

Citizen Participation in Crime Prevention

Professor Paul Ekblom

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Design Against Crime Research Centre



Arts & Humanities
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The Grippa research programme, mainly funded by AHRC, is a collaboration between the Design Against Crime Research Centre, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London, and the UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science. Papers and other materials from the programme are at www.grippaclip.com and wider practical and research material on preventing bag theft at www.inthebag.org.uk

Crime Prevention & Community Safety:

Kinds of knowledge relevant to practice

- **Know crime** – definitions of offences
- **Know-about crime problems** – causes, consequences etc
- **Know-what works** to reduce crime
- **Know-how to put into practice**
- **Know-when to act** – relative to other activities
- **Know-where to distribute resources**
- **Know-why** – symbolism, values, politics, ethics
- **Know-who to involve and how**

Who delivers crime prevention?

- Most crime prevention & community safety **interventions** are delivered indirectly by **'civil'** organisations and individuals, not professional preventers in police, local government, youth services
- The role of the professionals is mostly to **mobilise or work in partnership with** the civil world, so that the professionals **involve** other parties in **implementing** the **intervention** or otherwise supporting it
- Even direct implementation may require professional partnerships to span divisions of labour & bring together complementary perspectives/ resources
- Yet a focus on intervention alone misses this key dimension of knowledge for practice, delivery and policy

Who delivers crime prevention?

- Consider these 'methods' on a typical 'shopping list' of preventive actions:
 - Police on patrol
 - Crime prevention publicity campaign: 'lock it or lose it'
 - Installation of security clips in bars to prevent theft of customers' bags
 - Outreach activities aimed at young people on streets
 - Communities That Care
 - Neighbourhood Watch
- They all involve professionals, citizens and organisations in very different ways

Different kinds of involvement

- Police on patrol
 - Professionals Implement Intervention themselves
- Crime prevention publicity campaign
 - Professionals Involve public, who then Implement the Intervention themselves (they buy, fit and operate window locks)
- Installation of security clips in bars to prevent theft of customers' bags
 - Designers create Intervention, and Involve others Implementing it: bar managers (installation), customers (use)

Different kinds of Involvement

- Outreach activities to young people on streets
 - Youth workers Involve (recruit) young people in co-Implementing their own treatment (Intervention)
- Communities That Care
 - CTC professionals mobilise/partner local civil professionals, and together both mobilise citizens and local organisations to Implement Interventions drawn from a 'what works' menu
- Neighbourhood Watch
 - Citizens mobilise selves, to work in partnership with police, to Implement Interventions incl. surveillance
- The reality is even messier!

Involvement is certainly more complicated than this, although it is a good start

The crime triangle



Grippa clips – preventing theft of customers' bags in bars



Grippa clips – aspects of ‘Involvement failure’

- Senior management of bar company agreed to let us trial the clips
- Then many of them were ‘let go’ and we were passed to more junior management
- We piloted prototype clips in 4 bars, and found that the public:
 - Liked the designs and the concept, but
 - Didn’t actually use them!
 - Customers unaware of what clips for and how to use them

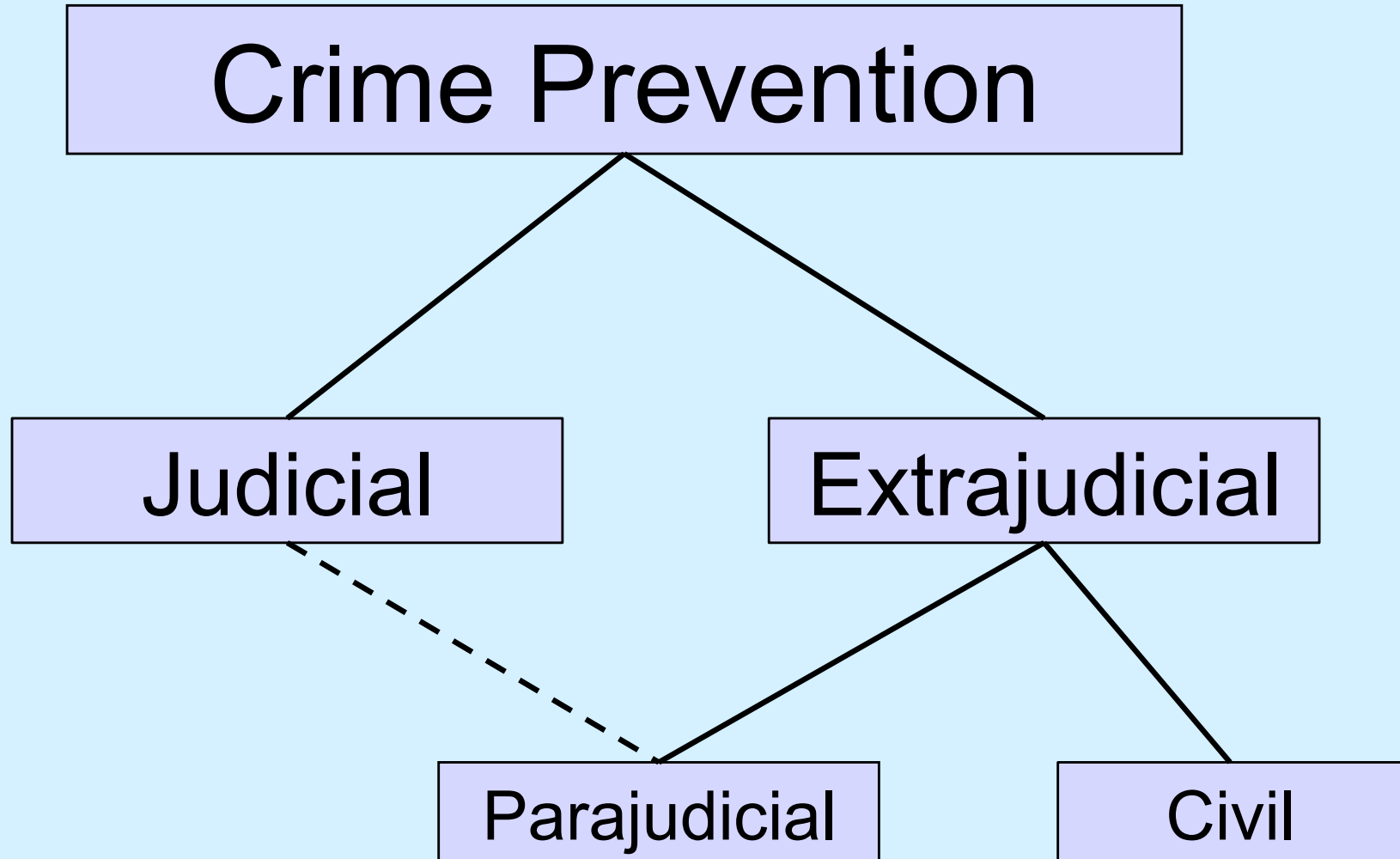
Problems in Involvement

- Card hangers to alert and inform customers without scaring them
- Hangers kept ending up on floor
- Bar staff not well-informed or motivated to care for customers
- Little communication of purpose of project from regional managers to individual bar managers
- Just before main evaluation in 13 bars, bar company pulled out of entire project due to the recession...



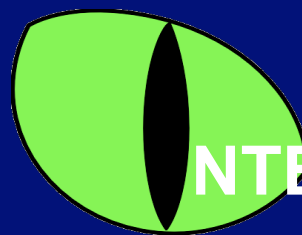
**We need frameworks to help understand
and deliver Involvement**

Institutional settings



The 5Is framework

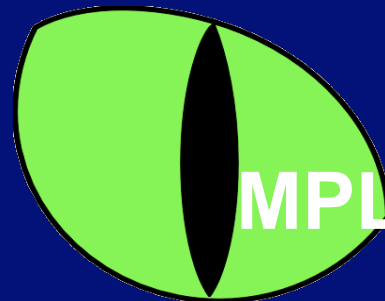
Sharing good practice in crime prevention



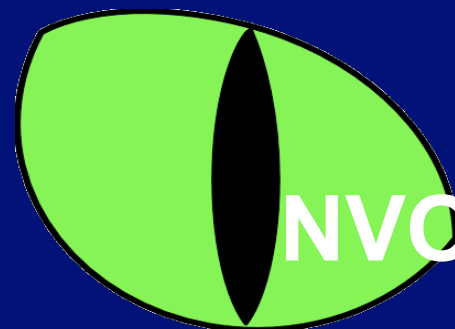
INTELLIGENCE



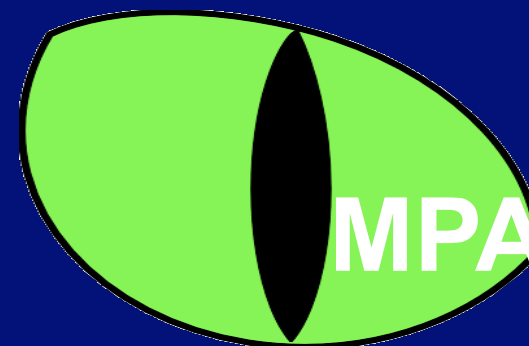
INTERVENTION



IMPLEMENTATION



INVOLVEMENT



IMPACT

The Five Is

The tasks of the Preventive
Process

Involvement

- Involvement comprises:
 - Partnership – Interagency or with residents, organisations
 - Mobilisation – Organisations, companies, departments, volunteers
 - Climate-setting – Background relations – public trust, interagency trust, mutual expectations
 - Outreach – Getting young people as potential offenders to participate voluntarily in

5Is Involvement - Mobilisation

- Clarify crime prevention roles/ tasks to achieve
- Locate appropriate preventive agents
- Alert them
- Inform them
- Motivate them
- Empower them - increase capacity
- Direct¹⁶ them - objectives, standards



5Is – Involvement – Mobilisation

Irish Youth Centres

- **Clarify crime prevention roles/ tasks** – *expert supervisor for motorcycle project, volunteer youth centre staff, community rep*
- **Locate appropriate preventive agents** – *trawl organisations eg angling societies such as Dublin Angling Initiative, and local angling enthusiast*
- **Alert** them that they may be causing crime and/or could help prevent it
- **Inform** them – *challenge joyriding audience behaviour by showing video of consequences to stop them acting as crime promoters*
- **Motivate** them – *get children off parents' hands... in extreme circumstances pressure parents to send yp to youth centre by arranging conditional stay of eviction order*
- **Empower** them – increase capacity – *training staff/volunteers*
- **Direct** them - objectives, standards – *Health & Safety/ Child safety rules*

5Is: Detailed structure of task streams

5/s

- Intelligence

- Intervention

- Implementation

- **Involvement**

- Impact

Involvement

- Partnership

- **Mobilisation**

- Climate setting

CLAIMED

- Clarify

- Locate

- Alert

- Inform

- Motivate

- Empower

- Direct

Citizen participation in crime prevention

Paul Ekblom

Design Against Crime Research Centre

p.ekblom@csm.arts.ac.uk

www.designagainstcrime.com/crimeframeworks

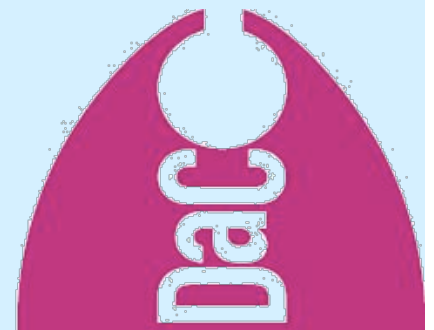
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**DESIGN
AGAINST
CRIME**



**END OF PRESENTATION:
REST OF SLIDES MAY COME UP IN
DISCUSSION**

Partnership: the definition for COE

- Partnership is an institutional arrangement that shades into a philosophy
- It is a way of enhancing performance in the delivery of a common goal
 - by the taking of joint responsibility and
 - the pooling of resources
 - by different agents, whether these are public or private, collective or individual
- The added value from such a collaborative approach stems from enhanced ability to tackle problems whose solutions
 - span the division of labour, and/or
 - centre on a particular locality

Partnership: the PC-PA definition [3]

- *The agents in partnership may bring with them conflicting or competing interests, and different perspectives, ideologies and cultures*
- *So in democratic and legally-regulated contexts they seek to act together*
 - *without loss of their separate professional identities*
 - *without unacceptable or illegal blurring of powers and interests, and*
 - *without loss of accountability*

5Is – Involvement – Partnership

Irish Youth Centres

- Partnership as strategic background to individual operational actions
 - *Each project had connections with wider ‘justice family’ of agencies eg on local probation project management ctee.*
 - *Discussions between agencies on what activities to be done on whose premises*
- Partnership in operations
 - *With parents of young person at youth centre - parent meetings if problem arises – for every negative issue, ensure they discuss 3 positives first. ‘Nurture programme’ in Dublin – developed this concept of the ‘compliment sandwich’*
 - *Agreement with local Garda that no yp was to be picked up whilst on youth centre activity or at the centre itself - a means of preserving trust between centre and yps.*

Involvement – of offenders

- Outreach – how to recruit young people to join youth centres & be treated
 - Another crossover – outreach may itself act as preventive Intervention via development of trusting relationships and even the process of volunteering
 - But that is no reason to confuse ‘working the streets’ with clear understanding of Intervention mechanisms
 - *Building trust on street – at both individual/group levels*
 - *What if the street workers see the yps doing bad things – how should they respond so they maintain trust – eg by asking ‘should you really be doing that?’*
 - *Softly-softly approach – crime problem not directly raised at first, may be mentioned in passing... get to know them initially*
 - *Voluntary participation of yp rather than as forcible condition of, say, cautioning*
 - *Anticipatory mobilisation of clients – building relationships with yp that offer ‘handles that can be pulled on’ when yp starts offending*
- Once joined
 - Keeping in – maintaining motivation – ‘career structure’ of building responsibility and status in the youth centre
 - *Handling of incidents such as theft/damage with acceptance & inclusion*
- Contact and re-entry
 - Methods for maintaining continuity pre imprisonment, during and post release

The roles people play in crime situations

‘Civil’ roles

- Owner/ user of bike
- Flatmate
- Other user of building
- Landlord
- Visitor
- Meter reader
- ...?

Crime-specific roles

- **Offender = abuser**
- **Preventer**
 - makes crime **less** likely, by acting, or merely being present, before or during crime
 - after first crime, preventer makes **next** crime less likely (eg wiser victim installs lock)

Preventer could act as

 - **Guardian** of target
 - **Manager** of place (environment or enclosure)
 - **Handler** of offender
 - **Passer-by** undertaking casual surveillance
 - **Designer** of place, product or procedure
- **Promoter**
 - makes crime **more** likely
 - **Inadvertently, carelessly** or **deliberately** (eg buys very expensive bike for use in risky area, forgets to lock it properly, knowingly buys/sells stolen bike)

Civil roles & crime roles **overlap**, eg

- User, flatmate, visitor, landlord could be preventer or promoter
- Visitor or neighbour could be offender

Realising the theft prevention principle of *discrimination* by differentially altering the *instrumentality* of the crime situation

Being *user-friendly* whilst *abuser-unfriendly*

User-friendly = helping user achieve positive *legitimate* goals, whilst preventing crime & not promoting it

- Maintaining **value** of target property to user, and ...
- Reducing input of **time, effort, cost** to user of protecting it
- Reducing risk of **harm** to user from protecting it
- Reducing/avoiding increasing any **fear** inappropriately associated with crime or its prevention (eg paranoid signs/equipment)
- Increasing **time, effort, cost** to user of **promoting** crime (eg bike stand that guides user *away* from locking bike insecurely)

Abuser-unfriendly = hindering abuser from achieving positive *crime* goals & avoiding negative ones

- Reducing **value or reward** from target to abuser (discouragement), and ...
- Increasing input of **time, effort, resources, cost** to abuser when attempting to acquire target or realise its value (discouragement)
- Increasing risk of **harm** to abuser when attempting to acquire target or realise its value (deterrence – generally via law enforcement)

*Note that influencing **perception** of these instrumental considerations is as important as influencing the **reality** – hence **perceived** risk etc –*
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Involvement – Climate Setting

- Creating/maintaining conditions of mutual trust, acceptance and expectation in support of preventive action, whether through professional intervention, partnership or mobilisation
 - *Importance of staffing continuity so personal trusting relationships can develop – how to preserve this with changeover to more centrally-managed arrangements?*
 - *Sensitivity in handling serious incidents eg theft or damage in youth centre – implications for relations with young people and their families; but also with Gardai*
 - *Maintenance of good relations between enforcement and juvenile support arms within Garda*
 - *Openness and fairness in making resources of youth centres available to wide range of young people*
 - *Making youth centre facilities available to wider community – helped to build trust and credibility*