

Community-based multi-component programme in England and Wales

Statutory partnership working in England and Wales

In England and Wales, there is a statutory duty placed on local agencies to work in partnership to address crime and disorder, including alcohol-related crime. These partnerships are known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships or Community Safety Partnerships and include representatives from local authorities, police, health services, probation services, drug and alcohol action teams, education services, local businesses and residents.



Partners meet regularly to identify and act upon areas of local concern by auditing local crime issues and developing evidence-based responses using shared intelligence. Many local partnerships have prioritised the reduction of alcohol-related violence and disorder in drinking environments. Thus, local multi-agency strategies are set up to plan and implement a range of co-ordinated interventions. The partnership approach allows the various agencies to understand and develop their role in prevention, prevents conflicting action between agencies and facilitates the evaluation and monitoring of prevention activity.¹

In the city of Liverpool, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has formed the CitySafe initiative, a formalised partnership that has representatives from relevant local agencies working together in one location. CitySafe has developed and implemented a wide range of interventions to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder in drinking environments. Examples include:

- Targeted and high profile policing in nightlife environments to enforce alcohol legislation and deter crime;
- A Pub Watch scheme that provides a network for local licensees to work together and with police to share information, support responsible practice and ban persistent troublemakers from drinking establishments in the city;
- A training programme that provides conflict resolution skills to bar staff, door supervisors and staff working in late night food establishments.
- A taxi-marshalling scheme that provides security at late night taxi ranks;
- Subsidies to help bar owners replace glassware with safer drinking vessels;
- A street drinking ban;
- Provision of head-mounted video cameras to door supervisors to deter crime and promote responsible practice;
- A closed circuit television (CCTV) network to detect and deter crimes, and help points enabling the public to contact CCTV operators and police;
- Safer drinking messages and safety campaigns targeted at nightlife users.

The work of CitySafe in Liverpool has contributed to a 40% reduction in crime in the city since 2005, despite increased use of the city centre over this same period. Both police recorded violent crime and assault injuries treated in emergency departments have decreased over this period.^{2,3} At a national level, the work of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships is thought to have contributed to large reductions in the number of crimes, and particularly violence, reported through the annual British Crime Survey.⁴

For further information see www.liverpool.gov.uk

1. Delivering safer communities: A guide to effective partnership working. Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships. London: Home Office, 2007.
2. CitySafe. Liverpool's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Annual Plan 2009 – 2010. Liverpool: 2009.
3. Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group. Available from: <http://www.tiig.info/>
4. Walker A, Flatley J, Kershaw C et al. Crime in England and Wales 2008/09. Volume I. Findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime. London: Home Office, 2009.