Noarlunga Together Against Crime

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Background and Philosophy

Noarlunga Together Against Crime was formed in response to the state government’s Together Against Crime program. When the Minister for Crime Prevention, The Honourable Chris Sumner, released details of the program in August 1989, a number of people in the south of the state expressed interest. Significant negotiations then followed between interested parties and the Crime Prevention and Criminology Unit of the South Australian Attorney-General’s Department. Out of those negotiations a ten person steering committee was formed to investigate what might be done about crime prevention in the Noarlunga region.

One concept which caught the committee’s interest was a French crime prevention model (known as the Bonnemaison model) which advocated that the police and the criminal justice system are not the only parties that have responsibilities in crime prevention and that local communities also have responsibility and input. The committee was attracted to this idea, not only because the French model has had significant success, but also because it matched our own thinking. For this reason the committee decided not to explore ideas internally but to create a model that would reach out into the community, gathering ideas from as many people as possible.
Methodology

It was decided that there would be a three-month pilot project which had a dual emphasis. The first step was to employ a research officer to survey which crimes were occurring, and to what degree. The second step was the employment of a project officer to set up a consultative workshop process between agencies, organisations, and resident groups in the area. This process endeavoured to identify the crime issues that people were most concerned about and develop crime prevention strategies to address those issues.

In the first nine weeks of the project, over eighty visits to people and organisations who either worked with, or had insights into, the effects of crime were conducted. The concept of the Noarlunga strategy was explained and a questionnaire was distributed. The questionnaire asked four basic questions:

1. What do you consider to be the most important crime issues to be addressed?
2. Why are these issues a priority to you?
3. What ideas do you have about how these crimes could be prevented?
4. Do you have any further comments or insights?

The information gained from these questionnaires was used in the process of two workshops which were conducted on 19 November 1990, and the following priorities were identified.

Priorities

The responses fell into four main groups and the community tended to be concerned about similar issues. There was a strong leaning towards the top three issues in each category. In order of perceived priority, the identified concerns of each group are listed as follows:

- Crimes against the person:
  - family violence (domestic violence, child abuse, other family violence);
  - assault;
  - sexual assault (rape, indecent assault, and so on);
  - personal safety (safety in public places, harassment); and
  - others.
- Crimes against property:
  - vandalism;
  - break and enter;
• graffiti;
• larceny;
• illegal use-motor vehicles; and
• others.
• Drugs and crime:
  • drug/alcohol abuse;
  • sale and distribution; and
  • drug/alcohol motivated crime.
• Broader issues:
  • juvenile crime;
  • juvenile behaviour;
  • lack of police power;
  • recidivism;
  • unemployment;
  • juvenile justice system; and
  • others.

Suggested Strategies

Appendix I sets out some of the suggested strategies that evolved from the process. It should be pointed out that these are only suggestions and involve agencies, organisations and individuals who have yet to be consulted with and whose cooperation is encouraged. Some broader issues also require further exploration and discussion with relevant agencies-for example, educating young children in social responsibility/increasing their awareness of community resources.

Ongoing Structure

To facilitate the operation of any strategies, to receive ongoing input from the local community, and to develop strategies from information gained, it was proposed that:
• the steering committee evolve into Noarlunga’s Together Against Crime committee, and that the committee meet on a monthly basis; and
• sub-committees be formed to address the strategies outlined in this report and other specific issues, for example, family violence, juvenile crime and behaviour, and Noarlunga Centre.
It was suggested that:

- those sub-committees be chaired by a member of the main committee, for the sake of continuity and access to resources;
- membership of those sub-committees would be people with appropriate skills, resources, and agency support, and would be ratified by the main committee;
- anyone funded through the strategy be a part of the appropriate sub-committee; and
- the purposes of the sub-committees would be to monitor any strategy relevant to their specific interest, to use information gained to develop and enhance further strategies, and to be a source of input for ongoing ideas from the whole community.

It is also proposed that a list of the chairpersons of those sub-committees, along with their contact number, be published so as to facilitate community access.

**Future Steps**

Once the sub-committees have been formed, and the proposed strategies investigated and enhanced, a specific application for funding will be put to the Minister for Crime Prevention. Once that funding is received the project can begin. It is hoped to have the application with the Minister by March/April 1991.

**Acknowledgments**

The Noarlunga Together Against Crime committee sincerely thanks the following for their support:

For funding: The Crime Prevention and Criminology Unit,
Attorney-General’s Department
Noarlunga City Council
Noarlunga Community Services Forum

For administration: Gordon Bilney’s office
Noarlunga Health Services
Offender’s Aid and Rehabilitation Services

Further, the Noarlunga Together Against Crime committee wishes to thank all the agencies, organisations and individuals who have contributed through questionnaires, consultations and workshops. The unmistakable enthusiasm has been genuinely appreciated as the Noarlunga Together Against Crime committee strives for goals that are so important to us all.
### Appendix I  Suggested Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Resource Required</th>
<th>Possible Implementation Agency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Graffiti/ Vandalsm</td>
<td>To prevent and reduce graffiti in key public places and private property</td>
<td>Formation of graffiti clean-up groups, to include graffiti offenders who will clean up and re-decorate in mural form. Explore possibility of using contracts for these offenders. Perhaps bond conditions or children’s aid panel undertakings.</td>
<td>Street Worker Commercial Artist(contract basis)</td>
<td>Southside Youth Community Centre</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Link vandals with their vandalism.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation of Police, FACS</td>
<td>Police, FACS Southside Youth Community Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>To reduce shop stealing of spray cans, felt tips, and so on.</td>
<td>Assist and promote the setting up of ‘dummy’ displays in shops for spray cans, and similar items, to reduce shoplifting of these items. To be coordinated by street worker as per Strategy 1.</td>
<td>Street Worker Display resources</td>
<td>Southside Youth Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Personal Safety</td>
<td>Enhance and expand Neighbourhood Watch to address crimes against the person. To decrease isolation. To increase resource information. Decrease vandalism harassment in aged care villages.</td>
<td>To provide a neighbourhood care worker to work within the infrastructure of Neighbourhood Watch.</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Care Worker</td>
<td>Community Development Neighbourhood Watch</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td>To investigate if harassment problems are related to the layout of thoroughfares and to develop practical solutions.</td>
<td>Assistance for short term investigation of situation and propose practical situations</td>
<td>Crime Prevention and Criminology Unit</td>
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## Appendix I cont’d

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<td>6.</td>
<td>Increase public safety in Colonnades Centre.</td>
<td>Form a task force involving Council, traders, and Police in developing coordinated plan for the Colonnades Centre.</td>
<td>Council, traders, possible youth worker</td>
<td>To be identified</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Family Violence</td>
<td>Victim support as part of Police process. To discourage domestic violence by increasing the efficiency of the charging process</td>
<td>Investigate northem suburb's model. Develop appropriate local model.</td>
<td>Project Worker Police support</td>
<td>Link Worker in Police Station</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Raise awareness of the seriousness of domestic violence in our community</td>
<td>Education Campaign.</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Inter-agency cooperation</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Local response team. To provide positive, alternative activities.</td>
<td>Link relevant agencies. Developn-tent and co-ordination of existing services. Blue Light Camps.</td>
<td>Project Worker Additional Financial Resources</td>
<td>To be identified</td>
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<td>10. juvenile Crime and Behaviour</td>
<td>To develop local activity centres for young people.</td>
<td>Seek youth input - assist in identifying possible locations.</td>
<td>Support from community and private enterprise</td>
<td>To be identified</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>To bridge gap between Police and young offenders</td>
<td>Explore 'police mentor’ concept in conjunction with IPSS program</td>
<td>Input from Police, FACS</td>
<td>To be identified</td>
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