

Succesfull crimepreventive projects “Neighborhood watch” in two socially deprived areas in Halland, Sweden

	Initiative	Description and Evidence
1	Initiative Duration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Sörse, Varberg 2007-2010 2. In Andersberg, Halmstad 2008/09-2010
2	Which Sustainability -CSR Pillar does your Initiative fall under (Society, Environment, Employees, Marketplace)	Society and Marketplace
3	Was the Project idea yours? Please elaborate	Well, my company is the “promotor” of the projects and I am the one who started the projects after I had been in touch with worried neighbours in Söre 2006 and in Andersberg 2008. I had to involve the police authority as well before we started the projects together.
4	What are the initiative Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measurements? (Please provide in an OGSM table format, see table below)	See the table below and the text in the appendix. It’s complicated to explain everything in a short way but please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.
5	What were the main impacts of your project to your key stakeholders (up to 3 impacts & up to 3 key Stakeholders)	<p><u>Customers:</u> since the crime and injuries goes down the insurance company has less expenditures and in the long run it will effects the premiums in a positive direction.</p> <p><u>Company:</u> The vision of the company is to contribute to a safe Halland to live and work and through those projects we have succeeded reaching goals towards our vision. These results makes the employees proud as well as the management team and the board.</p> <p><u>General public/Society:</u> reduced criminality in Sörse by 37 % and in Andersberg by 23 %. Increased security in those areas. People who are direct involved with neighbourhood watch also reach a higher level of satisfaction in life – it has a great impact on health promotion for those people.</p>
6	Please describe the initiative (max 500 Worlds)	The university of Halmstad has done a scientific evaluation of the impacts of the projects. The evaluation has been going on during 2010-2011. The results were presented the 26 th of January 2012 at a specific hearing at the University with about 60 invited guests. About 13 newspapers around the country wrote about the results, two radioprogrammes and one televisionprogramme made interviews as well. The results were also presented at a national conference in Stockholm 31/1-1/2 and is now spread as a “what works”-example around the country. <i>Read the summary in the appendix.</i>

**Initiative Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measurements
(OGSM) Table**

Objectives (Provide the Initiative's general Objective)	Goals (Provide specific measurable Goals for every objective)	Strategies (Which action / strategic method was used to achieve each Goal)	Measurements (How was every action / strategic method measured)
Crime prevention	16-26% reduced crime (the results from similar projects in residential areas)	Organize training for those interested in Neighbourhood watch.	Police crime statistics
Increased safety	Increase the experience of safety among the neighbours	Give information and support those involved both by telephone and personal meetings	Survey and interviews
Health promotion	Increased experience of greater health among those directly involved	Encourage the neighbours to be involved in different activities, like walking rounds	Survey and interviews
Victim support	Increased satisfaction for those who had experienced crime	Getting to know your neighbours through the projects different activities (read the appendix) makes people feel less lonesome	Survey and interviews
Integrative effect	Increased and better contacts between neighbours with different origins.	When offered to join the projects – many got to know each other which wouldn't have happened otherwise	Survey and interviews

Summary

Halland's neighbourhood watch for multi-family dwellings has proven efficient and sustainable.

The purpose of the assessment was to examine neighbourhood watches among multi-family dwellings in two different residential districts in the country of Halland. The residential district of Sörse is situated in Varberg and the Andersberg district in Halmstad. Neighbourhood watches among multi-family dwellings began in 2007 in Varberg and are now in their sixth year, while they are in their fifth year in Halmstad. The report shows a steady reduction of crime in these districts following the establishment of neighbourhood watches. With the aid of police crime statistics (RAR) on police reports made in Sörse and Andersberg, the research group has been seeking answers regarding the extent to which neighbourhood watches have contributed to a reduction in such crimes as assault, theft and larceny, as well as vandalism.

The neighbourhood watch was launched with a flying start in Sörse, Varberg in 2007, and reports of crimes were at a peak due to increased vigilance and the proclivity of police reports being made in conjunction with the establishment of the neighbourhood watch. Subsequently, there was a substantial reduction in incidences of burglary, theft and vandalism in the district. Rates of crimes against individuals were stable over time, but a reduction could also be noticed for these. Comparing the year 2006—prior to the establishment of the neighbourhood watch in Sörse—with the year 2010, criminality was reduced by 37 per cent. Following the establishment of the neighbourhood watch programme in Andersberg in Halmstad in autumn 2008 and early 2009, the rate of criminality in 2010 was reduced overall by 23 per cent. In both residential districts, a steady reduction of crime has been noted following the establishment of a neighbourhood watch. The reduction is clearest when it comes to theft and vandalism. The crime rate is also considerably lower in Sörse and Andersberg, compared with the municipality of Varberg and the municipality of Halmstad or the county of Halland.

The research material was generated in addition to the police statistics on reports; it included a survey responded to by 503 persons, and 48 interviews with key persons and the residents of both Sörse and Andersberg. The neighbourhood watch has proven to be both successful and lasting at Sörse and Andersberg. One reason for this is that in both city districts, the neighbourhood watch has been able to develop organically, based on their individual local conditions—a development that has led to a balance between social and situational crime prevention.

The organisational solutions have proven to be lasting: at Sörse, in that they benefit from the commitment of residents, and at Andersberg, in that the neighbourhood watch was been integrated into the housing corporation's operations. Another factor that has contributed to the endurance of the neighbourhood watches is the range of meaningful roles that neighbourhood-watch volunteers can take on. They contribute to the acceptance and appreciation of neighbours when it comes to organising social activities for the community, walking rounds in the neighbourhood, conversing with neighbours and keeping records of the measures for preventing crime and fire. This has provided neighbourhood-watch volunteers with confirmation and emotional rewards which motivate their

continued commitment. There are varying motives for committing to a neighbourhood watch, but for most volunteers, it is about increasing social cohesion and safety in the area, restricting the number of criminal incidents and increasing the awareness of what is happening in the area. It could also be a means of improving the area's reputation. For those who have been victims of a crime, it was also a means of processing their experience.

In addition to the impact on crime in the area, neighbourhood watches have had a range of other effects. One effect seems to be that residents, by joining the watches and walking their rounds in the area, no longer feel alone or a victim of circumstances beyond their control. This has contributed to their recapturing some of the natural instincts with which we used to react to crime and the threat of crime—by putting personal effort into crime prevention and making police reports. Their relationship with the police, particularly the officers with whom they come into contact, has become a more trusting one, through the immediate response of the police and the appreciable results of their responses.

Persons with foreign backgrounds seem to feel particularly unsafe to a higher degree than other tenants. For their part, the neighbourhood watch seems to have an integrating effect in that they obtain information about what is happening in the residential district and society in general, through participation in the neighbourhood watch. Their contact with neighbours is developed through their participation in activities together with their neighbours within the framework of the neighbourhood watch programme. For many people, the sticker with the neighbourhood-watch symbol that is attached to their door frames symbolises their belonging to an everyday community in the area.

Another factor that has contributed to the endurance of the neighbourhood watches is that they offer a range of meaningful roles, with responsibilities and assignments that are appreciated by the neighbours, such as when it comes to organising social activities for the community, walking rounds in the neighbourhood, conversing with neighbours and keeping records of the measures for preventing crime and fire.

Among the success factors is that tenants are given the opportunity to participate in the residential district's development. Another success factor is the distinct perspective of entitlement, which emphasises the right of tenants to a positive residential environment free from crime and vandalism in cooperation with the police, insurance companies and their housing corporation. To be able to successfully claim their rights, we have identified several central attributes among the players in neighbourhood watches:

- Trust in their own and their neighbours' ability to defend their area against crime and vandalism and the ability to promote solidarity and safety
- The ability to mobilise people and surroundings resources within the neighbourhood
- The ability to establish sustainable alternatives that will not be vulnerable due to, for example, rising costs or neighbourhood watch operations relying on only a handful of diehards

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