

Harmful Hexagons

A summary briefing on the use of geospatial mapping to target violent crime reduction in Hammersmith & Fulham

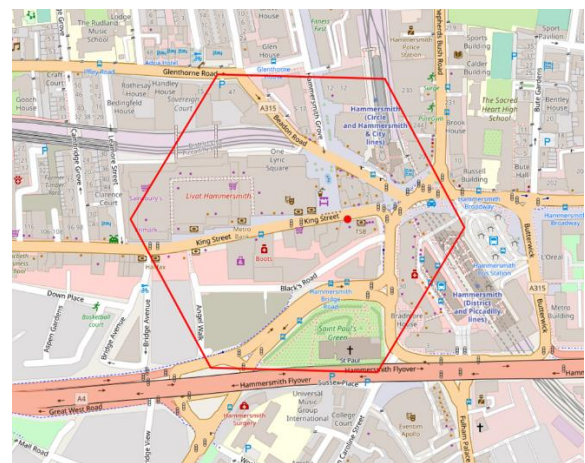
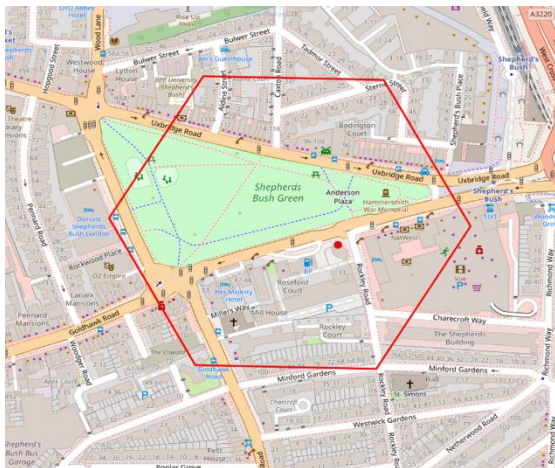
A/Supt Knight, Hammersmith & Fulham Neighbourhood Team.

This briefing outlines how police and partners are using practical evidence and academic research to target the areas of the Borough most at risk of violent crime.

In targeting crime, police use 'hot spot' policing tactics, focussing on streets and places where crime is recorded or where the public most fear a crime occurring. These are mapped routinely and inform police and partner decisions in regard to the allocation of resources into those areas. The hot spots also feature heavily in the work of neighbourhood problem solving, ensuring not only that scarce police and other resources are allocated most effectively but also that this targeting delivers value for money in both preventing and detecting crime and ASB.

Operation Nightingale is a three year Home Office supported project that uses these hot spots and geospatial mapping software to identify targeted areas for increased activity. As part of the evaluation process, control areas have also been identified in other parts of London, of the same size, where normal policing activity will be monitored and compared to the enhanced activity areas.

Two hexagon activity zones have been created in the Borough, in Shepherds Bush and Hammersmith Broadway. The hexagon shape used sits within lower super output areas of wards to mark boundaries for activity within the software tools (because it can be easily mapped and evaluated as an area) is shown below:



The presentation that supports this briefing note will demonstrate how these areas are being policed differently and how targeting in this way can deliver crime reduction and improve confidence.