

# Secure Homes Project

**Royton**

**Community Safety Officer:**

**Phil Bonworth**



**Oldham**  
Council

**Introduction:**

The Secure Homes Project Oldham, was developed by Mike Farrell to respond to an identified issue of repeat victimisation of burglary victims, within the Borough of Oldham.

The Secure Homes Project was a borough wide target hardening scheme, where physical security measures i.e. locks, bolts, lighting, alarms etc were employed to reduce the likelihood of a burglary victim becoming a repeat victim.

The scheme had notable success and was recognised nationally as a model of good practise, with Oldham having one of the lowest rates of repeat victimisation in the country. This could be attributed to a number of factors i.e. targeting of Offenders by GMP, effective partnership working, alleygating projects etc, however, it is accepted that the Secure Homes Project was a key contributing factor in reducing burglary levels. When looked at in a force wide context, the Secure Homes Project is the unique factor, contributing to burglary reduction within the force wide area.

**Proposal:**

Greater Manchester Police have agreed to provide details of all domestic burglary victims on a daily basis. This would allow the Community Safety Officer to visit the victims quickly, in order to assess the vulnerability of the dwelling with the intention of providing residents with a feeling of re-assurance, reducing fear of crime and also reducing the potential for the resident to become a repeat victim.

It is suggested that a tiered level of service be implemented, which would utilise the following criteria;

**Bronze Response:**

This would be utilised for first time victims, who have not been identified as vulnerable. The response would include additional locking mechanisms to windows/doors, spyholes, door chains/bars or upgrades to existing door locking mechanisms, the installation of anti-climb deterrents such as Prikka Strip. Alarms will be considered as part of this response if the property is identified as having very poor security.

**Silver Response**

The would be utilised for victims who have previously been victims of burglary (within a

12 month period) or who have been identified as vulnerable i.e. elderly residents, individuals with mental health issues or social services involvement. The response would include those security measures in the Bronze response, but would also include the installation of dusk till dawn lights, memo minders and the installation of a burglar alarm should it be deemed necessary.

### **Gold Response**

This would be utilised for victims who have been burgled on more than 2 occasions within the previous 12 month period or who have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to becoming repeat victims of burglary. The response would include those covered by the Bronze and Silver responses but would allow for multiple measures to be implemented

### **Scheme Benefits:**

The key benefits of this scheme are as follows;

- Reduced fear of crime
- Reduced level of crime within the locality
- Increase levels of resident satisfaction with the council and members as their perception is that Councillors and the Council are working for them

The benefits listed above have the added advantage of making an area more appealing to residents who wish to live in a low crime environment, which means that residents will invest in the area, both financially and in terms of time and commitment.

Those areas where crime is prevalent witness a high turnover of residents, limited investment in the community by residents, lower house prices and increased purchase of properties by Private Landlords, resulting in more short term lets, a reduced sense of community and a potential for the deterioration of an area.

Phil Bonworth  
Community Safety Service  
Royton Town Hall  
Royton  
Oldham  
0161-770-1592