CASE STUDY

# The Safer Derbyshire Partnership

"MAPINFO CRIME PROFILER IS DEFINITELY HELPING US
TO BUILD A SAFER COMMUNITY."

**Clare Usherwood, Partnership Analyst, Safer Derbyshire Research
and Information Team**

THE SAFER DERBYSHIRE
PARTNERSHIP WANTED TO MAP
CRIME TYPES AGAINST LOCATIONS,
ESTABLISH TRENDS AND USE
THE INFORMATION TO DEPLOY
RESOURCES MORE EFFECTIVELY.

## Challenge

The Safer Derbyshire
Partnership, a joint initiative
between Derbyshire County
Council, Derbyshire
Constabulary and local statutory
partners, wanted to identify
juvenile crime hotspots near
three schools in order to deploy
resources such as Police
Community Support Officers
more effectively.

## Solution

The Safer Derbyshire team
chose Pitney Bowes Business
Insight's MapInfo® Crime
Profiler, a location intelligence
solution that enables law
enforcement agencies to map,
visualise and analyse crime
data. MapInfo Crime Profiler
uncovered a number of youth
crime hotspots, allowing the
Council and Police to make
effective decisions about the
deployment of resources in
schools and on bus routes.

## SUMMARY

Derbyshire County Council is a local
government authority with responsibility for
providing public services to some 750,000
people living in this largely rural East Midlands
county. Its responsibilities include working
with the county's Police force, Derbyshire
Constabulary, to manage and reduce crime
and to make Derbyshire a safer place to live.

To help to achieve these aims, the Safer
Derbyshire Partnership was established to
co-ordinate efforts between the Council, the
Police and other local public sector agencies
to tackle and reduce crime and anti-social
behaviour in line with national targets.

In 2009 the Safer Derbyshire Partnership
identified a need to deploy closely-targeted
resources to combat youth crime concentrated
in and around a number of the region's
schools. Residents had complained of juvenile
criminal and anti-social behaviour ranging
from noise and nuisance to theft and assault.

Calls to the Police coupled with minutes from
community meetings suggested that criminal
and anti-social behaviour tended to peak
at certain times of the day and in certain
geographic locations. The Safer Derbyshire
Research and Information team (SDRI) wanted
to pinpoint these youth crime 'hotspots' in
order to support the deployment of Police
Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Youth
Offending Teams and other resources as
effectively as possible.

To map the hotspots, the Safer Derbyshire
Partnership selected Pitney Bowes Business
Insight's MapInfo® Crime Profiler software,
which Partnership Analyst Clare Usherwood
had seen demonstrated at 2009's Crime

Mapping Conference. MapInfo Crime Profiler is
a location intelligence solution that combines
multiple discrete data sets to create detailed
maps and visualisations of criminal activity,
including temporal and spatial hotspots.

Usherwood knew immediately that MapInfo
Crime Profiler was the solution that Safer
Derbyshire needed. "MapInfo Crime Profiler's
capabilities align perfectly to our needs," she
said. "Whereas previously we had relied upon
Microsoft Excel for data capture and the
basic MapInfo package for grid analysis, with
MapInfo Crime Profiler we can now map crime
types and locations, establish trends and use
the information to deploy resources more
effectively. It's definitely helping us to build
a safer community."

The first step for the SDRI was to load a
number of different data sets into MapInfo
Crime Profiler in order to correlate the data
and produce a detailed map of youth crime
hotspots. Data sets ranging from school
attendance registers and the Guardian crime
database to Derbyshire Constabulary's calls
for service records and Anti-Social Behaviour
(ASB) intervention register were cleaned
and formatted using InfoShare OmniData
gazetteer before being loaded into MapInfo
Crime Profiler.

The SDRI team then added data from the
minutes of residents' association and other
community group meetings in order to check
if the identified hotspots matched up with
residents' complaints. Maps of local highways
and bus routes were also included, as one of
the objectives of the investigation was to
reduce juvenile crime by deploying PCSOs
on buses at appropriate times of day.

> "WE COULDN'T HAVE ANALYSED CRIME DATA TO THIS DEGREE WITHOUT MAPINFO CRIME PROFILER. IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN WEEKS IN EXCEL, BUT NOW WE CAN SIMPLY LOAD THE DATASETS AND START PULLING RESULTS STRAIGHT OUT."

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### RESULT

Once the data had been cleaned, formatted and loaded into MapInfo Crime Profiler, the SDRI team were able to start producing visualisations immediately. MapInfo Crime Profiler quickly revealed a number of crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots around individual schools and bus routes and at certain times of the day and night.

Although there was some work to do to fine-tune bandwidths to ensure that individual crimes in low-crime areas did not appear as hotspots, Usherwood says that MapInfo Crime Profiler's ability to produce accurate and detailed maps saved weeks of work. "We couldn't have analysed the data to this degree without it," she said. "It would have taken weeks in Excel, but with Crime Profiler we can simply load the datasets and start pulling results straight out."

The hotspot maps produced by MapInfo Crime Profiler are now being used by the Community Safety Reduction Partnerships and Derbyshire Constabulary to decide where and when to deploy resources to tackle crime and liaise with the community. To date five initiatives have been launched as a result of the analysis, ranging from deploying youth workers in local parks to dealing with teenage intoxication, to identifying individuals who could benefit from being included in the county's Street Games programme, a community diversionary scheme that aims to channel young people's energy into sport rather than crime.

In future, the data will also inform a much more closely targeted deployment of PCSOs on buses, as well as enabling youth crime and community liaison services to co-locate more effectively in Derbyshire's schools.

As for Derbyshire's use of MapInfo Crime Profiler, this research project has been just the start. "We're already using MapInfo Crime Profiler to map violent crimes over the past two years to identify emerging trends," said Usherwood. "MapInfo Crime Profiler is enabling us to conduct more complex, in-depth trend analysis. As a result, we're now able to identify and visualise trends that were previously invisible. We expect MapInfo Crime Profiler to be used extensively to support the valuable work of the Safer Derbyshire Partnership."

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