

Risk in action



Crime reduction in Chester

A community under Chester City Council's management was identified as a particularly troubled area to need a 16-month intense crime reduction initiative. This included police community wardens, community support officers, council social workers, youth workers, probation officers, and regular input from the local education and housing departments.

Having seen media coverage of the Viseum IMC technology, showing how it had helped clear up and stamp out crime and anti-social behaviour, Chester City Council chose the system to play a role alongside other coordinated crime reduction initiatives.

When the IMC system was initially installed, broadband communications were not available for the Viseum Remote Managed Service (RMS) to commission the system. Once broadband communications became available the RMS showed that the camera had been hit with a blunt instrument. It is assumed that this was because the camera was clearly not being manned and the local criminal community saw this as an opportunity to attack the camera. It was then replaced with Forward Vision's ruggedized ART1-100 which is ideally suited to this challenging environment.

Chester City Council's CCTV control room was receiving calls from this troubled area every day, and on some occasions every hour. From the moment the IMC system was up and running the reports from the community simply stopped. This is because the criminal and anti-social groups of any community will always pay more attention to cameras seen to be moving and monitoring the area proactively. The Viseum IMC system is seen to be consistently doing this day in day out, and the appearance of its multiple camera unit is such that anyone studying it will see that there is no way to create diversion tactics.

The Viseum IMC system not only captured all reported incidents but also a number of crimes that would have gone unnoticed by any other solution – amongst others, this included a late night disturbance of gangs fighting (the ring leaders were later expelled from the area under ASBO injunctions), and a drunken gang of youths who trespassed onto the Council library's roof to throw stones down at the public.

Chester City Council's CCTV control room has seen the benefits of Viseum IMC technology