Crime Reduction – A Strategic Focus

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What is Crime Reduction?

Objectives:

1. Achieve and sustain significant reductions in rate of a range of crimes
2. Reduce fear of crime amongst the public
What is crime reduction?

Key principles:
- **Evidence** – measurable, knowledge-based standards for our work
  - Re-examine “sacred cows” and demand rigour
  - What are the measurable impacts of our programs?
- **Accountability** – Performance targets
- **Partnerships** – no agency or profession has a controlling interest; many can contribute
Why change?

- 46% Canadians expressed confidence in the criminal justice system overall (2004)

- Otherwise excellent programs often lack:
  - Clear, measurable (falsifiable) objectives
  - Evidence-based choices
  - True criminal justice partnerships
What is crime reduction?

Where did it come from?

- External examples:
  - United Kingdom: CJS performance measurement
  - “Wraparound” prolific offender management
  - Substantial & sustained impact

- Local initiative
  - Multi-agency projects
  - VPD Chronic Offender Program
  - Mental Health courts in Seattle
Why integrated offender management?

- A strategic focus on prolific offenders
  - Resources follow risk!
- What do we know?
  - Small number of offenders typically account for large proportion of crime
    - E.g. Comox Valley ... 4.5% of offenders (20) committed 23% of known property crime (summer 2006)
    - Top 9/443 offenders committed 16%
Why integrated offender management?

- High costs, ineffective system response
  - Much recidivism assoc. to remediable issues
    - E.g. antisocial cognitions & associations, substance dependency, homelessness
  - Most serve trivial time (55% of male sentences <30 days, 85% <6 months)
    - Remand = x2 time, little intervention
  - Few get treatment in a timely manner
  - Lack of information sharing, even to benefit of offenders = poor outcomes
Positive outcomes from initial steps

- Significant gains, esp. re property crimes; year-on-year drops of 10–40% in targeted crimes in pilot areas
- 2004-06 change in property crime rates:
  - Canada: \(-10\%\)
  - “E” Division: \(-15\%\)
  - Pilot sites: \(-27\%\)
- Strong support from client base for strategic focus, difficult choices.
Offender Focused - Local Implementation

- Top 5% of offenders
- What do we know about them?
- Better Information = Better Outcomes
Examples – Offender Based

- Coquitlam/Surrey Bail Templates
- Kamloops Bulletin Boards
Beyond a Pure Enforcement Approach - Integration

- It is not solely a policing problem!
- Smaller communities have been doing this for years.
- What can other agencies offer?
- Impact on their services/common clients
Integration Examples

- Mental Health nurses
- AA and Narcotics Anonymous
- Bylaw and Business Licence Reviews
Intelligence

- Recent criminal activity
- Analysis - Hot Spots
Intelligence - Examples

- Lifestyle interviews
- Increased street checks in hot spots
- Release date charts
- Discussing hot spot causation factors with local government
Detachment Operations

- A team effort
- In discussion with communities examine how we deliver service
- Evidence based programs
Operations - Examples

- Call Manager – Comox Valley
- Nanaimo/North Vancouver – School Liaison/Youth Intervention Teams
Penticton Detachment

- Break and Enter from 600 in 2003 to 254 in 2007.
- Overall reported criminal code down 16% over last year.
- Property offences down 19%
- Theft of motor vehicle down 26%
- Prisoners down almost 400 from 2628 to 2248 year to year
2004-2006 Crime Reduction Initiative Pilot Sites
Relative performance re property crime rates (2004 = 100%)

Canadian average   "E" Division average   Pilot site average

2004  2006
100%  90%  85%  73%
100%  100%  100%
CR: further steps

- Substantial engagement with research on crime drivers, applied to practice
  - In what ways does policing best contribute to crime prevention?
  - How can partnerships with other agencies enable key service providers and timely interventions?

- Continued application of CR principles throughout police operations
Thank you

Questions?

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