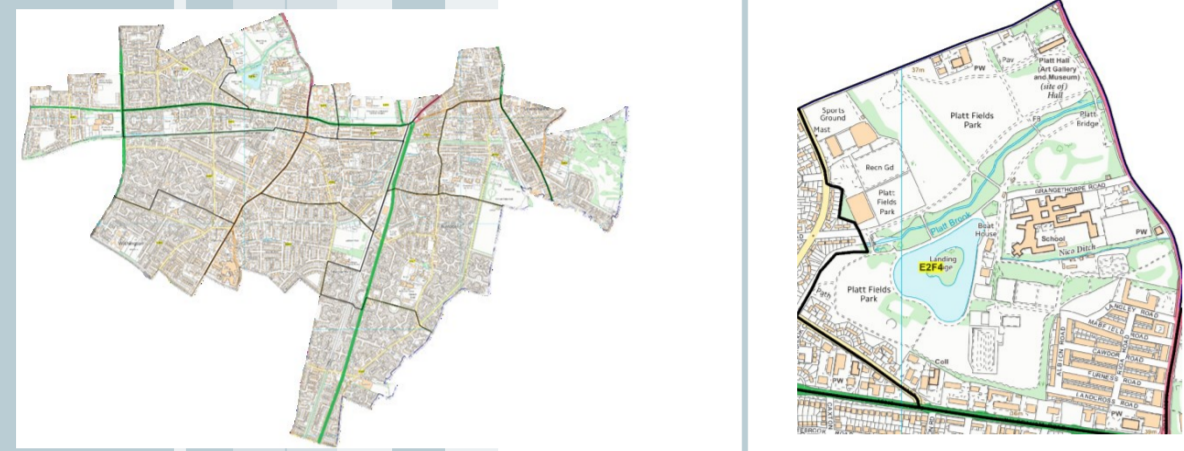


The Beat

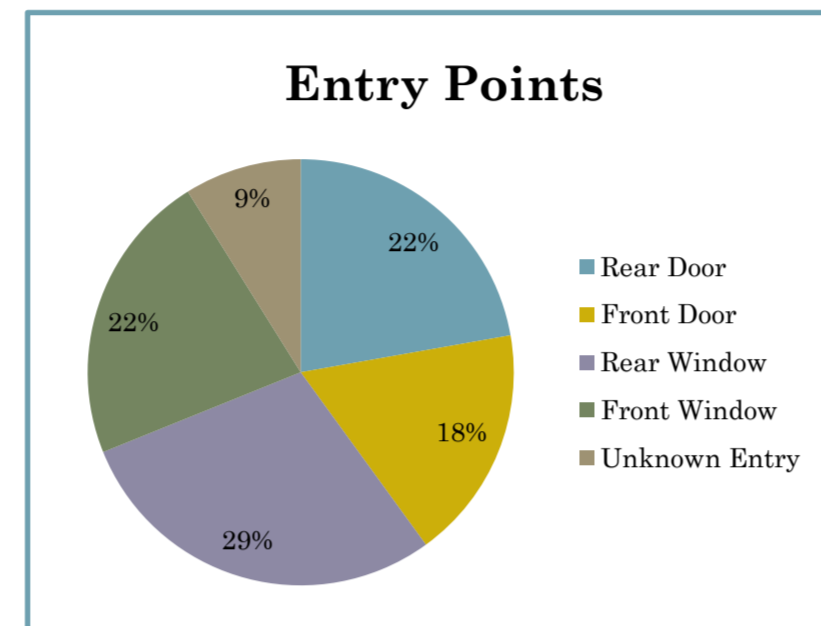
- ❖ The neighbourhood team at West Didsbury Police Station is responsible for many wards in the South of Manchester. These densely populated suburbs of Greater Manchester include Fallowfield, Withington, Old Moat, Levenshulme and Burnage. With both The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan students living throughout these wards, it holds an interesting dynamic for burglary opportunities.
- ❖ This poster will explore the burglary problems faced in a student dominated area and how to incorporate them into the solution.

Area of focus

- ❖ Within Fallowfield there are 7 wards. For this project I have focused on one sub beat of E2F4, in the north of Fallowfield, as this was becoming an increased hot spot for burglaries.
- ❖ The 2011 Census states Fallowfield's demographic includes 46% students population.



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT- FALLOWFIELD STUDENT BURGLARIES



The Problem

Crime

- ❖ Over the past 2 years there has been 914 domestic burglaries within Fallowfield, 150 occurred on the E2F4 beat. With analytic help from the Crime Reduction Team, 12 hotspot areas were identified, which collectively included 29% of burglaries. Overall burglaries have increased by 9.8% from last year.
- ❖ These 12 streets are dominated by 2 large concentrated areas, one being the E2F4 beat. Out of the 7 roads included in this beat, 3 appear in the top 12 streets.

Students

- ❖ Students are known to have high value items, including laptops and phones and therefore are a high risk group of victims. Student accommodation has multiple occupants, which allows offenders to gain a large amount these items with relatively low risk factors.

Location

- ❖ The beat is located in front of Platt Field Park, with many entrance points leading to various areas of South Manchester for exit points.

Scanning and Analysis

Partnership work

- ❖ Working closely with GMP's Crime Reduction Team, burglary analysis and statistics were used as a foundation. As seen in the graphs, weekend and Wednesdays are the highest recorded days and early hours in the morning between 1am and 8am are the highest recorded times. Longer periods of darkness and fewer people on the streets reduces the risk of being identified or caught. At the weekends, offenders are aware many students go out into the city centre until the early hours, or go away visiting family and friends, and therefore the chances of unoccupied houses increases.

- o There is a correlation between the university term and the months burglaries occur. September and December are the highest recorded months. This includes fresher's fortnight, with a mass of students bringing high value items, and a 4 week Christmas break where students vacate back home. A slight increase in June occurs due to the end of term moving and the increase of insecurities.

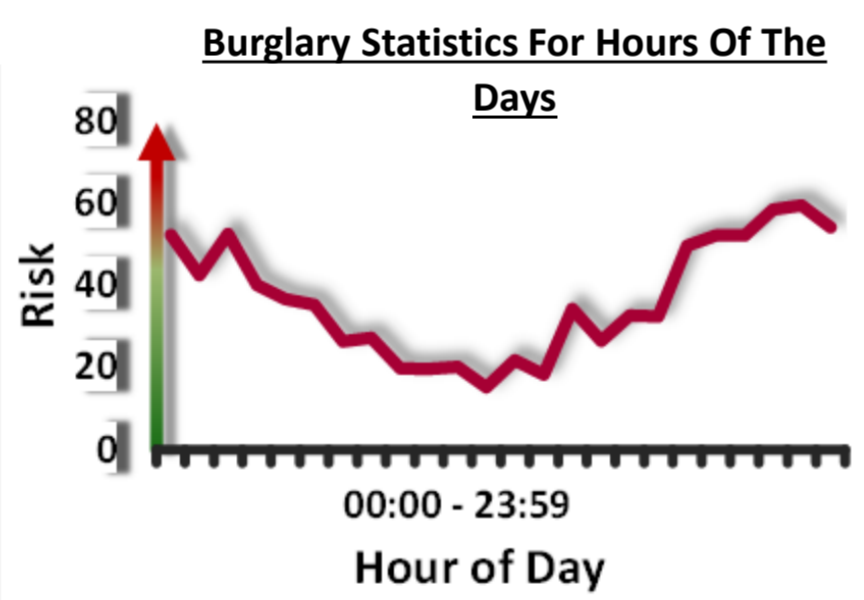
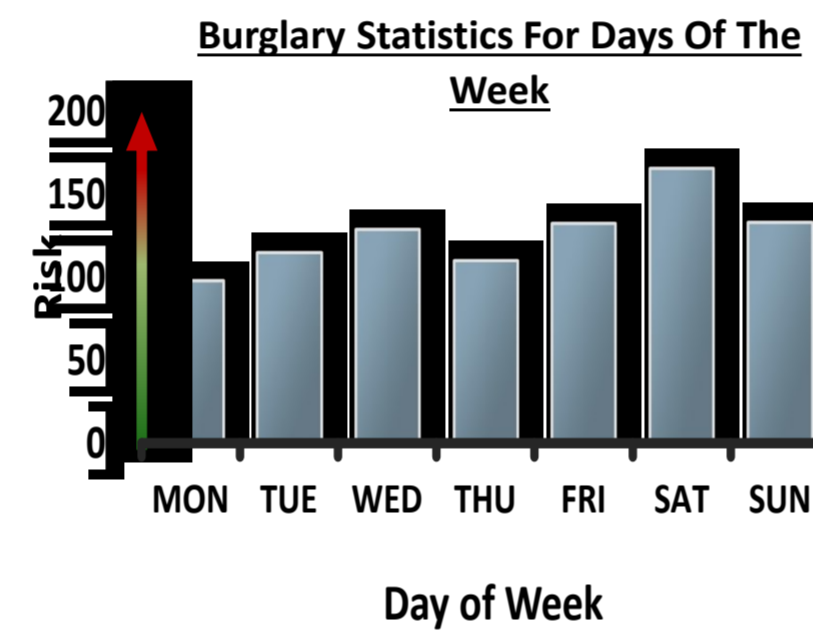
- ❖ Attending monthly student safety meetings allows a continuous partnership collaboration. This involves police representatives, including Inspectors, and both Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester representatives.

Modus Operandi

- ❖ Using the internal guidance from the PSCO's and GMP's systems, it was clear insecurities of doors and windows were a leading and common issue. 55% of E2F4 burglaries were due to insecurities at both the front and rear. Offenders exploit this in student multi occupancy houses due to the obtaining an undetected method of entry and exit.
 - o In numerous cases, offenders have been opportunists rather than planned occurrences as many have been seen to approached windows of the dwelling in search of easy access high value items.

Stolen Property

- ❖ The most targeted item in domestic burglaries is laptops, with 40% of the total. Being small, light and easy to hide, laptops are a favoured target and being located in bedrooms and communal rooms are easily visible and accessible.
- ❖ An educational aspect will flow through the response section as this will aid the reduction of opportunists targeting students.



Response

Time consideration was a main factor as the academic calendar resulted in long term planning. Prevention is the focus over summer months, then proactive focus for implementation in September. Consequently a plan for future actions will follow.

Crime

- ❖ **Target hardening**- increasing the security of a dwelling makes it more difficult for offenders and deter them through increased efforts required¹. The proactive element of this will be applied through visiting students and help to install element of home security kits, including security alarms.
 - o In previous years these have been handed to students for free at freshers fairs, however the volume of items collected did not result in the high levels of installation.

- ❖ **Balloons**- to aid the insecurity issue, balloons with a security message will be placed in open windows along the 3 streets which appear in the top 12 street list. This will create an intrusive element by making students aware if a balloon can enter the dwelling so could a burglar.

- o I decided against footprint leaflet being placed in open doorways as students get a mass of leaflets through the door at the beginning of term and therefore effectiveness is reduced.

- ❖ **Micro Hot Spots**- the evidence based policy method of micro hot spotting concentrates on higher crime area to effectively reduce crime geographically². Officers patrol for 15 minutes in one hot spot area to increase visibility and contact with the public, in order to reduce the criminal behaviour common to that location.

- o Throughout the summer months this funnelled crime prevention focus will be included through a patrol plan, for NBO's and PSCO's.

Education for Students

- ❖ **Student Eye**- to increase the engagement with University Students and involving them in their crime prevention, this is a scheme along the lines of the Neighbourhood Watch Ethos.
 - o Local interaction will increase crime awareness alongside police response. It aims to keep local residents in contact with my neighbourhood policing team, as well be more self-sufficient in information sharing.
 - o I will also encourage residentially networking through WhatsApp for neighbourhood groups in order to discuss localised issues, which do not require police assistance.

- ❖ **Immobilise** -property registration through this national scheme will help police recover items and alert second-hand trade of the stolen status³.
 - o Continuing proactive education, a selective number of houses from the top streets list will be chosen and I will door knock with a tablet and sign up as many willing students.

- ❖ **Welcome Week**
 - o With budget help from Manchester City Council the van is booked for 2 weeks with a vision of spreading the education and engage with the students.

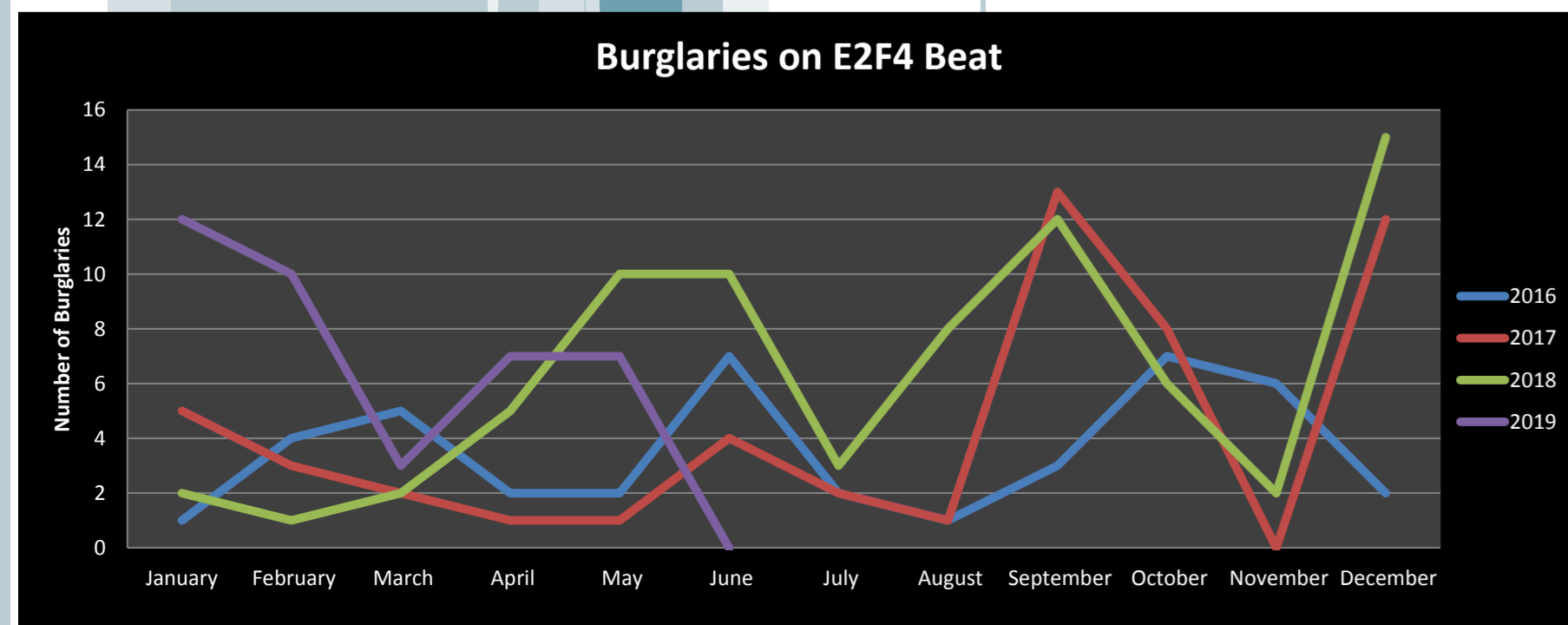
- ❖ **Reverse Graffiti**- a striking message from a stencil will be painted on the ground with a unique message reiterating locking doors and windows. This is created with local residents in mind as Manchester City Council will jet wash the signs away after 2 weeks and therefore do not create a lasting eye saw.

Next Steps

- ❖ I am in contact with Leeds Inner West neighbourhood team to arrange a joint visit and discuss student safety tactics.
- ❖ Participatory budget event is a dragons dens inspired scheme where student bid for seized money as to fund a community problem. This is being created for an October deadline.

Assessment

- ❖ As this is a long term plan the assessment is limited at this point. During implementation I will create a qualitative focus to engage with residents through conducting a questionnaire after welcome week, covering aspects including prevention knowledge.
 - o Home security checklist for repeat victims will also be conducted are a more in depth interaction.
- ❖ Early intervention through security education will create the foundations to make changes in the burglary cycle with booms and fluctuations around term times.
- ❖ As some responses are future plans, it is unclear of the uncertainties and effectiveness. However, working alongside the academic calendar termly analytical evaluations will take place for consequential changes.



References

1. Hirschfield, A., Newton, A., & Rogerson, M. (2010). Linking Burglary and Target Hardening at the Property Level: New Insights Into Victimization and Burglary Protection. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 21(3), 319-337.
2. Tim Hegarty, L. Sue Williams, Shaun Stanton, And William Chernoff (2014) *Evidence-Based Policing at Work in Smaller Jurisdictions*
3. Immobilise: the national property register homepage <https://www.immobilise.com/>



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