

## **West Midlands – Project Lock It. Protect It! Staffordshire Police Re: Burglary**

### **Scanning:**

Through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Joint Operations Groups concern was raised over the volume and increase in insecure burglaries across Trent Valley Division. Performance information identified that burglary a PSA1 target was increasing. Burglary dwelling was also highlighted as a concern to the public and is a known contributor to the overall fear of crime. Insecure burglary dwellings can also result in car thefts, the use of stolen credit cards in fraud. This crime type was identified as a problem across all three CDRPs in Trent Valley and it was considered that by targeting this type of burglary there would be a diffusion of benefits, potentially reducing all types of burglary.

### **Analysis:**

Four Neighbourhoods were identified as recording the highest number of offences, and analysis identified that the majority of premises within targeted were terraces rented from housing associations.

There were two peak times, around lunchtime and later at night. The majority of premises were entered via a ground floor door, but a higher percentage was entered via a window at night. Cash and cards were stolen in 60% of offences suggesting an opportunist nature and offenders were targeting items that could be easily concealed. Car keys were more likely to be stolen overnight, which linked these offences to a trend in vehicle thefts.

Victim profiles revealed a fairly even distribution across gender and age groups, however residents over 75 were more likely to be targeted during the day. The majority of offenders were white males, with an average age of 21.

### **Response:**

A project plan was drawn up which focussed initiatives on the results of the analysis and the three sides of the Problem Analysis Triangle.

Activities included:

- Media campaign to increase victim awareness and highlight the perceived risk to offenders,
- Home visits and crime prevention advice issued to high risk addresses,
- High visibility patrols conducted by officers from partner agencies,
- Property marking equipment distributed as part of a high profile campaign,
- Cocoon Watch conducted to highlight awareness to potential victims.

### **Assessment:**

A full results analysis completed at the conclusion of the project identified:

- A reduction of 33% of insecure burglary dwellings in the hotspot locations
- A reduction of 34% of insecure burglary dwellings across the whole of the Division
- A reduction of 13% in total burglary dwellings across the whole of the Division.