



Overview: Operation Synapse

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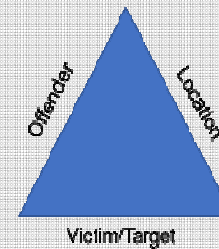
The Problem

- Historical patterns around a number of properties in Waltham Abbey used by local youths: drugs and ASB.
- March 2021: Serious assault at EFDC property. Premises had been cuckooed, drug dealer attacked and local youth arrested at scene.
- EFDC officers apply for and obtain a Closure Order
- Hypothesis: Criminality will be displaced and further local addresses will be at risk of being taken over.

Problem Solving

Routine Activity Theory

Crime occurs when a motivated offender comes together in time and space with a suitable victim in the absence of a capable guardian.



OFFENDER

Reduce the number of likely offenders

LOCATION/TARGET

Harden any prospective targets/places

GUARDIAN

Increase number/presence of guardians

Method

Creation of working party

- EFDC Housing, Community Resilience and the funded police team meet fortnightly to share information regarding new or recent ASB complaints.
- The intention is to identify any persons or premises at risk of, or in the process of, being exploited by criminal networks.
- The group assess each strand of intelligence. If it fits the above criteria or otherwise indicates that a property or tenant may be at risk or being targeted by criminals, actions were allocated to the most suitable team

Partnership work with Operation Raptor (drugs and gangs)

- Separate operation running simultaneously to target the known offenders

Results

1st April 2021 – Closure Order obtained for XX Caneland Court

Intelligence received that group are linked to a property at Essex House, Quaker Lane. Closure Order considered but tenant is re-housed out of area and the property boarded up.

Within 2 days, the group return to YY Caneland Court, which had previously been targeted and addressed in 2020.

3rd May 2021- incident involving the group occurs at XX Amesbury

4th May 2021 – Closure Order obtained for YY Caneland Court

16th June 2021 – Closure Order obtained for XX Amesbury

23rd June 2021- Closure Order extension obtained for XX Caneland Court

15th September 2021 - Closure Order extension obtained for XX Amesbury

ARRESTS – 3 x juvenile males, 1 x adult female, 1 x adult male

Closure Order

Closure Order

(SECTION 80(5) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT [2014](#))

In the Chelmsford Magistrates' Court
Sitting at 10 New Street Chelmsford Essex CM1 1NT

Address:

On application of Epping Forest District Council
Address of Applicant Authority: Civic Offices High Street Essex CM16 4BZ

Relevant Authorities Consulted – Essex Police,

The Court has found on the balance of probabilities in relation to the address at ("the Premises"):

(a) that a person has engaged, or (if the Order is not made) is likely to engage in disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour on the Premises, or:

(b) the use of the premises has resulted, or (if the Order is not made) is likely to result in serious nuisance to members of the public, or

(c) there has been, or (if the Order is not made) is likely to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of the Premises

And that the Order is necessary to prevent the behaviour, nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring

Accordingly the Court orders that a Closure Order is made pursuant to Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in respect of the Premises

A Closure Order is an Order prohibiting access to the Premises for a period specified in the Order

~~This Closure Order prohibits access to the Premises by all persons (except those persons specified or those of a specified description) at all times (unless specified) for a period of THREE MONTHS from _____ and ending at _____~~

Subject to the following exceptions:

Staff and representatives of Epping Forest District Council, Emergency Services,

A person who without reasonable excuse remains on or enters premises in contravention of a Closure Order commits an offence under Section 86 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 liable on summary conviction to a maximum of 51 weeks imprisonment and / or an unlimited fine.

A person who obstructs a constable or authorised person entering or doing anything reasonably necessary to secure the premises against entry by any person commits an offence under Section 86 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 liable on summary conviction to a maximum of 3 months imprisonment and / or an unlimited fine.

District Judge / Justice of the Peace

[By order of the clerk of the court]

Date

Next Steps

- Youths are due in court, two parties still to be charged.
- Funded officers have drafted Criminal Behaviour Order applications for 3 x youths and 1 x adult
- Op Raptor officers have completed extensive investigations
- The working party were meeting fortnightly to remain aware of any concerns however owing to the reduction in activity this has been conceded and future discussions are on an adhoc basis.

Reporting

If residents suspect any properties are being used for Criminal purposes they can report it via the below channels:

- Call 101
- Live chat with Essex Police online
- Report it online to Essex Police
- Report to EFDC via the website: www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/crime-and-safety/report-anti-social-behaviour/



Any questions?