

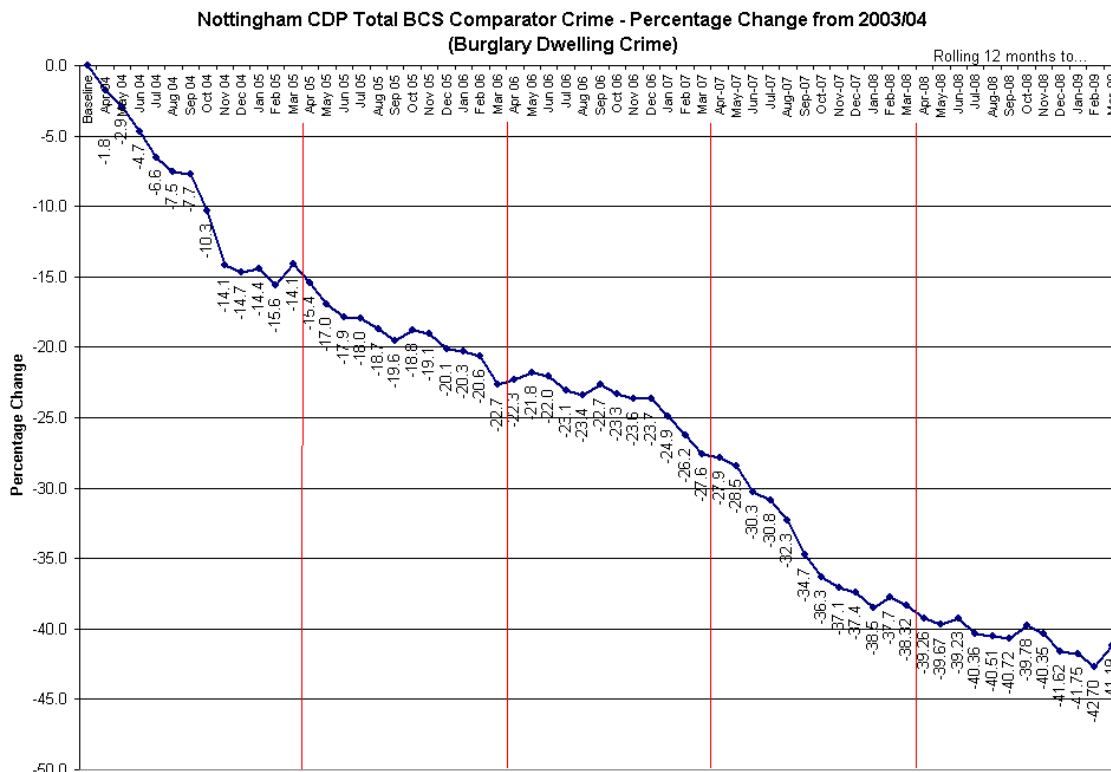
Date: **Thursday, 09 April 2009**

<b>To:</b> All Media Outlets and Organisations	
<b>From:</b> Steve Youdell, Communication Manager, CDP. <a href="mailto:stephen.youdell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">stephen.youdell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	<b>Contact:</b> (0115) 915 6375 or 07985 844425

## Burglary in Nottingham continues to fall

Provisional year end figures released by Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership show burglary in Nottingham City has fallen by a further 4.66% in the year to March 2009 which equates to 214 fewer burglaries. These reductions are on top of a previous fall of 38.32% since 2004.

The graph below shows the year on year reductions since April 2004 these reductions represent 3064 fewer burglaries. The Home Office estimates that on average every burglary costs our communities £3,280, using this formula Nottingham City has saved the equivalent of £10,049,920.



Many organisations and agencies have worked in partnership together to contribute to these excellent reductions. Local communities have also played a vital role by engaging with the numerous crime reduction campaigns that have taken place over this period, and by registering in their thousands to have their property protected with 'Smartwater'.

**Councillor Jon Collins, Leader of Nottingham City Council, said:**

*"It is good to see the number of burglaries in Nottingham continuing to fall and that the close working of all the agencies involved in tackling crime is paying off. Making homes secure and as difficult as possible for burglars to get into and increasing the likelihood of them getting caught is still the best deterrent. SmartWater marking is just one of the initiatives that the city has invested in and one which local people have embraced, over 30,000 properties in the City have been SmartWatered and we will increase this number significantly over the coming year.*

*We encourage residents from across Nottingham to report problems in their area to the Nottingham City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Helpline on 0115 915 2020. Crime can be reported anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111."*

**Chief Superintendent Shaun Beebe said,**

*"We all recognise how far crime has fallen in Nottingham. However burglary is a horrible crime, its right that we all work together to reduce it further and make people's homes safer. This is something partner agencies and local people can help the police achieve."*

**Alan Given, Chief Executive, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership said,**

*"Burglary is one of the crimes that our communities say that they fear the most. Intrusion into someone's home is traumatic at the best of times and so in the partnership we have made it our top priority. The reductions we have seen over the past few years have ensured that there have been fewer burglaries, fewer victims, more convictions and greater protection for the people of Nottingham.*

*We will continue in our efforts to reduce this distressing and cowardly crime and we will use all the resources and technologies at our disposal to see incidents of burglary fall even further in the coming year"*

**Some of the partnership initiatives that have been developed over the past year, which have contributed to the ongoing fall in burglary include;**

**Weeks of Action**

The Nottingham City 'Weeks of Action' programme continues to develop and evolve with 24 weeks already completed, with a further 8 areas of the City to receive Weeks of Action by March 2010.

The programme tackles and responds to the issues that local communities say most affect them the most. They bring together organisations and services in the city to deliver an intensive program of activities that achieve short, medium and long term improvements for the area.

The aims of the Weeks of Action are to make neighbourhoods '**cleaner, greener, safer and healthier for everyone**' and include a partnership target to SmartWater 1000 properties during each Week of Action, the response from local communities has been overwhelmingly positive.

### **SmartWater**

Over 10000 properties were SmartWatered last year bringing the total to over 30,000 homes across Nottingham City that have been protected by SmartWater technology since April 2003. Evaluation of Smartwater in Nottingham shows that repeat victims of burglary drop from a national average of 25% to 1% for those properties protected with SmartWater technology. SmartWater is provided **free of charge** to Nottingham City residents.

(See notes to editors)

### **Target Hardening**

Over 3,000 homes in the city have also been target hardened since 2005, which includes window, door and lock security, as well as identifying other vulnerable points on a property. Private landlords have also been engaged to ensure their rental properties are as secure as is reasonably possible.

### **Capture Houses**

SmartWater technology is used in 'Capture Houses' deployed in burglary hotspots across the city, these houses are set up with covert technology which aim to deter and capture criminals. There have been a number of convictions resulting from Capture Houses being targeted by criminals. The technology is also used in Capture Cars, which operate in a similar way to Capture Houses; these continue to result in arrests and convictions, as recently as March 31<sup>st</sup> a thief was caught breaking into a Capture Car and was subsequently arrested and on admission to the Bridewell Custody Suite was found to have extensive traces of SmartWater on his clothes and skin, prompting a confession and anticipated guilty plea.

### **Community Response / Neighbourhood Watch**

Since 2003, the number of Neighbourhood Watch groups has increased from 40 to 228. Through partnership working and effective information sharing Neighbourhood Watch continue to play an integral part in reducing both crime and the fear of crime in

local communities. Neighbourhood Watch will be holding their third annual conference on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Council House from 9.30 till 4.00.

### **Neighbourhood Policing**

Since 2006, the Neighbourhood Policing Model has been developed across all areas of the city. Local Area Commanders working in partnership with Local Area Managers and the local communities have played a key role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour at a local neighbourhood level. Insecure burglaries are one of the priorities of Beat Teams who have proactively engaged with local communities to ensure homes are secure even when then occupied.

### **Community Payback**

Nottingham is a pioneer area for the new 'Justice Seen, Justice Done' initiative from the Home Office. The initiative arose from the review by Louise Casey and aims to bridge the gap between what the public want on crime and justice and what they think they get. One of the more visible aspects of the initiative includes uniforms for those carrying out Community Payback to show local communities that there are tough consequences for breaking the law and that those consequences are visible. Local people can have their say on where these payback schemes take place by voting at, [www.direct.gov.uk/communitypayback](http://www.direct.gov.uk/communitypayback)

### **Operation Country**

Operation Country is the name given to operations to reduce the number of students in the city becoming victims of burglary. Working in partnership with the city's two universities, students receive a range of crime prevention advice. During Fresher's Fairs the Burglary Reduction Team offer practical burglary prevention advice, and provide Smartwater to their properties, student halls of residents are all routinely protected with Smartwater technology. Students also receive regularly updated advice on the website [www.easilydone.co.uk](http://www.easilydone.co.uk).

### **Drug Treatment**

Rapid access to drug treatment is provided to any individual who's offending (including burglary) is driven by Drug misuse / dependency

### **Hot Spot Tasking**

Weekly Hot Spot Tasking provides the partnership with intelligence that enables patterns of burglary to be identified and predicted and creates opportunities for enforcement and preventative operations to respond rapidly.

### **Burglary Reduction Group**

A multi-agency 'problem profiling' approach has been adopted with regards to reducing burglary and sustaining reductions, hosted by the CDP; this partnership group focuses' on prevention and enforcement. The group has been responsible for

the introduction of 'Capture Houses' it has worked intensively with students through Operation Country, and developed a variety of burglary reduction advice.

### **Social Marketing / Crime Prevention Campaigns**

A variety of city wide and targeted burglary prevention / reduction campaigns have been run over the course of the year; these have been complimented by the extensive media coverage the CDP have generated, and include;

- *Doorstep Crime and Distraction Burglary*
- *Staying Safe in the Dark*
- *Immobilise.com – property register*
- *SmartWater - BURGLARS, You're Marked!*
- *NICE – Point of Sale advice for high value electronic goods*
- *Capture Houses*
- *Disrupting the Stolen Property Market*
- *SmartWater*

**For further information please contact in the first instance Steve Youdell CDP Communications Lead on 0115 915 6373 or 07985 844425**

### **Notes to Editors**

What is SmartWater?

- SmartWater is a clear fluid that can be painted onto property to enable the true owner to be identified if it is stolen.
- The SmartWater mark is invisible to the naked eye but can be detected by the Police using special lamps.
- SmartWater can be used covertly to spray burglars and effectively date stamp a criminal at the scene of a crime.
- SmartWater uses forensic science to give each householder a unique code and enables the Police to return stolen property to the rightful owner.
- The Police can also charge anyone found in possession of an item marked with SmartWater that does not belong to them.
- SmartWater is free to City of Nottingham residents, to enquire about Smartwater please contact the CDP Burglary Reduction Team on 0115 9153701, or by booking online through [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Smartwater](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Smartwater).
- Nottingham City residents can receive SmartWater FREE of charge (residents who pay Council Tax to Nottingham City Council).