In 1997 Professor Jonathan Shepherd set up the Cardiff Violence Prevention Group (CVPG) that proved to be the prototype of today’s Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Among other initiatives, the CVPG pioneered the combination of police and A&E data as a means of targeting violence prevention activity. The CVPG continued to work on this and other areas of violence and was instrumental in attracting Home Office funding in 2000 with local partners to set up the independent multi-agency Targeting Alcohol related Street Crime (TASC) project. The project formalised and enhanced data sharing arrangements and also employed a project support nurse at the A&E to support the reception staff and follow-up questionnaire of victims of violent assault.

**How has it been done?**

Assault related data is collected by A&E reception staff in data fields that form part of the patient administration system. This data is anonymised and sent in a spreadsheet to a dedicated database, maintained by the CSP data analyst, which combines this data with that from police sources.

Using this combined data informs targeted policing and partnership interventions in Cardiff City Centre and Bay areas details of which are contained in a Home Office Research Study.

The Cardiff After Dark policing strategy that draws police officers from the outer suburbs of Cardiff to the city centre was devised as a result of TASC data and has been mainstreamed into core business for South Wales Police. This work was further enhanced into the Tilley Award winning Traffic Light System for regulation of Licensed Premises.

**What problems were faced - and how were they overcome?**

The involvement of partners is a crucial aspect in the strategic and tactical use of hospital and police data and in a successful partnership it needs to be shared at an appropriate level. Early engagement in Cardiff with the Licensee’s Forum proved to be difficult with mistrust due to the CVPG’s previous name and shame policy where problem licensed premises were identified. Mistrust was overcome by developing a more collaborative approach and including the Licensee’s Forum as equal partners in a problem solving approach.

**What have been the outcomes?**

The success of this work in Cardiff has been widely reported. Early reductions were recorded such as a 40% reduction of alcohol related attendances. The City is now regarded as the safest within its family of 15 similar sized local authority areas and the work in Cardiff has been recognised by the World Health Organisation, the Centre for Disease Control (USA) and the Coalition Government.

The Cardiff model has been adopted internationally with implementation projects taking place in Holland, the United States and South Africa.
“This violence prevention model, conceived in the University and developed with partners across the city, has made Cardiff safer than other UK cities of a similar size.”

Professor Jonathan Shepherd