



AUZRA AKHTAR

Head of Community Safety
Bromley's Community Safety
Partnership



'IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL'

- Maturity in Partnership Working – 'Boston is a national model in crime prevention' former President Clinton
- Sabbatical from Sept 2002-Feb 2003
- Funded by Winston Churchill Memorial Trust & Gov Office for London



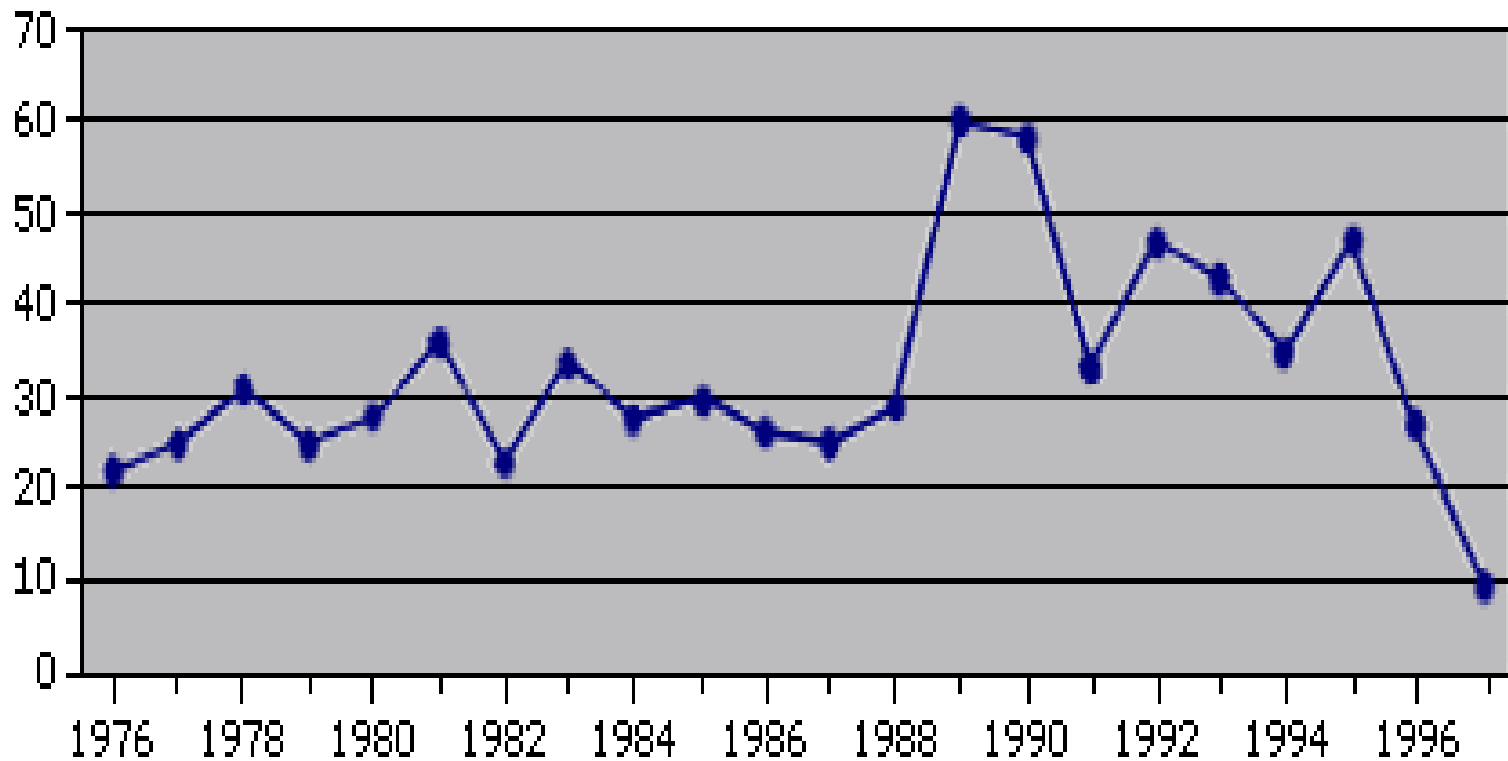
Why Boston?

- Boston is similar in size to Bromley – 50 square miles
- 600,000 population
- 51% ethnic community
- 20 neighbourhoods
- 11 police precincts



What was the problem?

Boston Homicide Victims Aged 24 and Under





Timeframe of Events

- 1992 - Morning Star Church incident
- Ten Point Coalition formed
- 1993 – Multi-agency ‘Youth Violence Task Force formed’
- 1994 – new Mayor, Police Commissioner & US Attorney came into place
- 1994 – Summer of Opportunity



Timeframe of Events

- 1995-97 Various multi-agency operations
- 1995 onwards – Further coalitions & alliances formed



Boston's Youth Council

- In place past 10 yrs
- Recognition that positive alternatives needed to be provided
- Holds annual youth summit
- Youth nominated on an annual basis with a commitment of one yr
- Projects are devised by the Council



Boston Youth Council

- Monthly meetings with Mayor solely
- Barriers are removed
- BENEFITS FOR YOUTH: CVs, work experience, team building & leadership skills, sense of community, positive alternative, self-esteem improved, enhance communication skills etc



KEY MESSAGES

- There is no one solution to improving the quality of people's lives
- A real shift in mindset & commitment has to take place
- Accepting that communities are diverse & divisive
- A myriad of partnerships is good – if they are effective



The Process That Produced Effective Partnership Working

- Solutions emerged on the front lines
- A co-ordinated approach emerged
- Collaboration was made possible
- Key principles were established
- Common cause & agenda
- Open & true communication



The Process That Produced Effective Partnership Working

- Adopting a trial and error approach
- Building community confidence through support
- Developing real rapport & relationships
- Outcomes benefit all
- CHANGE TAKES TIME – NO MIRACLES INVOLVED!