



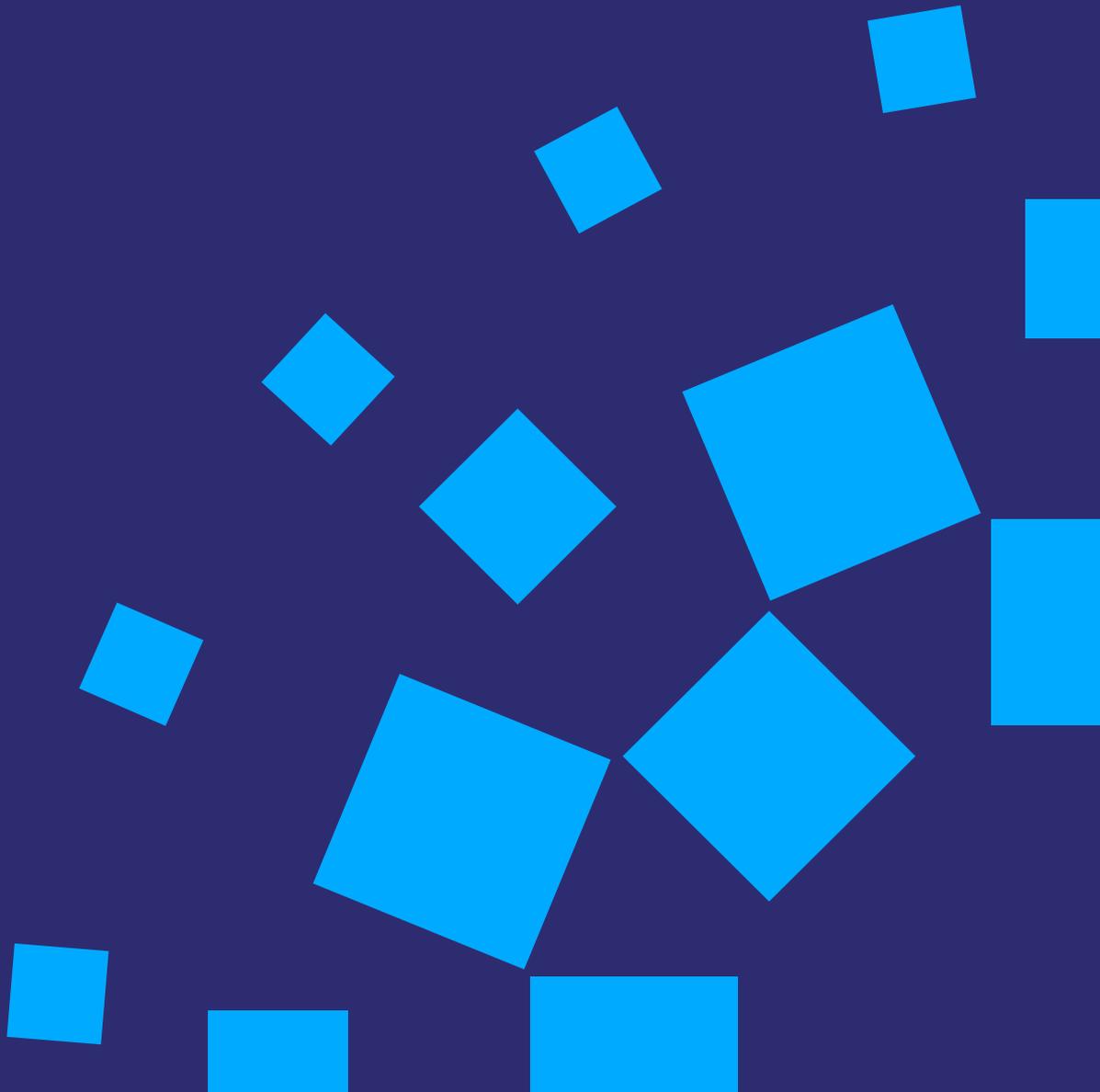
College of
Policing



Working together
to keep people safe

Safer Streets Fund – Crime prevention toolkit

2022



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About the Safer Streets Fund toolkit

This document supports delivery of the Safer Streets Fund, which provides funding to hotspot areas within England and Wales that are disproportionately affected by neighbourhood¹ and acquisitive² crime to invest in evidence-based situational interventions. The fund also targets anti-social behaviour (ASB), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in public places, and preventing VAWG in public spaces at night, including in the night-time economy. The aims of the fund are to:

- reduce neighbourhood crime (burglary, vehicle-related theft, theft from the person, robbery and anti-social behaviour) and wider acquisitive crimes in areas that receive funding, therefore making local areas safer and reducing demand on the police, enabling them to focus on higher-harm crimes
- reduce ASB incidents, making individuals and communities safer.
- change attitudes and behaviours towards VAWG in public places, with the long-term goal of reducing VAWG crimes in public. However, for VAWG and ASB, it should be noted that increased reporting of some crimes or issues could be a positive outcome.
- improve feelings of safety for everyone within the community, in particular women and girls' feelings of safety in public spaces and the night-time economy.
- build the evidence base for what works on reducing neighbourhood crimes and ASB and for changing attitudes and behaviours in relation to VAWG in the public domain.
- continue to build evidence about the impact of targeted investment in situational prevention in high-crime areas to strengthen the case for future investment, both at a local and national level
- grow local capability to undertake data-driven problem solving and to

1 For the purposes of the fund, this is defined as four crime types: burglary, robbery, theft from the person, and vehicle crime.

2 For the purposes of the fund, this is defined as the following police.uk categories: bicycle theft, burglary, other theft, robbery, shoplifting, theft from the person, and vehicle crime.

capture evidence and practical learning about how best to implement situational interventions to prevent crime

- Understand secondary crime benefits associated with preventing and reducing neighbourhood crime, VAWG and ASB.
- Improve the national and local data picture regarding neighbourhood crime and ASB, and VAWG in public spaces.
- Improve awareness of ASB tools and powers.

In designing their bids for funding, areas are encouraged to take a problem-solving approach, identifying interventions that fit the specific issues of a local area and those with a strong evidence base. This toolkit aims to support areas to take an evidence-based approach as they develop their bids for the fund, by bringing together existing evidence and resources. It also contains important implementation considerations to support areas to develop deliverable plans. This toolkit represents an initial assessment of available information, based on input from a wide range of subject matter experts³, and should not be viewed as a definitive guide. We welcome feedback on the content of this toolkit, which can be sent to saferstreets@homeoffice.gov.uk

For further details on applying for the Safer Streets Fund, please consult the [Safer Streets webpage](#).

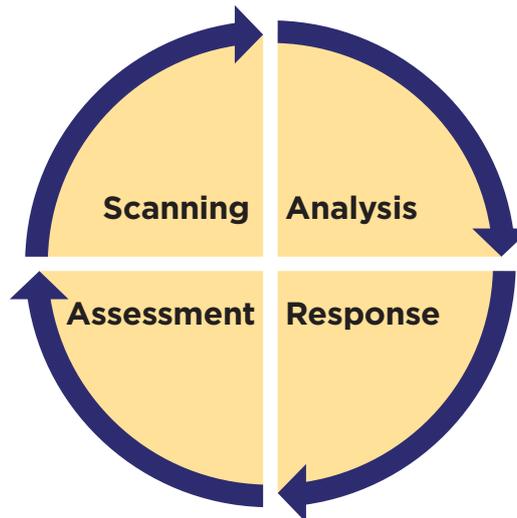
3 The reference group is listed following the table of contents.

Introduction

Evidence has shown that by using a structured process to understand and tackle the root causes of local problems, the police can reduce crime and disorder, both overall and in a variety of situations.⁴ Tools that can be of help in analysing problems include:

- **scanning, analysis, response and assessment** (SARA)

Looking across a range of information sources to identify problems and prioritise the most important for action.

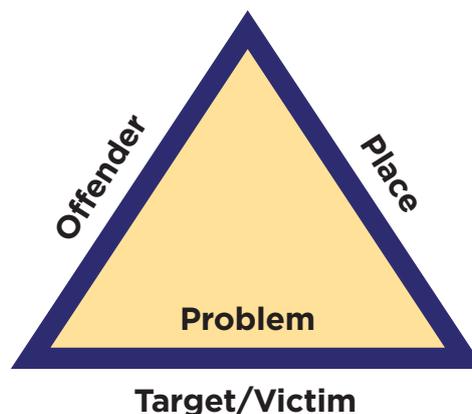


Developing a thorough understanding of the nature, extent and causes of the problem.

Checking whether the targeted action has been successful in solving the problem.

Taking targeted and tailored action against the underlying causes of the problem.

- **the problem analysis triangle** (PAT)



Alternative frameworks may also be useful, such as **the five 'I's framework**.

This toolkit provides support for identifying the problem that needs to be tackled, as well as the interventions that could be used to do so. In line with this, the Safer Streets application questions follow the SARA method of problem solving. For each of these aspects of problem solving, the links above provide further information.

4 College of Policing. (2020). 'Problem-oriented policing' [internet]. Available from <https://whatworks.college.police.uk/toolkit/Pages/Intervention.aspx?InterventionID=47> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

Scanning and analysis: Identifying the problem

The following resources and questions may help to identify the areas that will benefit most from the Safer Streets Fund. In selecting their target area, police and crime commissioners (PCCs) should also consult the Safer Streets application guidance, which has further information about eligibility for funding.

Resources

<p>To see national trends and analysis of acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>For Office for National Statistics (ONS) data on burglary and household theft, click here.</p> <p>For ONS data on vehicle crime, click here.</p> <p>For ONS data on theft from the person and robbery, click here.</p> <p>For ONS data on anti-social behaviour, click here.</p>
<p>To see evidence on the factors that increase the risk of acquisitive crime</p>	<p>For summaries on neighbourhood crimes, click here.</p>
<p>To identify hotspots based on burglary data</p>	<p>A burglary mapping tool has been developed by Nottingham Trent University⁵. You will be able to access the regional maps via a dedicated link here, provided you are logged in to the Police Knowledge Hub.</p> <p>This will allow you to filter down the data displayed on the map by police force, community safety partnership and local authority district.</p>

5 Further details can be found in Hunter J and others (2021). 'Where should police forces target their residential burglary reduction efforts? Using official victimisation data to predict burglary incidences at the neighbourhood level'. Crime Science 10(11) [Internet]. Available from <https://crimesciencejournal.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40163-021-00144-x.pdf> [Accessed January 25 2022]

The Problem-Solving and Demand Knowledge Hub	The <u>National Problem-Solving and Demand Reduction Programme</u> was a three-year programme established by South Yorkshire Police using £6.35m of funding from the Police Transformation Fund. The programme, launched in 2017, aims to transform ways of working across the police at a local, regional and national level by embedding problem-solving as a core discipline. Resources from the programme can be found in their group on the Knowledge Hub. Note that you will need to be logged into the <u>Knowledge Hub</u> for the link to work.
The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing	The <u>Center for Problem-Oriented Policing</u> is an American non-profit organisation dedicated to studying and advancing problem-oriented policing. It consists of police practitioners, universities and scholars who are studying policing. It has a series of toolkits, guidance and best practice guides for addressing common crime and disorder problems.
Repeat victimisation calculator	For a repeat victimisation calculator that provides an easy way to understand repeat victimisation rates, click <u>here</u> .
University College London (UCL) Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science (JDI) brief	<u>JDiBrief</u> is an online library of one-page briefing notes about crime and security problems, as well as analytical techniques that can be applied to understand them.
Case studies of problem-oriented policing	See below for a series of case studies that illustrate the identification and tackling of problems. The majority are taken from successful Tilley or Goldstein Award entries.
Home Office data	Forces are required to use their own data to demonstrate how their target area meets either benchmark. However, PCCs can request the list of lower super output areas (LSOAs) in their police force area that meet either crime benchmark by emailing <u>saferstreets@homeoffice.gov.uk</u>

Safer Streets Fund Community	This Knowledge Hub group enables those delivering Safer Streets Fund plans to share information, find useful resources, ask questions and offer peer support. Users will be required to register their details on Knowledge Hub (here) and request membership of the group.
Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	For details of interventions designed to address VAWG in public spaces, please click here .
Statutory Guidance for anti-social behaviour	For details of anti-social behaviour powers, please click here .

Case studies: Examples of Tilley and Goldstein Award winners and finalists for acquisitive crime

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
Burglary				
<u>12 Streets*</u>	UK, Durham	2020	Residential burglary	Target the mind-set of victims, changing behaviour of potential victims through nudge theory. Police cadets visit premises and complete a crime prevention survey.
<u>Crime Prevention through Environmental Design at Huntsmoor House*</u>	UK, Bromley	2020	Residential burglary	Improve lighting around the gardens and alleys, apply crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and increase natural surveillance.
<u>We Don't Buy Crime*</u>	UK, Shropshire	2020	Residential burglary	Increase and improve SmartWater property marking, increase crime prevention engagement, increase access to ultraviolet (UV) light identification and harden the stolen goods market.
<u>Operation Shield - residential burglary reduction initiative*</u>	UK, Sheffield and Doncaster	2018	Residential burglary	Target hardening, offender engagement and create hostile environments.
<u>Durham, Burglary</u>	UK, Durham	2017	Residential burglary	Safer homes packs, including property marking, and target hardening, such as lighting timers and Neighbourhood Watch.
<u>The Road to Reduction - disrupting the optimal forager</u>	UK, Greater Manchester	2012	Residential burglary	Predictive mapping and super-cocooning.

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
<u>Safe as Houses</u>	UK, Enfield	2011	Residential burglary	Alley gating, target hardening.
<u>Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide - neighbourhood burglary reduction</u>	UK, Staffordshire	2005	Residential burglary	Alley gating, targeting offenders with drug treatment and rehabilitation.
<u>The Hopwood Triangle - revitalising a depressed neighbourhood in Lancashire</u>	UK, Lancashire	2004	Residential burglary, prostitution, anti-social behaviour	CPTED, Neighbourhood Watch, repeat victimisation, improved lighting, CCTV, identify problem tenants.
<u>The Chula Vista Residential Burglary Reduction Project</u>	US, Chula Vista	2001	Residential burglary	Target hardening.
<u>The Kirkholt Burglary Prevention Project 1</u>	UK, Rochdale	1988	Residential burglary	Repeat victimisation, target hardening, property marking, Neighbourhood Watch.
<u>Op Dawn Alpha*</u>	UK, Doncaster	2021	Residential burglary	Partner led litter picking events, improved CCTV, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and robust responses to low level crime.
Vehicle theft				
<u>Operation Soteria*</u>	UK, Edinburgh	2018	Motorcycle theft	Community Improvement Partnership (CIP) created, bike lock rental scheme, secure parking, community engagement and police capabilities (for example, CCTV and DNA tagging spray).
<u>Winnipeg Auto Theft Suppression Strategy</u>	Canada, Winnipeg	2009	Car theft	Target hardening through immobilisers and working with high-risk young people.

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
<u>Operation Cobra</u>	UK, Portsmouth	2004	Car theft	Awareness raising, property marking, and offender focus using enhanced forensics and intelligence gathering.
<u>Reducing Vehicle Burglaries</u>	US, Texas	2005	Car theft	Awareness raising, improving surveillance by cutting back vegetation.
<u>Reducing Theft Offences at a Crime Generator NCP Car Park*</u>	UK, London	2021	Car theft	Community Protection Warning to the NCP, with a list of responses actioned including target hardening and property marking.
<u>Metal theft</u>				
<u>Shiregreen Alliance</u>	UK, South Yorkshire	2010	Metal theft from residential homes	Property marking, target hardening, mobile CCTV.
<u>Operation Fragment</u>	UK, Bristol	2009	Metal theft	Vehicle stop checks, awareness raising, service-level agreements (SLAs) with local dealers.
<u>Cycle theft</u>				
<u>Reducing Cycle Theft: A partnership approach between Transport for London and the MPS</u>	UK, London	2010	Cycle theft	Cycle marking and registration, hotspot policing, working with online sites.
<u>Robbery</u>				
<u>Operation Lindhouse*</u>	UK, Chiswick	2020	Robbery	Increase in stop and search, school teachers visibly on patrol, installation of street lighting and CCTV in areas of high offending.

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
<u>The Robbery of School Age Victims in Enfield</u>	UK, Enfield	2013	Robbery	Awareness raising, anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), staggered school closing, stolen goods market.
<u>Neighbourhoods Improvement District*</u>	UK, London	2021	Robbery (and other offences)	Creation of a Neighbourhood Improvement District (NID) with a problem solving team focusing on engagement, crime preventions and enforcements. CCTV and CCTV signage, lighting improvements, parking restrictions, police patrols.
<u>Op Belt*</u>	UK, Leicester	2021	Robbery	Natural surveillance, improved lighting, CCTV, signage of CCTV and police patrols at peak times.
<u>Anti-social behaviour</u>				
<u>Tackling the Use and Supply of Spice in Sheffield City Centre*</u>	UK, Sheffield	2019	Anti-social behaviour	Target hardening and removal of a key piece of street furniture. Key suppliers were stopped and searched and arrested.
<u>Operation Borderland*</u>	UK, Essex	2019	Anti-social behaviour	CCTV, street lighting was improved/repaired, derelict garage blocks were demolished, door entry systems improved, multiple improvements made to the aesthetic appearance of the estate.
<u>Deansway and Canterbury*</u>	UK, Cheshire	2020	Anti-social behaviour	Environmental changes, improved CCTV and lighting, education and a structured ASB escalation process for any offenders.
<u>Community Voice: ASB in Bishops Stortford*</u>	UK, Hertfordshire	2020	Anti-social behaviour	Installation of CCTV, officer patrols twice daily after 19:00 hours.

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
<u>Bromley Community Impact Days*</u>	UK, London	2020	Anti-social behaviour	Target hardening, removal of graffiti and fly-tipping, cutting back overgrown foliage and restricting access to certain roads to prevent fly-tipping and removal of abandoned vehicles.
<u>Blakelaw*</u>	UK, Newcastle	2020	Anti-social behaviour	Installation of CCTV in problem areas, dispersal notices, locks were installed on wheelie bins, extra police patrols were deployed. Shrubbery and trees cut back to prevent them being targeted by arsonists or acting as a cover for other forms of criminal activity. Area clean up.
<u>Countering Social Malaise – Fox Hill*</u>	UK, Sheffield	2020	Anti-social behaviour and burglary	Police patrols, target hardening, boulders to block access/escape routes safeguarding properties, installation of MOCAM and awareness raising.
<u>Operation SNOFrisk*</u>	UK, London	2020	Drug related anti-social behaviour	Daily police patrols, CPWs issued, CCTV installation, entrance doors to flat blocks made more secure.
<u>Op Lesson: reclaiming the level*</u>	UK, Brighton	2020	Drug related anti-social behaviour, CSE and violent crime	Uniformed and plain clothed police patrols, stop and search, PCSO right to remove alcohol from juveniles, awareness raising. Environmental changes such as removal of bushes, installation of lighting and cameras.
<u>Egerton Court*</u>	UK, Barrow	2020	Drugs, violence, anti-social behaviour and county lines.	Egerton Court Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP) formed. Dedicated PSCO to cover the court, issue of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Notices, installation of CCTV.

Name	Location	Date	Problem	Tactic
<u>Multistorey Car Park Youth ASB issues*</u>	UK, Devon and Cornwall	2020	Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage	CCTV, ASB letters, Dispersal Order, targeting hardening.
<u>Reducing ASB on Breck Road*</u>	UK, Liverpool	2020	Anti-social behaviour	ASB Letters, police patrols, deployment of the food van staffed by youth workers, removal of bollards and repositioning of CCTV.
<u>Pencester Gardens*</u>	UK, Dover	2020	Anti-social behaviour	CCTV, CPW/CPN/CBO/FPN, community wardens, Public Space Protection Order to remove alcohol, removal of benches solely used by the problem community, foliage cutting, community engagement, voluntary licencing agreements.
<u>St Elphins Close Estate*</u>	UK, Cheshire	2021	Anti-social behaviour	Council led environmental clean ups and rubbish removal along with “designing out crime” actions to make the estate appear less intimidating, police patrols, drug warrants.
<u>Reclaim the Park*</u>	UK, Rotherham	2021	Drug related anti-social behaviour	Target hardening, installation of CCTV and lighting, Public Space Protection Order, area clean up, community engagement.

*Note that you will need access to the [National Problem-Solving and Demand Reduction Programme](#) group on Knowledge Hub to review these documents.

Response

Below is a table that summarises many of the key tactics that can be used in reducing acquisitive crime. Further details for each tactic are available in the toolkit. The summary details some of the key factors to consider when determining whether the tactic is appropriate for implementation using the funding from the Safer Streets Fund.

It can be helpful to consider the response to a crime problem as three distinct tasks:

- **intervention** – the tactic aimed at preventing the causes of criminal events
- **implementation** – practical tasks to make the intervention happen
- **involvement** – mobilising, partnering with and setting the climate for people and organisations to take on crime prevention roles and responsibilities, including implementing and supporting the interventions

Situational crime prevention responses: Summary table

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Strong evidence base						
Physical security – improve home security measures (includes a combination of door and window locks, indoor lighting on a timer and outdoor lighting on a timer or sensor)	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction impact, based on multiple evaluations. Crime reduction impact depends on a combination of measures fitted. ⁷	Domestic burglary.	£ - ££££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low Depends on number of properties	Owners of housing stock must be involved. To ensure a bespoke package, a survey must be completed to consider both the method of entry by offenders and any existing security.	Publicity, crime prevention advice, targeted interventions for repeat victims. Further information Click: Physical security for more information.

6 For the evidence coding: ‘strong’ refers to systematic review or multiple high-quality experimental studies; ‘moderate’ refers to multiple experimental studies where one has a control; and ‘limited’ refers to qualitative evidence only, such as interviews or case studies.

7 Key to costs: £ = £1–£100; ££ = £101–£250; £££ = £251–£1,000; ££££ = £1,001–£5,000; £££££ = £5,001+

8 See Tseloni A and Thompson R. (2015). ‘Securing the premises’. Significance, 12(1), pp 32–35 for a diagram that illustrates potentially beneficial combinations.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Alley gating	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction effect, based on systematic review evidence.	Domestic burglary, littering.	££££	Lead-in: medium Difficulty: high	Some ongoing maintenance of the gates may be required. Consultation with residents and the relevant local authority or housing association is recommended.	N/A Further information Click: Alley gating for more information.
Street lighting	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction impact, based on systematic review evidence.	Domestic burglary, robbery, violent crime.	££££	Lead-in: medium to long Difficulty: high	Some ongoing maintenance is required. Is street lighting missing or insufficient for the area under consideration? Is it feasible within the timescales?	N/A Further information Click: Street lighting for more information.
CCTV	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction impact in car parks, based on systematic review evidence.	Vehicle crime.	££££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	CCTV costs are ongoing, so it is important to consider maintenance and monitoring. Is the installation and use of CCTV likely to address the identified crime problem?	Publicity, secure car parking, cycle parking. Further information Click: CCTV for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Neighbourhood Watch	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction impact, based on systematic review evidence.	Domestic burglary and other street crimes.	£	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Some ongoing monitoring and administration is required. There is a clear need for multi-agency working and strong community coordinators.	Publicity, crime prevention advice, property marking. Further information Click: Neighbourhood Watch for more information.
Targeted interventions for repeat victims	Strong evidence of positive crime reduction impact, based on systematic review evidence.	Domestic burglary.	£	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Ongoing resources are required to conduct crime prevention visits and publicity. Different tactics, or combinations of tactics, may be more effective depending on the problem.	Physical security, property marking, crime prevention advice Further information Click: Repeat victimisation for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Property marking	Strong evidence of a positive crime reduction impact, based on multiple evaluations	Domestic burglary, cycle theft	£	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Studies have shown an impact when marking and crime prevention advice are used. Property marking is most effective when over 80% of local residents mark their property, so areas with a low uptake (such as student areas) may not benefit from this approach.	Publicity, crime prevention advice, targeted interventions for repeat victims. Further information Click: Property marking for more information.
Moderate evidence base						
Closing roads, footpaths and subways	Moderate evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – single studies using before-and-after methods.	Domestic burglary, robbery, drugs offences.	££££	Lead-in: medium to long Difficulty: high	Are the changes and improvements feasible, given budgets and time constraints?	N/A. Further information Click: Roads, footpaths and subways for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Secure car parking facilities	Moderate evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – single studies using before-and-after methods.	Vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour.	£££	Lead-in: medium Difficulty: medium	How much will the scheme cost? Is planning permission required? Is funding time-limited?	CCTV. Further information Click: Secure parking facilities for more information.
Publicity and awareness raising	Moderate evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – single studies employing before-and-after data with or without unmatched control groups. Systematic review evidence exists for the effect of publicity on anti-social behaviour.	Domestic burglary, vehicle crime, cycle theft, anti-social behaviour.	££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	May need refreshing for continuing impact. Messages need to be clear. Publicity should link with timescales of other interventions.	Further information Click: Publicity for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Crime prevention advice	Moderate evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – single studies employing before-and-after data with or without unmatched control groups (although some related studies may be rated as strong).	Domestic burglary, cycle theft, vehicle crime.	£	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Any crime prevention advice needs to be tailored to the actual crime problem being experienced.	Publicity, cycle parking, car parking, property marking, targeted interventions for repeat victims, Neighbourhood and community wardens. Further information Click: Crime prevention advice for more information.
Vehicle security devices	Moderate evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – cross-section and crime trend data.	Vehicle crime.	£ - £££	Lead-in: medium to long Difficulty: medium	Knowledge is required of the devices already fitted to vehicles. Consultation with the car owners is essential.	Publicity. Further information Click: Vehicle security devices for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Limited evidence base						
Compartmentation (the sub-division of multi-occupancy dwellings, such as blocks of flats, to control access)	Limited evidence of a positive crime reduction impact - interview data only.	Domestic burglary, anti-social behaviour.	££££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: medium	Some ongoing administration will be required, for example, to ensure availability of keys. Consultation and support from residents is important.	N/A. Further information Click: Compartmentation for more information.
Enhancing defensible space and demarcation	Limited evidence of a positive crime reduction impact - interview data only.	Domestic burglary.	££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Consultation with residents is important.	N/A. Further information Click: Enhancing defensible space for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Intruder alarm systems	Limited evidence of a mixed crime reduction impact. However, this may be due to the available evidence including unmonitored low-quality alarms as well as industry-standard monitored alarms.	Domestic burglary.	£££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Intruder alarm system costs are ongoing, so it is important to consider maintenance and monitoring. Any alarm installed should be monitored and be of SBD standard quality.	Physical security. Further information Click: Intruder alarm systems for more information.
Image management	Limited evidence on a positive crime reduction impact – surveys, interviews and observational methods only.	Domestic burglary, anti-social behaviour.	£	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Ongoing maintenance will be required. Support will be required from householders.	Landscaping. Further information Click: Image management for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
Moped, scooter, motorcycle and cycle parking	Limited evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – case studies only.	Vehicle crime, cycle crime.	£ - £££	Lead-in: medium Difficulty: medium to high	Is the implementation of the identified initiative(s) possible, given timescales and budgetary constraints?	Crime prevention advice. Further information Click: Moped, scooter, motorcycle and cycle parking for more information.
Youth shelters	Limited evidence of a positive crime reduction impact – case studies only.	Acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour.	££££	Lead-in: medium to long Difficulty: medium	Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?	N/A. Further information Click: Youth shelters for more information.
Neighbourhood and community wardens	Limited evidence of a positive impact on disorder – case studies only.	Anti-social behaviour.	£££££	Lead-in: medium to long Difficulty: medium	Commitment for ongoing funding, including management, support and overheads, is required. Consultation, role development, recruitment, training and management are required.	Crime prevention advice. Further information Click: Neighbourhood and community wardens for more information.

Tactic	Evidence and impact ⁵	Crimes targeted	Cost ⁶	Difficulty and lead-in time	Sustainability and implementation	Can be combined with?
No evidence						
Landscaping	None – no evidence identified on landscaping alone.	Domestic burglary, anti-social behaviour.	££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Some ongoing maintenance is required. Does landscaping address the crime problem identified?	Image management. Further information Click: Landscaping for more information
Video doorbells	None – no evidence identified.	Domestic burglary.	££	Lead-in: short Difficulty: low	Commitment for ongoing funding is required. Does the scheme have support from the residents involved?	N/A. Further information Click: Video doorbells for more information

Individual interventions

Intervention: Physical security

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on analysis of Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data and a range of high-quality single studies.

Description

Home security measures include a range of devices and options, often used in combination, to ensure that a residential property is more difficult to break into. These include door double locks and deadbolts, window locks, security chains and limiters, external lights on a timer or sensor, internal lights on a timer, window bars and grilles, intruder alarms and home CCTV.

For recent CSEW analysis purposes, the security afforded by each stand-alone security device, and by any possible combination of the above devices, is compared to no security.⁹

Crimes targeted

Domestic burglary.

⁹ Tseloni A and others. (2017a). 'The effectiveness of burglary security devices'. *Security Journal*, 30(2), pp 646–664.

Effect

It is widely accepted that improvements to home security have been an important factor in the reduction seen in domestic burglary offences since 1993.^{10,11}

- Analysis of CSEW data has consistently found that households with more security have lower burglary rates.^{12,13} For example, CSEW¹⁴ data from 2009/10 found that houses without at least door and window locks were at nearly 10 times the risk of being burgled than those with them.
- Analysis of multiple years of CSEW data¹⁵ found that forced-entry burglaries fell more than other modus operandi (MO) burglaries, due to more and better security.
- Other research¹⁶ found that when legislation in The Netherlands enforced the use of burglar-proof doors and windows in all newly built homes (1999 onwards), the burglary rate in newly built homes reduced from 1.1% to 0.8% annually – a reduction of 26%.
- Research conducted by Armitage, Monchuk and Rogerson (2011)¹⁷ within one police force demonstrated that building to SBD standards reduced the likelihood of burglary victimisation by 55%. Moreover, a recently conducted meta-analysis,¹⁸ currently in press, found that new build homes with SBD features were 54% less likely to experience burglary than comparable non-SBD properties.

The impact of home security improvements on domestic burglary varies depending on the combination of security measures included. A range of research using different methods has looked at the impact of different combinations of measures.

Analysis of CSEW data

Tseloni and others (2017)^{19,20} analysed CSEW data spanning over twenty years, and their findings suggest that:

- houses with stand-alone security features, in particular external lights, window or door locks, have a third or less of the burglary risk than houses with no security face
- taking account of the research and specialist advice, houses with window locks and external lights are 18 times more protected, and those with window and door locks 12 times more protected, than having no security. Further, a house with all three security features (external lights,

door and window locks) is 35 times safer

- a greater number of security devices generally gives more protection than fewer. However the benefit of more than four devices is none to moderate, depending on the combination
- houses with the most effective four-device security combination - window and door locks combined with external and indoor lights, WIDE - are 49 times more protected against burglary than houses with no security

Evidence from CSEW analyses suggests that intruder alarms (the average specification in the UK market) on their own increase burglary risk.^{21,22} However, these analyses do not distinguish between factors such as alarm monitoring, installation quality and geographical factors. Further research also shows that, unless alarms are of appropriate standard, advice to install or retain an alarm (both dummy and functioning) should be avoided. In addition to this, some household types appear to be at increased burglary risk when compared with households with no burglar alarm, such as Asian households and lone parents. It must be noted that this research does not currently take into account whether the alarm was installed before or after the first experience of burglary victimisation.²³ Therefore, when considering installing an alarm, it should comply with industry standard specifications and should be installed by a company certified by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB). It is also suggested that the intruder alarm is accompanied with indoor lights on a timer, as well as enhanced door and window security.

Evaluation of WIDE upgrades

Hunter and Tseloni (2018)²⁴ found that upgrading security of victims and their cocoon (5×5×5×5) neighbours to WIDE combination (SBD doors and

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- 21 Tilley N and others. (2015). 'Do burglar alarms increase burglary risk? A counter-intuitive finding and possible explanations'. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 17(1), pp 1-19.
- 22 Thompson R and others. (2018). 'Which security devices reduce burglary?' In: Tseloni A, Thompson R and Tilley N, eds. 'Reducing burglary', pp 77-105. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International.
- 23 Robinson D and Tseloni A (2021). 'Testing the Association between Household Profile and Burglar Alarm Effectiveness' [Internet]. Available from <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/app/uploads/csucrobinson2021-12-02.pdf> [Accessed 25 January 2022]
- 24 Hunter J and Tseloni A. (2018). 'An evaluation of a research-informed target hardening initiative'. In: Tseloni A, Thompson R and Tilley N, eds. 'Reducing burglary', pp. 165-193. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International.

windows, as well as external and internal lights) reduced burglaries by 64% at an average cost of £603 per dwelling.

Evaluations of SBD projects

Within England and Wales, SBD provide details on security standards and design principles that underpin the CPTED principles. Evaluation of SBD developments have been conducted, both for refurbished and new-build developments, the results of which are described below. However, other research²⁵ highlighted the weaknesses evident in many studies involving SBD in terms of the lack of control areas. This made it difficult to determine whether the reduction in crime was due to the changes in environment, or due to another factor. However, despite these difficulties, a recently conducted meta-analysis,²⁶ currently in press, found that building to SBD standards reduces the likelihood of burglary victimisation by 55%. For examples of impact from SBD projects, see below.

For refurbished developments

- An evaluation of two SBD housing schemes in West Yorkshire compared crime rates on estates before and after refurbishment to SBD standards, and found that crime rates had been 67% and 54% higher prior to the refurbishment taking place.²⁷
- Between 2003 and 2008, 39,000 Glasgow Housing Authority homes received SBD doors and 11,000 homes received SBD windows. Of these, almost 8,000 homes received both doors and windows. An evaluation of the impact of these changes found that total housebreaking crime decreased by 26%, attempted housebreaking decreased by 59% and theft by housebreaking decreased by 18%.²⁸
- A two-year impact study was conducted in Nottingham, comparing the effect of fitting SBD double-glazing and doors to homes on two housing estates. Incidents of burglary fell by 42% on these estates,

25 Armitage R. (2018b). 'Domestic burglary: burglar responses to target attractiveness'. In: Tseloni A, Thompson R and Tilley N, eds. 'Reducing burglary', pp. 165–193. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International.

26 Armitage (with UCL) (Sidebottom, Armitage and Thompson, in press)

27 Armitage R. (2000). 'An evaluation of Secured by Design housing within West Yorkshire'. Home Office Briefing Note, 7/00. London: Home Office.

28 Teedon P and others. (2009). 'Secured by design impact evaluation: key findings'. Glasgow: Glasgow Caledonian University.

compared with a 21% decrease in burglary throughout the whole of Nottingham. The proportion of burglaries with windows as a means of entry was halved from 30% to 15%, and a higher proportion of attempted burglaries (where no entry was gained) was reported in properties fitted with windows and doors compared to non-SBD properties.²⁹

For new developments

- Comparisons were made between 25 SBD and 25 non-SBD estates comprising 660 and 522 dwellings. These were matched to ensure that estates with similar characteristics were compared. The study found a 26% reduction in crime events per dwelling in the SBD sample.³⁰
- A re-evaluation of the study found that between August 2007 and July 2008, 19,701 burglaries were reported in West Yorkshire. Of these, only two were reported from individuals residing in SBD properties. An investigation into burglary rates within streets containing both SBD and non-SBD properties found that, of a total of 105 offences, 93 were committed against non-SBD properties and 12 against SBD properties. This equated to a rate of 262.7 crimes per 1,000 households within the non-SBD sample and 118.8 crimes per 1,000 households within the SBD sample.³¹

Offender research

In addition, interviews with offenders suggest that they do take account of security measures when deciding on a target. A study by Armitage (2018) consisted of interviews with 22 prolific burglars, who were asked to look at 16 images of residential housing and to describe what would attract them to specific houses when selecting targets for burglary.³² The images were taken in a variety of locations in England and Wales, and consisted of a mix of old and new properties, from private and social housing. In the interviews,

29 Jones A, Valero-Silva N and Lucas D. (2016). 'The effects of 'Secure Warm Modern' homes in Nottingham: Decent homes impact study'. Nottingham: Nottingham City Homes.

30 Armitage R. (2000). 'An evaluation of Secured by Design housing within West Yorkshire'. Home Office Briefing Note, 7/00. London: Home Office.

31 Armitage R and Monchuk L. (2009). '1999 to 2009: re-evaluating Secured by Design ten years on'. In: Proceedings of iDOC'09 'What's Up Doc' International Design Out Crime Conference, December 2009, Perth, Australia.

32 Armitage R. (2018a). 'Burglars' take on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): reconsidering the relevance from an offender perspective'. Security Journal, 31, pp 285-304.

all offenders made reference to quality of physical security being a primary determinant in deciding whether to burgle a property.

How it works

In general, security devices work by making the target less suitable, by increasing either the actual or the perceived risk, for example, through the use of internal and external security lighting or door and window locks, or by increasing the effort involved.

Costs and benefits

In an evaluation of the Nottingham City Homes scheme, Jones, Valero-Silva and Lucas (2016) conducted a Social Return on Investment (SROI) calculation for one sample area. The SROI analysis aims to take into account the social, economic and environmental outcomes of activities. This was calculated to be £1:£4.76, meaning that every £1 spent generates £4.76 in social value.³³

33 Jones A, Valero-Silva N and Lucas D. (2016). 'The effects of 'Secure Warm Modern' homes in Nottingham: Decent homes impact study'. Nottingham: Nottingham City Homes.

The Association of British Insurers (2006) estimated that the cost-benefit ratio of implementing target-hardening measures would be £630:£1,173 on average (in the first year).³⁴ A review of these figures by Davis Langdon (cited in Pease and Gill, 2011)³⁵ suggests that the costs of implementing SBD security measures may be much lower, at £200 for a four-bedroom detached house, £170 for a three- or two-bedroomed detached house, £240 for a ground-floor apartment and £70 for an upper-floor apartment.

Using the above figures for the cost of SBD and setting these against the cost of crime, Pease and Gill (2011) estimated that any SBD improvements would pay for themselves in just under two years, if burglary and criminal damage offences are taken into account. This period would be reduced if other offences are also considered.³⁶

In terms of costs, estimates vary depending on the elements of security that require upgrading:

- replacing front doors and frames, including all security features: approx. £800
- replacing security on front doors only: ranging from £10–£80 per item
- installing outside security light, dusk until dawn: approx. £25
- the cost of internal light timers: approx. £2 per item
- replacing window and frame with appropriate security: approx. £600
- replacing security features on windows: ranging from £10–£60 per m²

For a cost-benefit estimate and an example of implementation in 2013, see Hunter and Tseloni (2018).

34 Association of British Insurers. (2006). 'Securing the nation: the case for safer homes'. London: ABI.

35 Pease K and Gill M. (2011). 'Home security and place design: some evidence and its policy implications' [internet]. Available from securedbydesign.com/guidance/research-case-studies-guidance/home-security-and-place-design/viewdocument/35 [Accessed 9 December 2019]

36 Pease and Gill (2011) *ibid.*

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- The method of the burglary needs to be considered – is it a result of poor home security or is existing security not used (or used incorrectly)?
- When the burglary occurred in terms of:
 - day of the week
 - week of the year, for example, burglaries rise in freshers' week
 - whether the home was occupied or unoccupied
- The type of home will be an important determinant of the type of security chosen – is the housing communal or non-communal residences?
- The nature of the tenure – who owns the homes? Are they privately owned, owned by the local authority, housing association or private landlord?
- How many homes need to be included?
- Nature of victim: Are they elderly or a student? One method of prioritising the houses that will be provided with improved security could be to identify those with the highest risk factors, such as those where residents have disabilities and those who have already been victimised. You can see a domestic burglary mapping tool [here](#), provided you are logged in to the [Police Knowledge Hub](#). This will allow you to filter down the data displayed on the map by police force, community safety partnership and local authority district.
- Environmental layout: end-of-row properties are more vulnerable than other properties. Access and movement may also be a feature.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- Understanding the method of entry will determine the choice of home security measures appropriate for implementation.
- Are the homes that are experiencing problems communal or non-communal?

Consultation

- Have the residents been consulted?
- Have the homeowners been consulted? This may include the local authority, private landlord or housing association.

Feasibility

- What is feasible in the timescales available?
- What security features best suit the property and best address the method of entry?
- What suppliers are available to undertake the work?

Technical specification

Any improvement to household security measures should use SBD standards and should comply with fire regulations where necessary, for example, residential apartment doors. For full details on the appropriate standards and specifications for a wide range of products – including all door and window types and styles, locks, visitor door entry systems, access control, glazing, secure mail delivery, lightweight framed walls, roof-lights, security lighting, communal bin and mobility vehicle stores, plus much more – please see the dedicated area of the [SBD website](#).

Video monitoring systems

At this stage, there are no video monitoring systems with remote access that have successfully achieved the BSI Internet of Things (IoT) Kitemark following rigorous testing and assessment. This is primarily to protect against the theft of personal data and images.

Until such systems are available, only hardwired video monitoring systems with on-site recording should be installed, consisting of one external unit for the primary front door. It is important that the occupiers understand that this type of system will not allow them to view callers or intruders when they are away from their home.

The external unit should be fitted at the appropriate height to view – and capture in colour – full-frame facial images of all callers at the door.

The system should enable occupiers to verify genuine callers, both audibly and visually, before opening the door.

During implementation

- Are additional security features fitted being used appropriately?
- Are residents happy with the work?
- Has the work been completed to the appropriate standards?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?

These may include:

- a change in other crime within the target area
- a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
- a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved? Who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Alley gating

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on systematic review evidence.

Description

Alley gates are lockable gates installed to prevent access by offenders to alleyways, such as those that run along the rear of older-style terraced housing in the UK. While normally a burglary prevention tool, alley gates can also prevent other crimes, such as littering and anti-social behaviour, by preventing access to alleys by non-residents and better controlling the space.

Alley gates are usually made of iron or steel, and are bespoke in relation to the requirements and specifications of an individual alley. The residents of homes adjacent to the gated alley are then left to operate the gates, either using keys or keycode combinations.

Crimes targeted

Burglary, anti-social behaviour, littering.

Effect

A systematic review³⁷ reported the following effects:

- A mean reduction of 43% in burglary in areas with alley gates, based on nine UK studies that used a comparative research design (including a control group), regardless of whether pre-intervention data was reported.
- A statistically significant reduction in burglary in areas with alley gates, based on six UK studies reporting both pre- and post-intervention data.

There is less rigorous evidence available for the effectiveness of alley gates for reducing anti-social behaviour, but a survey of residents in gated and

37 Sidebottom A and others. (2018). 'Gating alleys to reduce crime: a meta-analysis and realist synthesis'. *Justice Quarterly*, 35(1), pp 55-86.

ungated areas in Liverpool found that residents in gated areas felt safer and experience fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour than those in areas without gates.³⁸

How it works

Alley gating works by:

- Increasing the effort – prospective offenders are unable to access target properties or use the alleys as a way to escape and evade detection.
- Increasing the risk – by turning public space into private space, alley gating may increase natural surveillance from the residents of nearby properties. In addition, offenders will not be able to find plausible reasons for being in this area when challenged.

Costs and benefits

The systematic review³⁹ reported cost-benefit ratios of between £1:£1.24 and £1:£2.79 in the six studies identified for meta-analysis. The lowest cost per alley gate was £158 and the highest cost was £1,453. The median cost was £726.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

Alley gating schemes have been shown to be less effective in the following circumstances:

- when access to gate keys is not well regulated or the combination of gate keypads becomes widely known
- in areas where there is high turnover of residents (such as student areas)
- where residents do not take personal responsibility for informally regulating the gates, and do not buy into the process
- where it is unlikely that residents will consent or agree to the installation of the alley gates within funding timescales

38 Armitage R and Smithson H (2007). 'Alley-gating revisited: the sustainability of resident's satisfaction' [internet]. Available from <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/455/1/smithsonalley.pdf> [Accessed 12 January 2022].

39 Sidebottom and others (2018) *ibid*.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation⁴⁰

Nature of the problem

- What is the rationale for using alley gates in preference to other crime reduction techniques?

Consultation

- Have local neighbourhood officers and Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) been consulted?
- Have residents been consulted about the scheme and are they supportive?
- Have discussions taken place with other stakeholders?
This could include:
 - legal services
 - local authorities
 - police community safety and crime reduction teams
 - Community Safety Partnerships
- Does the alley belong to the homeowner or the local authority (adopted or unadopted), or is it classed as a public highway?
 - If the alley belongs to the homeowner (unadopted), they need to give written permission for the alley gates to be fitted.
 - If the alley is owned by the local authority (adopted), or classed as a public highway, legal permission is required before alley gating can take place.

⁴⁰ Armitage R. (2006). 'ACPO Alley-gating Guide 2005/06'. Huddersfield: Association of Chief Police Officers.

Feasibility

- How much will the scheme cost?
- Is planning permission required?
- Is there funding to continue maintenance of alley gates?
- Is any similar work planned by the local authority or housing association?

Technical specification

In consultation with the local authority, it is important to ensure that all neighbouring properties who have legitimate access to the alleyway are consulted prior to the application for alley gates.

Security gates should open inward and should be positioned as close to the alleyway entrance as possible. Gates should be a minimum of 1.8m. However, the height may need to be increased in some cases. Careful consideration should be given to the design of the gates to ensure that there are no climbing points around the hinges and locks, and that there is no gap underneath that is of a sufficient size to facilitate unauthorised access.

The gate frame should be secured to a suitable, solid structure, as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Alley gates should meet one of the following police-preferred security standards:

- LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 1
- LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1 (A1)
- STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1
- LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A

During implementation

- Are the alley gates being used as expected?
 - Is access being controlled by the gates?
 - Are the gates being closed when not in use?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has a reduction in crime led to an increase in other crime within the target area?
- Has the reduction of crime within the target block led to an increase in crime in the neighbouring area?
- Has the alley gating scheme resulted in a change in offender MO?
- Has the alley gating scheme been cost-effective?
- How was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Street lighting

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on systematic review evidence.

Description

Improved street lighting is a form of situational crime prevention that involves increasing the levels of illumination on the street or in other public spaces.

Crimes targeted

Burglary, robbery, violent crime.

Effect

The effect of street lighting was calculated from 13 studies (eight from the USA and five from the UK). Examination of these studies showed a 21% decrease in crime in areas with improved street lighting compared to control areas.⁴¹

Detailed examination of the UK studies showed a statistically significant decrease in crime for four of the five studies, suggesting that improved street lighting reduces crime. The combined decrease in crime from the five UK studies was 38%.

The improvement of street lighting has also been shown to decrease crime during the day.

41 Welsh B and Farrington D. (2008). 'Effects of improved street lighting on crime: a systematic review'. Home Office Research Study 251. London: Home Office.

How it works

Improved street lighting reduces crime by:

- Increasing the risks – improved street lighting increases the likelihood that an offender will be identified. It is also thought that improved street lighting in an area increases community pride and informal social control, which can increase the number of people who use an area, and therefore increase the number of potential witnesses to criminal behaviour.

Costs and benefits

- Cost-benefit analysis of two UK street lighting schemes showed that financial savings from reduced crimes greatly exceeded the financial costs of improved street lighting, due to a reduction in property being stolen, fewer properties needing repair, fewer insurance costs, and a reduction in the wider impacts on some victims, such as time off work to deal with the incident.⁴²

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Is street lighting missing or insufficient for the area under consideration?
- Is there sufficient time within the funding period to implement changes?

42 Painter K and Farrington D. (2001). 'The financial benefits of improved street lighting, based on crime reduction'. *Lighting Research & Technology*, 33(1), pp 3-10.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem⁴³

- Have you clearly defined the neighbourhood boundaries?
- Have you collected reliable data about the types of crime and disorder that are the focus of concern?
- Do you know the proportion of crimes committed by day and by night?
- Do you know whether these crimes are committed by local residents or outsiders?
- If these crimes are committed by outsiders, do you know whether they go to the neighbourhood specifically to commit crimes, or whether they do so when visiting or passing through?
- Can you document that the lighting in the neighbourhood is seriously deficient?
- Have you estimated how much crime improved lighting will prevent?
- Do you have clear expectations about how improved lighting can reduce crime (for example, by enabling witnesses to see offenders and report incidents to the police, or by raising the fear in the minds of offenders that this will happen)?
- Have you explored alternatives to improved lighting, such as video surveillance, Neighbourhood Watch, crackdowns and crime prevention advice?
- Can you explain why these alternatives cannot adequately substitute for improved lighting?

43 Clarke R. (2008). 'Improving street lighting to reduce crime in residential areas. Problem-oriented guides for police. Response guides series no. 8'. ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.

Formulating a plan

- How many new lights are needed?
- How many existing lights must be upgraded?
- What type of lights will be installed?
- Where will the lights be located?
- If video cameras are used in the neighbourhood, will the improved lighting affect the quality of their operation?
- Might improved lighting encourage undesirable behaviour in some places? For example, might lighting a rarely used footpath increase opportunities for victimisation?
- Will the lighting selected produce adequate levels of vertical illumination so that people can clearly see the faces of others?
- How much will the new lighting cost?
- Have you obtained the agreement of any residents who will be required to pay for the improvements?
- How long will it take to install the new lighting once agreement has been reached?
- Who will install the new lighting?
- Is there a detailed plan showing which trees and bushes need to be trimmed?
- Who is responsible for trimming the shrubbery?

Implementing the plan

- Has a project manager been appointed?
- Have you constructed a detailed timeline showing when each element of the improved lighting programme will be started and completed?
- Does this plan include both approvals and actions?
- Are all parties informed about, and in agreement with, this timetable?

Consultation⁴⁴

- Do you have support from the police district commanders and stakeholders, such as the local authority or Community Safety Partnerships?
- Do you have support from local residents?
- Are residents content with the appearance and location of the new lights?
- Have you dealt adequately with individual concerns about light trespass?
- Can you answer any worries about light pollution?
- Have you allayed resident concerns about neighbourhood stigmatisation?
- Have you dealt with the worries of nearby communities about displaced crime?
- Have you briefed the local media about the need for improved lighting?
- Have you dealt satisfactorily with public opposition?

Feasibility

- Is the purchase and installation of lighting possible, given timescales and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- Design specifications for lighting can be found [here](#).
- All street lighting for adopted highways and footpaths, private estate roads and footpaths, and parking facilities must comply with BS 5489-1:2013. Where conflict with other statutory provisions occurs, such as developments within conservation areas, requirements should be discussed with the Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) and the local authority lighting designers.
- It is recognised that some local authorities have dark-sky policies and deliberately light some of their rural, low-crime areas to very low levels of illumination. Some are currently experimenting with switching off

44 Clarke (2008) *ibid*.

street lamps in low-crime areas between certain hours of the night in order to save energy costs and reduce CO2 emissions.

- Secured by Design (SBD) supports the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) in discouraging lights being switched off unless a full risk assessment has been carried out. The ILP also recommends that lights are never switched off purely for cost saving. A variable controlled lighting level is always the preferred option, in addition to one that does not disadvantage people with sensory impairment, who may require well-lit routes to enable easy wayfinding and to make other users more easily visible. Attention to position and location of lighting to improve illuminance at ground level can avoid shadows being cast onto the surface while minimising light pollution.
- Bollard lighting is purely for wayfinding and can be easily obscured. It does not project sufficient light at the right height, making it difficult to recognise facial features. As a result, bollard lighting causes an increase in the fear of crime and should be avoided.
- Trees should not be located within five metres of a lighting source, as they may restrict the performance of street lighting by blocking light or by causing damage through collision with branches. The effects of seasonal variations on planting must be taken into account when designing such schemes.
- A declaration of conformity to BS 5489-1:2013 by a competent independent designer. Competency shall be demonstrated by achievement to at least ILP competency level 3 or 4. The designer will be a Member of the ILP (MILP) and either IEng or CEng qualified to be deemed competent to be able to design under the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015. Additionally, a risk and environmental assessment for the CDM designer compliance requirements must be included. Manufacturer-designed schemes that do not include a risk and environmental assessment should not be accepted, as they do not cover the CDM designer risk elements that are required.
- SBD encourages, wherever possible, the use of the most environmentally friendly light sources. Moreover, the ILP currently favours the use of good-quality LED lighting and other energy-effective light sources, and advises against the use of fluorescent lighting (which is environmentally unsustainable for a variety of reasons).

During implementation

- Is the planning and installation processes proceeding as planned?
- Are there any issues arising that may prevent the programme of work being completed?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime and disorder?
 - How does reported crime and disorder in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does it compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
 - Will the before and after time periods be directly comparable? For example, will you be able to control for time of year?
 - Will you be able to compare the proportions of crime committed by day and by night?
- Has the scheme led to any displacement or diffusion of benefits? These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
 - What problems emerged and how were these overcome?
- Will you try to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the improved street lighting?⁴⁵

45 Clarke (2008) *ibid.*

Intervention: CCTV

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on systematic review evidence.

Description

CCTV surveillance cameras are used as a situational crime prevention measure in public and private places. It is a formal surveillance technique where cameras are set up and monitored to aid crime prevention, detect offenders and control crowds.^{46, 47}

Crimes targeted

Vehicle crime.

Effect

A meta-analysis⁴⁸ of 14 CCTV projects, published in 2007, reported that:

- CCTV was most effective in reducing vehicle crimes in locations such as train station parking facilities, especially with high coverage and with the involvement of other interventions, such as lighting
- CCTV was found to not be effective in city centres or residential areas

46 Farrington D and others. (2007). 'The effects of closed-circuit television on crime: meta-analysis of an English national quasi-experimental multi-site evaluation'. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 3(1), pp 21–38.

47 Welsh B and Farrington D. (2009). 'Public area CCTV and crime prevention: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis'. *Justice Quarterly*, 26(4), pp 716–745.

48 Farrington D and others. (2007). 'The effects of closed-circuit television on crime: meta-analysis of an English national quasi-experimental multi-site evaluation'. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 3(1), pp 21–38.

A further systematic review, which was conducted in 2009 based on 41 studies,⁴⁹ found the following.

- CCTV caused a 16% decrease in crime in the areas studied, in comparison to control areas.
 - The most effective CCTV schemes were in parking facilities, which experienced a 51% decrease in crime. The schemes in other public places, such as city and town centres and around public housing, were small and non-significant, showing a 7% decrease.
-

How it works

CCTV reduces crime by:

- Increasing the risk – CCTV increases an offender’s perception and likelihood of being caught. It also encourages the public to use an area to enhance public surveillance, encourages potential victims to take precautions and creates signalling improvements to public areas that increase community pride. CCTV also aids the effective deployment of security staff to incidents in the most efficient way.
-

Costs and benefits

Re-deployable CCTV cameras are a more cost-efficient method of CCTV, as they are mobile and can be moved more easily between different locations.⁵⁰ In addition, as technology can be expensive, a more cost-effective method to complementary crime control technologies could be bringing additional camera operators or patrol officers into CCTV schemes.⁵¹

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities that have been proposed address the crime problem?
 - Is funding available for ongoing costs post-installation?
-

49 Welsh B and Farrington D. (2009). ‘Public area CCTV and crime prevention: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis’. *Justice Quarterly*, 26(4), pp 716–745.

50 Waples S and Gill M. (2006). ‘The effectiveness of redeployable CCTV’. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 8(1), pp 1–16.

51 Piza EL and others. (2019). ‘CCTV surveillance for crime prevention: a 40-year systematic review with meta-analysis’. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18, pp 135–159.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem⁵²

- What are the areas of concern (to be marked on a site plan)?
- What are the problems, threats and security issues on the site?
- Who are the stakeholders and what do they require on the site?
- What is the risk level of the criminal activity (low, moderate or severe)?
- What are the consequences if the activity was not monitored or recorded (for example, financial loss or the safety of the public)?
- Can you prioritise the criminal activity?
- Are there other, or more effective, methods to tackle this activity?
- Is the criminal activity a short-term or long-term issue?
- What is a successful outcome of CCTV (for example, prevention of theft or damage, or identifying an intruder)?
- What laws are implicated in storing and accessing information?
- How much maintenance and upkeep is required?

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies involved) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?
- Are ongoing costs related to monitoring and upkeep of CCTV budgeted for?

52 Cohen N, Gattuso J and MacLennan-Brown K. (2009). 'CCTV operational requirements manual. Publication no. 28/09'. London: Home Office.

Technical specification

CCTV is not a universal solution to security problems, it forms part of an overall security plan. It can help deter crime and criminal behaviour, assist with the identification of offenders, promote personal safety, and provide reassurance for residents and visitors.

Images of people are covered by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and so is information about people that is derived from images, such as vehicle registration numbers. Most uses of CCTV will be covered by the GDPR, regardless of the number of cameras or how sophisticated the equipment is.

Specifiers are reminded that there will be a requirement for a data controller to ensure compliance with the GDPR. The data controller must ensure that all CCTV images that can be used to identify individuals are used, stored and disclosed in line with the GDPR principles.

It is important that signs are displayed explaining that CCTV is in operation.

A CCTV system should:

- be installed by an NSI (National Security Inspectorate) or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board) approved company
- have CCTV cameras contained in vandal-resistant housings with the facility for ceiling or wall mounting
- record images in colour HD quality
- not be affected by concentrated white-light sources directed at the camera, such as car headlights and street lighting
- ensure that on-site recording equipment or other hard-drive unit is contained in a lockable steel cabinet to LPS 1175 Security Rating 1 (A1) or STS 202 Burglary Rating 1
- identify each camera's location and record this information, along with time and date stamping
- provide suitable methods of export and incorporate the required software to view the exported footage

CCTV cameras should be installed associated with visitor door entry systems covering communal entrances and internal lobby areas. These should be capable of providing images of people that are clearly identifiable on smaller devices, such as smartphones.

Ideally, CCTV systems should be monitored live 24/7, giving the ability to react to a situation as it occurs, as unmonitored systems only provide retrospective images.

However, this is not a requirement of Secured by Design (SBD) for residential developments. Most CCTV systems are designed for recording images and for the post-event investigation only, in which case nobody is required to monitor the activities live. Police recommend that images are stored for a minimum of 31 days.

Early discussions with an independent CCTV expert and potential installers can resolve a number of matters, including:

- monitoring and recording requirements
- activation in association with the intruder alarm
- requirements for observation, facial recognition and identification, and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)
- areas to be monitored and field of view
- activities to be monitored
- the use of recorded images
- maintenance of equipment and the management of recording
- subsequent ongoing training of operatives

Further advice may be obtained from the [Surveillance Camera Commissioner's website](#). This includes the [Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#), which sets out 12 guiding principles that strike a balance between protecting the public and upholding civil liberties. The principles provide a coherent and comprehensive structure to enable good and transparent decision making that will reassure the public that surveillance cameras are used to protect and support communities, rather than to spy on them.

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s website contains a [collection of resources](#) to help people comply with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and follow good practice and legal requirements. This includes the Passport to Compliance, which is aimed at large public-space surveillance camera systems, such as town centre schemes operated by local authorities.

Every police force in England and Wales has appointed a senior responsible officer (SRO) with strategic responsibility for the integrity and efficacy of the processes in place within the police force. SROs ensure compliance with Section 33 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 in support of the chief officer, and in respect of all relevant surveillance camera systems operated by the force. SROs are a source of advice and support for police officers.

See also the [recommended standards for the surveillance camera industry](#).

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime and disorder?
 - How does reported crime and disorder in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - Will the before and after time periods be directly comparable?
 - How does reported crime and disorder in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?

- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen? These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground - which agencies were involved and who led the project?
 - What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Neighbourhood Watch

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on systematic review evidence.

Description

Neighbourhood Watch schemes, which grew out of a movement in the 1960s, encourage the involvement of citizens in activities that promote safety or assist with the prevention of crime. They are known under a variety of different names, including home watch, block watch and community watch. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can be conducted as a stand-alone intervention, or as part of the 'big three', consisting of Neighbourhood Watch, property marking and security surveys.⁵³

Crimes targeted

Burglary (but some evidence suggests that these schemes can also reduce other street crimes).

Effect

Overall, the evidence suggests that Neighbourhood Watch can reduce crime. There are, however, some important considerations, such as variation in practices across schemes, as well as large differences between countries in terms of observed reductions.

The review estimated that overall, for every 100 crimes, an average of 26 crimes were prevented with Neighbourhood Watch (based on 18 studies). There was no evidence of a backfire effect (where crime increases) across the evaluations reviewed. The review noted that Neighbourhood Watch schemes appeared to be more effective in the US studies, with an average of 47 crimes prevented per 100 crimes, compared with the UK, where an average of 15 crimes were prevented per 100 crimes.⁵⁴

53 Bennett T, Holloway K and Farrington D. (2008). 'The effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch: a systematic review'. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 4(1), pp 1-46.

54 Bennett, Holloway and Farrington (2008) *ibid*.

From analysis of CSEW data for 2000,⁵⁵ there is additional evidence that living in a Neighbourhood Watch area has an 11% residential burglary reductive effect for resident households, especially for vulnerable households, all other things being equal. Also, burglaries fell between 1997 and 2007/08 more in Neighbourhood Watch areas than others.⁵⁶

The evidence within the systematic review relates predominantly to a period before social media, so it is important to be aware that the methods and impact may be affected by the potential of improved communication channels.

How it works

Neighbourhood Watch works by:

- Increasing the risks – residents have greater awareness of suspicious activity and are more likely to report this to the police.
 - Reducing opportunities – Neighbourhood Watch schemes may encourage activities that increase signs of activity in residential areas, discouraging offenders from entering properties when residents appear away.
-

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

Reviews of Neighbourhood Watch schemes suggest that they can be appropriate for areas with low, medium or high crime rates, although the emphasis on specific activities can differ according to the crime rate in the local area.⁵⁷

55 Tseloni A. (2006). 'Multilevel modelling of the number of property crimes: household and area effects'. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 169(2), pp 205–233.

56 Hunter J and Tseloni A. (2016). 'Equity, justice and the crime drop: the case of burglary in England and Wales'. *Crime Science*, 5(3).

57 Laycock G and Tilley N. (1995). 'Policing and Neighbourhood Watch: strategic issues'. Police Research Group Crime Detection and Prevention Series: Paper No 60. London: Home Office.

- Low-crime areas: A commitment to adhere to a set of standards, such as reporting suspicious behaviour and phoning the police after an offence has been committed. These schemes only require passive involvement from the police.
- Medium-crime areas: Maintenance of existing schemes in terms of fundraising events and liaising with local partner agencies to ensure that crime does not increase. It is also important that any evidence of criminal activity, such as vandalism, is promptly addressed. The police should be actively involved with multi-agency working and should provide appropriate crime data.
- High-crime areas: Neighbourhood Watch schemes in high-crime areas should focus on increasing community control and decreasing tolerance of crime. There is a clear need for multi-agency working and strong community coordinators. The police may need to take the lead in implementing Neighbourhood Watch schemes in these areas.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- What is the crime rate in the target area? What crimes are being committed?
- What levels of fear of crime exist in the target area?
- Do you have a similar area to act as a comparison group in your evaluation?

Consultation

- Which partner agencies need to be involved in the scheme?
- Can you identify a local resident to act as the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator?
- Which activities (for example, community meetings) need to occur?

Feasibility

- Is your plan feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

Neighbourhood Watch provide specialist advice, support and guidance, such as toolkits, training and resources to people who want to develop an active Neighbourhood Watch. This includes high-crime areas and areas of high social disadvantage, ensuring inclusion of under-represented communities and those who may otherwise be isolated. For more information about establishing a Neighbourhood Watch, please see www.ourwatch.org.uk or contact enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk

During implementation

- Is the scheme working as anticipated?

Assessing impact

- What differences in crime rates can be measured between the two areas?
- What differences in fear of crime can be measured between the two areas?
- Were there any issues with the scheme? If so, were they resolved (and how)?
- Were any lessons learned from the process?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Targeted interventions for repeat victims

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on systematic review evidence.

Description

Repeat victimisation is defined as ‘when the same person or place suffers from more than one incident over a specified period of time’. It can be caused by either flagging, whereby a victim is identified as being attractive to offenders, or by the likelihood of further victimisation being boosted by an initial criminal act. With regard to burglary offences, specific addresses can be flagged to offenders as high-gain targets, and the likelihood of repeat victimisation is boosted by the knowledge of layout and belongings obtained after commission of the first burglary offence.⁵⁸ This is also true of those houses nearby^{59,60} and of similar design ‘near repeats’, with the risk being highest in the initial period after the first offence.⁶¹

The process by which repeat victimisation is addressed is as follows:

- identification of properties that are at risk of repeat burglary
- implementation of one or more of the following tactics:
 - target hardening, a tactic whereby properties are made more secure
 - cocoon watch (otherwise known as cocooning or super-cocooning), the provision of crime prevention advice and guidance to neighbours of burgled properties

58 Grove L. (2011). ‘Preventing repeat domestic burglary: a meta-evaluation of studies from Australia, the UK, and the United States’. *Victims & Offenders*, 6(4), pp 370–385.

59 Pease K. (1998). ‘Repeat victimisation: taking stock’. *Crime Detection and Prevention Series Paper 90*. London: Home Office.

60 Shaw M and Pease K. (2000). ‘Research on repeat victimisation in Scotland: final report’. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive Central Research Unit.

61 Johnson S and Bowers K. (2004). ‘The stability of space-time clusters of burglary’. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 44(1), pp 55–65.

- property marking to enable easy identification if stolen
- security surveys – tailored crime prevention advice from crime reduction staff

Crimes targeted

Domestic burglary.

Effect

Effect of interventions for repeat victims

A systematic review of 22 repeat domestic burglary prevention evaluations in Australia (six studies), the USA (three studies) and the UK (13 studies) showed a significant reduction in burglary repeat victimisation, with the UK programmes generally showing greater effects than the US and Australian studies.⁶²

Studies that evaluated cocooning as a single intervention found the following.

- A study conducted in Manchester found that creating a 400m buffer around homes reporting domestic burglary, and subjecting these areas to enhanced police reassurance patrols for three weeks, resulted in a 26.6% reduction in burglary compared with the 12 months prior to the intervention.⁶³
- Western Australia Police piloted an eight-month targeted burglary prevention initiative that involved distribution of crime prevention leaflets to burglary victims and their immediate neighbours within 48 hours of the offence. The pamphlet was distributed by a combination of mail and in-person visits. Results showed a significant decrease in the likelihood of near-repeat burglary within five days and 200m from the target address.⁶⁴

62 Grove L. (2011). 'Preventing repeat domestic burglary: a meta-evaluation of studies from Australia, the UK, and the United States'. *Victims & Offenders*, 6(4), pp 370–385.

63 Fielding M and Jones V. (2012). 'Disrupting the optimal forager: predictive risk mapping and domestic burglary reduction in Trafford, Greater Manchester'. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 14(1), pp 30-41.

64 Stokes N and Clare J. (2019). 'Preventing near-repeat residential burglary through cocooning: post-hoc evaluation of a targeted police-led pilot intervention'. *Security Journal*, 32(1), pp 45-62.

- A 12-month study of the effect of cocooning visits by police community support officers (PCSOs) to provide crime prevention advice to victims of burglary in Thames Valley was conducted in 2013/14. The study involved visits to approximately 26 houses nearest to the target address being attended, with leaflets left if the homeowner was not present. Results from this study showed a statistically significant reduction in repeat burglaries after the intervention was implemented, compared with a similar time period prior to this.⁶⁵
- Similar research was conducted in Birmingham, whereby homes burgled within the treatment area were provided with a ‘gold package’, consisting of LED units that shone light against the window (creating the appearance of a television being on), electronic timers, door and window chimes, a crime prevention sticker, and details of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area. The four homes closest to the burgled house received ‘silver packages’ and their subsequent four neighbours received ‘bronze packages’. The silver packages contained the same items as the gold packages but without LED units and stickers. The bronze packages were the same as the silver packages but without door chimes. Crime prevention visits were completed by uniformed PCSOs. A comparison of repeat victimisation between the areas receiving the intervention and the control showed that houses receiving the intervention were less likely to suffer repeat victimisation, although the findings were not statistically significant.⁶⁶

How it works

Interventions targeting repeat victims work by:

- Increasing the effort – target-hardening tactics increase the effort required to commit burglary at identified properties.
- Increasing the risk – heightened awareness of suspicious activity by residents increases risk of detection.

65 Weems JR. (2014). ‘Testing PCSO cocooning of near repeat burglary locations’. MSt thesis, University of Cambridge. [Unpublished]

66 Johnson S and others. (2017). ‘Evaluation of operation swordfish: a near-repeat target-hardening strategy’. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 13(3), pp 505–525.

Costs and benefits

- Costs will be dependent on the types of tactics used. A cost-benefit ratio of £1:£2.53 is reported in the Thames Valley cocooning study.⁶⁷ Costs of the Birmingham scheme were approximately £12 per household.⁶⁸

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Different tactics (or combinations of) may be more effective depending on the socio-economic composition of the target area and existing security measures. A detailed analysis of offending data, including method of entry, will provide a useful indication of potentially valid tactics.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem⁶⁹

- Choosing relevant areas for the tactic
 - Which area will receive the crime reduction tactic chosen?
 - How will the success of the chosen tactic be measured? Has a comparable area been identified?
- Understanding the issue and potential solutions
 - What proportion of the burglaries are being committed by prolific offenders and what proportion by occasional ones?

67 Weems JR. (2014). 'Testing PCSO cocooning of near repeat burglary locations'. MSt thesis, University of Cambridge. [Unpublished]

68 Johnson S and others. (2017). 'Evaluation of operation swordfish: a near-repeat target-hardening strategy'. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 13(3), pp 505–525.

69 Curtin L and others. (2001). 'Developing crime reduction plans: some examples from the Reducing Burglary Initiative. Crime Reduction Research Series Paper 7'. London: Home Office.

- How persistent are the prolific offenders over time?
- How does the offender know about, find or encounter the target?
- How does the offender get away?
- How does the offender dispose of stolen goods?
- How many offenders are involved in the commission of each offence?
- How do the offenders learn how to commit burglary?
- How do they pick target dwellings?
- How do they decide what to steal?
- How are the burglaries committed?
- Are the burglars specialists in domestic burglary or are they generalists?
- How far do the burglars travel to commit their crimes, and how do they get to burglary locations?
- Are there special needs lying behind the decisions to commit burglaries?
- Are there distinctive attributes of those committing the burglaries?
- Are the burglars using special MOs?
- How good is the surveillance and how good are the conditions for surveillance?
- What is drawing offenders to the target or area?
- How do MOs vary by location in which the burglaries are taking place?
- Do the proposed tactics address the issues highlighted in the questions above?

Project management

- Is there a systematic structure in place for monitoring progress?
- Is there a process to manage victim referrals into the scheme?

Consultation

- Are key staff, such as local police officers, aware of the scheme and the referrals process?
- If the scheme involves a number of agencies, have relevant agreements been reached in terms of roles and responsibilities?

Feasibility

- Is it feasible to implement your chosen interventions, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- No technical specifications are available. For details of projects that have involved schemes to address repeat burglary victimisation, please see the attached reference list.

During implementation

- Is the referral process working as anticipated?
- Is the intervention being offered and delivered to the appropriate people?
- If a number of separate tactics are being offered to eligible households, is the eligibility criteria being adhered to?
- Are the measures identified acceptable to householders or is there resistance to the proposed tactics?

Assessing impact

- Has the programme or tactic been implemented as expected?
- Has a reduction in the number of repeat burglaries been observed in the areas receiving the intervention(s), compared to areas that did not?
- Have there been any changes in the nature of offending that can be attributed to the interventions implemented?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Property marking

Evidence quality

Strong

Based on multiple high-quality single studies.

Description

Property marking involves adding the house number and postcode to items of property, therefore making it easier for these items to be returned to the relevant householder if stolen. Property marking can be carried out by the use of UV pens, security tags, radiofrequency identification (RFID) devices or microdot solutions (solutions containing a uniquely coded digital signature).

Crimes targeted

Burglary, cycle theft.

Effect

Studies that evaluated the effectiveness of property marking found the following.

- A quasi-experiment involved the distribution of 345 property marking kits and window/door stickers to households, and changes in burglary in the treatment area was compared to three control areas. Burglary decreased significantly by 82% in the treatment areas in comparison with the control areas (not receiving kits) in the first six months of the intervention. A significant diffusion of benefits was also observed in terms of a reduction in vehicle crime and criminal damage. However, the decreases were short-lived with burglaries returning to pre-intervention levels in the treatment areas after 12 months.⁷⁰
- A study conducted in South Wales in 1983 involved visits to target properties by crime prevention officers, who provided advice and

70 Chaaney S. (2021). 'A quasi-experimental evaluation of the impact of forensic property marking in decreasing burglaries'. Security Journal [Internet]. Available from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41284-021-00308-z#article-info> [Accessed 13 January 2022]

assistance to mark items using marker pens containing ink that was only visible under UV light. Stickers were also supplied for residents to place in their windows, which advertised that property in the address was marked. A comparison of the number of burglaries committed 12 months before the scheme commenced versus 12 months after the scheme showed a statistically significant (40%) reduction.⁷¹

- A study carried out in Western Australia in 2015 compared areas that did not receive property-marking advice with an area that received a property-marking kit, which consisted of ink containing unique identifiers, warning labels and window stickers. These were distributed by members of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. This study found a significant reduction in the number of burglaries in the area that received property-marking kits compared to the control area. However, the authors recommended that over 80% saturation of the property-marking kits needed to be achieved for the intervention to be effective. In addition to this, property marking needs to be clear and evident to the potential offender.⁷²
- A study conducted in five London boroughs involved PCSO attendance at households to carry out liquid property marking, as well as providing window stickers and crime prevention advice. This study found a significant reduction in domestic burglary when compared with a control group within the same borough. No significant crime or offence displacement was noted.⁷³

All three of the studies detailed above provided crime prevention advice (in terms of personal interaction with householders and/or posters and other signage) in addition to property marking kits.

71 Laycock G. (1985). 'Property marking: a deterrent to domestic burglary?' Home Office Crime Prevention Unit Paper 3. London: Home Office.

72 Brooks DJ and others. (2015). 'Efficacy of property marking as a situational crime prevention strategy'. In: The Proceedings of the 8th Australian Security and Intelligence Conference, Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus, Perth, Australia. 30th November – 2nd December 2015, pp 5-11.

73 Raphael I. (2015). 'Cooling hot property? An assessment of the impact of property marking on residential burglary crime reduction, crime displacement or diffusion of benefits and public confidence'. DCrimJ thesis, University of Portsmouth. [Unpublished]

How it works

Property marking works by:

- Reducing the rewards – items marked with postcodes will be easier to trace and harder to sell. Signage that notifies offenders that property is security marked can also deter theft.
-

Costs and benefits

- The South Wales study concluded (based on 1983 prices)⁷⁴ that if the scheme prevented 15 or more burglaries in the target areas, then the scheme would be cost-effective.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Property marking has been shown to be most effective when over 80% of local residents mark their property,⁷⁵ so areas with a low uptake (such as student areas) may not benefit from this approach.
- Property marking should be carried out in conjunction with crime prevention advice and publicity. See relevant sections in this guide for further details.

74 Laycock G. (1985). 'Property marking: a deterrent to domestic burglary?' Home Office Crime Prevention Unit Paper 3. London: Home Office.

75 Brooks DJ and others. (2015). 'Efficacy of property marking as a situational crime prevention strategy'. In: The Proceedings of the 8th Australian Security and Intelligence Conference, Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus, Perth, Australia. 30th November – 2nd December 2015, pp 5-11.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- What is the crime rate in the target areas? Is there a problem to address?
- What is being stolen?
- How does the offender dispose of stolen goods?
- Can areas that receive the property-marking intervention, and areas that do not, be identified (for the purposes of evaluation)? Are these comparable?

Consultation

- How will the property-marking kits be distributed?
- Who will be responsible for distributing the property-marking kits?
- Which property-marking kits will be used (see technical specifications below)?
- Will property be marked by the staff attending the address or will the resident do it?

Feasibility

- Is the plan feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- Technical specifications for property marking can be found [here](#).

During implementation

- If the resident is responsible for marking property, will a follow-up visit be required to check compliance?

Assessing impact

- Is there a reduction in burglary offences before and after the intervention was implemented?
- Is there a reduction in burglary in the area that received the property-marking kits compared to the area that did not (the control area)?

[Click to return to response summary list: **Response**](#)

Intervention: Closing roads, footpaths and subways

Evidence quality

Moderate

Based on a number of single studies using before-and-after methodology.

Description

Closing roads and footpaths can prevent crime because there is a relationship between street access and crime rates. This is because:

- offenders find targets in familiar territory
- offenders are more likely to avoid cul-de-sacs where the probability of being observed is higher
- access to properties is restricted
- reducing entrance and exit routes can make it more difficult to escape without being seen⁷⁶

Crimes targeted

Burglary, robbery, drugs offences, violent crime.

76 Clarke R. (2005). 'Closing streets and alleys to reduce crime: should you go down this road?'. ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing. Available from popcenter.asu.edu/content/closing-streets-and-alleys-reduce-crime [Accessed 13 December 2019]

Effect

Clarke (2005)⁷⁷ identified 10 studies investigating the effect of road closures on crime, either as a stand-alone intervention, or as part of a range of different crime reduction techniques. All studies showed a reduction in crime, with little or no displacement being recorded for burglary. In addition to this, research conducted by Johnson and Bowers (2010) found that risk of burglary was associated with increased permeability – burglary risk was lower in cul-de-sacs and higher on major roads.⁷⁸

How it works

Changes to roads, footpaths and subways reduce crime by:

- Increasing the risks – enhanced natural surveillance within areas subject to road and footpath closures.
-

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

77 Clarke (2005) *ibid.*

78 Johnson S and Bowers K. (2010). 'Permeability and burglary risk: are cul-de-sacs safer?'. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 26(1), pp 89–111.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- What is the potential cost of improvements?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies or local authorities) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

Road closure

- There may be situations where permanent road closures are necessary. If this solution forms part of your response, further advice should be sought from your local Highways Authority in the first instance.

Traffic calming

- Vehicular and pedestrian routes should be designed to ensure that they are visually open, direct and well-used, and that they do not undermine the defensible space of neighbourhoods.
- Design features can help to identify the acceptable routes through a development, thereby encouraging their use, and in doing so enhance the feeling of safety.
- Where it is desirable to limit access or use to residents and their legitimate visitors, features such as rumble strips, change of road surface (by colour or texture), pillars, brick piers or narrowing of the carriageway may be used. This helps to define the defensible space, psychologically giving the impression that the area beyond is private.
- Traffic calming measures help to reduce the speed and volume of traffic passing through an area. This can help to reduce anti-social behaviour caused by cars, motorcycles, scooters or mopeds, improving the quality of the local environment for people living in the area.
- This can be achieved using the following measures:
 - road humps
 - mini roundabouts
 - footway build-outs
 - chicanes
 - priority junctions
 - central islands
 - reduced speed limits
- If this solution forms part of your response, further advice should be sought from your local Highways Authority in the first instance.

Footpath closure

- There are advantages in some road layout patterns over others, especially where the pattern frustrates the searching behaviour of the criminal and their need to escape.

- While it is accepted that through routes often form part of the development layout, the security of the development must not be compromised by excessive permeability, for instance by allowing the criminal legitimate access to the rear or side boundaries of dwellings, or by providing too many or unnecessary segregated footpaths.
- If this solution forms part of your response, further advice should be sought from your local Highways Authority in the first instance.

Subways

- If the subway is already in existence and it is necessary to retain it, it should be well-lit with vandal-resistant lighting and should be as wide and as short as possible, with a clear line of sight to the exit. Chamfering the access points can help to reduce areas of concealment. Radius (convex) entrance and exit walls can reduce the length of the subway and the opportunity for inappropriate loitering.
- If the subway is under-used and offers little value to local residents but provides a gathering point for anti-social and intimidating behaviour, consideration should be given to closing it.
- Where graffiti is an issue, an anti-graffiti finish can be applied to the surfaces to prevent paint from bonding to them and to allow easy removal.

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?
- It is worth being aware that there can be conflicts and contradictions with local and national planning policy, which may be pushing connectivity in terms of walkability and sustainability?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?

- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?
These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Secure parking facilities

Evidence quality

Moderate

Based on single studies, including before-and-after evaluation with unmatched control groups.

Description

Parking facilities can be a focal point for vehicle crime, with 9% of all vehicle crimes being committed in work or public parking facilities in 2017/18.⁷⁹ Improved security in parking facilities can help to address this issue.

Improvements to parking facilities consist of:

- orientation of parking bays
- lighting
- pedestrian access
- signage
- landscaping
- security patrols
- CCTV systems⁸⁰

Crimes targeted

Vehicle theft, anti-social behaviour.

79 Office for National Statistics (2019). 'Nature of crime: vehicle-related theft' [internet]. Available from ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/natureofcrimevehiclerelatedtheft [Accessed 2 December 2019]

80 Smith DG, Gregson M and Morgan J. (2003). 'Between the lines: an evaluation of the Secured Car Park Award Scheme'. Home Office Research Study 266. London: Home Office.

Effect

In 2003, the Home Office measured the effectiveness of the Secured Car Park Award Scheme⁸¹ (now called The Park Mark Safer Parking Scheme). The scheme involved awarding ‘secured car park’ status to parking facilities that met the required standards in terms of security, with features such as levels of formal surveillance, lighting, access control and physical appearance being found to be useful in reducing the levels of vehicle crime within existing high-crime parking facilities. It was also found that applying these standards to the construction of new parking facilities also led to low crime levels, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

In addition to the reduction of vehicle crime within secured car parks, the study found that improving parking facilities to the Secured Car Park Award standard increased use of the parking facilities and also reduced fear of crime in these areas.

How it works

Secured parking facilities reduce crime by:

- Increasing the effort – controlling access to and from parking facilities can prevent theft of motor vehicles.
 - Increasing the risks – improving surveillance through patrols and CCTV can deter offenders by increasing the likelihood of apprehension.
 - Reducing the rewards – off-street parking can prevent opportunist vehicle crime from occurring. By turning public space into private space, offenders will not be able to find plausible reasons for being in this area when challenged.
-

Costs and benefits

The 2003 study⁸² found that improvements to parking facility security would provide significant benefits, including the following.

- Parking would be safer and more secure, with fewer losses to car owners from thefts of – and from – vehicles, and less damage to vehicles.
 - Safer and more attractive parking facilities would be used more, increasing revenue from parking charges and benefitting local businesses.
-

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

This intervention is suitable for areas with high levels of vehicle crime (or fear of crime) within existing parking facilities, or for areas considering the construction of new parking facilities.

Implementation lessons

Getting started⁸³

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- Is vehicle crime (or fear of crime) an issue in local car parks?
- How are the crimes being committed? What is the MO of offenders?
- Are the crimes opportunistic or planned?
- What is the occupancy level of the car park? Is it used?

Consultation

- Is permission for the improvements necessary from other agencies?

Feasibility

- How much will the scheme cost?
- Is planning permission required?
- Is your funding time-limited?

Technical specification

- Vehicles should either be parked in locked garages or on a hard-standing within the dwelling boundary. In high-crime areas, a gate or bollard may be required to protect the hard-standing parking area.

⁸³ Clarke RV and Goldstein H. (2003). 'Thefts from cars in center-city parking facilities: a case study in implementing problem-oriented policing'. *Crime Prevention Studies*, 15, pp 257-298.

However, caution should be taken to ensure that this is not the fire service emergency access route.

- Parking bays should ideally benefit from good natural surveillance, for example, being overlooked by the clear windows of public buildings and private dwellings. A location with good footfall is also desirable, to ensure there are sufficient people nearby who may notice suspicious activity and contact police. A bay in a secluded area or even one situated on its own within a traffic island site can be targeted heavily, as there are no passing pedestrians who may notice a theft taking place. Surrounding buildings with opaque or transfer-covered windows will also provide little benefit.
- Where communal parking areas are necessary, bays should be sited in small groups, close and adjacent to homes, within view of active rooms and allocated to individual properties. The word ‘active’ in this sense means rooms in building elevations from which there is direct and regular visual connection between the room and the street or parking court. Such visual connections can be expected from rooms such as kitchens and living rooms, but not from more private rooms, such as bedrooms and bathrooms.
- Parking bays surrounded by vegetation or other obstructions (such as utility boxes) may provide cover for suspects to interfere with vehicles. An encroaching or uncontrolled undergrowth can hinder natural surveillance, restrict access for the car user, affect the fall of light from nearby columns and hinder any CCTV coverage. Shrubs should be selected to have a mature growth height no higher than one metre. Trees should have no foliage, shoots or lower branches below two metres, thereby allowing a one-metre clear field of vision.
- Where parking is adjacent to – or between – units, a gable end window could be considered to allow residents an unrestricted view over their vehicles.
- Rear parking courtyards often provide access to vulnerable rear elevations of dwellings where the majority of burglary is perpetrated. In private developments, such areas are often left unlit and therefore increase the fear of crime. Un-gated courtyards provide areas of concealment that can encourage anti-social behaviour. Where rear parking courtyards are considered absolutely necessary, they must be

protected by a gate that meets one of the following standards:

- LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 1
 - LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1 (A1)
 - STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1
 - LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A
- Where gardens abut the communal parking area, an appropriate boundary treatment – for example, a 1.5m fence supplemented by trellis to a height of 1.8m – will assist with natural surveillance.
 - Communal parking facilities must be lit to the relevant levels, as recommended by BS 5489-1:2013, and a certificate of compliance must be provided.

Basement and undercroft parking facilities

- Vehicle and pedestrian access should be kept to a minimum. Undercroft parking facilities that provide unrestricted access to the vehicles may require barriers or security screens around the perimeter to channel all legitimate users through dedicated vehicle and pedestrian entrances and exits.
- Inward-opening automatic gates or roller grilles must be located at the building line or entrance to undercroft parking, or at the top of ramps for basement parking facilities, to avoid the creation of a recess. They must be capable of being operated remotely by the driver from the vehicle. The operation speed of the gates or shutters should be as quick as possible to avoid tailgating by other vehicles. This will allow easy access for drivers with disabilities and should satisfy the requirements of the Highways Department, who under normal circumstances do not permit vehicles to obstruct the pedestrian footway while the driver is unlocking the gate.
- Automatic gates or roller shutters must be certificated to one of the following minimum security standards:
 - LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 1
 - LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1 (A1)
 - STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1

- LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A

- Automated gates that are supplied and installed must meet the relevant statutory safety standards and be CE marked accordingly. Specifiers may wish to satisfy themselves that installers of powered gates are appropriately qualified and trained, and that they follow recognised industry guidance. The following organisations provide guidance and training for installers.
- Door Hardware Federation (DHF) – the DHF has a revised Code of Practice (DHF TS 011), which is designed to raise standards of powered gate safety. Gates installed to the new Code of Practice will be inspected by the NSI.
- Gate Safe – the Gate Safe organisation produces operational good practice guidance designed to raise standards in this industry sector.
- Lighting must be at the levels recommended by BS 5489-1:2013.
- Walls and ceilings should have light colour finishes to maximise the effectiveness of the lighting, as this will reduce the luminaires required to achieve an acceptable light level. Reflective paint can reduce the number of luminaires needed to achieve the desired lighting level and reduce long-term running costs.
- Any internal doors that allow access to the residential floors must have an access control system.
- All basement and undercroft parking facility specifications must be agreed with the fire safety officer.

Keyless ignition vehicles

- Keyless ignition systems come with a fob that, when kept in close proximity to the receiver inside the vehicle, transmits a signal to the car's computer system. When validated, this allows the car to be unlocked, started and driven away. Faraday bags prevent the transmission of the signal between the fob and the vehicle.
- Drivers of keyless ignition vehicles are advised to put their keys into a Faraday bag to prevent the signal being intercepted by potential car thieves.

During implementation

- What are potential users' views of the changes being made?
- Are the improvements being carried out as expected? Are there any problems?

Assessing impact

- Was a decrease in crime observed after the changes were implemented?
- Can changes in crime be compared to a similar parking facility where improvements were not made?
- Were there any changes in the fear of crime levels after the improvements were made?
- Did the occupancy level of the parking facility increase after the improvements were made?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Publicity

Evidence quality

Moderate

Based on single studies employing before-and-after data with or without unmatched control groups. Systematic review evidence exists for the effect of publicity on anti-social behaviour.

Description

One technique of Situational Crime Prevention revolves around the removal of opportunities to commit crime. This can be achieved through changes to the physical environment, or by influencing offender perceptions of potential risks and opportunities.⁸⁴ Publicising crime prevention activities is a potentially effective method of reducing crime by influencing offender perceptions.

Crimes targeted

Domestic burglary, cycle theft, vehicle theft, anti-social behaviour.

Effect

Four different types of publicity were identified within 21 Reducing Burglary Initiative projects carried out in the north of England.⁸⁵ These could be categorised as follows:

- **General publicity**
 - uncontrolled publicity:
 - radio interviews
 - newspaper articles
 - television appearances (local and national)

84 Bowers KJ and Johnson SD. (2003). 'The role of publicity in crime prevention: findings from the Reducing Burglary Initiative'. Home Office Research Study 272. London: Home Office.

85 Bowers and Johnson (2003) *ibid.*

- controlled publicity:
 - leaflets, letters and cards
 - posters
 - publicity directed at offenders (such as Christmas cards)
 - stickers (Neighbourhood Watch and property marking)
 - community meetings
 - informal information to community and offenders
- **Stand-alone publicity campaigns**
- **Surveys** (including fear of crime, alley gating and target hardening)
- **Other** (any other form of publicity)

Analysis of the crime reduction effect of the identified projects showed the following.⁸⁶

- Schemes running publicity campaigns prior to the implementation of the Reducing Burglary Initiative reported that rates of burglary started to fall before the initiative was rolled out, suggesting that publicity was at least partly responsible for the observed reduction in crime.
- Schemes that spent more per household on advertising showed larger burglary savings than those who had spent less.
- Four of the five most cost-effective schemes implemented stand-alone publicity campaigns.

For vehicle crime, in response to an increasing rate of vehicle theft in Queensland, Australia, an intervention titled Project HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) was developed. This was a community awareness campaign that aimed to encourage the use of vehicle security devices. This intervention involved a state-wide advertising campaign through television, regional newspapers and magazines, as well as a letter sent from the Commissioner of Police to individuals renewing their car registration. The study found that there was an increased awareness of the scheme and a significant reduction in vehicle theft after the scheme was introduced. It is unclear whether this is due to increased awareness on the part of car owners, prompting a greater likelihood that security measures would be used, or whether offenders were more aware that there was a focus on vehicle theft, leading to a reluctance to offend.⁸⁷

86 Bowers and Johnson (2003) *ibid*.

87 Wortley R, Kane R and Grant F. (1998). 'Public awareness and auto-theft prevention: getting it right for the wrong reason'. *Security Journal*, 10, pp 59-64.

For cycle theft, brightly coloured stickers that promoted secure locking practices were placed in prominent positions on bike stands that had previously been identified as being used to poorly secure bikes in central London. In addition to the sticker, a tag was attached that provided a clear illustration of good locking practices. Following the introduction of the stickers, bad locking practices decreased and good locking practices increased within the areas where the stickers were used.⁸⁸

A systematic review of the effect of ‘watching eye’ posters on anti-social behaviour such as littering showed a 35% reduction in the risk of anti-social behaviour when eye cues are present.⁸⁹

The Home Office produced guidance in 2013 that outlined lessons learned from policing partners when delivering communication campaigns to prevent theft from the person offences.⁹⁰ This guidance can be viewed [here](#). No literature has been identified that tests the effectiveness of publicity in reducing robbery or theft from the person.

How it works

Publicity reduces crime by:

- **Increasing the risks** – publicity can influence offenders’ perceptions of risk and reward, discouraging criminal activity on the basis that apprehension is more likely.

Costs and benefits

Data collected as part of the 2003 evaluation of the Reducing Burglary Initiative stated that the average costs of a stand-alone publicity campaign was £17,900.⁹¹

88 Sidebottom A, Thorpe A and Johnson SD. (2009). ‘Using targeted publicity to reduce opportunities for bicycle theft: a demonstration and replication’. *European Journal of Criminology*, 6(3), pp 267–286.

89 Dear K, Dutton K, and Fox, E. (2019). ‘Do ‘watching eyes’ influence antisocial behaviour? A systematic review and meta-analysis.. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 40, pp.269-280

90 Home Office. (2013). ‘Theft from the person: information pack for partners’. London: Home Office.

91 Bowers KJ and Johnson SD. (2003). ‘The role of publicity in crime prevention: findings from the Reducing Burglary Initiative’. Home Office Research Study 272. London: Home Office.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?
- Is a stand-alone publicity campaign appropriate, or should this be implemented as part of a wider combination of crime prevention initiatives?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- What type of publicity is appropriate for the location and the audience?
- Who will design and produce the publicity material?
- When should the publicity be delivered in relation to other interventions being implemented?
- How long should the publicity campaign run for?
- Are the messages in the publicity clear?
- Has the publicity been tested on the target audience?

Consultation

- Is consultation with stakeholders necessary? If so, have relevant individuals and groups been identified and consulted?

Feasibility

- Is the proposed publicity campaign feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- No technical specifications have been identified.

During implementation

- Is the publicity material as specified?
 - Is the publicity campaign being delivered to the agreed target audience in the manner expected?
-

Assessing impact

- If the publicity material is delivered ahead of other interventions, has the possibility of anticipatory benefits been considered for the analysis of data?
- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has a reduction in crime led to an increase in other crime within the target area?
- Has the reduction of crime within the target block led to an increase in crime in the neighbouring area?
- Has the scheme resulted in a change in offender MO?
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Crime prevention advice

Evidence quality

Moderate

Single studies employing before-and-after data with or without unmatched control groups (although some related studies may be rated as strong).

Description

This involves personal contact with individuals who have either experienced crime or are at risk of being victims. This is likely to be a discussion with the victim or potential victim to highlight any vulnerabilities to crime, together with the provision of crime prevention literature. In some cases, this may also involve provision of physical devices (such as stickers, or devices to turn lights on at a certain time) to assist to prevent the individual from becoming a victim of crime or further victimisation.

Crimes targeted

Burglary, cycle crime, vehicle crime.

Effect

Crime prevention advice is usually used in conjunction with other crime prevention initiatives.

Burglary

For burglary offences, crime prevention advice can be used with techniques to prevent repeat offending against a previous victim. See the toolkit on repeat victimisation and cocooning for further details.

Studies employing tactics to prevent repeat victimisation include the following.

- Western Australia Police piloted an eight-month targeted burglary prevention initiative that involved the distribution of crime prevention leaflets to burglary victims and their immediate neighbours within 48 hours of the offence. The pamphlet was distributed by a combination of

mail and in-person visits. Results showed a significant decrease in the likelihood of near-repeat burglary within five days and 200m from the target address.⁹²

- A 12-month study of the effect of cocooning visits by PCSOs to provide crime prevention advice to victims of burglary in Thames Valley was conducted in 2013/14. The study involved visits to approximately 26 houses nearest to the target address being attended, with leaflets left if the homeowner was not present. Results from this study showed a statistically significant reduction in repeat burglaries after the intervention was implemented compared with a similar time period prior to this.⁹³
- Similar research was conducted in Birmingham, whereby homes burgled within the treatment area were provided with a ‘gold package’, consisting of LED units that shone light against the window (creating the appearance of a television being on), electronic timers, door and window chimes, a crime prevention sticker, and details of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area. The four homes closest to the burgled house received ‘silver packages’ and their subsequent four neighbours received ‘bronze packages’. The silver packages contained the same items as the gold packages, but without LED units and stickers. The bronze packages were the same as silver packages but without door chimes. Crime prevention visits were completed by uniformed PCSOs. A comparison of repeat victimisation between the areas receiving the intervention and the control showed that houses receiving the intervention were less likely to suffer repeat victimisation, although the findings were not statistically significant.⁹⁴

Crime prevention advice has also been used in conjunction with property marking.

- A study conducted in South Wales in 1983 involved visits to target properties by crime prevention officers, who provided advice and assistance to mark items using marker pens containing ink that was only visible under UV light. Stickers were also supplied for residents to place

92 Stokes N and Clare J. (2019). ‘Preventing near-repeat residential burglary through cocooning: post-hoc evaluation of a targeted police-led pilot intervention’. *Security Journal*, 32(1), pp 45–62.

93 Weems JR. (2014). ‘Testing PCSO cocooning of near repeat burglary locations’. MSt thesis, University of Cambridge. [Unpublished]

94 Johnson S and others. (2017). ‘Evaluation of operation swordfish: a near-repeat target-hardening strategy’. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 13(3), pp 505–525.

in their windows, which advertised that property in the address was marked. A comparison of the number of burglaries committed 12 months before the scheme commenced versus 12 months after the scheme showed a statistically significant (40%) reduction.⁹⁵

- A study carried out in Western Australia in 2015 compared areas which did not receive property-marking advice with an area that received a property-marking kit, which consisted of ink containing unique identifiers, warning labels and window stickers. These were distributed by members of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. This study found a significant reduction in the number of burglaries in the area that received property-marking kits compared to the control area. However, the authors recommended that over 80% saturation of the property-marking kits needed to be achieved for the intervention to be effective. In addition to this, property marking needs to be clear and evident to the potential offender.⁹⁶
- A study conducted in five London boroughs involved PCSO attendance at households to carry out liquid property marking, as well as providing window stickers and crime prevention advice. This study found a significant reduction in domestic burglary when compared with a control group within the same borough. No significant crime or offence displacement was noted.⁹⁷

Cycle theft

For cycle theft, schemes that involved advice targeted to owners of poorly secured bikes have been shown to be effective.

Two studies examined the effect of targeted publicity campaigns as part of a range of crime prevention techniques.

95 Laycock G. (1985). 'Property marking: a deterrent to domestic burglary?' Home Office Crime Prevention Unit Paper 3. London: Home Office.

96 Brooks DJ and others. (2015). 'Efficacy of property marking as a situational crime prevention strategy'. In: The Proceedings of the 8th Australian Security and Intelligence Conference, Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus, Perth, Australia. 30th November – 2nd December 2015, pp 5-11.

97 Raphael I. (2015). 'Cooling hot property? An assessment of the impact of property marking on residential burglary crime reduction, crime displacement or diffusion of benefits and public confidence'. DCrimJ thesis, University of Portsmouth. [Unpublished]

- In Leuven, Belgium, a targeted publicity campaign titled ‘Lock It or Lose It’ was implemented, which involved attaching cards to inadequately locked bikes, with advice on how to secure them. A 19% reduction in bicycle theft was reported during the first six months of the scheme.⁹⁸
- In central London, brightly coloured stickers that promoted secure locking practices were placed in prominent position on bike stands that had previously been identified as being used to poorly secure bikes. In addition to the sticker, a tag was attached that provided a clear illustration of good locking practices. Following the introduction of the stickers, bad locking practices decreased and good locking practices increased within the areas where the stickers were used.⁹⁹

Vehicle theft

Vehicle theft initiatives also tend to involve a number of different interventions, with crime prevention advice being one component.

- In Queensland, Australia, in response to an increasing rate of vehicle theft, an intervention titled Project HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) was developed. This was a community awareness campaign that aimed to encourage the use of vehicle security devices. This intervention involved a state-wide advertising campaign through television, regional newspapers and magazines, as well as a letter sent from the Commissioner of Police to individuals renewing their car registration. The study found that there was an increased awareness of the scheme and a significant reduction in vehicle theft after the scheme was introduced. It is unclear whether this is due to increased awareness on the part of car owners, prompting a greater likelihood that security measures would be used, or whether offenders were more aware that there was a focus on vehicle theft, leading to a reluctance to offend.¹⁰⁰

The Home Office have produced a report on publicity and crime prevention initiatives for reducing theft from the person and robbery, which can

98 Van Limbergen K, Walgrave S and Dekegel I. (1996). ‘Bicycle repair shops. Promising practices: crime prevention in Belgium: 10 examples’. Brussels: The Permanent Secretariat for Prevention Policy, The Ministry of the Interior.

99 Sidebottom A, Thorpe A and Johnson SD. (2009). ‘Using targeted publicity to reduce opportunities for bicycle theft: a demonstration and replication’. *European Journal of Criminology*, 6(3), pp 267–286.

100 Wortley R, Kane R and Grant F. (1998). ‘Public awareness and auto-theft prevention: getting it right for the wrong reason’. *Security Journal*, 10, pp 59–64.

be found [here](#).¹⁰¹ No literature has been identified that has tested the effectiveness of crime prevention advice in reducing robbery or theft from the person.

How it works

Crime prevention advice works by:

- Increasing the risks – enhanced public knowledge of particular crime issues will increase the risk that an individual will be seen committing a crime.
 - Increasing the effort – if crime prevention advice is followed, property should be more difficult to steal.
-

Costs and benefits

Crime prevention visits and literature are low-cost. For example, when crime reduction advice was combined with the provision of other security items in Birmingham, the cost was estimated to be approximately £12 per household.¹⁰²

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- In order to ensure that crime prevention advice is effective, it is important that it relates to an individual's circumstances. Generalised messages are usually unsuccessful in reducing crime, as individuals feel that 'it won't happen to me'. Crime prevention advice needs to overcome this.¹⁰³

101 Home Office. (2013). 'Theft from the person: information pack for partners'. London: Home Office.

102 Johnson S and others. (2017). 'Evaluation of operation swordfish: a near-repeat target-hardening strategy'. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 13(3), pp 505–525.

103 Barthe E. (2006). 'Crime prevention publicity campaigns. Problem-oriented guides for police. Response guides series no. 5'. ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- What message needs to be passed to victims of crime?
- Are there any other interventions that could be implemented alongside crime prevention advice (for example, property marking)?

Consultation

- Have victims been canvassed to assist, to refine the crime reduction message?

Feasibility

- Are resources available to provide crime reduction advice?
- How will you ensure that the crime reduction advice is being delivered to the right people?

Technical specification

No technical specifications available – for advice on crime reduction advice, and publicity more generally, see Barthe (2006).¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Barthe (2006) *ibid.*

During implementation

- Are victims being provided with crime reduction advice as previously planned?
 - Are individuals who are unavailable being followed up with?
 - What are the views of victims regarding the scheme?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen? These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Vehicle security devices

Evidence quality

Moderate

Based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Description

The term ‘vehicle security devices’ covers a number of different means by which vehicles can be secured to prevent the theft of the vehicle, or theft of belongings from within. Vehicle security devices can either be fitted to the vehicle during the manufacturing process or retrofitted afterwards.

The two key elements of the effectiveness of vehicle security devices are the presence or absence of a particular security device, and also the quality of the device fitted.

Vehicle security devices include:

- locks
- immobilisers (electronic and mechanical)
- alarms
- window security etching
- tracking devices

Crimes targeted

Vehicle crime.

Effect

There is limited research of the effectiveness of retrofitted vehicle security devices, so consequently the evidence of the effectiveness is sparse. A study that examined the effectiveness of vehicle immobilisers in Western Australia, where a minimum standard of immobiliser became mandatory in 1999 and owners were subsidised for the cost of retrofitting, showed a steady decline in car theft.¹⁰⁵

A study conducted by the Home Office in 2016,¹⁰⁶ which mapped the introduction of vehicle security devices against the rate of theft of – and from – motor vehicles, found a sustained drop in these offences after the introduction of electronic immobilisers to new cars in 1992.

An investigation into the effectiveness of different combinations of vehicle security devices found that a combination of an alarm, central locking, electronic immobiliser and tracker had the best protection against theft of the motor vehicle, followed by central locking, electronic immobiliser and manual immobiliser. For theft from motor vehicles, alarms and central locking featured in each of the top six security configurations. Single security devices offered some protection but were less effective than a combination of different devices.¹⁰⁷

A study conducted in 2015 examined the effectiveness of vehicle immobilisers by reviewing 16 studies conducted in the UK, Germany, USA and Australia. 15 studies showed a reduction in theft as a result of immobilisers, although some studies were of low quality. The majority of studies failed to separate the effect of immobilisers from other fitted security devices.¹⁰⁸

How it works

Vehicle security devices work by:

- Increasing the risks – some security devices increase the likelihood of the offender being caught.

105 Farrell G and others. (2011). 'The crime drop and the security hypothesis'. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 48(2), pp 147-175.

106 Morgan N and others. (2016). 'Reducing criminal opportunity: vehicle security and vehicle crime'. Home Office Research Report 87. London: Home Office.

107 Farrell G, Tseloni A and Tilley N. (2011). 'The effectiveness of vehicle security devices and their role in the crime drop'. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 11(1), pp 21-35.

108 Brown R. (2015). 'Reviewing the effectiveness of electronic vehicle immobilisation: evidence from four countries'. *Security Journal*, 28(4), pp 329-351.

- Increasing the effort – vehicle security devices make it more difficult for the offender to steal the vehicle or contents.

Costs and benefits

Vehicle security devices can range in price according to the nature of the device under consideration. It is estimated that to retrofit an immobiliser will cost in the region of £100–£250 per car, while an alarm will cost £200–£300.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

The key issue to consider is whether vehicles in the area already have security fitted. If so, it is unlikely that the provision of additional features will make a significant difference. Also, if vehicle crime is restricted to a specific area (for example, a particular car park), it may be more effective to use an alternative method to reduce crime, such as CCTV, secure car parking facilities, publicity or crime prevention advice.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Where is your vehicle crime problem? Is it in a residential area, car park or other location?
- Is the crime problem theft of, or theft from, motor vehicles?
- How are the vehicles being accessed?
- What security devices do the vehicles already have?
- How will the provision of additional vehicle security devices assist to resolve the identified problem?
- Are there other interventions that may be more effective in addressing the identified problem?

Consultation

- If the provision of additional security devices is the most suitable approach, will vehicle owners consent to this taking place?

Feasibility

- How will you ensure that you are targeting vehicle owners that are most at risk from these offences?

Technical specification

Details on Thatcham security-certified security devices can be found [here](#).

- Owners should be aware of the technology in their vehicles and key fob functions. If the vehicle uses passive keyless entry and start (PKES), it may be susceptible to a theft method called the relay attack. Owners should therefore consider storing fobs as far away from the outer perimeter of the house as is possible.
- Owners should consider using a signal blocking Faraday pouch for main and spare keys.
- It may be possible to clone the vehicle key. Consider this when leaving keys with untrusted parties or services that have not been used before. Check that the company is a member of an accredited code of practice or professional standard such as:
 - Motor Codes (motorcodes.co.uk)
 - The British Parking Association's Park Mark scheme (parkmark.co.uk)

Technical specifications for various vehicle security devices can also be found on the Secured by Design webpage [here](#).

During implementation

- Is the intervention being delivered to the target group?
 - Are individuals who are unavailable being followed up with?
 - What are the views of victims regarding the scheme?
 - What is the uptake of the offer to fit vehicle security devices?
 - Are the security devices being used correctly?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen? These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Compartmentation

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on interview data only.

Description

Developments of over 25 flats, apartments, bedsits or bedrooms can suffer adversely from crime and anti-social behaviour due to unrestricted access to all areas and floors of the building. One method to reduce these problems is to prevent unlawful free movement throughout the building through the use of an access control system. How this is achieved can vary but includes the following.

- Where lift and stairwell access is controlled separately, prevent the lift and stairwell providing unrestricted access onto a residential landing. Each resident should be assigned access to their floor only via the use of a security-encrypted electronic key (such as a fob, card, mobile device or key), both for the stairwell (or landing door) and for the lift.
- Where lift and stairwell access is jointly controlled via an additional secure doorset, this can prevent access to each landing from both the lift and stairwell. Each resident should be assigned access to their floor only via the use of a security-encrypted electronic key for this doorset.
- Access to stairwells from the communal lobby should be restricted to residents to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour or criminal activities.
- Unrestricted egress from a landing into the stairwell and from the stairwell to the communal lobby or emergency fire exit should be provided at all times.

All compartmentation specifications must be agreed with the fire safety officer.

Crimes targeted

Burglary, anti-social behaviour.

Effect

Studies investigating the effectiveness of compartmentation on crime are uncommon. Armitage (2018) interviewed 22 prolific burglars, who were asked to look at 16 images of residential housing and to describe what would attract them to specific houses when selecting targets for burglary. In 82% of these interviews, offenders mentioned that scope for movement into and out of an area would be a contributory factor in the decision whether to burgle a property.¹⁰⁹ In addition to this, offenders also suggested that areas with movement control presented issues in terms of being able to give a legitimate reason for being in an area if challenged. In terms of anti-social behaviour, compartmentation assists to prevent offending as individuals are not able to gain access to areas.¹¹⁰

How it works

Compartmentation reduces crime by:

- **Increasing the effort** – by increasing the security of larger developments, the effort required to commit burglary is increased.
-

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

109 Armitage R. (2018a). 'Burglars' take on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): reconsidering the relevance from an offender perspective'. *Security Journal*, 31, pp 285-304.

110 Ellis VE (n.d.). 'The effect of Compartmentalisation on ASB reduction in Secured by Design developments' [internet]. Available from https://nbcc.police.uk/images/news/Compartmentalisation_Full_article.pdf [Accessed 12 January 2021]

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- What is the potential cost of improvements?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Details on technical requirements and recommendations for SBD housing developments can be found [here](#).

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies involved) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

In the event that a lift opens directly into an apartment, a security protocol must be agreed between the occupiers and the lift maintenance company to ensure access cannot be gained without the proper authority.

It is imperative that the fire service has unrestricted access to all floors in the event of an emergency, so the internal access control system utilised should incorporate the following features.

- Where unlawful free internal movement is restricted via the lift, the fire service must be afforded access via a firefighter's mode, or via an evacuation lift in evacuation mode.
- If unlawful free internal movement has been restricted via an access control system acting on dedicated external doorsets and any additional doorsets providing access to individual floors and landings, then an electronic release must be incorporated within the system to allow the fire service free access to all of the communal areas of the building. The electronic release system must be weatherproof, easily identifiable and located close to the entrance. It has been agreed between the police and fire and rescue services that a switch should be installed within an access control box (ACB). The key system for the ACB should be of a restricted type, acceptable to the local fire and rescue service.

An ACB should be tested and certificated to one of the following standards:

- LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 2
- LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating A3+
- STS 202 Issue 6:2015 Burglary Rating 2

The exact location of an ACB should be specified following consultation with the local fire and rescue service.

Both the ACB and premises information box (PIB) should be clearly marked with a photo luminescent identification sign.

Break-glass emergency door release devices are sometimes abused, which means that some buildings are left insecure for long periods of time. These should be replaced with vandal-resistant emergency exit systems, which are made of stainless steel and can self-reset.

The installation and system type must be in full compliance with the Building Regulations and must achieve final sign-off by local building control or approved inspector.

If the break-glass emergency door release device provides access to residential areas as part of the emergency egress route, additional security must be provided to restrict access to the fire egress route only to maintain the security of the building line. This is also a requirement of Part Q of the Building Regulations (England and Wales).

All compartmentation specifications must be agreed with the fire safety officer.

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
 - Are residents still supportive of the changes?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?
These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Enhancing defensible space and demarcation

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on interview data only.

Description

Defensible space has the simple aim of designing the physical environment in a way that enables the resident to control the areas around their home. This is achieved by organising all space in such a way that residents may exercise a degree of control over the activities that take place there. Boundaries should clearly define the difference between public and private space.

Crimes targeted

Burglary.

Effect

Studies investigating the effectiveness of defensible space on crime are uncommon. Armitage (2018) interviewed 22 prolific burglars, who were asked to look at 16 images of residential housing and to describe what would attract them to specific houses when selecting targets for burglary. In 36% of these interviews, offenders mentioned that areas with clearly defined defensible space may deter them from committing burglary. This is because offenders felt that the likelihood of being seen to commit an offence in these areas would be increased.¹¹¹

How it works

Defensible space and demarcation reduces crime by:

- Increasing the risks – demarcation and the creation of defensible spaces

111 Armitage R. (2018a). 'Burglars' take on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): reconsidering the relevance from an offender perspective'. *Security Journal*, 31, pp 285-304.

increases the risk of an individual being observed and identified while committing a criminal act.

- Increasing the effort – by improving boundary security, the effort required to commit burglary is increased.

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- What is the potential cost of improvements?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Details on technical requirements and recommendations for SBD housing developments can be found [here](#).

Consultation

- Involving residents and users, including young people, in the management and design of their area provides a real sense of ownership. This can be achieved in a number of ways, such as town centre management partnerships, tenant management organisations, community development trusts, regeneration programmes and management trusts.

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- Low front boundaries are better than high boundaries, as they allow good vision into the area at the front of the property and remove potential places for intruders to hide.
- Shrubs, plants and bushes at the front should not exceed one metre in height. Trees should have high canopies no lower than two metres. This combination will provide a clear view through to the front of the property.
- Front boundary walls and fences should not exceed one metre in height, unless they are metal railings that allow good natural surveillance of the front of the property.
- Side and rear boundaries should be a minimum height of 1.8m overall and should be capable of maintaining this height over different terrain. If a public footpath or other route provides legitimate access to the side or rear of the building, it may be necessary to increase the height of the boundary from 1.8m to 2.1m or more, depending on the terrain. The additional height will have to be justified and may require planning permission, so early consultation with the local planning authority is essential.
- A light wooden trellis topping, particularly the diamond pattern, is flimsy and difficult to climb. It increases the height of the boundary and provides a framework for thorny plants and shrubs to create a natural defensive barrier. If trellis is attached to a brick wall, ensure that it is fitted to the outside edge of the brickwork to reduce potential footholds.

- Side and rear gates, including their frames, should be in good repair, free from rot and the same height as the adjoining fence (1.8m minimum). They should be located on, or as near as possible to, the front building line. They should also be capable of being locked by key from both sides with a British Standard 3621 mortice deadlock.
- Where building elevations adjoin public footpaths, allowing easy access to openings within buildings or graffiti, a one-metre buffer zone can be created, using either a 1.2m or 1.4m railing (with an access gate), or a one-metre mature-height hedge with high thorn content. Hedging will have to be protected with a fence until it becomes established. The hedge shall be contained within the boundary of the adjacent building to increase the likelihood that it will be maintained.
- Where there is insufficient room to create defensible space between public and private space, an appropriate (non-destructive) climbing plant should be planted adjacent to the wall, or a finish should be applied to the wall that will allow easy removal of graffiti.
- Demarcation of territory without physical barriers may be appropriate to some settings, provided that the intention is not to impede access physically.
- Design techniques that most people respond to include changes in paving, surface texture and colour, landscaping, planting and signage.
- Landscaping can be used to make places safer as well as more attractive, provided it does not restrict natural surveillance. Thorny or prickly plants can help to protect property.

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?

- How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?
These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Intruder alarm systems

Evidence quality

Limited

There are no high-quality evaluations of the crime reduction impact of different forms of intruder alarms. However, there is some evidence from other research that provides a mixed effect of alarms on crime reduction.

There is some evidence from analysis of multiple years of Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data^{112, 113} that alarms on their own may increase the risk of victimisation.

Some evidence from interviews with offenders (Armitage 2018) suggests that offenders avoid houses where high-quality monitored alarms are in evidence.¹¹⁴

Description

Domestic intruder alarms come in different forms.¹¹⁵

- Bells-only alarms make a noise, but don't contact anyone (such as the police or you).
- Dialler burglar alarms automatically dial your phone number, or that of nominated friends and family, when the alarm is triggered.
- Smart home-security systems contact you or family members when the alarm goes off through a smartphone or tablet app.
- A monitoring contract means you pay a company monthly or annually to take action or call the police if the alarm goes off.

Crimes targeted

Domestic burglary.

112 Tseloni A and others. (2017a). 'The effectiveness of burglary security devices'. *Security Journal*, 30(2), pp 646-664.

113 Tseloni A and others. (2017b). 'Domestic burglary drop and the security hypothesis'. *Crime Science*, 6(3).

114 Armitage R. (2018a). 'Burglars' take on crime prevention though environmental design (CPTED): reconsidering the relevance from an offender perspective'. *Security Journal*, 31, pp 285-304.

115 Ransome-Crocker L. (2020). 'Burglar alarms' [internet]. Which? Available from [which.co.uk/reviews/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/article/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/burglar-alarms](https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/article/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/burglar-alarms) [Accessed 18 November 2020]

Effect

Evidence from CSEW analyses suggests that intruder alarms (the average specification in the UK market) on their own increase burglary risk.^{116, 117} However, these analyses do not distinguish between factors such as alarm monitoring, installation quality and geographical factors. When considering installing an alarm, it should therefore comply with industry-standard specifications and be installed by a company certified by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB). It is also suggested that the alarm is accompanied with indoor lights on a timer, as well as enhanced door and window security.

Other research with offenders¹¹⁸ suggests that although offenders were not deterred by burglar alarms in general, some did refer to a brand of monitored alarm as being a deterrent. Offenders who were interviewed discussed methods for disabling alarms. These included spraying expanding polyurethane foam into the external alarm box the night before the burglary and taking the internal box off the wall once inside the property, which they stated would deactivate the alarm for the majority of brands.

How it works

Intruder alarm systems reduce crime by:

- Increasing the risk – increasing an offender’s perception and likelihood of being caught. However, this may not be the case in relation to cheap unmonitored alarms.
-

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

116 Tseloni A and others. (2017a). ‘The effectiveness of burglary security devices’. *Security Journal*, 30(2), pp 646–664.

117 Tseloni A and others. (2017b). ‘Domestic burglary drop and the security hypothesis’. *Crime Science*, 6(3).

118 Armitage R and Ekblom P. (2018). ‘Re-building crime prevention through environmental design’. Oxford: Routledge.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies involved) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?
- Are ongoing costs related to monitoring and upkeep of the intruder alarm system budgeted for?

Technical specification

Intruder alarm systems shall meet the requirements of BS EN 50131 (wired and wire-free systems). All installations shall be in accordance with the current electrical regulations. If an immediate police response is required, installers must meet the requirements of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) policy document. Guidelines on police requirements and response to security systems can be obtained from [securedbydesign.com](https://www.securedbydesign.com)

The intruder alarm installer should be approved by either the NSI or the SSAIB.

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?

- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has a reduction in crime led to an increase in other crime within the target area?
- Has the reduction of crime within the target block led to an increase in crime in the neighbouring area?
- Has the scheme resulted in a change in offender MO?
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Image management

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on surveys, interview data and observational methods only.

Description

Image management, which is one of the principal components of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), seeks to promote a positive image of an area. This can deter burglary by giving potential offenders the impression that these well-maintained areas are likely to be subject to surveillance. Poorly maintained areas can attract crime and deter use by legitimate users, reducing natural surveillance.¹¹⁹

Crimes targeted

Burglary, anti-social behaviour.

Effect

Studies investigating the effectiveness of image management on crime are uncommon. Armitage (2018) interviewed 22 prolific burglars, who were asked to look at 16 images of residential housing and to describe what would attract them to specific houses when selecting targets for burglary. In 77% of these interviews, offenders mentioned that the management or maintenance of an area would be a contributory factor in the decision whether to burgle a property.¹²⁰

- Areas with low levels of maintenance were seen to be attractive, as it is likely that less care is being given to security. Large quantities of rubbish also equates to larger quantities of goods to steal.

119 Cozens P and Love T. (2015). 'A review and current status of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)'. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 30(4), pp 393–412.

120 Armitage R. (2018a). 'Burglars' take on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): reconsidering the relevance from an offender perspective'. *Security Journal*, 31, pp 285–304.

- However, poorly maintained areas may be unattractive to burglars, as residents that do not maintain their property may not have much to steal.
- Well-maintained properties may be attractive to burglars as the householder may be more affluent, but affluent areas may have enhanced surveillance.¹²¹

Cozens and Tarca (2016)¹²² conducted similar research, whereby two photographs of properties were taken, one of a well-maintained property and one of poorly-maintained property. These photographs were subjected to a CPTED audit, which indicated that the well-maintained property contained many of the features thought to deter crime, with the poorly maintained house scoring poorly. These photos were shown to 168 members of the public and 12 built-environment professionals, who were asked how likely it was that a range of illegal behaviours occurred at each property. These included squatting, vandalism, graffiti, burglary, drug-dealing and kidnapping. Overall, the poorly maintained house was perceived to be associated with higher probability of crime across all categories. For burglary, members of the public felt that burglary was more likely, although built-environment professionals felt it was less likely or not likely. It was suggested that this may be due to the house appearing unoccupied.

A study was conducted in Ghent, Belgium, which aimed to understand which street-level characteristics were associated with an increased burglary rate. The authors found that that houses in streets with higher levels of anti-social behaviour, measured through the presence of graffiti or litter, have a higher risk of being burgled.¹²³

In addition to this, research has also shown that areas with high levels of vandalism, homelessness or alcohol consumption cause people to feel unsafe.¹²⁴

121 Armitage (2018a) *ibid*.

122 Cozens P and Tarca M. (2016). 'Exploring housing maintenance and vacancy in Western Australia: perceptions of crime and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)'. *Property Management*, 34(3), pp 199–220.

123 Peeters M, Van Daele S and Vander Beken T. (2018). 'Adding to the mix: a multilevel analysis of residential burglary'. *Security Journal*, 31(2), pp 389–409.

124 Bogacka E. (2020). 'Safety of urban park users: The case of Poznan, Poland'. In Ceccato V and Nalla MK, eds. 'Crime and fear in public places: Towards safe, inclusive and sustainable cities', pp 108-124. Abingdon: Routledge

How it works

Image management reduces crime by:

- Increasing the risk – potential offenders perceive poorly maintained areas as easier to burgle, as security measures are thought to be less comprehensive.

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- What is the potential cost of improvements?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Details on technical requirements and recommendations for SBD housing developments can be found [here](#).

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies involved) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime and disorder?
 - How does reported crime and disorder in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime and disorder in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen? These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Moped, scooter, motorcycle and cycle parking

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on case studies only.

Description

Sidebottom (2012) identifies two different interventions relating to cycle parking that could potentially reduce cycle theft.¹²⁵

- Interventions intended to improve the security of cycle parking facilities. These can take several forms, reflecting the specific characteristics of different cycle theft problems. For example, in areas where cycle parking facilities suffer from poor visibility, attempts have been made to improve natural surveillance either by increasing the flow of passers-by or through the (re)positioning of businesses such as taxi ranks. The rationale for such schemes is that offenders will be less likely to offend in areas where their likelihood, or perceived likelihood, of being spotted is high.
- Interventions that seek to improve how cyclists lock their cycles. This is typically through the use of education campaigns informing cyclists of recommended practices concerning the types of locks to use and the manner with which they should be applied. Research suggests that both the frame and wheels should be locked to an appropriate fixed anchor point (see technical specifications below).

The information provided above relates to cycles but is equally applicable to motorcycles and mopeds.

Crimes targeted

Cycle theft (both motorcycles and cycles).

¹²⁵ Sidebottom A. (2012). 'JDiBrief – crime: bicycle theft'. London: UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science.

Effect

Effect of moped, scooter and cycle parking

Sidebottom (2012) states: 'While success stories are available, much of the evidence indicating the success of schemes is weak and anecdotal. Systematic evaluations are rare but necessary for the future to determine 'what works'.¹²⁶ As a result, there is little empirical evidence upon which to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions described above.

How it works

The interventions detailed above reduce cycle theft by:

- Increasing the risks – interventions that increase surveillance of cycle parking areas can increase the risk of an offender being identified and apprehended.
 - Increasing the effort – enhanced security in the form of locks or cycle parking facilities will make it harder for cycles to be stolen.
-

Costs and benefits

No cost or benefit information has been identified.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Is cycle theft a problem within the area?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- What is the nature and extent of cycle theft within your chosen area?
- What is the method used to steal cycles?
- Where are cycles stolen from?
- Which intervention or group of interventions would appear to be most relevant given your analysis of the offender MO (above)?

Consultation

- Is support required from partner agencies in order to implement your initiative(s)? If so, has this been secured?

Feasibility

- Is the implementation of the identified initiative(s) possible, given timescales and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

Mopeds, scooters and motorcycle parking

Parking for motorcycles is often provided in small on-street bays, delineated by a simple painted line. These bays often attract high rates of theft owing to the opportunities that they offer criminals. Ground anchors and/or metal support stands provide a primary point for securing motorcycles, around which other secondary measures can be added by the rider, such as disc locks, grip locks, bike covers. These should meet one of the following security standards:

- Sold Secure Gold
- STS 501

Motorcycle parking bays can be made more secure by the installation of ground anchors and/or or robust metal support stands running at the side

of adjacent paving. They provide a firm and immovable object to affix the rear wheel of a motorcycle. Ground anchors should be installed at the rear of motorcycle parking bays near to the kerb line and relatively flush to the road surface, to prevent them being a trip hazard. These should meet one of the following security standards:

- Sold Secure Gold
- STS 503

If metal support stands are provided, these should consist of galvanised steel bars (minimum thickness 3mm) filled with concrete, with minimum foundation depths of 300mm with welded anchor bars.

Signage should be used to alert riders and advise them to use the ground anchors or support stands provided, along with their own security hardware. All of the above issues could also be considered at dedicated parking facilities if a motorcycle bay is installed into an existing site.

Cycle parking

Cycle parking within blocks of flats should be easily accessible, should have floor-to-ceiling dividing walls, should have no windows and should be fitted with a secure doorset that meets the same physical specification as a front door. This will ensure that such stores are only accessible to residents. The locking system must be easily operable from the inner face by use of a thumb turn to ensure that residents are not accidentally locked in by another person.

External containers specifically designed for the secure storage of cycles must be certificated to one of the following minimum security standards:

- LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 1 (or above)
- LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1/A1 (or above)
- STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1 (or above)
- LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A
- Sold Secure (Bronze, Silver or Gold)

Where cycle storage is provided in a robust shed, the minimum requirements for the shed construction and security are as follows.

- 38x50mm (minimum) planed timber frame.
- Floor and roof constructed from 11mm boards (minimum).
- 11x125mm (minimum) tongue and groove board walls and door.

- No window to be present.
- Door hinges should be coach-bolted through the shed structure or secured with security or non-return screws.
- Two hasp and staples that meet Sold Secure Silver standard should be used. One should be positioned 200–300mm down from the top of the door, and the other should be positioned 200–300mm up from the bottom of the door. Additionally, hasp and staples should be coach-bolted through the shed structure or secured with either security or non-return screws.
- Both padlocks should meet Sold Secure Silver or LPS 1654 Issue 1.1:2014 Security Rating 1 standard padlocks to be used.
- Securely fixed to a suitable substrate foundation.

A guide to marking cycles to prevent theft can be found [here](#).

If mopeds, scooters, motorcycles or cycles are to be stored within the shed, then a security anchor shall also be certificated to one of the following:

- Sold Secure Silver Standard LPS 1175 Issue 7.2:2014 Security Rating 1
- LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating A1

Security anchors should be securely fixed to suitable foundations, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. This also includes wall-mounted anchoring systems.

External, open communal cycle stores with individual stands or multiple storage racks for securing cycles should be as close to the building as possible. They should be within 50 metres of the primary entrance to a block of flats and located in view of active rooms of dwellings. The word 'active' in this sense means rooms in building elevations from which there is direct and regular visual connection between the room and the street or parking court. Such visual connections can be expected from rooms such as kitchens and living rooms, but not from more private rooms, such as bedrooms and bathrooms.

The store must be lit at night using vandal-resistant light fittings and energy-efficient LED lights.

Note that vertical cycle racks can be difficult for some sections of the community to use.

Cycle locks

Cycle locks should conform to the Preferred Police Specification, details of which can be found [here](#).

During implementation

- Is the implementation of the identified initiative(s) proceeding as planned?
 - Are there any issues arising that may prevent the programme of work being completed?
-

Assessing impact

- Are you prepared and do you have the necessary data to be able to compare cycle crime after the initiatives have been implemented?
- Will the before and after time periods be directly comparable? For example, will you be able to control for time of year?
- Will you be able to compare the proportions of crime committed by day and by night?
- Will you be able to compare before and after crime trends in your neighbourhood with those in nearby neighbourhoods?
- Will you examine possible displacement and diffusion of benefits?
- Will you try to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the initiative(s) used?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Youth shelters

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on case studies only.

Description

A youth shelter is a structure designed to meet the social needs of young people – a sheltered place to sit and talk. Sports equipment could be included, and a litter bin is often available to help keep the area tidy. The roof provides shelter from the weather, but most shelters are open on all sides, enabling all-round visibility, natural policing and safety for users. The most successful shelters are those that are linked to some type of sporting facility. These complement each other by becoming a place to go for both physical and social activity. Variations on ball games and various wheeled sports equipment are always popular. It is vital to fully involve users of all ages in selecting their preferred equipment for this and future generations.¹²⁷

Crimes targeted

Burglary, anti-social behaviour.

Effect

No literature has been identified that provides details of the effect of youth facilities on crime or anti-social behaviour.

How it works

Youth facilities reduce crime by:

- Increasing the risk – by ensuring that youth facilities are subject to surveillance, the risk of an individual being observed and identified while committing a criminal act is increased.

¹²⁷ Hampshire R and Wilkinson M. (2002). 'Youth shelters and sports systems: a good practice guide' [internet]. Secured by Design. Available from <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/research-case-studies-guidance/youth-shelters-and-sports-systems-good-practice-guide/viewdocument/212> [Accessed 12 December 2019]

Costs and benefits

- A case study of specially designed sports and recreation facilities for youths in Banbury, Oxfordshire, found that each unit cost £40,000 to install (1997 prices), but this was offset by a reduction of the costs of repairing young children’s play areas of £1,000/year.¹²⁸
- In Burnley, Lancashire, a three-sided youth shelter was built in a park area, at a cost of £12,000 (2002 prices). Nuisance behaviour was subsequently reduced and vandalism to play equipment was reduced from £580/year to £70/year.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- What is the potential cost of improvements?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

¹²⁸ Hampshire and Wilkinson (2002) *ibid.*

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- These must be subject to surveillance but sited so that local residents will not suffer from possible noise pollution. Care should be taken to ensure that a lone dwelling will not be adversely affected by the location of the amenity space. It should be noted that positioning amenity space to the rear of dwellings can increase the potential for crime, as well as complaints arising from increased noise and nuisance.
- Youth shelters should be designed to allow natural surveillance from nearby dwellings, with safe and accessible routes for users to come and go.
- Boundaries between public and private space should be clearly defined. Open spaces must have features that prevent unauthorised vehicular access.
- In addition, youth shelters should be sited in such a way that those using adjacent foot and cycle paths will not be subject to harassment or otherwise be put in fear.
- These areas should ideally be designed so that they can be secured at night. This is to reduce the amount of damage and graffiti that occurs after dark.
- The type of fencing and security measures will need to vary to suit the particular area. However, consideration should be given to a single dedicated entry and exit point.

A practical guide to youth shelters can be found [here](#).

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
 - Are residents still supportive of the changes?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has a reduction in crime led to an increase in other crime within the target area?
- Has the reduction of crime within the target block led to an increase in crime in the neighbouring area?
- Has the scheme resulted in a change in offender MO?
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Neighbourhood and community wardens

Evidence quality

Limited

Based on case studies only.

Description

Neighbourhood wardens aim to improve the quality of life by providing a uniformed presence in residential areas. Wardens promote community safety, contribute to community development and assist with environmental improvements and housing management. They are the eyes and ears of the police, local authority and community.

Wardens are usually employed by the local authority or housing associations and can fulfil a range of key functions through different methods. These include crime prevention (through mobile patrols, identifying design improvements and promoting Neighbourhood Watch), environmental improvements (through work as resident caretakers, providing information to residents on maintenance services and liaising with agencies), housing management (through checking empty properties and visiting tenants) and community development (through promoting residents' associations, organising activities and consulting with residents over services).¹²⁹

Crimes targeted

Anti-social behaviour.

¹²⁹ Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. (2002). 'Neighbourhood and street wardens' programme'. London: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Effect

Neighbourhood wardens can contribute to neighbourhood policing.

Although there is limited evidence specifically of the impact of neighbourhood wardens on crime, evidence from an evaluation of PCSOs¹³⁰ suggest they can have an impact on fear of crime and on youth disorder.

In addition, evidence suggests that neighbourhood policing initiatives¹³¹ in general can:

- reduce public perceptions of disorder
- increase trust and confidence in the police
- increase the perceived legitimacy of the police and
- reduce victimisation

Research involving interviews with community wardens in Scotland found that wardens felt that they had benefitted their communities through their ability to tackle local problems quickly and efficiently, and that anti-social behaviour had decreased as a direct result of their efforts.¹³²

How it works

Neighbourhood and community wardens reduce crime by:

- Increasing the risk – by extending and strengthening formal surveillance.
-

Costs and benefits

In 2004, the salary for a neighbourhood warden in an example area ranged between £13,000 and £18,000.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Is there funding for the ongoing maintenance of a neighbourhood warden role?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be answered prior to implementation.

- Who will recruit and employ the wardens?
- What training will the wardens require?
- What will the role description include?
- Who will manage the wardens?
- How will the wardens interact with policing, local authority departments such as housing and other stakeholders?

Consultation

- Have residents and the property owners been involved in the design of the warden scheme?
- Have other relevant stakeholders been consulted on the job description?
- Have representative steering groups been set up?

Feasibility

- Is the recruitment and retention of wardens feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Common features of successful neighbourhood warden schemes¹³³

- Tailored and flexible approaches that are responsive to context, and able to respond to lessons as they are learned. Such schemes demonstrated cultures of learning, where wardens, managers and partner agencies communicated well with one another from the outset.

133 Coward S and others. (2004). 'Neighbourhood wardens: more than the 'eyes and ears' of communities? Research report 60' [internet]. Sheffield Hallam University. Available from extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/downloads/reports/RR60.pdf [Accessed 18 December 2019]

- Involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders in scheme design, including the police, local authority and housing authority staff and residents, to ensure that schemes are based on a sound understanding of the problems and shared objectives.
- Resident participation, from scheme design through to implementation, and in monitoring and evaluation. Adequate support and a variety of techniques are essential, for example, ensuring that residents are active partners in steering groups, maintaining consultation throughout implementation, and resident participation in monitoring and evaluation.
- Active and representative steering groups. These should include key stakeholders and residents, should have adequate support to be able to function effectively and should meet every month or bi-monthly.
- Consistent scheme management, with attention paid to reducing turnover of managers and staff, and with mechanisms to ensure the smooth running of the scheme in the event of such turnover.
- Supportive management is highly valued by wardens and is key to maintaining morale and scheme success in terms of impact.
- Ability to develop and nurture partnerships that are productive for all partners. Features of case study schemes with strong partnerships include regular contact, good reporting and feedback systems between partners, information sharing, joint initiatives between partners, and grassroots contact.
- Ability to maximise wardens' visibility, using their resources effectively, and recognising that visibility is not just about the intensity of patrolling, but also about patrolling where and when the warden is likely to be seen and to provide a reassuring presence. Perceived visibility was enhanced by ongoing awareness campaigns, high-profile publicised activities and targeted action in some case study schemes.
- Targeted approaches. The benefits of these approaches were found to help in supporting the elderly and young people. Such approaches could be applied to other groups, such as minority ethnic communities and asylum seekers.

During implementation

- Are the wardens undertaking the expected role?
 - Have wardens been appropriately trained?
 - Are wardens engaging effectively with local stakeholders and partners?
 - Are residents involved and still supportive of the wardens?
-

Assessing impact

- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
 - What problems emerged and how were these overcome?
- Has the scheme reduced demand in terms of police-reported crime and disorder?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
 - Has the scheme reduced police calls for service in the area compared to other similar areas or to the period before the scheme?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?
These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Landscaping

Evidence quality

N/A

No literature identified.

Description

As a general rule, building frontages should be open to view. Attention should be given to the location of walls and hedges, so that they do not create climbing aids or obscure doors and windows, lights or CCTV cameras.

Certain species of plants, such as spiny or thorny shrubs, can help to prevent graffiti, loitering and climbing by creating or enhancing perimeter security.

Crimes targeted

Burglary, anti-social behaviour.

Effect

No literature has been identified that provides details of the effect of landscaping on crime.

How it works

Landscaping reduces crime by:

- Increasing the effort – by removing climbing aids, landscaping increases the effort required to commit burglary.
- Increasing the risk – by ensuring that doors, windows, lights or CCTV cameras are not obscured, there is a greater risk that offenders will be visible.

Costs and benefits

- Landscaping costs approximately £20/hour. No benefits have been costed in the available literature.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Do the range of interventions and activities proposed address the crime problem?

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- How do the offenders access properties – what is their MO?
- How do offenders target these properties?
- Have residents been consulted about potential improvements to properties and are they supportive?
- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?
- Details on technical requirements and recommendations for SBD housing developments can be found [here](#).

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?

Feasibility

- Are the changes to the built environment feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

- Defensive planting is not just about prickly shrubs. It is about selecting

the right type of plant for the right aspect and environment. For example, open-branched and columnar fastigiated trees can be used in a landscape scheme where natural and formal surveillance is required, whereas climbing plants can be used to cover walls to deter climbing and graffiti.

- Where good visibility is needed, shrubs, plants and bushes should not exceed one metre in height. Trees should have high canopies no lower than two metres. This combination will provide a clear field of vision.

During implementation

- Are the proposed changes being made as expected?
- Are residents still supportive of the changes?

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has a reduction in crime led to an increase in other crime within the target area?
- Has the reduction of crime within the target block led to an increase in crime in the neighbouring area?
- Has the scheme resulted in a change in offender MO?
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?
- What problems emerged and how were these overcome?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

Intervention: Video doorbells

Evidence quality

N/A

No literature identified.

Description

A video doorbell is an internet-connected device that notifies the smartphone or other electronic device when a visitor arrives at the door. It activates when the visitor presses the doorbell, or when the built-in motion sensor detects an individual in the vicinity of the device. The doorbell allows the homeowner to watch and talk directly with the visitor through a built-in camera and microphone.

Crimes targeted

Burglary (although there is currently no research evidence of the effectiveness of these devices).

Effect

No literature has been identified that measures the effect of video doorbells on crime.

How it works

Video doorbells reduce crime by:

- Increasing the risk – there is an increased risk that any potential intruders will be captured on the video doorbell device. It will also increase the offender's perception and likelihood of being caught.

Costs and benefits

Video doorbells can vary in price according to specification, from less than £100 to over £200 per unit. Many units require an ongoing subscription in order to be able to save captured images in addition to the basic cost.

Practical considerations

Is this intervention appropriate?

- Consideration must be given to the fact that video doorbells require an ongoing subscription, so this will need to be factored into the overall cost of any related scheme(s).
- Consideration must be given to whether video doorbells can be compliant with the Information Commissioner’s Office advice on domestic CCTV systems and data protection laws, specifically regarding captured images of members of the public in public spaces. See [here](#) for more details.
- Considerations must be given to whether the selected video doorbell has the relevant Internet of Things (IoT) or Secure Digital Applications certifications to protect from infiltration by cyber criminals.

Implementation lessons

Getting started

The following questions should be considered prior to implementation.

Nature of the problem

- Is there a crime problem in the area under consideration?
- What crimes are being committed?
- Is the provision of video doorbells likely to address the crime types and methods identified?
- Have any potential issues concerning privacy and GDPR been considered? See [here](#) for details.
- Are the models of doorbell being considered for purchase secure (see technical specifications below)?
- How large is the area under consideration? How many doorbells will need to be purchased?

Consultation

- Have relevant stakeholders (for example, residents, the property owners, any management companies involved) been consulted about the changes and are they in agreement?
- Do residents have any means to use the doorbells effectively (for example, smartphones or other devices)?

Feasibility

- Are the proposed changes feasible, given time and budgetary constraints?

Technical specification

Considerations include the following.

- Can the doorbell be hacked to allow the door to open, the video function to be disabled, or hackers to access other devices within the home?¹³⁴
- How does the capture of data and the access of that data by police or law enforcement comply with privacy requirements and legislation? For example, people may not know that they are being filmed and the cameras may be capturing images for public spaces, such as the street or neighbouring driveways.¹³⁵

134 Pratt M. (2020). 'The smart video doorbells letting hackers into your home' [internet]. Available from [which.co.uk/news/2020/11/the-smart-video-doorbells-letting-hackers-into-your-home](https://www.which.co.uk/news/2020/11/the-smart-video-doorbells-letting-hackers-into-your-home) [Accessed 18 November 2020]

135 de Klerk M. (2020). 'Amazon Ring: Explaining concerns about the smart, controversial doorbell, from privacy to hacking' [internet]. Global News. Available from <https://globalnews.ca/news/6633045/amazon-ring-privacy-security-explained/> [Accessed 18 November 2020]

During implementation

- Are residents using the doorbells properly?
 - Are the doorbells working correctly?
 - Are residents still supportive of the scheme?
-

Assessing impact

- Has the scheme reduced police-reported crime?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to before the scheme?
 - How does reported crime in this area compare to other similar areas for the same time period?
- Has the scheme reduced self-reported crime?
- Has the scheme reduced fear of crime?
- Has the scheme led to any additional benefits?
- Has the scheme led to any unintended consequences (both negative and positive)?
- Has any displacement or diffusion of benefits been seen?
These may include:
 - a change in other crime within the target area
 - a change in crime in any of the neighbouring areas
 - a change in offender MO
- Has the scheme been cost-effective?
- How well was the scheme implemented on the ground – which agencies were involved and who led the project?

Click to return to response summary list: **Response**

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