

Milton Keynes delivers crime and disorder mapping to the point-of-need

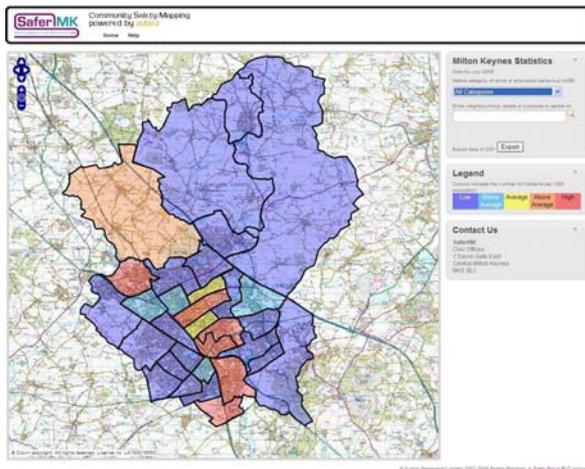


The first to use a new mapping and analysis tool from Zubed Geospatial, SaferMK (formerly Milton Keynes Community Safety Partnership) is now able to provide clear concise mapping of levels of crime and anti-social behaviour to the public, in support of a Home Office initiative on community safety, whilst achieving cost-effective incident level analysis for their own staff.

The geographic analysis of incidents of crime and disorder has long been the preserve of the specialist analyst. Performance reviews required the requesting and provision of printed analysis prepared some time ahead of the event. An emphasis on timely review and tactical response means that up-to-date information must now be accessible at the Point-of-Need. Couple this with the desire to provide consistent information to the public and this raises the requirement for a new generation of crime mapping.

Zubed Geospatial, in close consultation with Milton Keynes Community Safety Partnership, has developed a mapping solution that addresses both public and internal reporting and analysis of regional crime and disorder; a solution that enables any authorised member of staff to map exactly the incidents that they wish to and even to run a new analysis.

Richard Solly, Community Safety Manager for SaferMK, said, "The Zubed system will uniquely provide us with a means of both increasing community awareness through easy-to-use online mapping and self-service reports, as well as giving us a new tool to rapidly identify patterns and trends ourselves without reliance on specialist analysts. Being web-based, our staff are now able to interrogate historical incident data in real-time."



Key to Zubed's crime and disorder mapping is the provision of two distinct views onto the data, one for the public, typically showing a thematic map of incidents by neighbourhood, and one for the staff within the authority.

Navigating by postcode or place-name the public can overlay any category of data and simply click in their region of interest to view tables, graphs and explanatory notes. If desired, they can even download a spreadsheet file or regional report. Important to this is making the user interface intuitive and simple to use.

Internal users can view multiple boundary sets, e.g. for neighbourhood and estate views. Individual incidents can be shown on the map by category and date range. Data exports are then possible by simply drawing around your region of interest on the map. New data can be uploaded and presented for analysis, as it becomes available.

Web-based mapping has opened up new opportunities in the accessibility of geographic communication and analysis, going way beyond the efforts of web designers to illustrate with maps. Interactive GIS functionality that has historically been unavailable to the end user, due to complexity and cost, can now be brought to every desktop.

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