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Respect for Nottingham



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Case Study

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Summary

Nottingham City Centre hit a low point in 2003 when it became impossible for residents to shop without being regularly accosted by sometimes aggressive beggars and many streets in the centre were blighted by graffiti, litter and fly posting. This case study shows how a co-ordinated, sophisticated and multi-agency carrot and stick approach to the issues by 'Respect for Nottingham' produced early and visible results around

- Cleanliness and quality of the environment
- Begging
- Street drug dealing
- Street prostitution
- Anti-social behaviour in local neighbourhoods

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| <p><i>Respect for Nottingham was set up as a co-ordinated and sophisticated approach to tackle City Centre disorder.</i></p> | <h3>Aims/Objectives</h3> <p>Nottingham City Centre hit a low point in 2003 when it became impossible for residents to shop without being regularly accosted by sometimes aggressive begging and many streets in the centre had a grubby and dirty appearance. Prostitution was evident around the edges of the City Centre, causing problems for the local residents. The city appeared to have become a magnet for beggars from elsewhere in the East Midlands and beyond who saw it as a 'soft' touch.</p> <p>The situation came to the fore during the 2003 election campaign with clear messages to councillors on the doorstep: 'they're dealing drugs in the house across the road' ; 'why can't I walk across town without being constantly pestered by beggars?' ; 'I'm sick of prostitutes loitering near my daughter's school'; 'there's too much litter on the streets.'</p> <p>Drug dealing, litter, graffiti and more general alcohol driven anti-social behaviour was also evident and became the focus of a hard hitting Panorama Programme in October 2004 on how the evening economy was out of control. In short, the perception, and to some extent the reality, was that the City Centre was in trouble.</p> <p>(please note alcohol related violence is not a focus of the first strategy but is the main priority of the 2nd).</p> <p>With the aim of 'making life uncomfortable for people who make life uncomfortable for the ordinary people of Nottingham', 'Respect 4 Nottingham' was formed in xx June 2003. The focus was very much on improving the street experience of ordinary people in both the City's Centre and its neighbourhoods. This involved taking a tough and uncompromising stand against begging, street prostitution and drug dealing with the intention to restore civic pride in the city. A number of challenging targets were set early on to achieve visible reductions in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cleanliness and quality of the environment by September 2004 ▪ Begging by January 2004 ▪ Street drug dealing by April 2005 ▪ Street prostitution by December 2004 ▪ Anti-social behaviour in local neighbourhoods by April 2005 |
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| <p>Nottingham, Notts, East Midlands</p> | <p>Where</p> <p>Nottingham City is a key regional centre in the County with a population of 270,000. It has a compact city centre and tight administrative boundary resulting in a high footfall of people in the City Centre both day and night. It also has a high student population of around 50,000.</p> |
| <p><i>With strong central backing from the Council and LSP and building on previous partnership work, Respect for Nottingham embarked on a multi-pronged, multi-agency approach to addressing City Centre problems*]</i></p> | <p>How did it do it?</p> <p>After the local 2004 elections, a working group was established to explore how best to respond to residents' concerns about 'crime and grime'. Respect for Nottingham was born. A proposal was worked up and considered by One City Partnership, the City's Local Strategic Partnership – which approved an initial investment of £468,000 to kick start a comprehensive and holistic approach the problems. The initial funding was used to buy additional equipment and deploy extra resources to deal with community safety and cleanliness problems identified by Area Committees.</p> <p>At the same time Home Office funds via the Crime and Reduction Partnership (CDRP) CDRP were added plus £1m of mainstream funds from the Council..</p> <p>Five multi-agency Task Groups were formed to develop action plans to tackle each of the Respect priorities, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begging • Street Drug Dealing • Street Prostitution • Enviro-Crime with • Anti-Social Behaviour in Local Neighbourhoods <p>These are discussed below, particularly in relation to the Town Centre area.</p> <p>Challenging targets were set in respect of each, with phased deadlines over the eighteen months of the strategy, to enable the initiative to be rolled out across the city, with each success building on that of the last.</p> <p>The Task Groups brought together Police and Council Officers from across the Force and City Council, together with community and voluntary organisations. They are chaired by either Senior Police or City Council Officers. The performance of the Task Groups is scrutinised by the Respect for Nottingham Board, which meets weekly and is chaired by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jon Collins.</p> |

From this a Respect for Nottingham Steering Group was formed with responsibilities for undertaking the performance management roles of the CDRP, to work up detailed plans and a baseline for all the action areas. The work feeds back to a Respect for Notts Board, chaired by the Council Leader which has a strong scrutiny role and focuses on a different theme each week

Respect 4 Nottingham was able to re-bundle those plans from the well-established CDRP which appeared to be key to impacting both visibly and deeply on the environmental and anti-social behaviour challenges facing the City. This prior history and experience was important because the CDRP had already launched a number of initiatives (see below) and understood the extent to which the vast majority of prostitution and begging was drugs related

(Cannot really call the CDRP well established at the beginning of R4N)

Staffing: A new co-ordinator post was created with NRF and Home Office monies together with 2 new Community Against Drugs (CAD) posts. An additional 40 Neighbourhood (street) Wardens were appointed in Nov 2003 bringing the total up to 80 of which 8 are in the City centre itself. The wardens' primary role is high visibility patrolling, issuing of fixed penalty notices, moving beggars on and reporting low level crime and nuisance. The

numbers of front line cleansing staff were also boosted, a second graffiti removal squad was established and the special waste collection service was bolstered by extra staff and an extra vehicle.

A number of key task forces were set up (already set up? Clarify meaning of 'multi-skilled task force with 5 teams, 4 to tackle anti-social behaviour in residential areas'). Anti-Social Behaviour and Prostitution Task Force.. Brings together police officers, City Council Officers, local community groups to tackle issues highlighted by local Community Safety Working Groups.

In total 5 Priority (neighbourhood?) areas Task Groups were designated established to tackle each of the priority areas: bringing together multi agency task groups to cover:

- **Begging**
- **Street Drug Dealing**
- **Street Prostitution**
- **Enviro-Crime with hotline (graffiti, fly-tipping, litter)**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour in Local Neighbourhoods**
- **100 days clean-up campaign**

Formatiert: Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

These are discussed below, particularly in relation to the Town Centre area-

Begging

It was estimated that a drug taker hooked on crack cocaine or heroine needed £147 per day or between £20,000 and £35,000 per year to fund their habit. The rise of street based anti social behaviour including a rise in aggressive begging was clearly related to the rise of crack cocaine. The Police and City Council worked together closely to co-ordinate its civil and criminal enforcement efforts. This, together with the case conferencing of the city's most prolific and persistent beggars to ensure timely and appropriate access to drug treatment and housing services, resulted in an 85% reduction in begging.

This key information including the database of prolific beggars is built up from case conference meetings. These bi-monthly meetings were originally set up by the City Council's City Centre Manager and were given real impetus by the launch of Respect for Nottingham. They are attended by housing, drug outreach team, police, social services, city council regeneration and local charities. Identifying and sharing information on 67 persistent beggars, with a wide variety of agencies encouraged everyone to look at the individuals in a 'whole life' way and develop a comprehensive care package.

A dedicated team of undercover police officers was funded and deployed to tackle begging in the city. The police, who were charging the same beggars many times per day for begging decided to save charges up and go in block to the courts for an ASBO and then if this was broken to charge beggars for contempt of court.

At the same time [a high-profile and hard hitting publicity campaign was launched to encourage people to give to charities helping homeless people rather than giving directly to beggars. The campaign](#), co-ordinated by a Council Communications & Marketing Officer for special projects and designed externally [aimed to reinforce the message that begging and drugs are related and that the most constructive way of 'giving beggars a hand out, not a hand up' is by giving to a Diverted Giving Scheme](#) (see below). Other slogans included:

"90% of the money given to beggars goes straight to drug dealers"

The campaigns were aimed at shoppers and also students who traditionally are generous with their giving. Posters were placed in bus shelters & on buses. Campaigns were also run on local and national TV. One campaign ran into trouble with the Advertising Standards Authority and had to be withdrawn. The messages deliberately avoided victimising prostitution and mention of sexually

transmitted disease.

[The Diverted Giving Scheme is co-ordinated by the Neighbourhood Drugs Team of the City Council](#) Here secure and well designed savings [boxes for donations have been installed in venues across the city, including multi-storey car parks and cinemas.](#)

Street Drug Dealing

The LSP supported the development and publication of the City's first Drugs Strategy which ensures that drugs related issues are tackled by a multi agency team. In the City Centre 'Operation Stealth' aimed to deter and disrupt dealing through high visibility policing, redirection of enforcement focus towards street level dealing & use of street wardens as well as other measures such as CCTV. [Education and preventative measures](#)

Street Prostitution

[The Street Prostitution Task Group has developed an Action Plan which is designed to target kerb crawlers for enforcement and prostitutes for support and assistance to exit prostitution. The Task Group includes representation from voluntary organisations supporting prostitutes as well as the Vice Squad, Local Area Commander and the City Council. The group is jointly chaired by a Chief Inspector and Assistant Director from Social Services, reflecting the balanced approach of the group.](#)

A separate [Kerb Crawling Task Force was established in July 2004, as the enforcement arm of the Task Group. The Task Force comprises 1 police sergeant, 2 PCs, 2PCSOs, 2 Neighbourhood Wardens and a Community Drugs Officer, who works with a caseload of prostitutes to assist them to exit street prostitution.](#) The police also use automatic number plate recognition system (funded through NRF) to catch kerb crawlers. Car number plates are then checked against the national police database to identify past kerb crawling, if they are stolen or have been involved in motor offences.

~~A balanced approach is being taken to reduce prostitution. Firstly to reduce kerb & soliciting a Kerb Crawling Task Force was set up which includes prostitutes themselves. Kerb crawlers are charged or given the chance to go on a 'Change Programme' which costs them £250. Collaboration with the Prostitute Outreach Workers team (POW) was important. Profits from the programme are channelled back into the POW work. (not nec. POW work — profits go to voluntary and community organisations in the Vice Area, including —but not only, those working with prostitutes.~~

The NRF supported POW team has a case load of women, many of whom are inclined to exit from prostitution, but likely to be still on drugs. They receive specific help with regard to lifestyle changes including 1-1 support, help with CVs and identification of suitable courses

Anti-Social Behaviour in Local Neighbourhoods

The Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group developed a plan to co-ordinate the enforcement, prevention and intelligence activities of the Police and City Council.

In June 2004, Nottinghamshire Police established 4 multi-agency anti-social behaviour task forces to target the worst cases of anti-social behaviour in the city. The task forces comprise 1 Police Sgt, 2 PCs, 2 PCSOs and 2 ASB Officers each.

In Sept. 2004, the Respect Board decided to form a centralised ASB Unit within the City Council's Neighbourhood Services Department. This Unit will co-ordinate and streamline the City's response to anti-social behaviour, and represents a significant investment and commitment to robustly tackling ASB in the future.

Enviro-Crime with hotline

This work began with a 100 days Clean-Up Campaign. It also involved the Neighbourhood Wardens in enforcement action to tackle littering, flyposting, graffiti, flytipping through the use of mobile CCTV, out of hours enforcement action, A Graffiti Reward Scheme and the issuing of fixed penalty notices

The City Council also won the first ASB) in the country for flyposting.

Who was involved?

Local Police

City Centre Manager & Task Forces

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Social Services

Prostitute Outreach Workers

Neighbourhood Renewal Officers

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| | <p>Local Charities</p> <p>One City Partnership (LSP)</p> |
| <p><i>Early and significant falls in begging, prostitution, drug supply & kerb crawling together with increased satisfaction in the City Centre environment have been achieved</i></p> | <p>What did it achieve?</p> <p>The multi agency work Respect for Nottingham demonstrates that a balanced carrot and stick approach to City Centre disorder problems can make a real impact, particularly in the short to medium term. The communication campaigns ensured a high profile for the work and served to raise the brand name of 'Respect for Nottingham' and to show the public how seriously the issues were being taken. Independent evaluation has yet to take place, however, headlines figures collected across the programme so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 85% sustained drop in begging. ▪ Significant increase in arrests for drug supply (over 400 are directly attributable to Respect for Nottingham initiate). ▪ Decrease in arrestees testing positive from 60% to 48% over last 6 months ▪ Decline in residents identifying drug dealing as a problem by 11% ▪ In first 8 months Kerb Crawling Task Force arrested 71 men - twice number of crawlers than in the whole of previous year (City wide figures). 73% of these opted for the Change Programme, 14% were charged with kerb crawling ▪ 120 prostitutes arrested in first 8 months, of these 45% were charged and 24% cautioned. Additionally a total of 201 contracts made with active street prostitutes by support services assisting prostitutes to make sustainable life changes (City wide figures). ▪ £7,000 raised so far through diverted giving figures. ▪ Few complaints received on the approach <p>With regard to envirocrime there has been a significant increase in customer satisfaction as recorded in a recent survey of over 1000 residents (can we have figures please?)</p> |

Check list

- Ensure you have political drive able to make services more responsive and under pressure to achieve required results.
- Build on the knowledge, relationships and initiatives of previous initiatives (e.g. CDRP)
- Pay particular attention to the messages going out in hard-hitting advertising campaigns
- Think innovatively about solutions to problems and working in a co-ordinated, multi-agency way.

← **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

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