

An Garda Síochána

Crime Prevention Information Sheet



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design



Introduction

Crime, and its prevention, is an issue which concerns and affects us all. Law-abiding citizens, however, may find it difficult to understand how and why criminals commit crime and how this can be prevented.

In building and environmental design, this lack of sufficient understanding of the criminal can unwittingly lead to the creation of opportunities, which the criminal readily exploits.

Through designing out crime, modern preventative policing seeks to deter the opportunist criminal whose decision whether or not to commit crime is usually influenced by two main factors:

- The physical opportunity, and
- The probability of being caught

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is the creation, through effective design, of a physical environment conducive to the overall security of the community.

This is achieved through the establishment of 'defensible space' by extending the citizen's area of territorial concern from private through to public space whilst encouraging a sense of collective responsibility.

Principles of CPTED

The Principles of CPTED are -

- TERRITORIALITY (Defined Areas of Influence)
- COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY
- DETAILED SECURITY DESIGN

Territoriality

The levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in a residential area are influenced by the degree of psychological control the residents can exert over the area.

Defensible Space

At the heart of this preventative concept of territoriality, is a theory first put forward by an American architect/

criminologist. This proposes that all human beings need a degree of space around them which they can defend and over which they can exercise some form of territorial control.

This 'defensible space' is particularly important in buildings and other parts of the designed environment, e.g. footpaths and car parks. The theory put forward is that the designed environment can be divided into a hierarchy of different types of space ranging from entirely private to public.

Private Space - that area of space under the total control of the occupant and not visually or physically accessible to the public e.g. the inside of a house or private office.

Semi-Private Space - that area of space under control of the occupant, but which is visually and physically accessible to the public e.g. front garden of a house or an office reception.

Semi-Public Space - that area of space under control or within the area of responsibility of a specific group of occupants and which is accessible to the public e.g. hallways and lobbies of high rise flats, common recreational and parking areas of multiple housing complexes and office car parks.

Public Space - that area of space to which the public has access by right e.g. a public road.

TO CREATE THIS FEELING OF TERRITORIALITY, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO:-

- Maximising surveillance opportunities
- Grouping houses in smaller numbers
- Providing shared access routes
- Providing rumble strips
- Changes in road colour
- Narrowed or pillared entrances
- Designing an appropriate road network
- Designing an appropriate pedestrian network

Collective Responsibility

Development design should not only extend the occupi-

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PLEASE CONTACT

your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER

or

visit the Garda website at www.garda.ie

ers' influence over the public space - it should also create a feeling of responsibility.

- Central to the concept of collective responsibility is the idea of problem ownership. If residents are only concerned with their own private interests, and ignore crime and behaviour which does not affect them personally, crime becomes easier to commit.
- In an estate where there is a high degree of social cohesion, a crime against one is seen as a crime against all. The community becomes more observant, which in turn makes it more difficult for the criminal to operate.

Detailed Security Design

Detailed Security Design is very much an integral part of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Detailed Security Design incorporates any measure, which can influence the criminal's decision whether or not to commit crime, e.g. landscaping, lighting, CCTV, natural surveillance and building design.

Detailed Security Design also includes 'target hardening' measures which is a term used to describe physical features which will resist crime or deter the criminal e.g. locks, bolts, shutters, grilles and ironmongery.

Stages of Design

In providing a solution for any given design problem, it is important to be in full possession of all the relevant facts, which could ultimately determine the success of the design. Designing out crime calls for the same approach.

To evaluate fully the security issues, which potentially affect any development, there are four main steps to be considered.

STAGE 1: THE CRIME PROFILE

The Crime Prevention Design Advisor will advise on local crime trends.

STAGE 2: THE CRIME RISK

The Crime Prevention Design Advisor will advise on anticipated crime risks and the probable impact on both the proposed development and its environs.

STAGE 3: DETAILED EVALUATION

The Crime Prevention Design Advisor will identify where the security of the development may be compromised.

STAGE 4: THE DESIGN PROPOSAL

A package of measures commensurate with the crime risk to the development will be produced.

Project Areas

Advice can be offered on many types of development including:

Shopping Centres, Airports and Ports, Business Parks, Industrial Estates, Hotels, Housing Developments, Car Parks, Registered Clubs, Sports Centres, Community Centres, Hospitals, Office Buildings, Schools, Colleges.

The Crime Prevention Design Advisor should be contacted prior to any planning submission, preferably at the design stage. Careful design need not cost more if considered from the outset.

Certification Scheme

A new Certification Scheme was launched in December 2004 for Securely Designed Developments. This certification scheme is a joint venture between An Garda Síochána and the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

The scheme was set up to encourage the building industry to adopt crime prevention measures in development design and to assist in reducing the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating a safer and more secure environment.

Information on the Certification Scheme can be obtained from the local Crime Prevention Design Advisor or the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

Survey Requirements

In order to advise on a project the Crime Prevention Design Advisor will require the following:

- Location Map,
- Site Plan,
- Floor Plans,
- Elevations and Sections.

The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Service is now available in all Garda Síochána Regions, for further information on your local Crime Prevention Design Advisor, contact:

Crime Prevention Design Advisor,
National Crime Prevention Unit,
Garda H.Q.,
Harcourt Square,
Dublin 2.

Telephone: (01) 6663363 Fax: (01) 6663314
Email: crime_prevention@garda.ie
Website: www.garda.ie

The advice contained in this information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or absolute.

Nothing contained in this publication should be interpreted as mandatory, obligatory or designed to conflict with any statutory regulations.

Useful Contacts and Links

**The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit,
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Tel: (01) 6663363, Fax: (01) 6663314
Email: crime_prevention@garda.ie**

An Garda Síochána
www.garda.ie

The National Standards Authority of Ireland
www.nsai.ie