

WARDS AFFECTED:
Aspley, Bilborough, Leen Valley

ITEM:
WEST AREA COMMITTEE
11 JANUARY 2006

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

DRAFT WEST AREA COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report asks members to agree the action identified in the West Area Community Safety Action Plan circulated prior to this area committee meeting.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- Members comment on the contents of the Community Safety Action Plan.
- Members agree to the Community Safety Action Plan being incorporated into the West Area Action Plan 2006-09, subject to the completion of consultation with local communities.
- Members suggest how they would like to be kept informed of progress towards the implementation of the Community Safety Action Plan and define the relationship between the Community Safety Working Group (CSWG) and the West Area Committee in achieving action plan objectives.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The West Area Community Safety Working Group, at its meeting on the 19th July 2005, agreed that a action plan should be devised which identifies priorities for community safety, ha clear outcomes and targets which can be monitored.
- 3.2 The West Area CSWG agreed that a seminar should be organised that enables the key priorities for community safety to be identified based on intelligence available for the West Area from a variety of sources. The action planning seminar took place on the 20 September 2005 with the aim of identifying actions and responsible agencies.
- 3.3 The seminar generated a large amount of information which has been used to develop the CSWG action plan. The key themes identified, based on the seminar workshops, were:
- Young Offenders
 - Tenant & Resident Satisfaction
 - Local Involvement in Crime & ASB Agenda
 - Resident Involvement In The Regeneration of Broxtowe
 - The Role of Education Services in Contributing to Community Safety Issues
 - Provision of Safe Open Spaces for Play
 - Burglaries From Homes

- Drug and Alcohol Enforcement & Prevention Work
- Vehicle Crime
- Arson Prevention
- Domestic Violence
- Criminal Damage / Designing-out Crime

3.4 The Community Safety Action Plan was discussed at the CSWG meeting of 22nd November 2005. It was agreed that additional activities were required to address the issues of domestic violence and ASB in more detail.

3.5 The CSWG agreed to monitor performance towards the Community Safety Action Plan at future meetings (scheduled to be monthly throughout 2006). Additionally, the CSWG recognised the need to have stronger links with Neighbourhood Policing and other tasking activity in the West Area.

3.6 At its meeting on the 22 November 2005, the CSWG acknowledged that a stronger relationship should exist with the West Area Committee. Hence, the West Area Committee will receive regular updates on progress towards the Community Safety Action Plan, as well as the expectation that this committee will negotiate support from partner organisations when required.

3.7 Once the Community Safety Action Plan has been ratified by the West Area Committee, it will be presented to the CDRP requesting their support.

4 PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed that the West Area Committee takes this opportunity to make any comments on the Community Safety Action Plan prior to its adoption and notes the recommendations of this report.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Whilst there are no financial implications attached to this report, the West Area Committee may wish to stipulate that future actions related to community safety will only be supported if they are defined in the Community Safety Action Plan.

6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Communities living with high levels of poverty and deprivation are statistically more likely to be affected by crime and ASB. The Community Safety Action Plan aims to address many of the concerns that local communities have around community safety. Hence, the implementation of the plan will improve the quality of life of all residents in the West Area.

7 STRATEGIC AIMS

7.1 This report contributes towards the following strategic aims:

- Ensuring Local Involvement In Decision Making
- Making Nottingham A Safer City
- Creating A More Attractive Place To Live And Work

- Improving The Health Of Local People
- Maximising Leisure And Cultural Opportunities

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- The West Community Safety Action Plan Seminar (20 SEPT 2005)
- Anti-Social Behaviour Day (15 JULY 2005)
- From Problem to Participation: Young People in the West Area of Nottingham (2004)

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None.

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8th December 2005

From Problem to Participation: Young People in the West Area of Nottingham

A Report by Crime Concern on Behalf of
GOEM for the Community Safety Working
Group in the West Area of Nottingham



Special thanks

Crime Concern would like to express their gratitude to the following agencies that very generously provided us with the necessary information to complete this report:

- Bilborough Housing Office
- Broxtowe Partnership Trust
- Connexions
- Educations Services
- Fire and Rescue Service: Arson Task Force
- Harvey Hadden
- Juvenile database: Nottinghamshire police
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Police
- Police/Broxtowe police station
- Social Services
- The Youth Offending Team
- Youth Service
- The Zone

Crime Concern would also like to thank Asif Mohammed (area west co-ordinator), Yvette Armstrong (assistant area west co-ordinator) and Councillor Sue Palmer (Chair of the community safety partnership for the west area) for their help and support.

Report Summary

In 2004, Crime Concern Trust Ltd were commissioned by the West Area Community Safety Working Group to look at the risk factors that may predispose young people towards criminality – particularly with reference to the cohort of young people who live in the West Area.

A number of risk factors were identified – some of which had more relevance to the young people of the West Area than others. There seemed to be particular issues around educational attainment, which would merit further investigation, but generally no other factors seemed as important.

Some further consultative work was carried out with local young people and their parents to gain an idea of their perception of the issues that faced them. Generally, the young people were reasonably satisfied with many aspects of their area, although the perennial problem of an inadequate supply of social facilities does seem to be an issue for them.

Parents who were interviewed expressed concern at quality of the provision that was available to younger people – particularly physical resources like parks and play equipment. They also would value additional information about what facilities exist locally for both themselves and their children.

The recommendations that appear at the end of this report are based on these findings.

Introduction

The subject of risk factors that pre-dispose young people towards criminality is a complex area. Perhaps one of the best studies of these is by McCarthy, Laing and Walker.¹ This document has been used to provide a loose framework for this report.

The report starts with an overview of the demographic position of the West Area prior to moving into an analysis of the specific risk factors. It then moves into a more consultative methodology with members both of the target audience and their parents / carers.

Leen Valley ward profile

The following information, taken from the 2001 Census, aims to provide a broad profile of Leen Valley:

- Leen Valley has a resident population of 9,191 of which 48% were male and 52% were female. 19.7% are under 16, which is lower than the England and Wales percentage of young people (20.2%).
- 4.6% of the population are aged between 16 and 19, which is lower than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 6.6% and 4.9% respectively.
- 4.1% of the population of Leen Valley are unemployed, which is higher than the England and Wales percentage (3.4%). Of the 4.1% unemployed within Leen Valley, 9% had never worked and 32% were long-term unemployed.
- 36.9% of residents living in Leen Valley had no qualifications, which is higher than the England and Wales percentage (29.1%).

¹ Offenders of the future? Assessing the risk of children and young people becoming involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour – Newcastle Centre for family studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

- In Leen Valley there were 3,992 households in 2001. 27.2% of households contained dependent children, which is very slightly lower than the England and Wales percentage with 29.5%.
- The average household size in Leen Valley was 2.3 persons, which is lower than the England and Wales average of 2.4.
- The percentage of households renting from the council in Leen Valley is 17.9%, which is higher than the England and Wales percentage with 13.2%.
- The percentage of owner-occupiers in Leen Valley (67.3%) is slightly lower than the England and Wales percentage with 68.9%.
- 37% of households in Leen Valley do not own a car or van. This is higher than the England and Wales percentage with 26.8%.

This Census information shows a community that has:

- A high percentage of residents with no qualifications compared with the national figure;
- An unemployment figure higher than the England and Wales percentage;
- Uncertainty of educational attainment, employment prospects and aspirations of young people.

Bilborough ward profile

The following information, taken from the 2001 Census, aims to provide a broad profile of Bilborough ward:

- The resident population of this ward was 16,044 of which 52% were female and 48% were male. 23.4% of the population are under 16, which is higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage, with 19.8% and 20.2% respectively.
- 4.8% of the population are aged between 16 and 19, which is lower than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 6.6% and 4.9% respectively.
- 5.4% of the population of this ward are unemployed, which is higher than both the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 5.2% and 3.4% respectively. Within Bilborough, 12% had never worked and 40% were long term unemployed.
- 47.6% of residents had no qualifications, which is higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 33.9% and 29.1% respectively.
- In Bilborough there were 7,198 households in 2001. 28.2% of households in this ward contained dependent children, which is slightly higher than the Nottingham percentage (27.1%) but lower than the England and Wales percentage with 29.5%.
- The average household size was 2.2 persons, which matches the Nottingham average and is lower than the England and Wales average of 2.4.

- The percentage of households renting from the council is 40.4%, which is significantly higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 26.9% and 13.2% respectively.
- 46.8% of the population own their own property, which is lower than the Nottingham percentage (50%) and that of England and Wales (68.9%).
- 47% of households in this ward do not own a car or van, which is higher than the Nottingham percentage with 44.9% and the England and Wales percentage with 26.8%.

This Census information shows a community that has:

- A high percentage of young people under 16 compared to the national figure;
- A significantly high percentage of residents with no qualifications in comparison to the national figure;
- A high percentage of the population are unemployed compared to the national figure and the Nottingham percentage;
- Uncertainty of educational attainment, employment prospects and aspirations of young people.

Aspley ward profile

The following information, taken from the 2001 Census, aims to provide a broad profile of Aspley ward:

- The resident population of this ward was 15,689 of which 52% were female and 48% were male. 32.1% of the population are under 16, which is significantly higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage, with 19.8% and 20.2% respectively.
- 6.5% of the population are aged between 16 and 19, which is very slightly lower than the Nottingham percentage (6.6%) but higher than the England and Wales percentage (4.9%).
- 7.5% of the population of this ward are unemployed, which is higher than both the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 5.2% and 3.4% respectively. Within Aspley, 15% had never worked and 36% were long term unemployed.
- 49.6% of residents had no qualifications, which is higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 33.9% and 29.1% respectively.
- In Aspley there were 6,264 households in 2001. 45% of households in this ward contained dependent children, which is considerably higher than the Nottingham percentage (27.1%) and also the England and Wales percentage with 29.5%.
- The average household size was 2.5 persons, which is higher than both the Nottingham average of 2.2 and the England and Wales average of 2.4.
- The percentage of households renting from the council is 52.4%, which is significantly higher than the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 26.9% and 13.2% respectively.
- 36.8% of the population own their own property, which is lower than the Nottingham percentage (50%) and that of England and Wales (68.9%).

- 52% of households in this ward do not own a car or van, which is higher than both the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage with 44.9% and 26.8% respectively.

This Census information shows a community that has:

- A disproportionate number of young people under 16 compared to the national figure;
- A significantly high percentage of residents with no qualifications in comparison to the national figure;
- A high percentage of the population are unemployed;
- Uncertainty of educational attainment, employment prospects and aspirations of young people;
- Out of the three wards that make up the west area, Aspley is the most deprived in terms of unemployment, educational attainment and housing.

Setting the context: the national dimension

Young offenders are not a homogenous group; the great majority of young people who commit offences do so infrequently and are predominantly responsible for less serious property crimes. This group tends to grow out of their offending behaviour at a relatively young age, can be diverted from their activities by a warning from the police and are unlikely to become regular drug users (Orrock and Hopkins Burke, 2003). Research evidence shows that approximately 70% who receive a caution are not cautioned again or reconvicted within two years (Home Office, 1996). There is, however, a small hard core of persistent offenders – who apparently fail to respond to police warnings and attempts to divert them from their activities – and this group is responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. Official statistics show that approximately 3% of young offenders are responsible for 26% of youth crime (Graham and Bowling, 1995) and Edmunds (2000) found that 10% of offenders in her sample were responsible for nearly half of all offences admitted in her study.

The research paper undertaken by Communities that Care on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (2001), describes the risk factors that are associated with anti-social and criminal behaviour. There is no one single factor that can be specified as the cause of this behaviour, and while exposure to risk factors does not necessarily predispose young people to become involved in crime, Graham and Bowling (1995) point out that multiple risk factors increase the likelihood of young people becoming persistent² or serious offenders. Moreover, Rutter (1979) proposes a multiplicative model, whereby each presenting risk factor multiplies rather than adds to the likelihood and degree of a negative outcome such as offending.

These risk factors are:

- Family factors include poor parental supervision and discipline, family conflict, a family history of criminal activity, parental attitudes that condone anti-social and criminal behaviour and low income, poor housing and large family size;
- School factors include low achievement beginning in primary school, aggressive behaviour including bullying and lack of commitment to school including truancy;

² Persistent offending is defined as those who have committed at least three offences in one year of any type and/or one or more serious offence. Serious offences include assault, threatening or hurting someone with a weapon, burglary, car or motorbike theft, pick pocketing or snatch theft.

- Community factors include disadvantaged/neglected neighbourhoods, availability of drugs and high turnover and lack of neighbourhood attachment;
- Personal or individual factors include hyperactivity and impulsivity, low intelligence, alienation and lack of social commitment, attitudes that condone offending and drug misuse and early involvement/friends involved in crime and drug misuse.

Minimizing risk has become a central element of social policy. This is particularly apparent in the area of crime reduction, where it is recognised that if risk factors can be identified early on in a child's life, measures to reduce the existence and the effect of these factors can provide a long-term solution to reducing offending and anti-social behaviour. One of the major tasks for practitioners involved in delivering crime reduction initiatives is to identify those children who are at greatest risk, so as to target resources more effectively (Offenders of the future? Assessing the risk of children and young people becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour: DfES research report, 2004).

While risk factors may assist organisations in identifying those young people who may require intervention, protective factors may usefully inform the intervention. Research studies identify the importance of the enhancement of protective factors (Bynner, 2001) such as:

- Positive family and peer relationships;
- Self-esteem;
- Intelligence;
- Achievement;
- External support systems;
- Social bonding;
- Healthy social attitudes across a community.

Intervention programmes have targeted the individual, peers, family or the school in order to address these kinds of protective factors.

Young people who become involved in crime at an earlier age (under 14) are likely to become persistent offenders (Rutter, Giller and Hagel, 1998). Farrington (1992) supports this and shows that those convicted earlier (10 to 13) had the longest criminal careers. Given the extent of involvement in crime for this age group, prevention and early intervention have become a significant focus for both research and the policy agenda. Little (1999) distinguishes between prevention, defined as involving a broad population, and early intervention, defined as targeting those at risk of a particular problem. In the context of this research, we are focusing on early intervention since the interest in the west area is in targeting the 'at risk' groups.

The Youth Justice Board research paper describes the evidence using the four domains of: family, school, community and personal or individual factors, and these will inform the basis of the research.

Family factors

Risk factors

Research reveals that 42% of young people with low or medium levels of parental supervision admit to having committed criminal offences but only 20% have been exposed to high levels of supervision (Graham and Bowling, 1995). Parenting education helps to prevent youth crime (NACRO, 1997) and schemes exist to help and support parents in caring for and controlling their children (Utting, 1997).

Children on the child protection register

The child protection register (CPR) is a list of children who are known or believed to have been abused or injured in some way, or who are thought to be at risk of injury, abuse or neglect. The child protection register is maintained by the local authority for the area child protection committee and is strictly confidential. A child will be placed upon the register only after a case conference which finds that both of the following conditions are met: that the child is found to be ‘at risk of significant harm’ and in need of a properly constituted plan to address that harm.

Table 1 represents the number of children on the child protection register between 1 December 2003 and 28 February 2004³. **The west area⁴ appears to have the greatest number of children on the child protection register out of the nine areas that constitute Nottingham city with 16 per 10,000 population⁵.** Whilst the community safety partnership does not have a statutory duty of care, this is a significant finding when considering the risk factors associated with youth crime, for example, child abuse.

Table 1

Age of child	Number on the CPR	Ethnicity	Number on the CPR
0-4	7	Asian	1
5-9	5	Black	1
10-15	4	Dual heritage	3
16-17	0	White	11
18-24	0		

Source: Social Services, 2004

Children whose parents are harsh, cruel, highly inconsistent, passive or neglecting are at increased risk of criminality as adolescents. Poor supervision by parents has, similarly, been linked to criminality, especially to ‘early onset’ offending, that is in turn, linked to recidivism and to longer persistence in crime. One study found that harsh discipline and poor parenting at age 8 were associated with an increased risk of involvement in violent crime by age 21. Other studies have linked experience of physical abuse as a child with an increased risk of becoming a violent offender (Youth Justice Board, 2001).

Protective factors

In turn, factors signifying the absence of risk will help to protect children and young people against involvement in crime, drug abuse and other anti-social behaviour. A strong bond of attachment with one or both parents, characterised by a stable, warm, affectionate relationship has been shown to protect children who would otherwise be at high risk of offending.

Children looked after by the local authority

Children looked after means a person under the age of 18 who is provided by a local authority, acting in its social services capacity, with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, by agreement with the parents or with the child if they are aged 16 or over, or who is the subject of a relevant court order under part IV of the Children Act 1989.

³ ‘Other’ and ‘unrecorded’ ethnicity categories have not been included in any of the tables representing data from social services.

⁴ A number of children have been excluded from the figures provided by social services, either because they live outside the district or because their postcode is unrecorded.

⁵ Data was provided by social services using rate per 10,000 population figures.

Table 2 represents the number of children currently looked after by the local authority as at 1 December 2003. **The west area has the greatest number of looked after children out of the nine areas in Nottingham city with 22 per 10,000 population.** It is not possible to quantify how many of these children live in local authority accommodation from those whose home address is in the west area⁶. Whilst both have implications for the west area, they may require different responses.

There is one children's home in the west area (Bilborough) out of a total of 7 (in the city's 9 areas), which may account for a proportion of these children, however, this is purely a function of where the children's home is located. A number of these children may have home addresses in the west area that are living in local authority accommodation outside of this area. This would have a different response because it suggests that there is a cohort of children living in the community who are dislocated from their families.

Table 2

Age	Number of children currently looked after	Ethnicity	Number of children currently looked after
0-4	4	Asian	0
5-9	6	Black	0
10-15	10	Dual heritage	6
16-17	2	White	16
18-24	1 ⁷		

Source: Social Services, 2004

Information can, however, be obtained on the number of detected offences committed by a young person that is resident in a particular children's home. In the financial year 2003/04 29 offences were committed by residents of the children's home in the west area. Of these 29 offences, 20 took place within the home and 9 outside of it. Furthermore, there were 9 offenders responsible for the 29 offences, including 11 incidents of common assault and battery.

Evidence available in the west area on risk and protective factors:

- The west area has the greatest number of children on the child protection register in Nottingham;
- The greatest number of looked after children in the city;
- Looked after children by the local authority is often the result of action intended to protect children from harm, however, these children are disproportionately likely to leave school without qualifications, become unemployed, become young parents and to commit offences that result in a prison sentence;
- Children that are abused and placed in care are at high risk of social exclusion later on, including juvenile offending. This may be attributable to the intensity with which the risk factors cluster together in their lives;
- Abused children may have less exposure to protective factors than others.

⁶ Further clarification was sought from social services: there is no exact figure as it is a combination of circumstances.

⁷ Numbers are rounded up/down to a whole number, which is why totals may add up to more than the rate per 10,000 population figures.

School factors

Risk factors

A significant characteristic of serious or persistent young offenders is their lack of education and skills. Young people who truant⁸ from school are three times more likely to offend than those who do not, and there is similarly a strong correlation between school exclusions and offending (Graham and Bowling, 1995; Edmunds, 2000). Official statistics for 1995 show that nearly 60% of convicted young people aged 16 or 17 were unemployed and not in training at the time they were sentenced. For 16 and 17 year olds in general, the proportion unemployed and not in training or education at that time was only 12% (Home Office, 1997).

Unauthorised absence figures

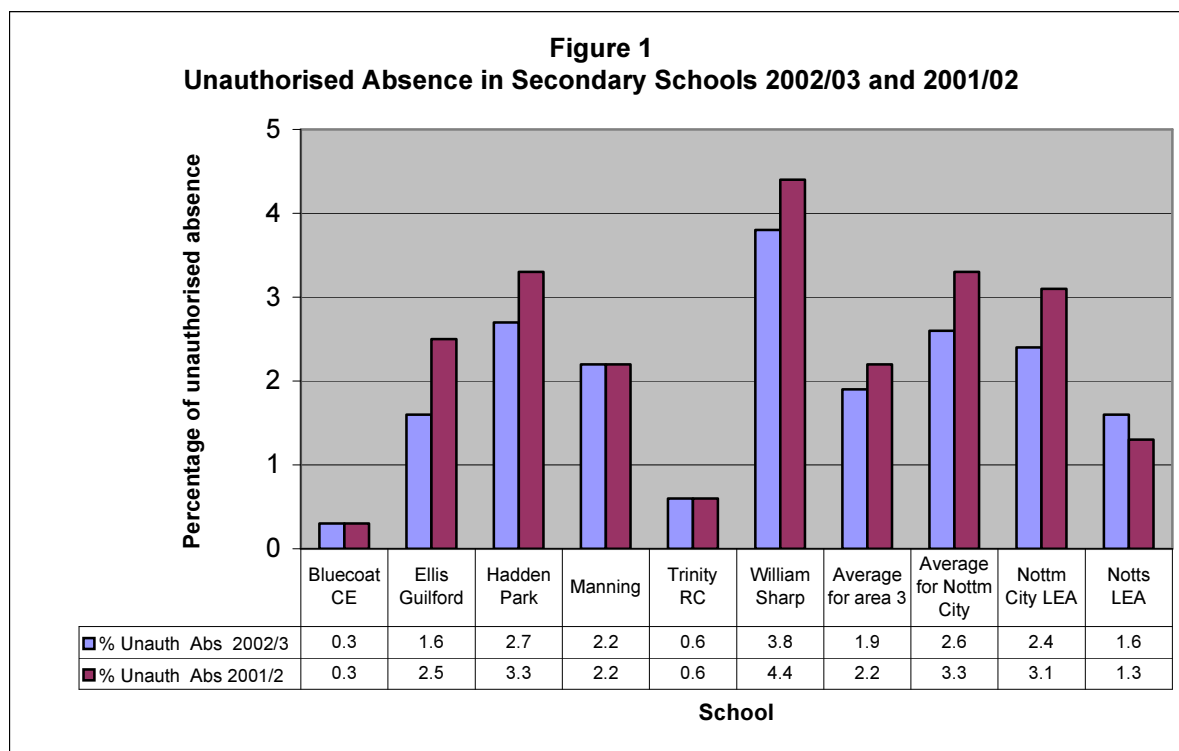
Figure 1 overleaf illustrates the unauthorised absence figures for all of the secondary schools in the west area⁹, showing a slight improvement from the academic year 2001/02 to 2002/03 for three of the schools and no change for the other three schools. This is in line with the current national picture which states that truancy figures in England show a modest improvement. The figures show 700 fewer pupils truanting each day which is equivalent to almost a secondary school day back in education (DfES website, 2004). Five out of the six schools in figure X [insert here] qualify for most improved actual attendance (the school not included is Hadden Park High School).

The school with the highest unauthorised absence for the year 2002/03 in Nottingham city is a Behavioural Improvement Programme (BIP) school with a rate of 5.3%. The school in the west area with the highest unauthorised absence rate is William Sharp Comprehensive with a figure of 3.8% for the year 2002/03, which is a significant reduction on the previous years of 4.4%.

Figure 1 also illustrates the average percentage of unauthorised absence for Nottingham city and for the west area. The average for Nottingham city for the year 2002/03 is 2.6%; four of the schools in the west area are performing better than this. William Sharp and Hadden Park are performing slightly worse with 3.8% and 2.7% respectively. The average percentage for the schools in the west area for the year 2002/03 is 1.9% which is below the Nottingham city average of 2.6%.

⁸ Truancy is defined as unauthorised absence.

⁹ Ellis Guilford Comprehensive is not in the west area but has been included in this report, as a high proportion of young people that live in the west area attend this school.



Source:

Education Services¹⁰

Educational attainment

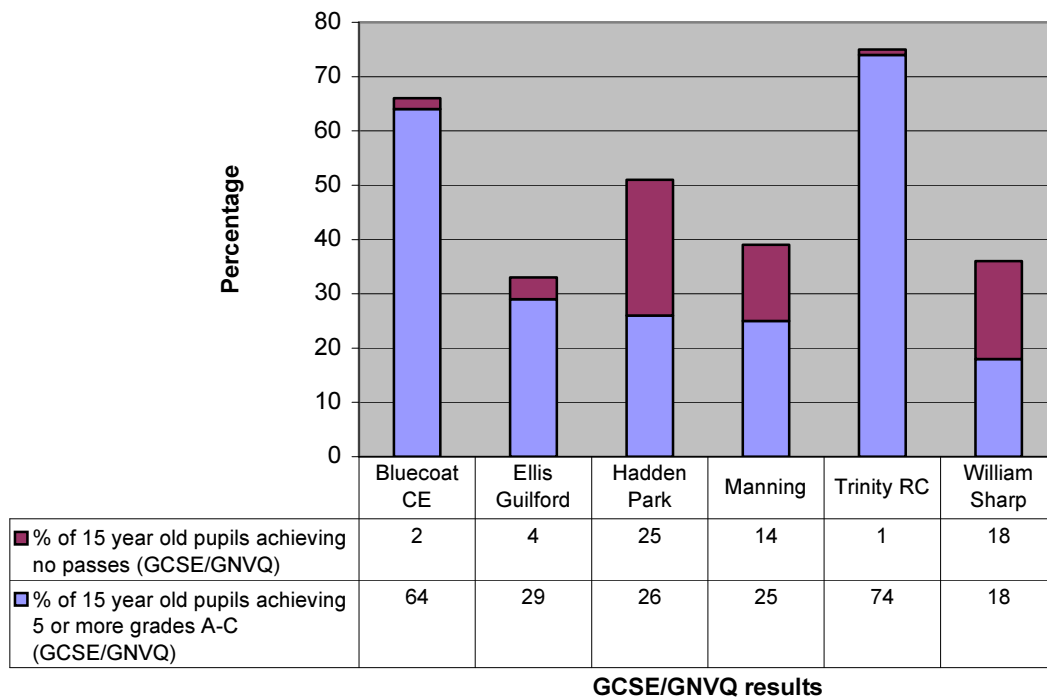
Research undertaken for the Youth Justice Board purported school achievement as effective in preventing criminality. Longitudinal research has consistently shown that children who are performing poorly from late junior school onwards are more likely to become involved in crime and drug abuse than those who are performing adequately or well. Figure 2 overleaf illustrates educational attainment for young people residing in the west area for the academic year 2003. This is evidence of a general pattern of longer-term educational attainment.

Figure 2 illustrates that Hadden Park has the highest percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving no passes at GCSE/GNVQ level with 25%. As there were 135 pupils at the start of the school year, this percentage equates to 34¹¹ pupils. Figure X [insert here] also shows that William Sharp has the lowest percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving 5 or more grades at C or above with 18%. This equates to 23 pupils. The best performing school is Trinity RC as only 1% of their 15-year-old pupils did not achieve any GCSE or GNVQ passes (equal to 1 pupil) and 74% achieved 5 or more grades A to C, equal to 104 pupils out of 140.

¹⁰ The figures for Nottingham City LEA and Nottinghamshire LEA are taken from the DfES website (2004): authorised and unauthorised pupil absence in maintained primary and secondary schools in England 2002/03.

¹¹ Figures rounded up/down to a whole number.

Figure 2
Educational Attainment for Young People Residing in the West Area in 2003



Source: DfES website, 2004

Protective factors

Young people attending mainstream school

Every young person aged 13 to 19 has an assigned Connexions personal adviser. Figure 3 overleaf illustrates the number of young people attending mainstream schools in the west area, excluding pupil referral units and special schools¹².

Figure 3 illustrates that the majority of young people classified as priority 1 (integrated and specialist support) attend Hadden Park School and Trinity has the least number of pupils in this category. Young people in this category would be affected by any, some or all of the following characteristics and because of this would be at significant risk of not making a positive transition into adulthood:

- Exclusions/permanent;
- EWO (education welfare officer) referrals;
- Drug, alcohol or other substance use which prevents engagement in learning;
- Youth offending service referral;
- English as a second language;
- Refugee/asylum seeker;
- Young parent.

¹² Data was provided for the school-leaving year 2006 through to 2001 (i.e. pupils currently in year 9 through to current year 11, and those young people that left year 11 between 2001 and 2003 and who are now aged between 17 and 19). For the purpose of illustration, the year 11 data (2004) has been selected, because this is judged to be the most representative cohort sample.

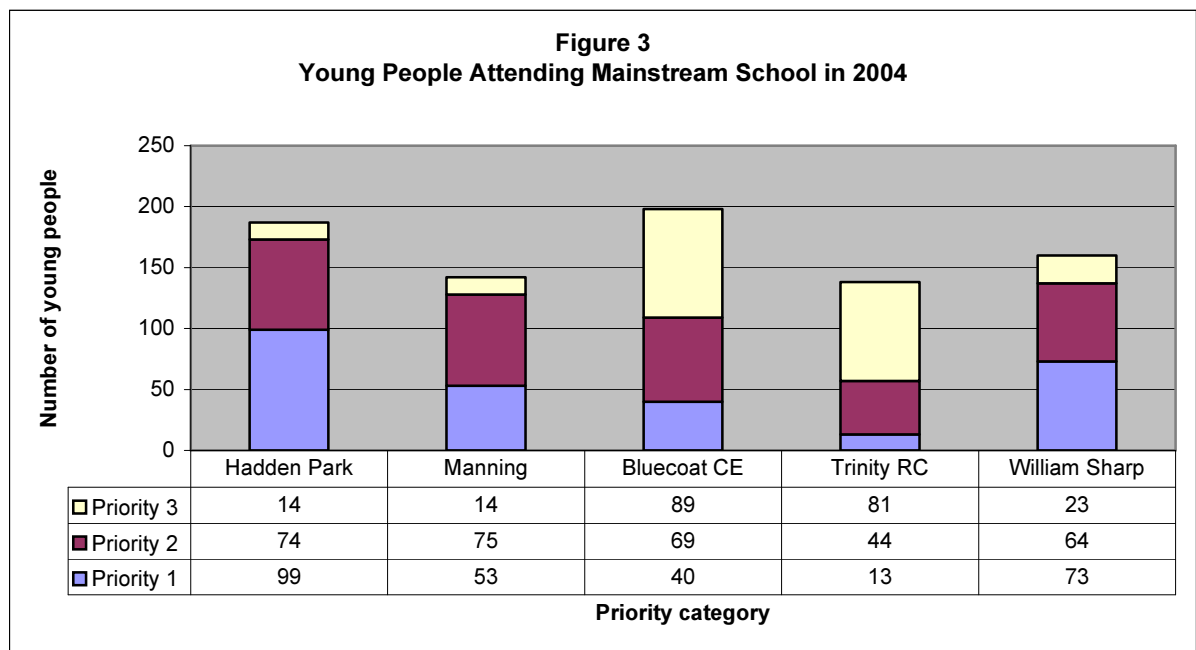
Figure 3 also illustrates that Manning School has the highest number of young people classified as priority 2 (in-depth support), closely followed by Hadden Park. Trinity RC again has the lowest number of pupils in this category. Young people in this category are at risk of not making a successful positive learning transition unless they have access to expert guidance:

- Likely to get 5 or less GCSEs at grade D;
- Preferences difficult to achieve and no realistic alternatives;
- Under achieving against potential;
- Significantly lacking in confidence or motivation.

Figure 3 also illustrates that Hadden Park and Manning School have the least number of young people classified as priority 3 (general advice and support), and Bluecoat and Trinity RC have the highest number of pupils in this category respectively.

Young people in this category would typically be well adjusted and behaving normally in terms of academic performance and behaviour for their age group. They would not be in need of any direct guidance help at this stage although they are able to make use of the advice, information and placing services offered by Connexions. These characteristics are:

- Clear and realistic idea of what they want to progress to;
- Clear about how to achieve it and about what is available and where.



Source:

Connexions, August 2004

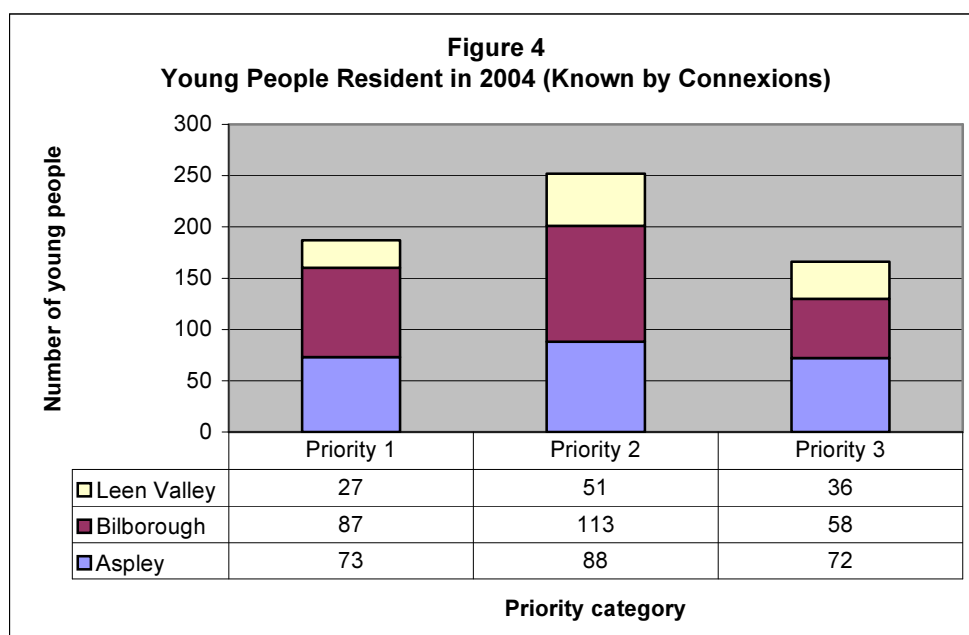
It is useful to include the statistics for young people attending mainstream school in the west area, even though it may include some young people that do not live there. It is easier to target young people via schools than through their community, and figure 3 shows that Hadden Park, followed by William Sharp are the two schools that have the greatest number of young people classified as requiring integrated and specialist support.

The community safety partnership, therefore, may be interested in developing and implementing models of good practice in schools, in order to help reduce/prevent youth crime. This will be

discussed further in the recommendations section. However, as the research is specific to the west area, it is important to demonstrate how many of these young people who are known to Connexions, actually reside in the area. This will give a more accurate picture, which may help to inform the direction of the partnership on its work with community safety and young people.

Young people resident in the west area known by Connexions

Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of young people that are resident in the west area and are known to Connexions. Figure 4 also demonstrates that the ward with the greatest percentage of young people classified as priority 1 is Bilborough. Leen Valley is consistently the ward with the least percentage of young people classified as priority 1, 2 or 3. This may be attributable to the lower percentage of young people living in this ward compared to the Nottingham and the England and Wales percentage.



Source: Connexions, 2004

Evidence available in the west area on risk and protective factors:

- Unauthorised absence figures have fallen from the financial year 2001/02 to 2002/03 in Ellis Guilford, Hadden Park and William Sharp school;
- Unauthorised figures have remained the same in Bluecoat CE, Manning and Trinity RC school;
- William Sharp and Hadden Park are performing slightly worse than the average figure for Nottingham city;
- Hadden Park has the highest percentage of 15 year-old pupils achieving no passes at GCSE/GNVQ level;
- William Sharp has the lowest percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A to C;
- Every young person aged 13 to 19 has an assigned Connexions personal adviser;
- The protective factor 'social bonding' includes the quality of relationships between children and teachers and with other significant adults/peers who hold positive attitudes and model positive social behaviour. Connexions personal advisers are in a unique position to act as potential positive role

- models for vulnerable young people;
- Bilborough ward has the greatest number of young people requiring integrated and specialist support from Connexions.

Community factors

Risk factors

Youth crime tends to be high in the most deprived areas, which contain higher proportions of lone-parent families, low-earning households and poor housing, and which suffer from higher levels of unemployment, especially among young men, than other areas. This is not to say however that any of these factors are themselves causes of or explanations for crime (Offenders of the future? Assessing the risk of children and young people becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour: DfES research report, 2004).

The DfES research report also cite that in areas which are characterised by high levels of crime and/or anti-social behaviour, it is likely that children will develop similar attitudes and behaviours to those of the adults in their community. Children who live in such areas experience higher levels of risk than those brought up in communities with little experience of crime. Furthermore, when community standards are favourable towards particular behaviours, children and young people are more likely to indulge in them. If community attitudes are tolerant of crime therefore, children are at greater risk of growing up anti-social.

Higher rates of youth crime tend to occur in neighbourhoods in which people have little sense of community attachment, where rates of vandalism are high and where there is little surveillance of public places. The less homogeneous a community is in terms of race, class and religion, the less attached its residents may feel to the overall community and the more difficult it is to establish clear community goals and identity. One of the key factors is whether residents feel able to make a difference to their lives.

Anti-social behaviour information collated by Bilborough housing office

Bilborough housing office provided anti-social behaviour¹³ statistics for June 2004. A case is opened if a complaint is received; it is duly investigated and then substantiated at a later date. Bilborough housing office classifies anti-social behaviour as anything from a parking dispute to assault. The number of incidents that relate to Bilborough ward is 57 out of a total of 68 for the area covered by this housing office, (which also includes Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey ward).

Void properties could be a tool to measure where anti-social behaviour is occurring, as poor housing is one of the community risk factors where youth crime tends to be higher. Table 3 illustrates the percentage of void properties in Bilborough ward and citywide. The target for 2004/05 is 2.5%; the previous figure for 2003/04 is higher with 3.2%.

Table 3

Area	2003/04	April	May	June
Bilborough	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.6
City-wide	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.9

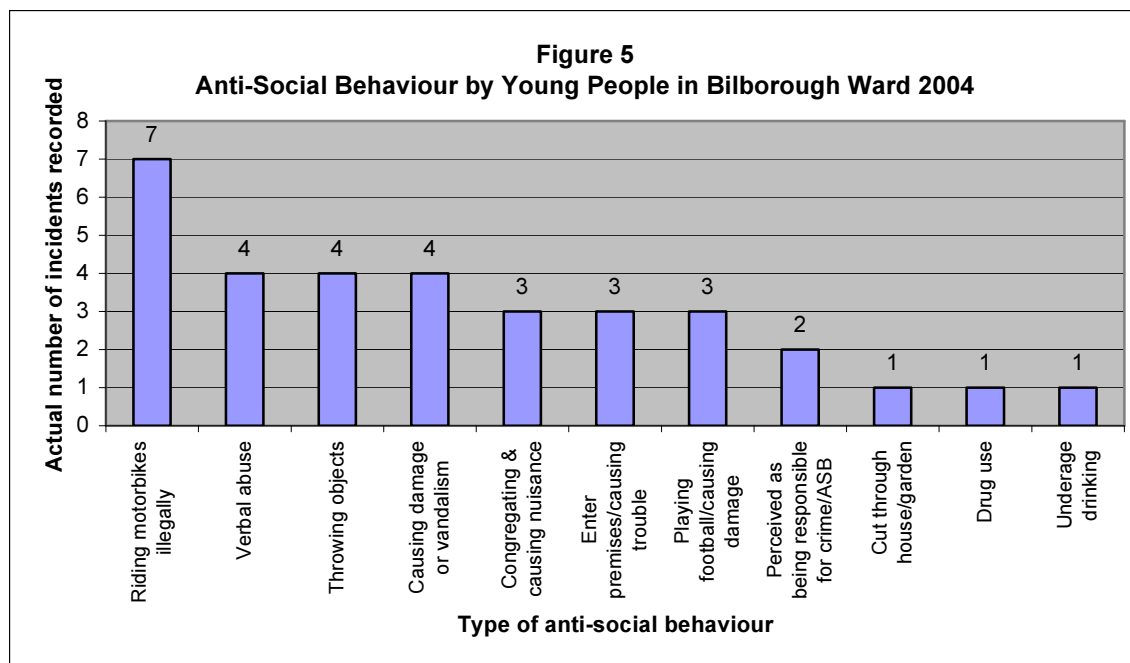
Source: Bilborough Housing Office, 2004

¹³ See appendix 1 for the Home Office's single classification of anti-social acts occurring across the country. The Bilborough housing office contributed to this one-day count.

Anti-social behaviour information collated by the Neighbourhood wardens

Incidents of anti-social behaviour are also recorded and collated by the neighbourhood wardens that manage the west area¹⁴. There are 21 reporting categories ranging from begging to vandalism and 10 of these are classified as anti-social behaviour included in the one-day count. The neighbourhood wardens, however, record anti-social behaviour as any incident where the name, address or detailed description is known. Incident reporting sheets were requested for the anti-social behaviour category; 'information received' and 'vehicles' were also included¹⁵. The majority of 'anti-social behaviour' and 'information received' reporting categories were incidents that involved young people¹⁶. Only those incidents involving young people have been included for the purpose of this research.

Figure 5 overleaf illustrates the type of anti-social incidents recorded by the neighbourhood wardens¹⁷ in Bilborough ward. The most prevalent type of anti-social behaviour was riding motorbikes illegally with 7 actual incidents, this included petrol scooters. Throwing objects included eggs, stones and missiles and drug use referred to smoking drugs.



Source: Neighbourhood Wardens, 2004

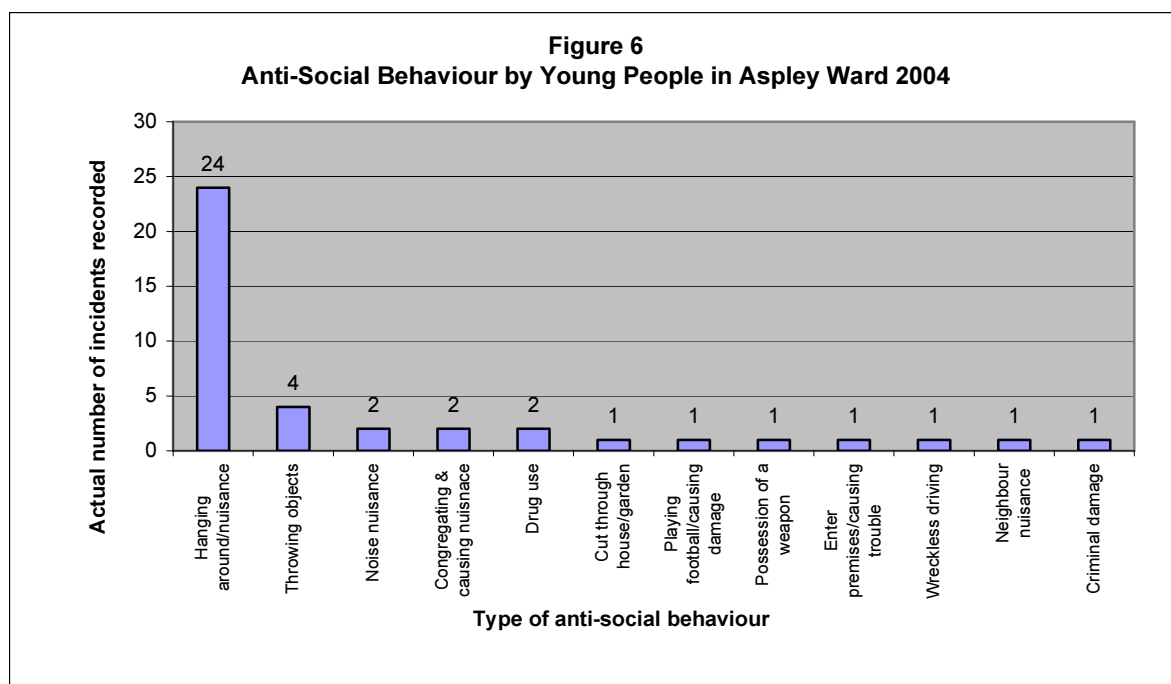
Figure 6 illustrates the type of anti-social incidents recorded in Aspley ward. The highest number of incidents in this ward was young people hanging around and causing a nuisance with 24 reported. This may be a consequence of the disproportionate number of young people that live in this ward compared to Nottingham and to England and Wales. Congregating and causing a nuisance was kept as a separate category from hanging around and causing a nuisance, as the interpretation of hanging around was young people on the street and congregating tended to be in a building, for example an empty property. There is also scope for resultant nuisance such as arson or vandalism.

¹⁴ The neighbourhood wardens record this information manually; analysis therefore involved categorisation of their reported incidents into specific types of anti-social behaviour.

¹⁵ The reporting categories relevant to the research were selected.

¹⁶ The authors define a young person as a person aged 11 to 25 (primarily referring to those aged 13 to 19).

¹⁷ Data was provided from April to July 2004. Further detailed analysis could be conducted when the neighbourhood wardens start to record the information electronically.

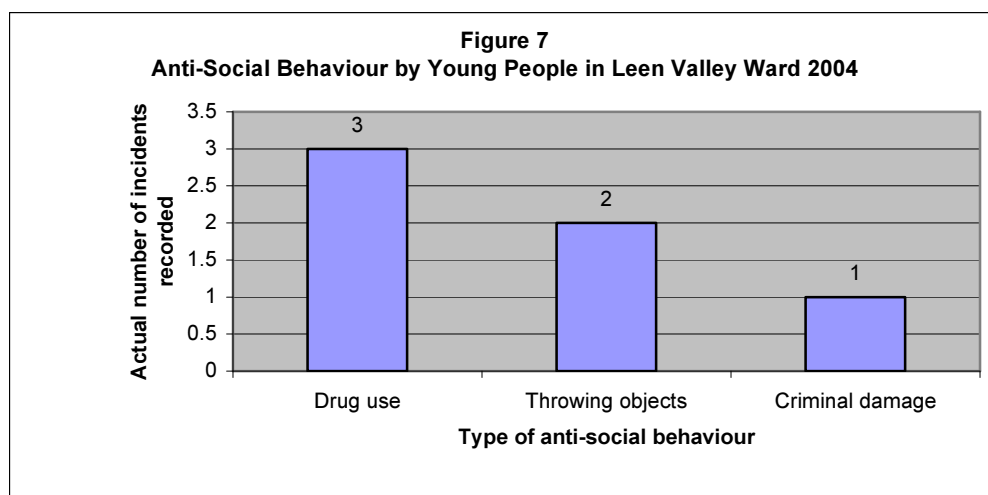


Source: Neighbourhood Wardens, 2004

These different types of anti-social behaviours may require a different response, whether action by enforcement or engagement. Whilst all of the incidents are considered anti-social in nature, it is a contentious issue as levels of tolerance vary widely from one community to another and perceptions and attitudes play an important part. Listing the kind of behaviours, which most people would agree is anti-social, is one way of getting round the problem (appendix 1).

Interventions would also need to take account of the variation in types of incidents occurring in different locations and the role and perspective of 'offenders'. Many incidents by themselves may not be considered serious, and it may be difficult to justify labelling people as offenders in these cases. For example, an individual incident such as intimidation is serious and may require an enforcement intervention. 'Young people hanging around' is a broad category and it may be useful to determine the type of experiences within this.

Figure 7 illustrates the type of anti-social incidents recorded in Leen Valley ward. Comparably speaking, this ward has far less incidents of anti-social behaviour by young people and this may be related to the fact that there are a proportionate number of young people living in this ward compared with Bilborough and Aspley wards.



Source: Neighbourhood Wardens, 2004

Young people receiving services from the YOT

The youth offending team (YOT) addresses the statutory aim of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The YOT is a multi-agency team which focuses on the offending behaviour of young people, both through individual and group work programmes. Table 4 overleaf represents the number of young people receiving services from the YOT between 1 December 2003 and 28 February 2004. The west area has 20 young people per 10,000 population that receive services from the YOT. Area 2 has the greatest number of young people with 23 per 10,000 population. The average for Nottingham city is 15 per 10,000 population.

Table 4

Age	Number of young people receiving services from the YOT	Ethnicity	Number of young people receiving services from the YOT
10-15	6	Asian	0
16-17	10	Black	2
18-24	4	Dual heritage	2
		White	16

Source: Social Services, 2004

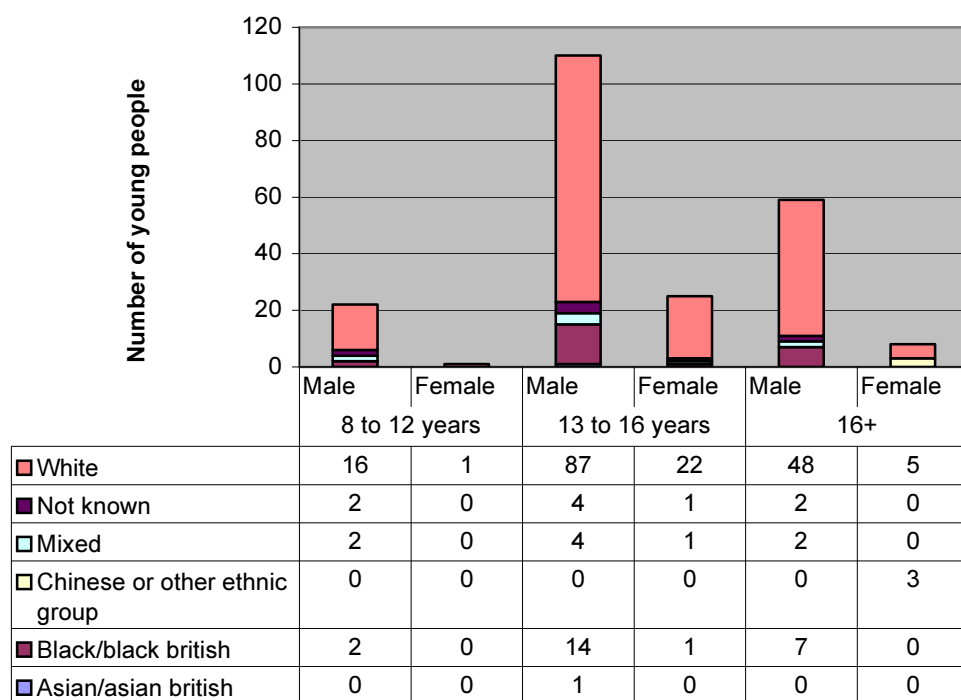
Young people on YOT orders

Figure 8 illustrates the number of young people on YOT orders¹⁸ for 2004 to date¹⁹. Figure X [insert here] also represents the age, gender and ethnicity of these young people; for example, the greatest category has 87 white males aged 13 to 16 years old.

¹⁸ The court imposes these orders. A youth offending team officer will make recommendations in a pre-sentence report and the judge passes the order. Which order is imposed is dependent on the seriousness of the offence and the individual circumstances. (See appendix 2 for a detailed list of orders).

¹⁹ Data received from the youth offending team: August 2004.

Figure 8
Young People on YOT Orders 2004



Age, gender and ethnicity of young people

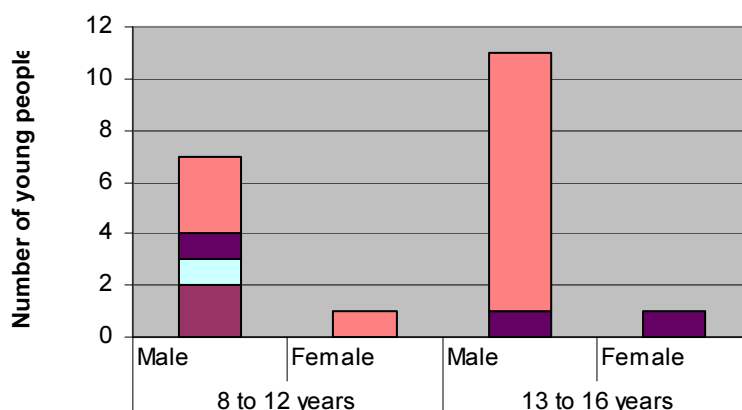
Source: Youth Offending Team, August 2004

Referrals to the YISP

Figure 9 overleaf illustrates the number of young people referred to the youth inclusion support panel (YISP)²⁰ for 2004 to date. Parents make referrals, which are known as self-referrals or they are made by different agencies. This programme refers to those young people at risk of offending and are known to the YOT (prevention referral) but would not be on an order. The greatest number of young people referred to the YISP for this period, are white males aged 13 to 16 years old. There are currently 20 young people living in the west area that are on the YISP prevention programme.

²⁰ YISPs are multi-agency committees sharing information and agreeing actions to ensure young people at risk in a particular geographical area receive the support they need in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

Figure 9
Young People Referred to the YISP 2004



	8 to 12 years		13 to 16 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
White	3	1	10	0
Not known	1	0	1	1
Mixed	1	0	0	0
Chinese or other ethnic group	0	0	0	0
Black/black british	2	0	0	0
Asian/asian british	0	0	0	0

Age, gender and ethnicity of young people

Source: Youth Offending Team, August 2004

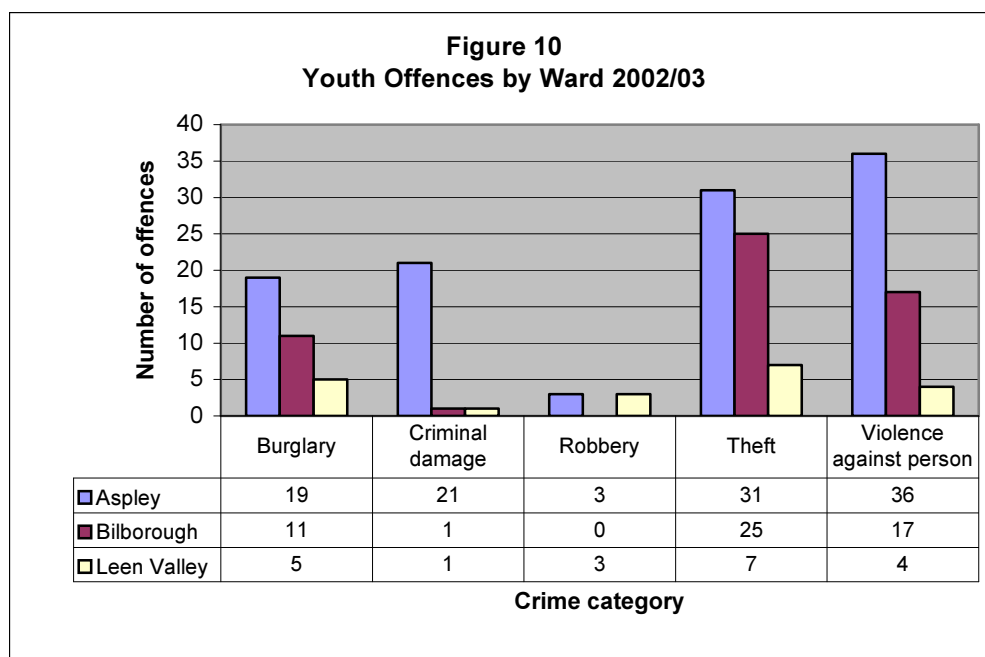
Youth offences

Crimes committed²¹ by young offenders²² for the financial year 2002/2003 are illustrated in figure 10 overleaf. Figure 10 reveals that Aspley was the ward with the highest number of violence against the person offences. In fact, Aspley ward suffered the highest number of offences in each crime category²³.

²¹ See appendix 3 for the Home Office recorded crime classification codes, which illustrates key elements of each offence.

²² The police define a young person as aged 18 and under.

²³ These particular crime categories have been selected because the community safety partnership considers them priority issues for the west area.



Source: Nottinghamshire Police, 2004

Figure 11 overleaf illustrates the crimes committed by young offenders for the financial year 2003/2004. As in the previous financial year, Aspley ward experienced the highest number of offences in each crime category, except burglary. **There have been some significant increases from the financial year 2002/2003 to 2003/2004 for certain crime categories; for example, Bilborough ward experienced an increase in criminal damage from 1 actual incident in 2002/2003 to 15 in 2003/2004. Furthermore, Aspley ward experienced an increase in theft and violence against the person from 31 to 43 incidents and 36 to 48 respectively²⁴.**

To give this some context, the total number of violence against the person offences across Nottingham city for the financial year 2003/04 was 785²⁵. The total number for theft was 292 offences. The proportion of violence against the person incidents in Aspley ward was 5% of the total number of detected offences for the whole city. The percentage of theft incidents in this ward was 16%. **For the financial year 2003/04, Aspley ward experienced the greatest number of detected crime offences by a young person in the city with 361.** Bilborough ward ranked 4th with 220 offences and Leen Valley was 17th with 68. There are 20 wards that make up Nottingham city.

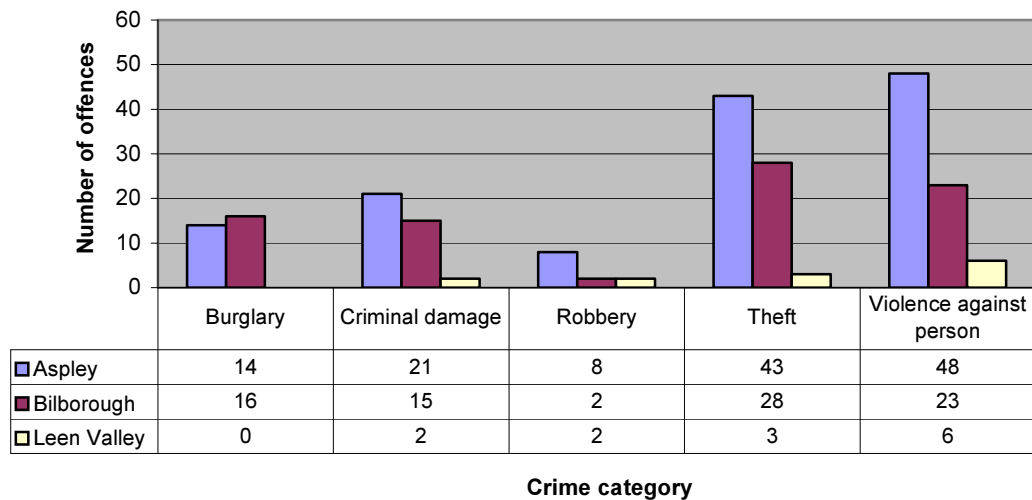
The average offending age for the Aspley ward for the financial year 2003/2004 was 13 years old, followed by Bilborough ward with an average age of 14 and Leen Valley was 16 years old. The average age of youth offending for Nottingham city for the same period was 12 years old²⁶.

²⁴ These increases may be partly due to national ethical crime recording policy, which requires all crimes to be recorded as the individual reports them. This viewpoint would need to be authenticated by a local police source.

²⁵ Data provided by Nottinghamshire police: juvenile database. This refers to a young person aged 0 to 17 years old.

²⁶ Information provided by Nottinghamshire police: juvenile database. The earliest offending age is recorded.

Figure 11
Youth Offences by Ward 2003/04



Source: Nottinghamshire Police, 2004

Incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police

Figure 12 overleaf illustrates the total number of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour for the west area²⁷. In all of the categories except for ‘ethnic incident’, ‘breach of the peace’ and ‘homophobic incident’, Bilborough ward had the highest number of recorded incidents. Leen Valley ward had the lowest number of recorded incidents in each category except for ‘ethnic incident’ and ‘homophobic incident’. Criminal damage was the category with the highest number of recorded incidents for each of the three wards. It is important that the partnership is made aware of these issues, as it can help to inform any decision being made on priority anti-social behaviour issues for the west area.

Some of the anti-social behaviour categories may require explanation, as they are fairly broad in their definition. An example of an incident classed as a ‘community problem’ would be a gang of young teenagers causing general nuisance by running in and out of a private garden. An example of ‘disorder street’ would be people causing a disturbance by shouting abuse when under the influence of drink/drugs. An example of ‘disorder other’ would be neighbour nuisance/disturbance.

The police have several options available to them in order to address identified problems of anti-social behaviour, these are:

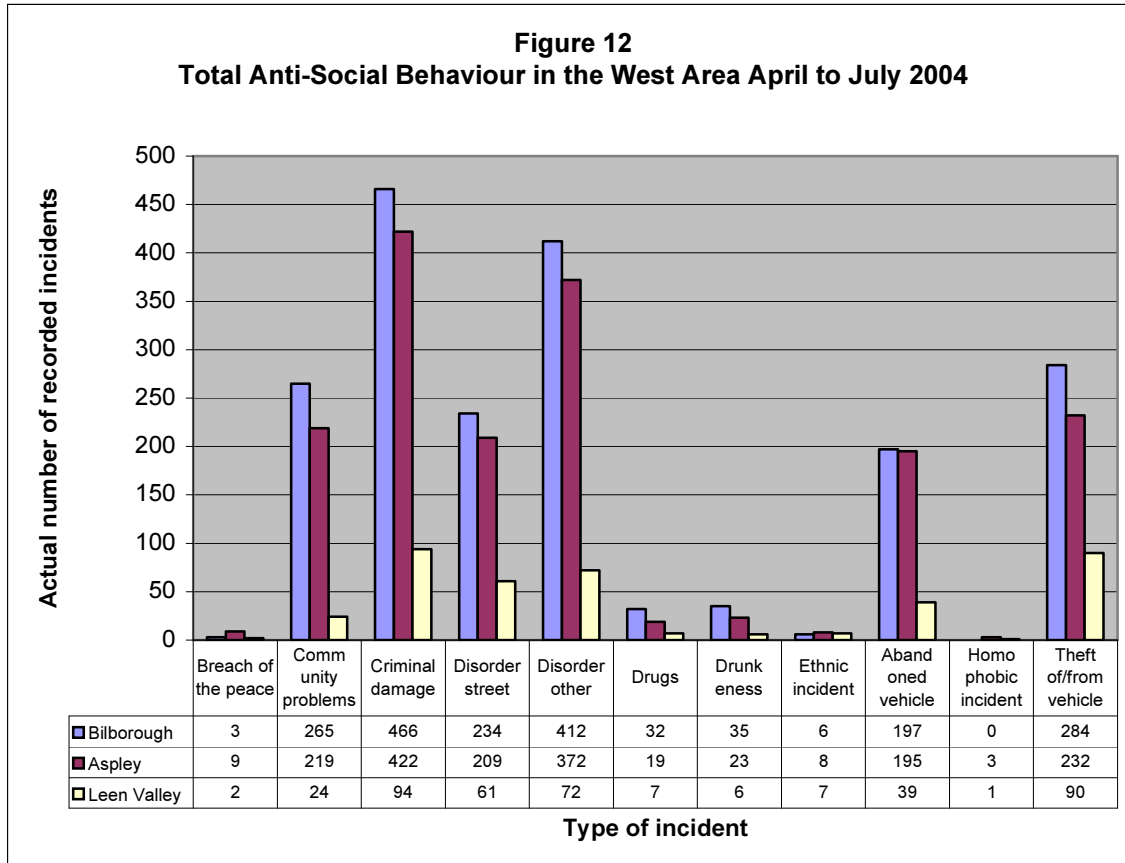
- Verbal warning
- Harassment warning
- Arrest
- Report for summons
- Acceptable behaviour contract²⁸ (ABC)
- Anti-social behaviour order warning
- Anti-social behaviour order²⁹ (anti-social behaviour order)

²⁷ Wollaton West and East have been omitted as they are considered to be in area 7. Please see appendix 4 for a breakdown of areas provided by the police.

²⁸ Is an individual written agreement between a 10 to 18 year old, the local housing office and the police not to carry on with certain identifiable acts, which could be construed as anti-social behaviour. It could be used for over 18s if they still live at home in council, rental or privately owned property with their parents.

- Anti-social behaviour order on conviction (CRASBO)
- Notice seeking possession
- Possession order
- Dispersal order

Nottinghamshire police provided a detailed written response to the incidents of anti-social behaviour and a copy of this can be found in appendix 5.



Source: Nottinghamshire Police/Broxtowe Police Station, 2004

Dispersal orders have been used in Broxtowe over the past two months³⁰. Once the residents and young people have been educated regarding the police powers and the reasons behind the order, the vast majority have complied and dispersed when requested. According to a local police source these powers have been used effectively in Wollaton, where the number of calls in the area relating to anti-social behaviour dropped drastically whilst the order was in force, improving the quality of life for the residents within the dispersal area.

Incidents of arson

²⁹ These orders prohibit named individuals aged 10 or over from specified activities to protect communities from anti-social behaviour, especially neighbour nuisance. 10 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are in effect in the west area to the knowledge of a local police source: August 2004.

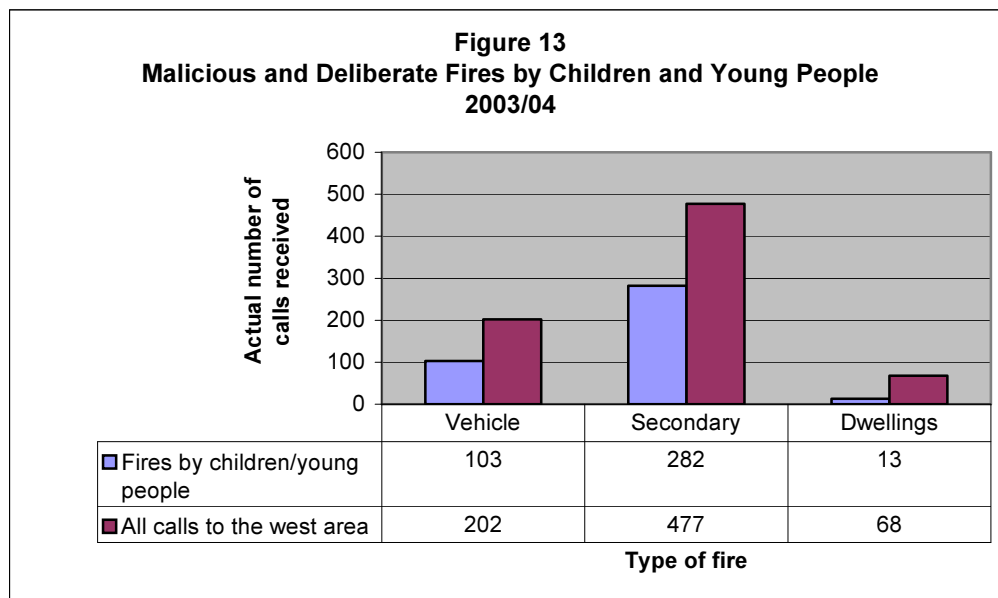
³⁰ Information received: September 2004.

The fire and rescue service in Nottinghamshire have a dedicated arson task force set up to tackle the growing problem across the city. Arson is not just an issue for the fire service as research³¹ has demonstrated that there are a number of risk factors associated with arsonists³², these are:

- Deprived parental background;
- Low educational attainment;
- Propensity to alcohol/substance abuse and;
- Poor employment record.

What is also highly significant to the partnership is that children start approximately 40% of arson fires. Figure 13 illustrates the number of malicious and deliberate fires started by children³³ and young people³⁴, in comparison to the total number of fire calls received for the west area, for the financial year April 2003 to March 2004.

Figure 13 also illustrates that secondary fires are the most prevalent in the west area. Secondary fires are classed as: refuse/container, hedges, grass and vegetation, derelict vehicles/dwellings, outside structures and rubbish fires.



If a targeted, multi-agency approach is the logical way forward in tackling the arson phenomenon, the partnership may wish to consider the following information:

- 20% of arsonists are thought to have mental health problems;
- 45% of vehicle arson is to cover up criminal activity;
- 25% of property arson is committed for malicious reasons and;
- Nearly all are male.

One of the ways to tackle arson is by educating children and young people and adopting a preventative approach. The Impact Roadshow is a vehicle crime awareness workshop that is

³¹ These studies are based on the relatively low number of arsonists that are apprehended and convicted.

³² Information received from: Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Arson Strategy.

³³ A child is classed as 0 to 9 years old.

³⁴ A young person is classed as 10 to 17 years old.

being rolled out across the city by the arson task force. It has been developed for use with year 10 pupils and aims to heighten awareness of the consequences of involvement in vehicle crime and its effects on others. It is recognised by the Home Office as an example of good practice and is due to be implemented in the west area.

Engagement with the youth service

The term youth service describes the range of provision developed through a partnership of local authorities and voluntary and community organisations. Youth service activities are primarily for personal and social development. They can be formal or informal. They must be linked to raising achievement and standards in education, training and employment or initiatives aimed at promoting inclusion and participation (Transforming youth work: resourcing excellent youth services, DfES 2002).

The youth service is for people aged between 11 and 25 with a priority on engaging 13 to 19 year olds. The emphasis of the services is working with disadvantaged, ‘at risk’ and socially excluded young people. Youth services must enable young people to have a voice, influence and place in their communities and society as a whole. It must involve young people as partners in learning and decision-making and help them to develop their own values.

Table 5 represents the attendance figures for youth projects from January to March 2004.

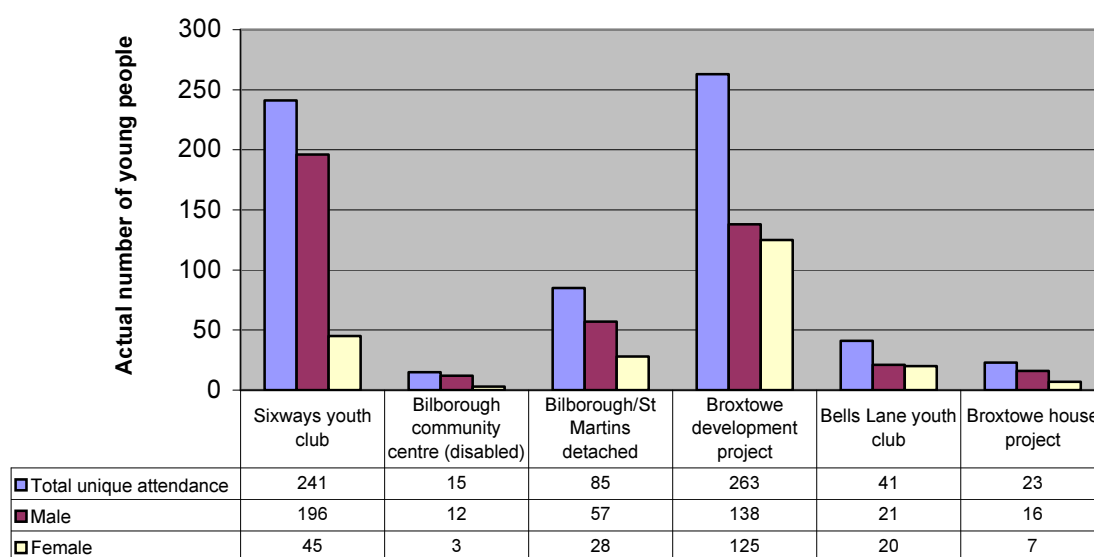
Table 5

Youth service project	Total unique attendance	Male	Female
Aspley and Leen Valley detached	50	35	15
Vale youth	65	37	28

Source: Youth Service, 2004

Figure 14 overleaf illustrates the attendance of young people engaged in youth service projects in the west area for the financial year 2003 to 2004.

Figure 14
Total Unique Attendance of Young People Engaged in Youth Service Projects
April 2003 to March 2004



Total attendance of young people and by gender

Source: Youth Service, 2004

The youth service provided a description of its youth projects and a copy of this can be found in appendix 6.

Other youth engagement work

The Zone

The aim of the Zone youth project is to work with young people 'at risk' aged 12 to 19 years old, on the streets, in the local schools and wherever young people gather in the areas of Bilborough, Aspley, Broxtowe and Strelley. Typically, the work is carried out through street networking, school contact, a drop-in facility and small interest groups. The Zone currently runs a few projects to meet the needs of young people in varying ways:

Lifeskills

The Zone has run lifeskills programmes with groups of young people from schools who have been identified by teachers as displaying low self-esteem/confidence, poor attendance or behavioural issues. Lifeskills allows young people to access training provision, further education and employment by raising their self-esteem and confidence, motivation and other life skills. Table 6 overleaf illustrates the number of young people attending the lifeskills project³⁵.

Table 6

³⁵ These were provided as recent figures: data received September 2004.

Manning school			
Lifeskills group 1			
Gender		Ethnicity	
Male		Black	1
Female	7	White	6
Group 2			
Male		Black	1
Female	6	White	5
Group 3			
Male		Black	1
Female	6	White	5
William Sharp school³⁶			
Male	6	Black	
Female	6	White	12
Youth Offending Team			
Male	6	Black	1
Female		White	5
William Crane school			
Male	4	Black	
Female	4	White	8

Source: The Zone, 2004

The Furnace Café

This is a drop-in facility for young people over the age of 12. It runs on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 3.30pm until 6pm. Since April 2003 (it was opened in 2002), 210 young people have accessed the café. The Zone also hosts one of the NHS' CASH (Contraception and Sexual Health) outreach sessions for young people that runs alongside the café on a Monday night.

Peer Education

This is an informal education programme whereby young people become empowered to empower other young people. It also prioritises the participation of young people in the planning, delivery, management and evaluation of the Zone. The Zone's peer education programme began in July 2002. Since this time 22 young people have been involved in these activities. There are currently two peer education groups, one group are beginning to work on advanced OCN (Open College Network) units with an aim that young people will get the chance to use the modules as a starting platform for social and care professions. The second peer group is younger with less experience and is beginning to work on issue-based activities.

Small interest groups

Formed as young people would like and run according to funding provision. There is currently a small young women's dance group who meet regularly in self taught provision; working towards several performances and shows, locally and county-wide.

The Broxtowe partnership trust

The Broxtowe partnership trust works to regenerate the area both socially and economically. Local people are seen as being the key partners in this work. One of the key roles of the partnership trust is to find ways

³⁶ 12 young people from year 10 are still being identified for inclusion.

in which the needs and aspirations of the local community can be met through multi-agency partnership working. The partnership trust has direct contact with two youth groups and table 7 illustrates the breakdown of young people that participate in the youth action group. These young people meet monthly (or as and when they need to) to work on community projects that benefit other young people on the estate such as organising the ‘youth tent’ at Broxtowe carnival.

Table 7

Youth Action Group					
Gender		Age		Ethnicity	
Male	8	14-18	12	White	8
Female	5	19- 21	1	Mixed race	5
TOTAL	13				

Source: Broxtowe Partnership Trust, 2004

The Broxtowe performing arts group is children and young people aged 8 plus who meet to take part in dance and drama activities with the end aim to put on a performance. Table 8 represents the breakdown of these young people.

Table 8

Performing Arts Group					
Gender		Age		Ethnicity	
Male	3	8-12	2	White	10
Female	7	13-17	8	Mixed race	0
TOTAL	10				

Source: Broxtowe Partnership Trust, 2004

Harvey Hadden

The centre runs various activities over the summer and table 9 illustrates the number of young people attending during the summer period 2004. Of the 565 young people attending, 480 were aged 8 to 15 and the remainder under 8 years old.

Table 9

Overall	Female	Male	Total per week
Week 1	45	117	162
Week 2	28	92	120
Week 3	34	98	132
Week 4	24	62	86
Week 5	19	46	65
TOTAL FOR SUMMER	150	415	565

Evidence available in the west area on risk and protective factors:

- There are 225 young people aged 8 to 18 years old on YOT orders for 2004 (up to August);
- Young white males aged 13 to 16 years old are the group with the greatest number of YOT orders;

- There are currently 20 young people living in the west area that are on the youth inclusion support panel (YISP) prevention programme;
- Aspley ward (out of the west area) suffered the highest number of youth offences in each crime category except burglary for the financial year 2003/04;
- The average age of offending in Aspley was 13 years old; in Bilborough it was 14 and Leen Valley 16;
- Bilborough ward had the highest number of recorded incidents for the financial year 2003/04 in all crime categories except three;
- Criminal damage was the crime category with the highest number of recorded incidents for each of the three wards that make up the west area;
- A total of 668 young people were engaged in youth service projects in the financial year 2003/04;
- In addition, 115 young people were engaged from January to March 2004;
- The youth service is uniquely able to positively engage young people the attention of young people to address their actions;
- The Broxtowe partnership trust also works with local people to find ways to meet the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Personal or individual risk factors

Individual factors are crucial in determining which children might participate in offending or anti-social behaviours. Assessing a child may involve observation, interviews and/or the completion of questionnaires. A number of individual risk factors can be assessed. These include: alienation/rebelliousness; association with peers who offend/are engaged in anti-social behaviour; condoning attitudes toward crime and anti-social behaviour; and biological and physiological traits (for example, attention deficit disorder).

Initial contacts made to social services

Initial contacts regarding children are made to social services. Initial contacts are from or on behalf of new clients (that is clients on the books of the authority at the time the contact was made) in relation to the needs which require assessment. The contact may be by way of personal call, phone call, letter or other form. It may be direct or intermediary (such as neighbour, relative or GP). Within one working day, a team manager or duty social worker will take a decision about what response is required. This includes decisions to take no further action. Referrers should be informed of this process. Table 10 overleaf represents the number of children whom initial contacts with social services were made for the west area, per 10,000 population, also broken down by age and ethnicity.

Table 10 illustrates that 39 per 10,000 population of children whom initial contacts were made to social services (between 1 December 2003 and 28 February 2004), reside in the west area. To put this into context, the west area has the third highest rate per population, behind areas 6 and 2 with 44 and 42 per 10,000 population respectively. The average rate for Nottingham city (which includes 9 areas) is 31 per 10,000 population.

Table 10

Age	Initial contacts with social services	Ethnicity	Initial contacts with social services
0-4	14	Asian	1
5-9	9	Black	1
10-15	14	Dual heritage	2
16-17	2	White	24

18-24	0		
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Source: Social Services, 2004

Table 11 represents the number of children aged from 0 to 17 years who are allocated to a social worker for any reason. **The rate per 10,000 population is 124, and the west area has the greatest allocation of children across Nottingham city. The average rate per 10,000 population is 82.**

Table 11

Age	Number allocated to a social worker	Ethnicity	Number allocated to a social worker
0-4	35	Asian	4
5-9	35	Black	6
10-15	47	Dual heritage	17
16-17	8	White	83

Source: Social Services, 2004

Evidence available in the west area on risk and protective factors:

- Initial contacts to social services were made for 39 per 10,000 population of children between December 2003 and February 2004;
- The west area has the third highest rate per population, behind area 6 and 2;
- The west area has the greatest allocation of children to a social worker across Nottingham city;
- Social services work to improve family relationships and dynamics.

The Views of the Young People themselves.

In any work of this nature, it is vital that the views of the young people who live in West Area. There a number of sub – sections of this population who are of interest to policy makers who are developing strategies to ameliorate the worst effects of some of the difficulties outlined in this report.

Also, the research has indicated that there are significant issues for parents living in the area with the large numbers of children on the Child Protection Register resident in West Area. Consequently, a session was held with a group of parents to explore why this might be.

The process of consultation

The young people who were consulted with were taken from The Zone Youth Club, The Six Ways Youth club and contact with the Youth Service Outreach team. The young people who were consulted with at the Six Ways Youth Club were aged 10 – 18 and the young people from the Zone Youth Project and the out reach team were aged 13 – 17.

Attitudes towards local educational provision.

The young people who took part in the consultation exercise gave the interviewer a number of encouraging comments about their local schools. A number of local schools took young people from the area including Manning, Blue Coat, Trinity, Hadden Park High, William Sharp and Ellis Guildford. In sharp contrast to a group of young people from another area of Nottingham, the West Area group indicated that schools are making a real impact in engaging them. The consultant who carried out this work indicated that the group had many positive things to say about their schools and highlighted all the good things in their day-to-day educational provision. Given this,

there is little doubt that the schools were successfully engaging this particular group of young people.

The views of young people who were found “on the street” during the consultation exercise.

The groups were asked to describe their thoughts on the area they lived in. From the discussion there were a number of factors that seemed consistent among all the groups. They described how in the evenings there was nothing for the young people

to do in Aspley as all the projects in the area shut at 6pm. There seems to be a disparity between the views of young people and the reality of resources in the area. It appears that, on paper, the area is well resourced, with a number of agencies working together, including a Junior YIP programme delivered by NACRO, Filling the Gap, Sure start and The Zone youth project which has sexual health facilities for young people. However, in the evening the young people say there is no youth provision or facilities open. Their perception is that the only resource that is available to them in the evening is detached and outreach youth workers.

Many of the young people described how this had led to large groups of young people congregating around the streets. As a result of the young people’s actual – or perceived - antisocial behaviour, Anti -Social Behaviour Orders are becoming increasingly the norm and there have been several Dispersal Orders sought especially at the shops and on Tenbry Crescent, which is located in the central of Aspley estate.

From the young peoples point of view the answer was simple. They just wanted a place to go in the evenings to play football and to chill out. One of the suggestions by a young person was that a youth club should be opened on Oakfield Close as it was central to Aspley. The young people were clear about the boundaries that they would operate in if a new youth provision were to come into the area. They would **not** go to Broxtowe or pass Bells Lane and it was felt that outsiders from these areas would not be made welcome.

Young people who use a youth club

The Six Ways Youth Club has always had a good reputation and has managed to keep a constant number of young people coming through their doors. Many of the young people felt that this was due to the continuity of the youth club always being open and the variety of activities used to attract new members. The young people perceived those attending the youth club as “good, well behaved young people” and those who were hanging around the streets as “the bad ones”. When they were asked about how they could attract the “bad ones” to the youth club the majority felt that they were a lost cause as they were too old now to help them change their ways. The answer they came up with was to focus and attract the younger ones so that they become used to joining in with the activities that the youth club provide.

In the discussion the group was asked to find an ideal location for a new youth facility that would attract young people from the whole of area 3. Like the responses from the young people in Aspley the group were very adamant that the young people between Aspley, Broxtowe and Bilborough would not enter into each other’s territory.

Summary of main points from young persons consultation.

- Young people highlighted lots of positive aspects about their school that has help the young people become more engaged.

- The young people said that there was no youth provision available in the evening except for the detached and outreach youth workers.
- The young people were very clear about that they wouldn't attend youth facilities if they had to enter Broxtowe or pass Bells Lane. It was also felt that young people from these areas would not be welcome.
- The young people perceived those who attend the youth club as "good, well behaved young people" those who were hanging around the streets were the bad ones.

The Views of Parents who live in the area

A project worker visited the local "SureStart" scheme and held discussions with a number of the parents present to gather the views of local parents. The target age range of SureStart is young children, but the local parents may well have older children who fall within the range of this report. Also, as local residents, these parents will see what happens in their area on a day to day basis and will be in touch with older young people through ordinary community activity.

Their views fell in to a number of distinct areas:

Range of activities for young people.

Local people felt that there was a limited range of facilities for young people. The local parks are not widely used. Broxtowe Park is seen as being too far from Aspley Lane to be of much use. Also, King George Park is better placed by the play equipment can be broken and the play areas covered with broken glass. Parents feel vulnerable there so are less inclined to use it.

Young People's current activities

The perception of the parents is that young people would be keen to take part in organised activities. At the moment, they do "hang around" street corners but this could be rectified.

Barriers to young people's participation in organised activities

The parents felt that the cost of organised activities was prohibitively high – especially if there was more than one child in the family. The Minver Crescent facility was quoted as a particular example – it is owned by the school and has to pay for itself. Consequently, it has a very high usage rate. However, there is no discount for children so the costs of activities remain an issue. There are free arts and crafts activities for young people on a Monday and Tuesday, which is popular.

Support to parents themselves

The parents reported that parenting support classes were available via local health visitors. Also a new service is soon starts run by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. However, there was a degree of confusion about what was available for parents so they would welcome any in initiative that would fill this gap.

Recommendations

- 1) The West Area Committee has in the past been very successful in supporting the funding and development of diversionary activities for young people, including the setting up of the Bilborough Boxing Club, after schools activities, additional youth work sections and Summer sports activities. It is recommended that diversionary activities be facilitated by services such as Youth and Sports Development.

- 2) The West Area Conurbation tends to have some of the most educationally deprived communities in the country. The Education Department, in partnership with other agencies, have managed successfully to make improvements in educational attainment in infant and junior schools. Secondary schools in the area are beginning to raise educational attainment, the Building Schools for the Future initiative and, if successful, the setting up of a NHS Academy will have a positive impact in improving access to education for local people. Projects and initiatives which support schools in over-coming behavioural problems, truancy and lack of motivation should be encouraged. In infant and junior schools the delivery of the Place 2 Be initiative is an example of projects which can be successful in addressing behavioural issues pertinent to deprived communities.
- 3) Parenting support initiatives and parenting skills training courses should be readily available to benefit single parent families or younger parents where no extended family networks exist. A directory of courses and services for parents should be made available to all households in the West Area.
- 4) Many of the young people who are at risk of participating in ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR or criminal behaviour should be supported through Youth Inclusion Projects which nationally have demonstrated high degrees of success.
- 5) The West Area contains a high percentage of young people who are responsible for crime. Efforts should be made to increase the number of youth sessions engaging with young people. Each youth work session should be clearly defined with achievable aims and objectives and appropriate systems in place for performance monitoring. Both Youth Services and Sports Development should be encouraged to increase operational activity, thus creating opportunities for one-to-one case work.
- 6) The number of play areas and parks is considerable in the West Area. However, as pointed out in the West Area Action Plan, the quality of the parks and play areas is poor and demands investment of resources to bring them to an acceptable standard.
- 7) The Community Safety Working Group should attempt to engage with all its members in developing a strategy in addressing ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and youth crime. It has been brought to the attention of Crime Concern consultants that the West Area Committee did attempt to develop an ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR strategy but were discouraged to do so as a city-wide approach was under consideration.