

# Brief Lines

A bridge between business and the local community

## About CSP

Welcome to the latest edition of the Brief Lines newsletter, published by Community Safety Partnerships Ltd (CSP) which helps to bring business and community together. Specialising in personal and community safety issues, CSP is focused on supporting organisations wishing to take forward their work in this key area, as well as offering post crisis-support and communications expertise. CSP is headed by Sue Nelson who in recent years has specialised in developing and delivering community safety messages and campaigns to combat crime and anti-social behaviour on Britain's rail network.

## Rail clampdown on anti-social behaviour

A high profile operation to clampdown on anti-social behaviour at railway stations in the Vale of Glamorgan has also been hailed a success. Codenamed Operation VoG, British Transport Police (BTP) neighbourhood policing teams undertook high visibility train and station patrols as part of an operation involving South Wales Police and Arriva Trains Wales. The operation was in direct response to concerns raised by local communities.

Officers dealt with a variety of anti social behaviour related incidents, including underage drinking, substance misuse and trespass. Groups of youths were also spoken to in relation to loitering at stations with no intention to travel and a number of ASBO referrals were submitted.

## Major crime policy review launched

Tackling the offender and not just the offence is at the heart of a new strategy issued by the government on March 27 which outlines ambitious policies for meeting the ever changing challenge of protecting the public. The detailed policy document reveals the government's proposals and ideas for confronting crime and criminals over the next 10 years.

The wide-ranging report looks at how new technology, powers, service structures and ways of fighting offending will keep pace with changing society. It aims to ensure victims and communities feel more secure while justice is effectively and efficiently done and seen to be done.

*Building on Progress: Security, Crime and Justice* looks at three themes:

- **Prevention of crime.** Proposals look at identifying and intervening with at-risk children as early as possible, targeting and gripping the most prolific offenders, and designing out crime.
- **Detection and enforcement.** The need to ensure the police, courts and CPS can punish crimes and enforce sentences as rapidly as possible and that they have all the powers they need to seize criminal assets and punish breach of probation orders.
- **Reforming the criminal justice system.** Making it work for the law abiding citizen by ensuring it is responsive to local people. This includes involving the best service providers for the job and proposes expanding the role of the voluntary sector while giving well paid, properly supported and flexible workforces all the powers they need to do the job.

These themes focus on tackling offenders across the criminal justice system from the police on the street, through to the courts, prison and probation systems. Among the measures being announced is a review of the Police Service led by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

The review paper is the second in a series highlighting a review of policy of all public services. Go to [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy) for more information

## Feet off seats campaign

Get your feet off! is the thrust of a Merseyrail campaign targeting passengers who put their feet on train seats. Teams of security staff have been kitted out with CCTV "head cams" which record high quality digital pictures and sound to gather evidence for possible prosecution of offenders.

Prosecution will be based on the existing railway byelaws which apply across the UK under the section which covers "unacceptable behaviour" (Byelaw 6) after a specific protocol was agreed with Liverpool Magistrates Court.

A poster campaign, leaflets and public announcements are being used across the Merseyrail network to create awareness and give passengers an opportunity to change their habits to prevent them being taken to court.

Although "feet on seats" has always been an offence, it has not been realistic to prosecute offenders due to the problem of providing evidence in court. Up to now, a verbal warning was the only possible course of action.

This new initiative is in response to passengers' feedback and part of Merseyrail's broader approach to preventing anti-social behaviour. Merseyrail is so far the only train company in the UK to prosecute offenders for putting their feet on seats. For further details contact security manager Mike Carroll of Merseyrail at

[mcarroll@merseyrail.org](mailto:mcarroll@merseyrail.org)



## Major community safety study by CSP

CSP has just completed an in-depth study into the national community safety agenda for the Rail Safety and Standards Board. A 140-page report of the study produced by CSP explores how the rail industry can achieve broader understanding and develop closer links with the wider community safety arena.

The study provides an overview of the public sector arrangements for the management of community safety issues in the wider community and the opportunities for the more effective engagement of the rail sector. It sets out the background to the current community safety framework and highlights how industry activity can link into the government's National Community Safety Plan 2006-9, the Neighbourhood Policing Programme and the Respect Agenda.

In addition it looks at the impact of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 review into partnership arrangements, and how the industry might prioritise and develop robust alliances with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other agencies. The study also explores the crucial role of British Transport Police in delivering the neighbourhood policing agenda within the industry and the pivotal role of the force in bringing industry partners and external agencies together.

The work has identified opportunities for the industry to more effectively engage with external partners in addressing community safety issues. RSSB is now considering the report and the impact it may have on future thinking.

The study is part of a wider review of the rail industry's arrangements for managing community safety. CSP was chosen to undertake the work because of its specialist knowledge and expertise in community safety issues both in the rail sector and wider community.

## Neighbourhood policing brings sense of community

The first two neighbourhood policing teams operated by British Transport Police on the rail network have now been running for nine months - and have proved to be a huge success.

The teams, which operate on BTP's London South area, each have two sergeants and 14 officers and have been targeting fare evasion, anti-social behaviour and low level disorder.

Between them the two teams are stopping on average 1,000 passengers a month, searching 450 and averaging 60 arrests on the lines from Lewisham to Dartford, and between Victoria and London Bridge.

Insp Gary Knapton who has overseen the implementation of the teams on London South said the teams had made a dramatic impact on the lines of route. When the teams were first set up an average of 80 people were stopped each morning for fare evasion. That has now dropped to 15 to 20 a day. Train operating companies have reported a 20% increase in ticket sales and on the Victoria route there have no staff assaults since the team began work.

The success of the London South pilot has led to neighbourhood policing teams being set up in all BTP force areas with 15.5% of its staff deployed to the initiative compared to the Home Office force national average of 13.6%.

## Reassuring rail passengers

Train operator c2c Rail has launched an initiative to reassure passengers about their personal security when using its services.

Mark Hopwood, managing director of c2c, part of National Express Group, was joined by Ian Johnston, Chief of the British Transport Police at London's Fenchurch Street station where they spoke to travellers and station users about the steps being taken to enhance personal security. The programme extends an initiative already successfully introduced on National Express Group's West Midlands Travel bus routes, and emphasises the partnership between c2c and British Transport Police in their determination to deal with anti-social behaviour.

The rail company has produced a leaflet "Securely Yours", giving information about what c2c has already achieved in the drive to improve security on its stations and trains. In recent months c2c and BTP have worked on a number of operations aimed at reducing ticketless travel and associated crime. Research shows that most crime on stations and trains is committed by people without tickets.

## Police team for Chiltern

Chiltern Railways now has a dedicated team of police and community support officers. The team of five aims to help prevent crime and disorder and become a single point of contact for passengers, staff and the community at stations and along the line of route. John Davidson, Business Planning Assistant said: "We hope this partnership with Chiltern Railways and British Transport Police will deter crime and give our staff and passengers a greater sense of security."

## CCTV document updated

A manual that provides clear guidance to non-technical users wishing to buy a CCTV system that is fit for purpose has been revised and updated. The new manual considers the additional issues of recorded image quality and data archiving that are essential parts of any digital CCTV system, but are often neglected when writing the specification. The manual, *CCTV Operational Requirements Manual - Is your CCTV system fit-for-purpose?* is published by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) and can be downloaded from the [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk) website. The manual outlines each of the key stages that CCTV planners should undertake when putting together an effective CCTV system.

## Probation recruitment drive

The National Probation Service is receiving 560 new trainee probation officers as part of a national recruitment drive across England and Wales that began in March. New entrants into the two-year training programme will become offender managers responsible for the supervision of convicted offenders in the community, either on tough community sentences or on release from prison.

## Community sentencing trial

Four local authorities are to pilot community-based alternatives to custody for young people from next month in an effort to change national policy.

Children in Trouble is a Local Government Association (LGA) project and part of its campaign to end custodial sentences for all young people except the most serious offenders in the belief that community sentences are more appropriate.

Four local councils and partner organisations including youth offending teams have been chosen by the LGA to trial community sanctions as an alternative to custody. The authorities were due to start work on 1 April but have asked not to be identified. The project, which will be funded by the authorities, will be managed by the association and the Howard League for Penal Reform. It is expected to last two years, with an initial evaluation after a year.

## Get involved in community projects

Two publications exploring the topic of getting the community involved in

projects are being highlighted by the Home Office crime reduction team. The first, from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) looks at engaging local people in projects to improve public spaces such as parks, gardens and play areas. Increased community ownership of such schemes can lead to greater increases in usage, a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour and overall success of a scheme. The second report, from the Home Office, looks at neighbourhood policing and what mechanisms can be used to harness community support when creating new neighbourhood policing schemes. Go to [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk) for more information

## Stop It! campaign success

More than 200 incidents have been reported by members of the public in the first six months of Central Trains' campaign to clamp down on vandalism and anti-social behaviour on its trains. Since September last year, 208 incidents of anti-social behaviour, graffiti and criminal damage on trains have been reported as part of the company's "Stop It, See It, Report It" campaign - that's at least one incident being reported every day. As a result British Transport Police has taken 84 cases to court.

Central Trains launched its campaign in 2006 as part of a wider crackdown against litter, graffiti and other damage to trains. The campaign also encourages staff and passengers to report more serious problems directly to British Transport Police as soon as they happen.

Nearly 4,000 stickers have been put in the windows of Central Trains rolling stock with a British Transport Police hotline number to call. This equates to one on every window of the 350 carriages that comprise the Central Trains' fleet.

The stickers ask passengers to keep their feet off the seats, not to smoke and take their litter home, or use the bins provided, along with reporting vandalism or other crimes to the Transport Police on **0800 40 50 40**.

## Park Mark success for Southern

Train operator Southern has been awarded a further 11 Park Mark awards at 10 of its stations - hot on the heels of its first 12 awards, which were accredited to the company last month.

The Safer Parking Scheme is a joint

initiative of between the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Department for Transport and aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities. Safer parking status, Park Mark, is awarded to parking facilities that have achieved the requirements of a risk assessment conducted by the police. The requirements mean the parking operator has put in place measures that help to deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, thereby doing everything they can to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime in their parking facility. For customers, using a Park Mark safer parking facility means that the area has been vetted by the police and has measures in place in order to create a safe environment.

## New cash pot for drive against gun and drug crime

Community groups tackling gun crime and gangs are able to apply for a share of £500,000 of Home Office funding. Each group is able to apply for up to £5,000 from the sixth round of the Connected Fund, which is focused on tackling gangs through educational, sporting and cultural activities. The aim of the fund is to help young people break away from gangs, provide support for victims and contribute to mentoring projects to keep young people out of trouble. The Connected Fund has awarded £1.25 million to community groups since 2004.

## Landmark soccer fan ban

A drunken football fan who subjected rail staff and passengers to a verbal tirade of racist and sexual abuse has been banned from travelling to matches by rail. Spurs supporter James Fluin, aged 20, from Kent, was handed the landmark order by magistrates in West London after being arrested for his behaviour following a match between Chelsea and Newcastle at Stamford Bridge. The order prohibits Fluin from using the railway to travel to any town or city where Tottenham, Chelsea or the English national team are playing, or from using the Underground for a period four hours before a Spurs, Chelsea or England game and four hours after.

## Keep in touch...

If you have any news you wish to share, or details of an event you want to highlight, contact [suenelson@comsafetypartners.com](mailto:suenelson@comsafetypartners.com)