

How Asset-Based Policing is Making a Difference
A Workshop for Police Services

November 14th, 2012

Brainstorming Scenarios
Scenario 1

Businesses complain that youth and derelicts hang out in front of their stores, it is affecting business.

Using the principals of asset development to work on strategies to assist in solving this situation the participants came up with these suggestions –

- Use a combination of enforcement of the law and relationship building with the youth and the business owners
- Meet with adjacent home and business owners to make sure the community is on the same page about what is happening
- If the youth are known to the police potentially engage the parents in the solution
- Potential for school involvement and relationship building if youth are school-aged and are hanging out during school hours
- Use Positive Tickets for youth who are complying and not hanging out in this area
- Find out why the youth are there
- Ask business owners what it is about the youth being there that they feel is affecting their businesses
- Ask youth what they would rather be doing
- Treat the youth with respect – police have to enforce the law, but use a positive approach
- Share asset building information with business owners – you could be connecting with a caring adult, help them to see alternatives
- Continue to connect with the business owners and youth after the initial contact, learn names and use them

Scenario 2

Youth hang out at skateboard park. This is an area where there is a lot of drug dealing taking place in the parking lot. Community members and parents worry about a safe place for their children to play and for their safety.

Using the principals of asset development to work on strategies to assist in solving this situation the participants came up with these suggestions –

- Encourage bike unit officers to connect with youth, chat, form positive relationships, encourage youth to take ownership of their own park
- Be visible in the area on a regular basis
- Encourage younger officers to patrol the area and potentially mentor the youth
- Crime prevention through environmental design – look at the space and see if there are opportunities to improve the space, engage the community in the discussion
- Connect with the parents and community members who are complaining and get them involved in the solution
- Speak to the youth in question and act as a connector to community members who are concerned
- Youth need to feel safe in their community too – talk to the youth using the park as intended and find out what would make them feel safe there
- Engage the community to provide snacks to youth using the park appropriately there and reward positive behaviours, consider hosting gatherings there and be visible so that the people involved in the questionable activity will move on
- Host a skateboard competition with the officers involved with youth to break down the barriers
- Build the comfort level of the community with the officers to call if they see something questionable - give the community ownership of the park