

# Neighbourhood Priority Profiles

## Notes of Guidance

The Neighbourhood Priority Profile (NPP) is a problem-solving template that allows you to record and examine the progress that is made on a priority as identified by the community. Contained within the NPP will be your analysis of the problem, tactical options and assessment of the response. The template will guide you through the process that you need to do in order to solve the problem. The NPP also reflects the fact that the priority identified by the public can rarely be solved overnight. It is also a vehicle for best practice and can illustrate potential cost benefits.

The NPP also links in with the National Intelligence Model (NIM). A problem profile is one of the intelligence products contained within NIM and in Thames Valley Police a NPP is the neighbourhood version of a Problem Profile. This is linked to the fortnightly Tasking and Co-ordination Group process because if extra resources from the LPA are required or if the priority becomes a serious problem it should be referred up to the T&CG. In this respect the NPP provides good evidence of the problem.

The NPP is designed to assist in problem solving of not only crime and disorder but also environmental issues. In practice you will normally only require one NPP for each priority as identified by the community. However, you may decide that because of certain factors or events it may be appropriate to do a separate NPP. The structure of the profile is based on the problem-orientated policing concept of SARA – Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment. SARA also incorporates the Problem Analysis Triangle (PAT). The document should be completed in stages and can be repeated as many times as is necessary to reduce or eliminate the problem.

The document should be used at Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meetings to guide the group through the problem-solving process.

The following notes are designed to assist you in the completion of the NPP.

### **Note 1 – Front Sheet**

Completion of LPA, Neighbourhood and Priority is self explanatory. However, the profile must have a named individual as the owner. It does not follow that all the profiles have to be owned by the police they can be owned by a partner or resident. For example if it was an environmental issue then someone from the Local Authority or Housing Association could own that profile.

**Performance Measure** – The NPP must be reviewed on a regular basis and this should be done by either the Neighbourhood Inspector or the Sergeant. However it could even be reviewed by the LPA Commander or the Chair of the Neighbourhood Action Group.

Each box contains what needs to be assessed during that review and given a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) assessment. During the life of the NPP there may be occasions when extra resources are required to assist the Neighbourhood Team to deal with the problem. Therefore that request for extra resources must be flagged to the Tactical and Co-ordinating Group (T&CG). Completion of the box "Red / Amber to T & CG" must be completed and given a RAG assessment of Red. The LPA Crime Analyst must be informed of that request so that it is entered onto the Tactical Document.

If during the review process or on further information coming to light the Neighbourhood Inspector or Sergeant may consider it is appropriate that the T&CG is made aware of a particular priority then this would be given a RAG assessment of Amber and the Crime Analyst informed accordingly.

### **Note 2 – SCANNING**

This stage represents what problem has been identified and this should be briefly outlined.

### **Note 3 – Evidence Gathering Requirements**

Here you must list the actions that you need to undertake to establish the true nature of the problem. Examples of such actions are details of crime reports, command and control incidents, anti-social behaviour data, or data from the local authority or housing association all of which will identify that you either have a real problem or one of perception. Each action must have an owner and the date that action was completed. All evidence gathered at this stage needs to be listed on the analysis page (5WH).

### **Note 4 – Analysis**

#### Characteristics of the Problem

With the evidence that has been gathered you will now be in a good position to describe fully in terms of Who, What, Where, When, Why and How.

- Who is involved (offender and victim)?
- What is happening?
- Where is happening?
- When is it happening?
- Why is it happening?
- How is it happening?

This is where you will find that the evidence that you obtained during the Evidence Gathering Requirements will greatly assist in coming up with some meaningful analysis. We have to be intelligence led and if we are to target resources against certain individuals we will require time, day, date, location and offender.

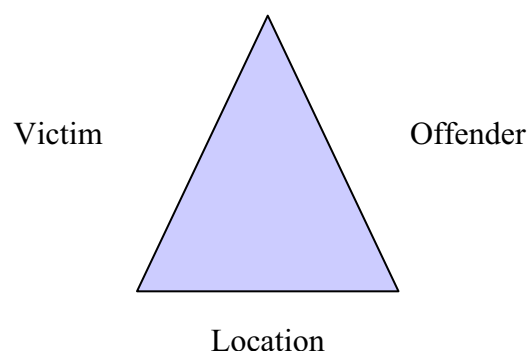
It is worth considering seeking advice from specialist resources, for example, intelligence officers, analysts or crime reduction advisers to assist in producing a comprehensive analysis.

### **Note 5 – Underlying Causes of the Problem**

Use the Problem Analysis Triangle (PAT) which recognises that for a crime to be committed, the following elements must be present:

- a Victim
- an Offender
- a Location

If one or more of these elements do not occur, then a crime cannot be committed. By identifying common elements in incidents that make up a problem, it may be possible to prevent further crimes by removing or altering one or more of the elements.



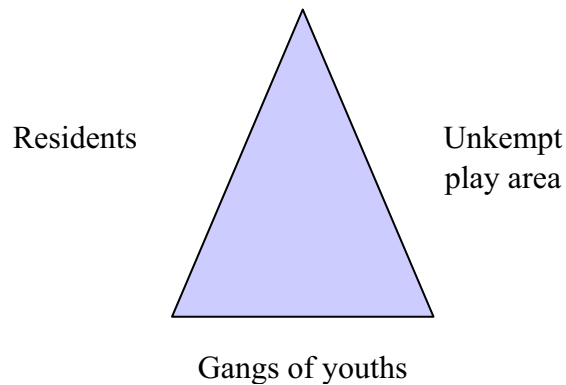
When conducting the scanning phase make sure that you identify all three sides of the PAT model for the problem. In addition, there may be further elements of the incidents that you feel are important such as the time of day and environmental factors.

By considering the analysis of the problem, the Response stage of the SARA model produces a course of action that counters the factors causing the problem. Typically, the response will try to remove one or more of the sides of the problem analysis triangle.

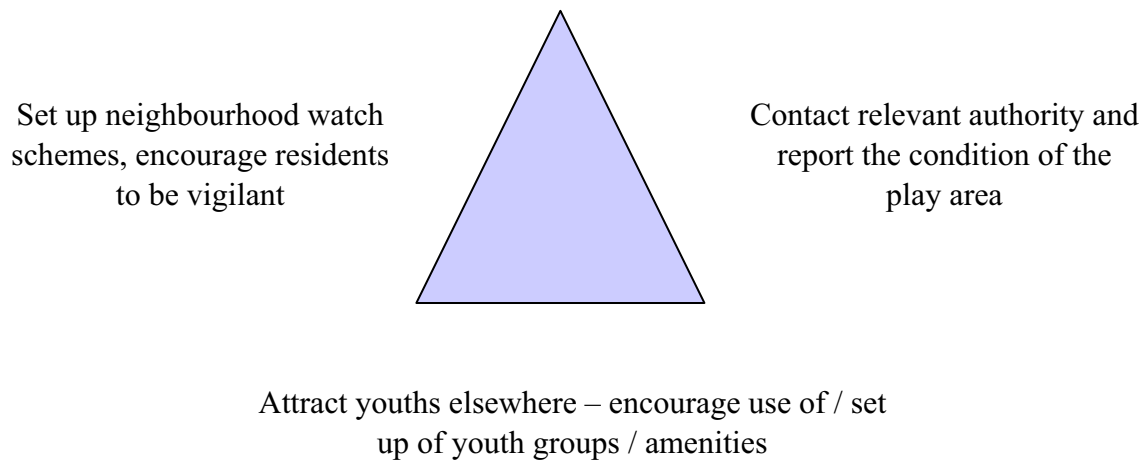
Remember that the model can apply to large or small scale problems.

For example:

This PAT model describes a problem of anti-social behaviour being reported by local residents living near a run down children's play area where gangs of youths congregate:



Here is an example of ways in which each side of the triangle could possibly be countered:



Consider at this stage what opportunities there are for targeting the problem, for example what it is about the location, victim and offender that make them vulnerable.

If as a result of the analysis consideration is being given to target certain individuals you must seek advice from your Area Intelligence Team in relation to target profiles. When a target profile is raised personal details on those individual(s) should not be made in the NPP. It is suggested that a reference number or letter is used to identify the target profile.

### **Note 6 – Response**

#### Consider Options

This is about considering possible options for responding to the problem and going through the thought processes to decide whether the option is an appropriate response. This is achieved by first letting the Neighbourhood Action Group have sight of the Priority Profile and then board blasting all the options. It is at this stage that you should consider, if appropriate, inviting someone who has specialist knowledge in relation to the problem. For example if it was fly tipping then it would be someone from the Environment Agency.

You must list all the possible options and consider whether they would be targeting the victim, offender or location. Once all the options are listed it is suggested that the NAG then identifies the top 4 options from that list to take forward for action. It is far easier to deal with 4 options than say 20. With each of those 4 options you will need to consider how you will measure the success of that option for example a reduction in the number of speeding vehicles or complaints. However, from the list of options that were not chosen you may be able to identify some “Quick Wins”.

### Note 7 – Action Sheet

List the 4 options taken forward for action and ensure that each action has an owner along with the date that action was given and then state whether that action is intended as Enforcement, Prevention, Intelligence or Communication (EPIC). Then give the action a RAG assessment as follows:

- Red – this action has not been actioned
- Amber – this action is being progressed
- Green – this action has been completed

It is possible that out of one action another may emerge and if that is the case just add that particular action.

Below is an example of an action in relation to underage drinking:

No.	Action	Owner	Date	EPIC	RAG
1	Trading Standards to carry out test purchases at off licenses in the Mansfield and Fairview Estates.	John Smith Public Protection District Council	1/8/06	E	
<p><b>Updates:</b> During the month of September 06 there were 5 test purchases completed. As a result the Manager of Jones’ Off License, Mansfield Estate is being prosecuted. Test purchases will continue over the next 2 months.</p>					

### Note 8 – Assessment of Responses

The assessment is a crucial part of the process and may be used for future profiles on this problem or other similar problems. When all actions are completed, the profile should be assessed. However, it should be borne in mind that the only true method of confirming that the problem had been resolved is to seek feedback from the local community.