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Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

Applying better evidence for better community safety : the experience of the Safer Sandwell Partners

Format:

Paper

Themes:

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Abstract:

The 1995 Sandwell annual public health report trailed themes of safety and health and the then evidence-base for interventions including drugs and alcohol, child protection, environmental planning and the 'epidemiology of crime'. A subsequent project led by the JM, the West Midlands 'Crimegrip' project sought to raise awareness of evidence-based policy and practice in the field of criminal justice and health. Crimegrip produced a number of reports on the strength of evidence, the local baseline positions and understanding of local professionals and barriers to implementation in the West Midlands. The subjects covered have included methadone maintenance in drug rehabilitation, early years interventions, street lighting, drugs education, youth mentoring, alcohol brief interventions, responsible beverage server education and alcohol related crime and restorative justice programmes. In 2006 the Safer Sandwell Partnership reviewed the strength of evidence based policy interventions in its portfolio, drawing on other evidence including that for neighbourhood policing, community trials programme of alcohol interventions, CCTV and youth offending programmes. The paper will report the processes of bringing to the understanding of local policy officials the need for and use of high standards of research evidence in developing and implementing local policies to reduce crime and improve health. The paper will report some of the outcomes with regard to reductions in alcohol related violent crime, domestic violence and domestic burglary.
