

75 The Quinton E.S.C.A.P.E. Project

The Quinton area of Great Wyrley suffers from elevated levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour to an extent that it has become the district 'hot-spot' environment, acting as both a crime attractor and generator.

Business in the area was in decline with instances of shopkeepers being attacked and their premises damaged. Local youth 13–19yrs were responsible for the majority of the crime which was growing in seriousness towards arson, racism and violence.

The Quinton project was developed from the S.A.R.A. problem solving model and culminated in a 100 point action plan being designed, funded [£30,000.00] and delivered by over 24 stakeholder agencies and voluntary bodies led by the Police Community Safety Team over a 12 Month period starting in October 2005. The project was managed against bench marked aims and objectives, developed from multi agency information and then robustly evaluated against similar criteria up to and including Feb 07.

The main interventions and mechanisms were designed to reduce crime and disorder and make the area cleaner, greener and safer for business, young people and the community at large. These were;

Senior Youth Inclusion Program. To educate the worst/most at risk young people away from drugs, alcohol and nuisance behaviour.

Law enforcement. To bring those to justice who continued to offend.

Youth Diversion. A series of sporting, music and video initiatives to attract the youth of the area into Youth Service's programs and onto the playing areas.

Increased Local Guardianship. New benches and play areas designed to increase natural surveillance and promote community pride and guardianship.

Community Cohesion. Uniting businesses and neighbourhoods and increasing local confidence.

Community Communications. Keeping everyone informed and involved.

BMX track. Designed and built by young people to instil ownership and involve young people fully.

Restorative Justice. Offenders on community service orders working in the community, removing graffiti etc.

Key Outcomes.

Local Business improved and 8 new jobs were created.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and other interventions brought the community closer together.

The area is safer, cleaner and greener.

The area as a whole is more widely used and frequented increasing guardianship and aiding community cohesive community.

All Crime/incidents effectively decreased by 9.7%

Antisocial Behaviour effectively decreased by 9.5%

Violence decreased effectively by 34.8%.

Theft increased by 3.3% (set against an increase in retail premises of 30%).

Criminal Damage effectively decreased by 23.2%

