



# The BCI Accreditation Scheme

**Builds mature, robust, sustainable partnerships  
that maximise active participation to  
solve community problems**

# About the BCI Accreditation Scheme

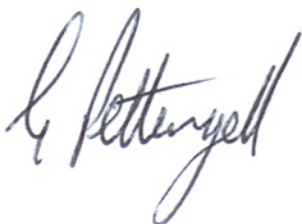
**The BCI accreditation scheme aims to build mature, robust, sustainable partnerships that maximise active participation to solve community problems.**

The Accreditation explains why it is important for crime reduction and community engagement schemes to reach maturity. This advice is intended for any scheme administrator, Town Centre Manager, Police Officer, PCSO, individual, organisation, statutory body or community group that runs a scheme or is thinking of starting one. The Empowering-Communities Model, BASIS, outlined in this paper is a proven system that can be used with any size scheme and is the result of 1000's of hours of work.

The Accreditation is based upon our experiences of operating local, regional and national Crime Reduction and Community Engagement schemes. We hope you will be able to learn from our experiences and enable your scheme to operate at its maximum potential making your scheme into a great scheme that serves your community well for many years to come.

The Empowering-Communities BASIS Model offers Crime Reduction and Community Engagement Schemes with a system that is easily replicated and easily learnt. The BASIS Model has taken several years to develop and refine. It is that experience that Empowering-Communities aims to give to partnerships so they can benefit from our experiences from day one.

The BCI Accreditation scheme when implemented and followed will give you a predictable way to operate a successful scheme.



**Gary Pettengell**

Founder - Empowering Communities

# Three award levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold

**The BCI Accreditation scheme has three achievable award levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. We envisage that Gold accreditation holders will take on a mentoring role to other partnerships looking for help and advice.**

All accreditation holders will have to evidence that their partnership has a clearly defined strategic objective and has considered how their scheme interacts and provides benefits and value to its members.

Silver accreditation award holders must meet all the requirements of the bronze level and show amongst other things that they operate a radio scheme, collect and disseminate data and provide their members with an intelligence newsletter or bulletins and have a scheme identity/logo in place. Finally, you will need to show that you have procedures in place to prevent disruption through loss of key staff

To achieve the Gold award, crime reduction partnerships will need to meet the requirements of Bronze and Silver accreditation. In addition to this they must also provide their members and the police with 24/7 access to information and images of suspects and offenders, have a public/council CCTV system in place and meet other achievable goals that will help ensure their scheme is effective and sustainable.

These include:

- Request crime stats from the police if they run a crime reduction initiative
- Offer training or presentations to their members to ensure they know how the scheme works
- Have a website or internet presence in order to promote their scheme
- Manage and review costs
- Conduct exit interviews with members and agencies leaving the scheme
- Promote active membership.

# The 5 elements of the BASIS model

**B**eneficial

**A**ccessible & affordable

**S**tructured

**I**nformative, easy to use & understand

**S**ystem dependent & sustainable

# Beneficial

**Beneficial – Please read the ‘Development stage’ of the four key stages in the life of a Crime Reduction Scheme document:**

- Identifying the benefits and providing value is an essential element in ensuring the success of your scheme
- Value is what your members perceive it to be. It can be as simple as a financial or membership benefit or it can be a wider community benefit.
- Providing value to your members and community will give your Administration Team a sense of fulfillment
- Promoting the importance and usefulness of your scheme will help your membership grow and increase participation.

When considering the benefits and value your scheme will bring to its members and the wider community it might be useful to use one of the many problem solving models such as SARA and the 5IS to identify local problems. The BASIS Model compliments all of the problem solving models and more information can be found on the Home Office Crime Reduction website:

**[www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/skills/skills04.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/skills/skills04.htm)**

# Accessible and Affordable

**Accessible - Making your scheme accessible and affordable will help achieve maximum participation:**

- We live and work in a 24/7 society and your scheme should endeavour to reflect this by making information available to its members and the Police 24 hours a day 365 days per year.
- Technology now allows us to communicate to people in the comfort of their own homes or when they are on the move and this isn't something that should be ignored.
- Your members should be able to access information at a time and place that is convenient to them. Software systems such as the Secure Incident Reporting and Community Engagement System (SIRCS) make information securely available via the internet and mobile phones.
- Accessibility doesn't just relate to accessing information. It should be combined with usability and affordability.

**Note:** Some crime management software systems can be costly and restrict the information sharing capabilities of your partnership. Crime management system comparison charts can be a useful tool please email [info@empowering-communities.org](mailto:info@empowering-communities.org) for more information, or download a chart at:

**[www.empowering-communities.org/basis/comparrison.pdf](http://www.empowering-communities.org/basis/comparrison.pdf)**

# Structured

## Structured - with documented Procedures and Protocols in place:

- A structured partnership will enable its members to understand the relationship between the various elements of the scheme.
- Clear and concise documented procedures and protocols will also act as a user guide for the scheme members

**Note:** A structured approach will allow you to achieve More for Less. At Empowering-Communities we take and promote a proactive, holistic and dynamic approach to help and empower crime reduction schemes.

**Partnerships using the Empowering-Communities models, systems, processes and procedures can achieve more for less.**

More	Less
Community engagement	Administration
Community intelligence	Staff commitments
Community participation	Empowerment of offenders
Community cohesion	Crime and disorder
Impact	Fear of crime
Intervention	Anti social behaviour
Prevention	
Financial savings	
Reassurance	
Success	
Efficiency	
Effectiveness	
Credibility	
Accountability	
Empowerment of victims and vulnerable persons	
Confidence	
Members	
Accessibility	

# Informative

**Informative & easy to use - Understood by everyone including those with the lowest skill level:**

- People are essential for your scheme to thrive and people will bring your scheme alive.
- The system you put in place should be 'a simple way of doing things' and should not be over complicated.
- Keeping your systems simple but effective is the key to your schemes success and for increasing community engagement.
- The easier it is for someone to learn how to use, operate or manage your scheme the quicker they will take an active part in it.
- Successful schemes continue to work on making their schemes easier to learn and use in order to make them more efficient and effective.

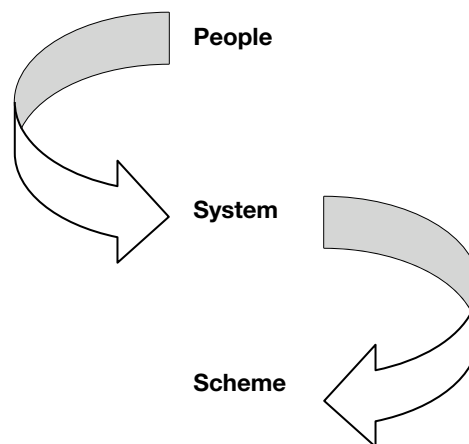
**Note:** Remember to promote the work of your scheme in the local media and press. If you have a website it is a good idea to have a partnership news and updates section on it.

# Sustainable & system dependent

## System dependent not people dependent:

- Your system will be a set of procedures, actions and information that interact and work together.
- The system you put together should have all the elements needed to make the scheme work.
- Your scheme must not be reliant on any one individual
- Make sure the 'Founder' is not the scheme.
- **Sustainable** – Schemes should foster effective and sustainable partnerships with local authority departments, statutory bodies, local businesses and residents to improve the quality of life in their communities.

**Note:** At Empowering-Communities we run user group meetings that help support the creation of sustainable partnerships, replication of best practices and the development of new initiatives to increase citizen participation to solve community problems.



If you apply this model to your scheme and understand the relationship every 'founder' must have with their scheme you will serve your communities and members well. Starting a Crime Reduction Scheme in the right way is very rewarding.

# ‘Mature Franchise mindset’ holds the key to a partnerships success

**Schemes that fail in the Introduction and Growth phases can be costly not just in financial terms but in terms of staff time, staff confidence, lost members and community confidence in you and your organisation. Statistics for failed schemes are hard to come by but new business failure rates give an indication of how difficult it can be for any project to reach maturity.**

Statistics show that 40% of new businesses fail in the first 12 months and 80% will fail within the first five years. The same however is not true of franchises. Only 5% fail each year or 25% over a five year period.

It is for this reason that at Empowering-Communities we advise anyone starting or running a Crime Reduction Scheme to look at their scheme from a franchising perspective. This doesn't mean you will actually franchise your scheme but you should develop it with a 'franchising mindset'.

## **We know that for a scheme to reach maturity it helps:**

- to follow the BASIS Model
- to be set up and run as a 'mature' scheme from day one
- to be system-dependent and not people-dependent.

The 'founder' of any scheme should develop a scheme that will work without them. By adopting the mindset of a franchisor the schemes 'founder' will be developing a scheme that will work without them. This will ensure the scheme will survive and grow. The key point to remember is the 'founder' must not be the scheme.

*'Your aim should be to build a scheme that will work without you. It is about you developing your scheme and not you being your scheme'*

*Remember, you need to develop a system to run the scheme and people will run the system.*

# Training

A training day has been arranged to guide initiatives through the process and will be held in London on 16th November. More will be held next year.

## Partnership

Accreditation is FREE in the first year of joining for all initiatives, but there is a small charge for the optional training.

For more information on BCI membership and how to apply for Accreditation visit

[www.bciuk.org](http://www.bciuk.org).

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