SAFER STREETS FUND
COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Community Organisers is a national membership body and training organisation for people interested and involved with community organising. We are also the home of the National Academy of Community Organising which is made up of 22 neighbourhood organisations who work with us to deliver our training courses and programmes as well as mentoring and practise support in community organising.

We have been supporting the Home Office to consider how community building and organising approaches can tackle the challenges that communities face through acquisitive crime by looking at approaches to engagement that can effectively mobilise communities.

Studies show where people are connected and there is a strong sense of togetherness they are more resilient to the challenges posed by crime and disorder. In these areas people are more inclined to act together and intervene in matters that may otherwise be detrimental to the common good. This is what Robert Samspon argues as 'collective efficacy'.

However, not all communities are connected and resilient, and this needs to be built. To do this, we believe that you need to adopt an approach to building community that starts by listening, building on what exists and working with people to create their own solutions to the challenges that they face. Doing this has a greater impact in mobilising larger numbers of people in both owning and providing the solutions at a local level.

External evaluation of our own work by Ipsos Mori, shows that where community organisers are active people are more inclined to come together and take action to improve their neighbourhood.

"We know that where Community Organisers are at work, people feel a stronger sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, they feel more valued, and they become more likely to team up and improve their area"

Civil Society Strategy, Cabinet Office (p37, August 2018)

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