



Reducing Crime & Anti-social Behaviour Through Leisure and Culture

Introduction

The Enfield Strategic Partnership is investing Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to help address the issues of concern to Enfield residents living in the most deprived wards of the Borough through developing leisure and cultural activities.

This fact sheet summarises the potential impact of leisure and culture on diverting young people from crime and anti-social behaviour. It is one of six facts sheets covering: improving Enfield; improving health; raising attainment and employment; developing a better Enfield and investing in leisure and cultural activities.

The Rationale

- 70% of crime is committed by 7-8% of youths
- Young people have considerable time outside of education 'to fill'
- Participation in sport, leisure, arts, drama and music offers personal and social benefits
- Leisure activities are magnets for young people
- The cost of crime is high.

Using leisure and cultural activities to attract young people, develop their interest and skills as a crime prevention tool should generate both social and economic benefits.

Research

There is world-wide interest in this subject because of the personal and social costs as well as the high financial cost of incarceration that still only prevent 24% of individuals from re-offending within two years of release. The quality of evidence and impact of diversion and interventions is variable because:

- Short term diversion schemes – demonstrate local reductions in arson and vandalism but such schemes need to be reconstituted each year involving substantially different children and young people. What happens to the young people in the meantime and longer term is unknown
- Longer term interventions - are complex and involve a multiplicity of partners. Whilst the collective results are impressive it is difficult to distinguish the value of the different component parts such as the contribution of the leisure and cultural element.

Overall there is sufficient consistent evidence from case studies and anecdotal accounts of pilot and on-going projects to support the case of using leisure and cultural services as a magnet for attracting the interests of the majority of young people to divert them away from crime and anti-social behaviour. For those 'hardest to reach' and at the 'greatest risk' require a more comprehensive package of support within which opportunities for leisure and culture should be included.

"By 2012, Enfield will be a place for living safely, where crime, and the fear of crime is reduced. The causes of crime will be positively tackled, as well as making the best use of the police and the criminal justice system to prevent crime, and reform offenders. Residents and communities will no longer put up with crime and everyone will work more closely with public agencies to reduce crime. Anti-social behaviour and crime linked to drug and alcohol misuse will be targeted. Using the roads and public transport as a driver, passenger or pedestrian will be safer. Services will focus on young people as victims as well as offenders."

Enfield's Future, The Community Strategy 2003/2006

Facts

Enfield

- 42% victims are males under 17 years
- 54% of suspects are males under 20 years (Enfield Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-5)
- 46% affected in C2DE groups by kids 'hanging about' (Enfield residents survey 2003)

Nationally

- 70% of youth crime committed by 7- 8% youths (Collins 2003)
- 76% re-offend within two years
- £2,300 savings from preventing a single youth crime (Cooper & Lybrand 1994)
- £1.5m annually to deal with crime related damage in one street in Braunstone, Leicestershire (Braunstone: New Deal for Communities Project 2003).

Focussed Research Study

"Young people at risk of offending lacked variety in their leisure experiences...They represent a minority group with extremely 'impoverished leisure'

McCormack, Loughborough University, 2000

Case Study Jason and Scott Life Histories

- Six changes in care situation 10 -16 years
- Four geographic moves
- No contact with father
- Sports activities stopped when entering care
- Good at sports, enjoyed activity

Lessons

- Life history showed need to support leisure in childhood
 - Leisure patterns of young offenders demonstrated very low levels of sports participation
 - Financial accessibility was a key constraint
 - Low self confidence & peer pressure contributed
 - Lack adult encouragement for constructive leisure activity
- Knowledge of leisure opportunity was very low

"Its been fantastic, my first proper chance to do sport although I've always been interested"

Young person quote, Positive Futures Report, 2004

**Crime Diversion
Lead Responsibility for the
Leisure and Cultural Thematic Group**

Increase the provision of accessible and affordable youth activities, including new and better ways to divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour, and involve young people in the design and delivery of activities

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Research Themes and Conclusions

Key conclusions from national and local research reveal:

- Young people need sport and leisure to be fit and healthy and to help them to develop
- Young people are attracted by sport and leisure and enjoy participating
- Some young people don't participate and miss out
- Too many young people drop out when teenagers
- Citizens recognise the value of leisure and culture for reducing youth crime.

Key themes from national research include:

- **Diversion alone – more harm than good?**
 - Short term and unconnected
 - Raise expectations and frustrations
- **Diversion plus – 'hooking into' the systems**
 - Leisure is the magnet
 - Different agencies working together
 - Extended collective reach
 - Extended range of activities
 - Extended support and services
- **Individual support – for those at highest risk**
 - Leisure is part of the package
 - Personal mentors and programmes
 - Structural change

Working Together

The Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-5 prepared with input from all of the key agencies advocates an approach for safer children and young people and recognises the value of youth diversion through the provision of activities. One of its six key actions focuses on "increasing the number of projects for vulnerable young people to divert them from entering criminal justice".

The recently established Enfield Sport and Crime Reduction Group is another excellent example of partnership working between the two thematic groups of the Enfield Strategic Partnership and its member partners.

Investment areas being pursued are listed in the box opposite.

Further Information

Visit our websites for further information, contact details, copies of the presentation on each of the thematic areas and references to the research studies and reports: www.enfieldsp.gov.uk or www.vagaassociates.com

Issued by the Leisure and Cultural Partnership Group

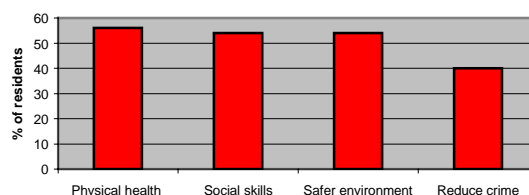
Positive Futures

*A national sports based social inclusion programme
First annual report, 2004*

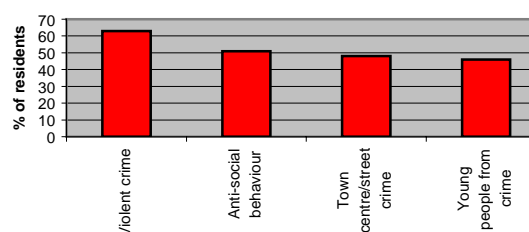
- 67 projects – 35,000 young people
- 72% male – 28% female
- 20% non white
- 85% - meaningfully engaged
- 14,000 – signs of progress
- Evidence of educational improvement
- Evidence of social relationships & personal development
- 36%-57% increased confidence by partners involved

Krisham Singh
Started by playing football
Leaders award
FA level one award
First aid training
Runs sessions

Residents Views: Benefits of Play



Residents Views: Crime Priorities



Source: Citizens Survey 2003

Raynham Park

A local example of emerging good practice

Community engagement
Young people involved in design & development
Genuine partnership
Promising results

Investment Opportunities

- **Craig park** – joint priority with Better Enfield Group
- **Releasing Football Potential** – A joint project involving Enfield Sport and Crime Reduction Group and West Ham FC targeted at housing estates
- **Black History Month** – a magnet with year round activities and themes