Concern**

[www.crimeconcern.org.uk](http://www.crimeconcern.org.uk)

- **Crime Concern Trust**

Information on crime related topics including domestic burglary and special community pages.

Beaver House

147-150 Victoria Road

Swindon

Wiltshire

SN1 3UY

Tel: 01793 863 500

- **Crimestoppers Trust**

National charity aimed at reducing crime.

Apollo House

66a London Road

Morden  
Surrey  
SM4 5EB

<mailto:cst@crimestoppers-uk.org>

- **Crimestoppers**

Tel: 08000 555 111

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

- **Department for Education and Skills**

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

- **Department of Health**

[www.doh.gov.uk](http://www.doh.gov.uk)

- **Department for Transport**

[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

- **Fear of Crime Toolkit**

This is aimed at practitioners and gives best practice about dealing with fear of crime in their area.

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/fc00.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/fc00.htm)

- **Fear of Crime Public Facing Toolkit**

This is aimed at giving members of the public practical advice about how they can reduce their fear of crime.

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/index.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/index.html)

- **Grant Search Engines**

[www.access-funds.co.uk](http://www.access-funds.co.uk) – This site aims to provide the latest funding information from Central Government, National Lottery, devolved governing bodies, EU and quangos.

[www.cofinancing.co.uk](http://www.cofinancing.co.uk) – A website dedicated to assisting UK organisations identify and access external funding, particularly from Europe, the National Lottery and UK Government.

[www.grantfunding.info](http://www.grantfunding.info) – Provides information on securing funding from the Lottery, Europe, UK Government and Community Trusts.

[www.j4b.co.uk](http://www.j4b.co.uk) – This is a comprehensive and easy to use grants information database.

[www.volvomgrants.gov.uk](http://www.volvomgrants.gov.uk) – Grant information for the British charitable and non-profit sector.

[www.welcomeeurope.com](http://www.welcomeeurope.com) – This site lists more than 400 EU Grants and Loans from all Major European Institutions such as the European Commission, the EBRD, the EIF, the Council of Europe etc.

- **Help the Aged**

An UK charity which provides practical support and advice to help older people lead independent lives.

[www.helptheaged.org.uk](http://www.helptheaged.org.uk)

- **Home Office Crime Reduction College**

Information and training on crime reduction.

The Hawkhill

Easingwold

York

YO61 3EG

Tel: 01347 825 060

<mailto:crc@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk>

- **Internet resources on restorative justice**

Part of the University of South Australia website. Links to websites and data.

<http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/internet/pathfind/socialwk.htm#restorative>

- **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is one of the largest independent social policy research and development charities in the UK. It supports a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social policy.

[www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

- **Leonard Cheshire**

Leonard Cheshire are the leading charity provider of services for disabled people in the UK and they also operate in 57 countries across the world.

[www.leonard-cheshire.org](http://www.leonard-cheshire.org)

- **Local Government Association**

National representative body of local government including local authority community safety officers.

Local Government House

Smith Square

London

SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3000

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

- **Mobility and Inclusion Unit (Department for Transport)**

[www.mobility-unit.dft.gov.uk/](http://www.mobility-unit.dft.gov.uk/)

- **National Association of the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO)**

This crime reduction charity aims to make society safer by finding practical solutions to reducing offenders. Since 1966, they have worked to give ex-offenders, other disadvantaged people and deprived communities the help which is needed to build a better future.

[www.nacro.org.uk](http://www.nacro.org.uk)

- **National Neighbourhood Watch Association**  
 Advice, guidance and training about neighbourhood watch and crime reduction.  
[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)
- **National Crime Prevention Programme: 9 Steps to Reducing Fear of Crime**  
 A report published by The Attorney General's Department, Australia  
 ([www.ncp.gov.au](http://www.ncp.gov.au))  
[http://www.ncp.gov.au/ncp/Publications/80241\\_FOC\\_Summary/014\\_Appendix.htm](http://www.ncp.gov.au/ncp/Publications/80241_FOC_Summary/014_Appendix.htm)
- **Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest**  
 Further information can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.  
 Tel: 020 7944 8383  
[www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk)
- **Neighbourhood Renewal Learning Chest**  
 Further information can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.  
 Tel: 020 7944 8383  
[www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.odpm.gov.uk)
- **Neighbourhood Renewal Unit**  
 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, C/5  
 Eland House  
 Bressenden Place  
 London  
 SW1E 5DU  
 Tel: 020 7944 8383  
[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)  
<mailto:neighbourhoodrenewal@odpm.gsi.gov.uk>
- **Office of the Deputy Prime Minister**  
[www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)

- **Priority Estates Project**

PEP works with statutory and voluntary agencies and with local communities, to improve services and make sure they meet the needs of local people. They provide advice, hands-on project work, training and research services.

Tel: 0161 877 3223

[www.pep.org.uk](http://www.pep.org.uk)

- **Real Justice**

Real Justice runs conferences, also called family group conferences, restorative justice conferences and community accountability conferences. A conference is a structured meeting between offenders, victims and both parties' family and friends in which they deal with the consequences of the crime and decide how best to repair the harm.

[www.realjustice.org](http://www.realjustice.org)

- **Regional Co-ordination Unit**

[www.rcu.gov.uk/](http://www.rcu.gov.uk/)

- **Regional Development Agencies**

The eight Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) in England are charged with promoting sustainable economic development and social and physical regeneration within their regions. They are non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

**One NorthEast**

Great North House

Sandyford Road

Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ND

Tel: 0191 261 2000

[www.onenortheast.co.uk](http://www.onenortheast.co.uk)

**North West Development Agency**

PO Box 37

Kings Court  
Scotland Road  
Warrington WA1 2FR  
Tel: 01925 400100  
[www.nwda.co.uk](http://www.nwda.co.uk)

**Yorkshire Forward**

Victoria House  
2 Victoria Place  
Leeds LS11 5AE  
Tel: 0113 243 9222  
[www.yorkshire-forward.com](http://www.yorkshire-forward.com)

**East Midlands Development Agency**

Apex Court  
City Link  
Nottingham NG2 4LA  
Tel: 0115 988 8300  
[www.emda.org.uk](http://www.emda.org.uk)

**Advantage West Midlands**

3 Priestley Wharf  
Holt Street  
Aston Science Park  
Birmingham B7 4BN  
Tel: 0121 380 3500  
[www.advantage-westmidlands.co.uk](http://www.advantage-westmidlands.co.uk)

**South East of England Development Agency**

SEEDA Headquarters  
Cross Lanes  
Guildford  
Surrey GU1 1YA

Tel: 01483 484226

[www.seeda.co.uk](http://www.seeda.co.uk)

### **South West of England Regional Development Agency**

Sterling House

Dix's Field

Exeter EX1 1QA

Tel: 01392 214747

[www.southwestengland.co.uk](http://www.southwestengland.co.uk)

### **East of England Development Agency**

The Business Centre

Station Road

Histon

Cambridge CB4 9LQ

Tel: 01223 713900

[www.eeda.org.uk](http://www.eeda.org.uk)

- **Renewal.net**

An on-line guide to what works in neighbourhood renewal. Renewal.net is for anyone already involved in neighbourhood renewal or wanting to get involved.

[www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)

- **Safer Communities**

This website which aims to help real people in real communities tackle the crime issues that affect them.

[www.safer-communities.net](http://www.safer-communities.net)

- **SaferSanerSchools**

SaferSanerSchools helps educators improve classroom management, school discipline and school climate through restorative practices. It offers training, print materials and videos to teach new ways of responding to problem-behaviour, which hold young people accountable, enhance relationships among students,

faculty, administrators and parents, and build a sense of community in the school.

[www.safersanerschools.org](http://www.safersanerschools.org)

- **SCOPE**

[www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)

- **Strategies for the Vulnerable**

This is aimed at practitioners and gives useful information about how they can reduce fear of crime among specific vulnerable groups.

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/fc10.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/fc10.htm)

- **Stonewall**

Part of Stonewall's work to achieve legal equality and social justice for lesbians, gay men and bi-sexual people.

[www.stonewall.org.uk/stonewall](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/stonewall)

Citizenship 21 is a project from Stonewall which provides practical ways to promote equality and challenge prejudice.

[www.stonewall.org.uk/citizenship\\_21/index.html](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/citizenship_21/index.html)

- **Suzy Lamplugh Trust**

[www.suzylamplugh.org/home/index.shtml](http://www.suzylamplugh.org/home/index.shtml)

- **Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)**

TPAS is a national non-profit making organisation that provides information, advice, training, consultancy, seminars and conferences on all aspects of involving tenants in their housing management.

TPAS

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Trafford House

Chester Road

Manchester

M32 0RS

Tel: 0161 868 3500

Fax: 0161 877 6256

<mailto:info:tpas.org.uk>

[www.tpas.org.uk](http://www.tpas.org.uk)

- **The Centre for Criminological Research**

The Centre for Criminological Research is a long-established independent unit within the Faculty of Law, which is part of Oxford University's Social Sciences Division. The Centre has incorporated within it the Probation Studies Unit.

[www.crim.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.crim.ox.ac.uk/)

- **The Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science**

Research information and education on crime reduction.

School of Public Policy

University College London

29/30 Travistock Square

London

WC1H 9QU

Tel: 020 7679 4781

[www.jdi.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.jdi.ucl.ac.uk)

- **TOGETHER**

This website is dedicated to practitioners who are working to tackle ASB in their areas. There is also a section for members of the public to find out who their local ASB co-ordinator is.

[www.together.gov.uk](http://www.together.gov.uk)

- **Track Off**

This site is the campaign to educate people about the dangers and consequences of railway crime.

[www.trackoff.org](http://www.trackoff.org)

- **Transforming Conflict**

British-based Transforming Conflict is an organisation offering training,

consultancy and support in educational settings for people seeking to enhance their skills in building a sense of community, fostering a spirit of inclusion and dealing creatively with challenging situations.

[www.transformingconflict.com](http://www.transformingconflict.com)

- **Victim Support**

Tel: 0845 30 30 900

[www.victimsupport.org](http://www.victimsupport.org)