



West Yorkshire Evaluation 2009

AlertBox

Electronic Neighbourhood Watch



Overview

AlertBox enables people at work or at home to communicate instantly with their immediate community when personal safety issues or crime is of concern.

*The electronic neighbourhood watch networks – or **'electronic villages'** are established by the police, local authorities, either individually or in partnership.*

Networks are scalable, re-deployable, accountable and rapid to establish.

Results are sustainable.



Benefits

AlertBox networks are a preventative measure which:

- Empowers the community to be a part of the solution in reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Improves relationships between communities.
- Stimulates the emergence of local champions who establish 'watch' schemes and provide information to the police
- Breaks down barriers and penetrates hard-to-access areas
- Generates a substantial increase in witness statements which facilitates quicker and better detection rates

The community is sent a strong message – *'things have changed'*

Partners

- **West Yorkshire Constabulary**
- **Leeds City Council**
- **Leeds Ahead**



Results

Community Perception of Crime	<i>down</i>	55%
Fear of isolation	<i>down</i>	90%
Fear of anti-social behaviour	<i>down</i>	80%
Relationship with the Council partnership	<i>up</i>	65%
Relationship with the police	<i>up</i>	60%
Relationship with neighbours	<i>up</i>	70%
Community that have been responded to		100%
Community that has responded to neighbours		95%

Quotes

Leeds Ahead

Nigel Conder - Town Centre Manager

"We have had the Alertbox in place now for only a short while and its impact has been significant. Although it is very early on in the schemes introduction. This scheme has indeed proven itself and as the Town Centre Manger I believe it is a step in the right direction of what we are trying to achieve. One of the main goals as far as Armley is concerned is to try and reduce ASB and retail crime. This initiative has gone a long way to helping with this. The systems are easy to install and the staff at Alertbox have been very helpful with any questions we have."

Leeds City Council

Gill Hunter – Community Safety Co-ordinator

"Alertbox will be instrumental in assisting local traders on Armley Town street to reduce crime associated with businesses and also foster community spirit amongst local traders. A main feature of Aletbox is in the simplicity of the design which enables staff to discreetly communicate with each other whenever they see a potential problem developing. We are excited that Armley is the first area in Leeds to obtain Alertbox and believe that it will be a valuable contribution to our partnership approach to reduce crime and the fear of crime on Armley Town street."

West Yorkshire Police

Mark Bownass – Inspector

"Although the box is not a substitute for 999, if there is a crime in progress or the owners are in fear, it allows members of the shop keeping community to support each other, and provide peace of mind as well as working with us".

Leeds City Council

John Birkenshaw – Crime Reduction Manager

"We welcome innovative new technology in the fight against crime and the initial evaluation of this project looks extremely pleasing."

Community Feedback

**C.O.S
Superdrug
Boots**

**A Good idea, neighbours are helping each other
It makes us all more aware and has decreased shop lifting
Makes us aware of groups or people in the shop or
outside.**

**Babies Needs
Dysons
AK Food**

**Excellent.
AlertBox has brought shops together
AlertBox enables us to communicate with neighbours at a press of a
button. Brilliant!**

**Armley Convenience Store
Jamal**

**AlertBox has helped when we have used it. Excellent response
An excellent idea it makes us more secure. It works people respond,
we are not alone.**

**Ultimate Tanning
Goldwyns Opticians
Opal Hair and Beauty
Coral Book Makers
Mr Chippy**

**Excellent idea, makes is aware of what's going on.
If you need help its there and makes me feel safe.
It makes me feel secure and lets you know what's going on.
It makes staff feel more secure.
I get less hassle from problem customers. Knowing that we have the
AlertBox has definitely helped.**

**Cash Generator
Sommerfield
Teddy's Amusements**

**Good idea, Makes me feel safe.
Its very good for the smaller stores.
Alertbox has made it a safer place to work. Knowing that when you
press the alarm you will get a response.**

Frozen Value

**It makes me feel more confident, and communicates with our
neighbours instantly.**

Armley Post Office

**A very good ides, we have had immediate help- at the press of a
button.**

Further Information

For further information please contact

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