

FORMAT FOR PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION

MEMBERSTATE: CYPRUS

NAME OF THE PROJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER

IN USE SINCE:13/10/2003

INFO ON THE WEB: NONE

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PROBLEM (intelligence)

Give a short description of the problem?

For some time now Law Enforcement Authorities in Cyprus have recognized that criminality among Juveniles and Drug related offences are on the increased. On top of the above it has been noted that public fear of crime has generated a distance with the Police, which in effect does not assist either in the prevention or the confrontation.

Since when is it a problem?

Although there is no specific date to refer to, it must be pointed that this is more evident within the last five years.

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?

We provide for your consideration national criminal statistics for serious offences (Appendix Serious Offences), as well as juvenile delinquency. (Appendix juvenile) However it must be pointed that recent changes in the recording of reports show a sharp increase, which in effect these figures are somehow illusive.

Describe the type of Offenders?

The offenders do not belong in a specific age group. However we consider that the majority of offenders are of young age.

What is their Modus Operandi?

Mostly the offenders are involved with Burglaries and Thefts.

Who are the victims?

There is no specific trend as far as victimization is concerned. The victims are the general public.

What are the causes?

One does not identify a single cause for the above situation. However we have identified two major areas of concern. These are related to adequate prevention measures and case intelligence.

WHAT (intervention)

Give a short description of the Project?

This is a recent project, which has been launched last year. It actually involves a pilot study, which purpose was to evaluate the effect of the proximity of police officers in the community and its collaboration with local authorities. The program was tested in three areas of Cyprus (two urban and one rural) all involving three different police divisions.

Police officers (29) underwent a two week training course on top of the usual Police academy Training on Law Enforcement and Community Policing, in order to meet task requirement. Mostly, the police officers received training in communication skills, Psychology, mediation, crisis management involving drugs, violence in the family, Juvenile delinquency etc. It must be noted that all police officers were experienced officers with an average of 10 years service.

Their duty involved the cooperation with local authorities and other actors in the community, in order to eliminate activity before this generates criminality. Most of their task involved public assistance to the public, consultation, solving grievances with neighbors and complaints with local government authorities. In addition to the above the police were able to collect information concerning serious offences involving drug abuse and traffic.

The three areas involved in the program were: Strovolos Police Station (15 Police Officers) which is located in the Municipality of Strovolos, district of Nicosia, Agios Ioannis Police Station (9 Police Offices) which is located in the Municipality of Limassol, district of Limassol and Kiti Police Station (5 Police Offices) which administers six villages in the district of Larnaca. The ration of Police offices to population is around four thousand per policeman in urban areas and around two thousand per policeman in rural areas. Although patrol was mainly done on foot, some policemen were able to use scooters and police cars when patrolling distant areas.

Initially, the project was evaluated three times within ten months operation. The project was evaluated two times by an independent evaluator, through the means of

public census, and another time by the administrative committee. Independent evaluations have shown that the public was in favor of the program (69%) and that the program will increase the security of the public (87%). (Appendix RAI 1/2/3).

The Administrative Committee carried out the final evaluation (appendix FINAL EVALUATION) . Results have shown that in one area, where the program was applied, serious crime reporting dropped by 29%. Although in neighboring areas the reporting of crime dropped only by 6 %, in the control areas, the decrease was more significant. In the other urban area (Limassol) crime reporting rose by 22% while in neighboring areas crime reporting rose by 55%. In the third area, Kiti Police Station the results were different, instead of following the same trend of elimination of crime reporting, statistics have shown an increase. Having studied the results extensively it has been shown that the activity of repeated offending have disproportionately increased the number of crime reporting, despite the great effort placed by the neighborhood Policemen. It is documented that Policemen in the Kiti area assisted in the apprehension of a number of criminals.

Having studied the results, the Police Authorities have commissioned the Administrative Committee to prepare a national Action Plan to cover the whole of the country within five years. The Action Plan has been submitted in October 2004.

What are the short, medium and long-term objectives of the project?

The short-term objectives of the project are to measure the effects of proximity policing and public expectations concerning police services. The second stage involves the elimination of fear of crime in the public and thirdly the decreased of criminality.

What are the activities of the project?

The neighbourhood Police Officers had the task to involve themselves with the cooperation with local authorities and other actors in the community, in order to eliminate activity before this generates criminality. Most of their task involved public assistance to the public, consultation, solving grievances with neighbors and complaints with local government authorities. In addition to the above the police were

able to collect information concerning serious offences involving drug abuse and traffic.

Their mission is summarized as follows:

- To protect the neighborhood through various preventive measures
- To develop the sense of security in the public
- To increased the communication and association with the public
- To sensitize the general public on issues of crime prevention and implication to social control.

The above can be achieved through:

- Close proximity with organized groups in the community
- Serving the public in neighborhoods
- Recording crime generating situations
- Solving social problems which might generate criminality
- Referring social problems to experts in specified Authorities
- Close and participation in social events, in schools and local Authorities
- Visiting Victims
- Taking initiatives for public awareness programs

Is the project to address?

Situational

Offender or

Victim

Oriented causes Namely

The problem encountered is situational i.e. generating elimination of public fear of crime, though the close proximity of the police. This will inevitably lead to the decrease of factors generating criminality and at the end a decrease of crime.

HOW (implementation)

Give a short Description of the History of the project?

In the summer of 2003 three police officers from the Cyprus Police visited some countries in order to study various models of community policing, mainly Neighborhood Policeman. Upon their return they have proposed a specific model, which in effect was a blend of other programs. Initially a survey was carried out in order to identify the logistic required as well as the problems of application. Simultaneously statistics identified the form of criminality requesting immediate attention. These were thefts, burglaries, drugs etc.

Further to the above an Administrative Committee was set up in order to see through the project. One of the main tasks was to select the personnel and set up the training. This was done in October 2003. The course involved communication skills, Psychology, mediation, crisis management involving drugs, violence in the family, Juvenile delinquency etc.

In addition to the above the Administrative Committee in the mean time has selected the three areas to apply the program. These were Strovolos Police station, Agios Ioannis Police Station, Kiti Police Station.

On the 13th of October 2003 the Police Officers were ready to commence duty. It must be pointed that the project was give publicity through the media. Initial problem such as overtime work etc was solved when police officers were given special allowances for overtime work. In order to solve the distance problem some police officers used scooters and cars.

It must be mentioned that some police officers had shown some dissatisfaction with their new duties and it was necessary to replace them with new.

The project was evaluated three times within ten months operation. The project was evaluated two times by an independent evaluator, through the means of public census, and another time by the administrative committee. Independent evaluations have

shown that the public was in favor of the program (69%) and that the program will increase the security of the public (87%).

Once the project was evaluated the Police Administration commissioned the Administrative Committee to prepare a five-year Action Plan.

Is there a project Plan?

Yes there is a project plan for the whole program. This includes area allocation, boundaries of areas, and criminality per area, finances as well as performance. Although the project was initially developed as a pilot study for three months at the end it continue on permanent bases.

How is the project customized for the local situation and context?

Since training, the Neighborhood Police Officers were introduced to the concept of the uniqueness of issues and problems confronted in the community. In areas where there was an established forum to take care of municipality issues these were referred to the local authorities for instance. However, it has been noticed that the problems confronted by the Police Officers varied according to location. For instance, in rural areas there were more environmental issues to take care, whereas in urban areas the problems reflected city life e.g. noise pollution, traffic offences etc.

WHO (involvement)

Which-both public and private partners are involved in each face of the project?

An open discussion was carried with one of the partners (Strovolos Municipality). From the beginning of the project it has welcomed the Neighborhood Police Officers and opened all necessary channels of communication with Municipality services. Other Local Authorities were informed of the Police. Besides Local Authorities, The Police consulted and advised local groups on issues of crime prevention (Schools, clubs, Church, Scouts etc.) (Appendix NICE PICTURES)

What role and tasks does each partner have?

Each partner has a specific task to fulfill and actual one complement the other. However, at some stage the tasks are interlinked. Police officers identify local problems, which are the responsibility of the Municipality, and these are forwarded for solving to specific services. In essence the police identify local problems social and other and through their mediation these are forwarded to the appropriate authorities for attention.

Who gave the Input on the Know how?

Members of the Police Committee provided the Know how, as well as input for the enforcement of the problem.

How is the Project Financed?

The issue of finance was a crucial issue in the realization of the program. Although there were no provisions for this project in the annual budget of the Police, it was decided to cover expenses through the overtime and make a special request for financing the Project from the Ministry of Justice.

When the project is fully enforced then the Ministry of Justice will cover the expenses.

Did the project effect them who it was meant to, or also others?

According to the surveys contacted by the Independent Authority, it shows that the public is satisfied with this form of policing. In Addition crime reporting has dropped considerably in two of the three areas applied. The third location does not show

significant results on account that repeated offending in the area have increased the numbers of reported cases. On top of the above local authorities recognized that more Police Officers are located in their area thus increasing security, stability and sense of safety in the community. This makes local authorities to respond positively to the police strategy.

EFFECT (Impact)

Has the project been evaluated?

The project has been evaluated three times. Two times by an independent Marketing Company (RAI) which specializes in Public surveys and once by the Administrative Committee.

What was evaluated?

The two surveys evaluated public attitude towards the Neighborhood Policemen program. Results were positive, showing that the public was in favor of the program (69%) and that the program will increase the security of the public (87%).

The third evaluation was carried out by the Administrative Committee and concentrated on crime reporting per location (Police Station) and specificity of activity.

At what stage did the evaluation take place?

The two independent surveys were conducted in November 2003 and the other in February 2004. The crime reporting and activity evaluation was conducted in October 2004.

Who did the evaluation?

1. An independent Marketing Company (RAI) specializing in public census.
2. The Administrative Committee.

What are the results?

The results are presented on the relevant tables in the appendix. Relevant tables show a heavy activity as far as visits and contacts is concerned. Although there is no specific correlation on the issue of the decrease of crime reporting with the amount of contacts and visits, final results show a decrease of crime reported. Two of the three locations, which the project was administered, show a decrease of cases reported while the third location for some specific reason do not follow the same trend. Repeating offending has altered the results.

Two independent surveys show public acceptance of the new form of community policing.

Are the goals of the project achieved?

The goals of the project have been overwhelmingly met.

Up to one extent the goals have been achieved?

The goals and scope of the project have been according to the evaluation, fully met. However it is important to reevaluate the project once it fully established national wise.

GENERAL

Don'ts

1. Must not give extensive publicity on the project.
2. Police officers must be selected not recruited – mostly volunteers.

Do's

1. Provision of adequate training
2. Police Acceptance of Neighborhood Policemen
3. Adequate cooperation with other police sections and departments.
4. Provide sufficient funds and necessary equipment
5. Provide adequate supervision
6. Provide motivation to Neighborhood Policemen
7. Keep record of activity and work.