

How to plan a Safer Business Action (SaBA) Day

Introduction

Safer Business Action (SaBA) Days is a joint approach by police, business, private security, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), working in partnership to focus resources into a designated location to create a significant impact to reduce crime.

This planning document is intended to assist police and partners when planning a SaBA Day and equally applies should a Safer Business Action Night be chosen, targeting the night time economy.

The NBCC leads a steering group made up of retailers, partners and private security companies. If you are planning to run a SaBA Day contact the NBCC who can help with contacts and guidance.

Initial planning - areas to consider

- **Date** – consider high risk dates with high footfall to create the biggest impact. This could include market days, seasonal sales etc.
- **Location** – define the location of activity, the size of which should match the resources available.
- **Ownership** – allocate a single point of contact so that there is clear identification of ownership, particularity when there are lots of partners involved.
- **Consult** – speak with the local businesses to understand what their current issues/hot topics truly are. Each location is unique in its own challenges so consultation is key in ensuring the right partners agencies can support on the day. These aims then mean that businesses will feel more compelled to be involved if they can see instantly that the activity will help their immediate issues e.g. rough sleeping, prolific offenders, juvenile crime etc.
- **Aims** – what do you want to achieve from the day, examples include a focus on prolific offenders, reducing ASB, supporting VAWG, raising awareness around crime prevention.
- **Approach** – how will you achieve the aims? e.g. prevent, detect, deter? Proactive/reactive? See ‘considerations for activities’ below for a list of options.
- **Partners** – who will you include? The objective is to run the days partnership to help raise awareness and breaks down any relationship or communication barriers that may currently exist.

Planning

Resources

- **Police resources** – what is available? Consider duties/shifts, overt/covert, Specials/Volunteers, command structure



- **Specialist teams** – dogs, traffic, licencing, crime prevention officers, design out crime officers, tasking teams
- **Specialist resources** – knife arch, drones, mobile CCTV
- **Joint policing** – BTP

Partners

- **Business** – retailers within the footprint. BID/BCRP staff.
- Private security – many retailers engage private security companies, many of these have previously been involved in SaBA Days and will look to provide additional resources to support you on the day.
- **Local Authority** – is there a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) in the area?
- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)** – many PCCs now have business crime in their Police and Crime Plans so will be keen to support the days. If there are local Councillors/MPs with a particular commitment to business crime within the community you may want to consider how to get them involved too.
- **Agencies/charities** e.g. Children’s Society, Salvation Army to help with issues such as homelessness, vulnerable children etc.

Logistics

- **Location** – define geographical footprint of area covered by SaBA Day.
- **Briefings** – who is creating it and where are they to be conducted? There may be different levels of briefing for different audiences but there should be a partnership briefings which helps set the direction for the day and raises awareness of local issues such as hotspots, local offenders including those who present a risk, start and finish times, feedback process etc.
- **Stands/Pop ups** – crime prevention advice (physical/digital)

Consideration for activities

- Section 30 dispersal order
- Target outstanding retail crime suspects
- Engage/target prolific offenders
- Community stands – crime prevention
- Hi-vis patrols – joint patrols with local security help with intel sharing and building relationships
- Hold a neighbourhood beat surgery
- Diversion tactics – restorative justice, drug/alcohol rehab, outreach teams
- Some BID/BCRP have a small training offer for their businesses included in the membership fee; use this as an opportunity to engage in the services available

Communication

The NBCC have produced a separate guide for communications, which includes access to the SaBA Day branding and logos that can be adapted for each location.

- Which agency will lead on any press release? What are the agreed lines?
- Who is the agreed spokesperson for any media interviews?
- Use of #SaBA days hashtag & SaBA Days branding



- How is information being shared? – is an information agreement required? Where is it recorded and where is it accessed e.g. digital platform (Disc/SentrySIS)
- Communication channels – radio (police/Local Authority/BCRP/BID).
- SPOC for each stakeholder group e.g. retailers, BID/BCRP, Security etc.

A key success factor is to ensure that local businesses are aware you are running a SaBA Day. Agree with local partners how this will be done. Options include local advertising, visiting key risk locations to speak to local management. Previously the local BID/BCRP have carried out a survey with local businesses to assess the crime impact.

Other areas to be considered

- Prisoners – transport/process teams/custody space
- Brief police control room of activity
- Be aware of displacement of crime to neighbouring police areas and businesses
- Other events that may impact on the day – protesters, football match etc.

On the day

- Record activity e.g. arrests, stops and searches, call volume, crimes reported, feedback from businesses and residents.
- Monitor and continually review – risk/tactics/resources
- Media assets – take lots of photos
- Hot debrief at the end of the day

Post review

- Debrief as a team and collectively
- Identify the lessons learnt
- Feedback results and lessons learned to the NBCC for sharing with other forces
- Press release with feedback and any interesting results/arrests
- Celebrate success
- Look to arrange follow up events to strengthen new relationships and build upon the SaBA Day

Case Studies

Birmingham City Centre

The first SaBA day was held in Birmingham City Centre on 11th and 12th February 2022 in conjunction with the #ShopKind campaign. Over 30 police officers and staff were deployed, with extra security brought in to the city centre for the event.

Police dispersed over sixteen people from the city centre using police dispersal powers, including known shoplifters who were spotted and told to leave.

Police conducted 36 stop and searches; nine of those led to arrests, including three people for theft, two for possession of knives and one for robbery.



Five youths were offered the help of specialist officers, who will check in with them and their families to offer links with support networks.

Stratford, London

The second SaBA day was held on Saturday 16th April 2022 within the Stratford town centre, in London, starting with officers conducting a weapons sweep of the local estate.

Police deployed a weapons search arch, bike marking stall and a crime prevention stand, which was staffed by officers from the Met Business Crime Reduction Hub and Met volunteers.

Super recognisers were deployed within the CCTV centres with police and additional security conducted high visibility patrols at the location.

The BCRP joined up with staff across policing, Newham Council, retailers and security organisations to conduct business engagement during the day and delivering Crime Prevention Packs. Surveys were conducted with the retailers to establish issues that they and their staff experience whilst travelling to and from work. The results of the survey will be used to improve staff safety.

Police conducted 36 stop and search, leading to four arrests. An additional two arrests were made following statements from super recognisers.

Police issued three penalty notices for disorder (PND) and three community resolutions. The BCRP visited 100 businesses and 50 staff surveys were completed, with a further 50 left with the stores to complete and return.

