

8. Dealing With Crime



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The vast majority of events take place without any crime or disorder related issues. However, wherever crowds gather there is always the risk of such incidents.

Indeed, the very fact that events are places where people relax can make them attractive to criminals.

In their planning, organisers need to consider the likely crimes that could affect their event, from thefts and cyber-crime, to assaults (including sexual) and drug related offences or even acts of terrorism. In some cases, those attending events can become victims of crime even before their get to an event, with fake ticketing websites and counterfeit tickets being sold.

Liaising with the Police

Although the police may not need or wish to have a role in the event, organisers should establish contact with them locally so that they are aware it is taking place. They may also be able to advise if there is a particular risk of criminals operating in the area or similar events locally.

Faking and counterfeiting

Where tickets are sold in advance, it is important to make it clear who the official ticket distribution channels are and warn people of the risks of purchasing tickets from elsewhere.

Avoid Confrontations

To avoid confrontations, which can lead to problems, event organisers need to make clear in advance what is and is not allowed on the site. Some events, for example, might ban people from bringing food and drink onto the site. Websites, tickets and other event information should make this clear in advance.

Unlawful Items

If there is a risk of unlawful and dangerous items, such as knives or drugs, being brought onto the site which may be confiscated, arrangements should be for handling and disposing of them safely.