Ealing
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BOROUGH / PROJECT :

Ealing Council

Understanding Key Drivers and Building the Best Analytical Products: Serious Violence

PROBLEM :

Analysis is one of the best and most useful tools to prevent crime. Gaining an understanding of the construction of crime enables the effective deployment of resources, and the identification of enforcement, tactical and proactive opportunities to reduce crime. However, doing so in an environment with restricted resources can be incredibly challenging.

SOLUTION :

In Ealing, innovative crime analysis was consistently conducted alongside regular scanning by SCART (Safer Communities Analysis & Research Team) to not only put the pieces of a problem together, but to also identify the missing elements, while directing colleagues to useful solutions.

BACKGROUND :

To understand the picture of crime in Ealing, a Strategic Assessment was completed by the Safer Communities Analyst. The intention was to set targets and identify the type of issues/crimes that required further attention, in the form of analytical Problem Profiles. When evaluating crimes there is usually a reliance on incidents that have been reported to the police. However, this only provides part of the picture as many crimes are not reported. Therefore, to adequately assess the offences that required enhanced attention, a range of methods were employed by utilising and adapting elements of the crime prioritisation model developed by Garner Clancey.[1]

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ACTIONS :

The Strategic Assessment made use of various forms of analysis including the cost of crime, Ealing's performance in comparison to other London boroughs and analysis of ward forum minutes. This approach provided a picture of crime in Ealing from different perspectives, highlighted previously hidden problems and created cluster specific priorities. In addition, the analysis led to discussions highlighting that many of the issues raised were linked to drugs related criminality.
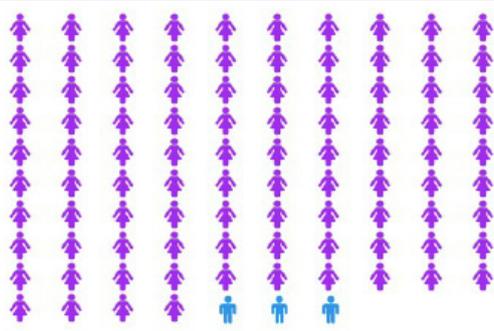
Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggested that violence in Ealing was driven by the dealing and using of drugs. Therefore, to identify and gain an understanding of the problem and to help inform decision making, a Drugs Market Profile was completed.

A full Social Network Analysis was completed within the Drugs Market Profile. This approach is time consuming, is essential that an analyst knows how to apply this technique and requires access to particular IT such as I2 Analyst Notebook. In Ealing, this method was applied which highlighted the links to violence, as anticipated. However, the analysis also showed the exploitation of vulnerable people, such as cuckooing. This work also highlighted the need for a problem profile in relation to violence and closer inspection of the role of young females within this group.

The work in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) originated in part from the Drugs Market Profile and discussions with the MASE (Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation) group. Primarily, there were substantial intelligence gaps and analysis had not been conducted to identify the extent of the problem in the borough.

The reduction of CSE requires a multi-agency response and each agency records cases in its own way. Consequently, a major challenge was identifying exactly how many cases of CSE the London Borough of Ealing dealt with collectively. This also impacted on the formation of a CSE profile. Not having a collective dataset, also meant there was a lack of knowledge regarding victim and suspect profiles and the type of CSE occurring in Ealing.
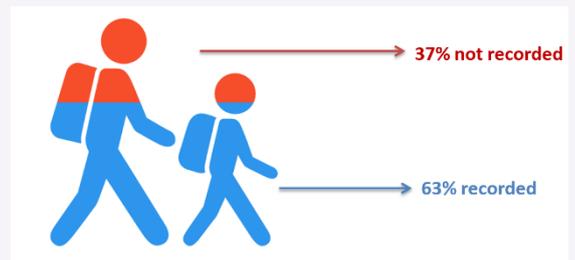

Number of cases on the MASE spreadsheet by gender of victim

The CSE problem profile analysed a variety of datasets, including cases recorded by the MASE group, if those cases were also recorded on the police systems and analysis of almost 1000 intelligence reports. The report highlighted demographics and identified three main types of CSE (organised, at risk and online).

Due to limited resources (only one Analyst with multiple projects) the plan to also create an innovative risk assessment tool could not originally be achieved. However, once additional resources in the form of two Research Analysts, (which led to the formation of SCART) were temporarily employed, the team was able to create the E-STAR (a holistic approach towards vulnerabilities and away from isolated responses to different risk areas). This tool involved partnership working with Social Services, whereby extensive research was conducted by SCART which outlined that the same general vulnerability and
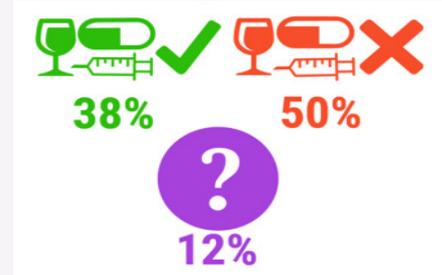
risk indicators can lead children and young people to several negative outcomes (e.g. CSE, Missing, County line or Gangs).

The intention of the tool was to inform understanding of these risk factors in Ealing, while tailoring the support work with children and young people. The analysis of data obtained from the E-STAR was incredibly valuable and amongst many findings also highlighted the area of youth violence in Ealing among this group. It also found that 15% of allegations made by young people concerning an assault, involved a weapon.

Percentage of MASE cases also recorded on MPS CRIS as a CSE Case

In addition to problem profiles, analysis was also conducted to provide an evidence base and direction for the implementation of initiatives such as the PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders) and the Night Time Economy (NTE) Strategy. The challenge here was the utilisation of a variety of different datasets, within limited time frames, while also dealing with additional competing demands. To ensure that an informed perspective of crime across the borough was achieved, data in relation to reported crime, London Ambulance Service (LAS), British Transport Police, London Fire Brigade and the

LAS Drug and Alcohol Related incidents

Safer Communities Case Management system (IDOX) was utilised. Analysis for these projects specifically focused on crimes that had occurred in particular location types for example, clubs, pubs, restaurants, parks and at particular times of the day/ night.
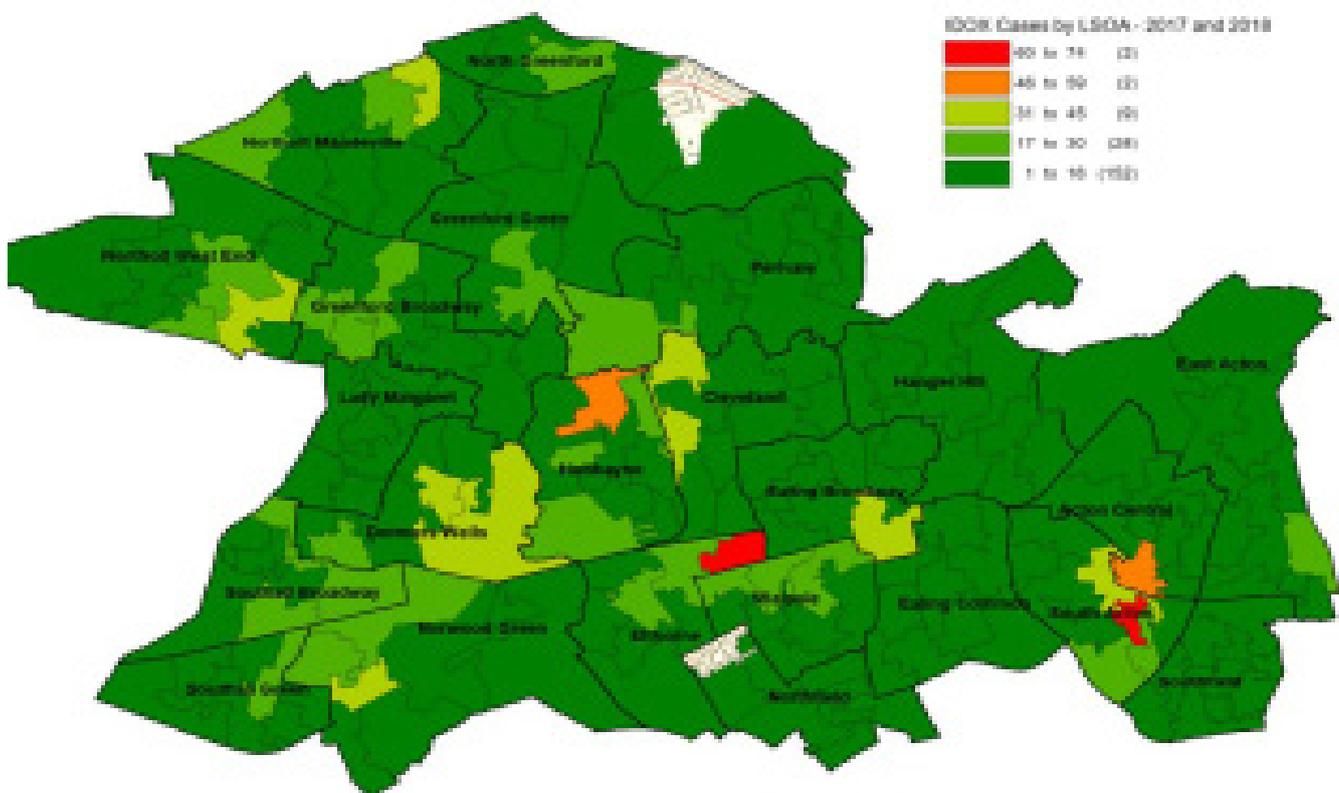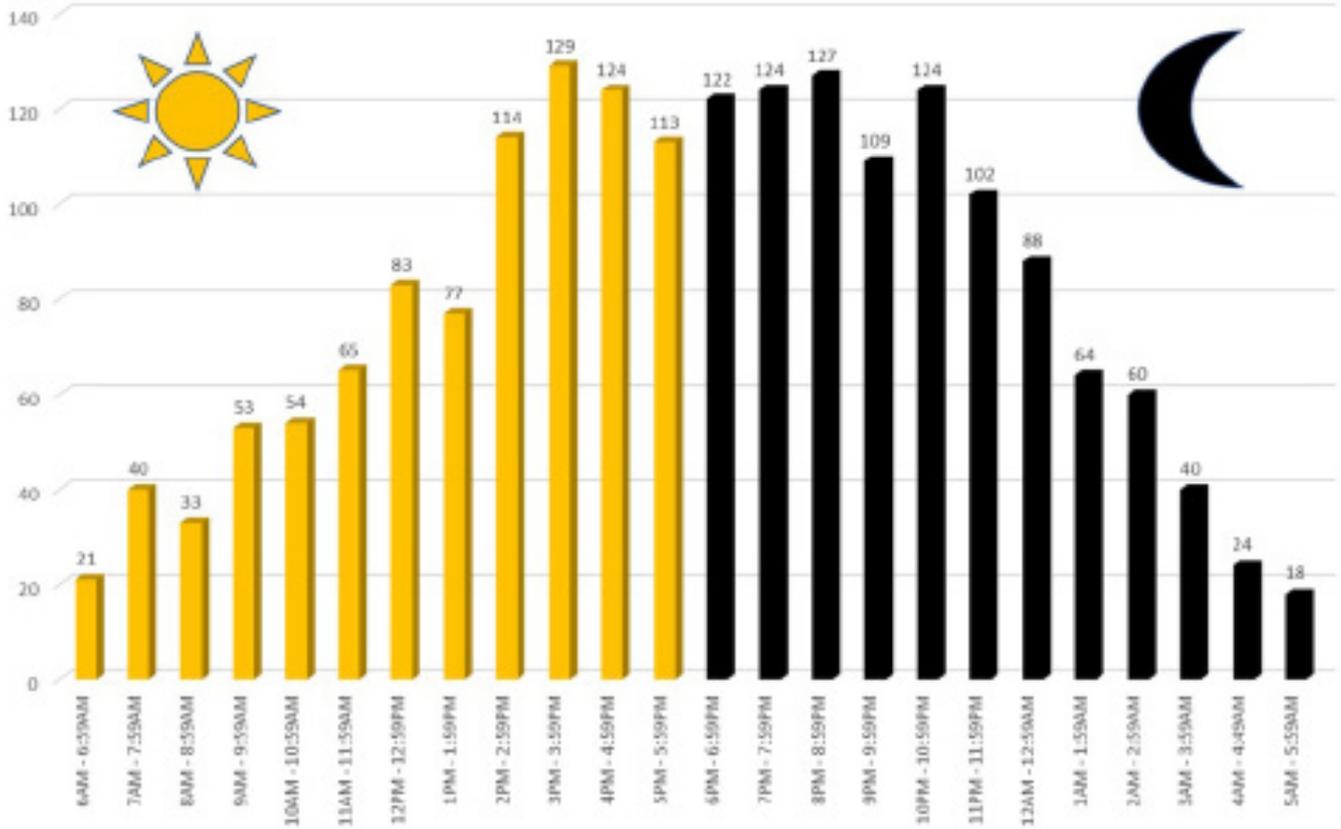

Image 4: IDOX Cases by LSOA

This focussed approach and thus focussed direction of resource allocation, would not have been achieved without the analytical product.

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Number of Reported Crimes by Time: 2018 and 2017

As stated, alongside these projects, regular scanning was conducted. This includes Ealing's involvement in the ISTV project (Information Sharing to Tackle Violence). This is an information sharing project with Ealing Hospital in relation to violence in Ealing. Analysis was also conducted by utilising data from London Ambulance Service (LAS). This approach helped to identify the hidden picture of violence (violence that has not been reported to the police). This project has been so successful that the scope has now widened to include Northwick Park Hospital.

LAS Attendances by Month: Jan to Nov 2017 Compared to Jan to Nov 2018

A knife crime problem profile was also created. This highlighted that 42% of victims were between the age of 16 to 24 and that robbery was the most common type of knife related offence. The report also identified the need for a substantial amount of additional analysis to gain a good understanding of the issue.

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The intention is that this will be achieved with the recruitment of a Knife Crime Analyst by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) West Area BCU (Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow). The purpose of the role is to provide a multi-borough approach in the creation of in depth analysis on knife crime while supporting the knife crime strategies of all three local authorities and the MPS.

79% of victims were male.

77% of suspects were male.

Knife Crime in Ealing Broadway ward - March 2018 to Feb 2019