

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 offers quality solutions to help address safety and other risks. Specialising in personal, community and system safety issues, CSP provides a holistic intelligence-led approach to partnership between business and community, business and regulator and other interfaces where risk arises.

CSP is headed by Aidan and Sue Nelson who between them have wide experience in corporate reputation handling, developing and delivering community safety strategies and campaigns, crisis management, and the advancement of health, safety and environmental policy both internationally and nationally at industry, multi-party programme and individual company levels.

Magistrates' ASBO role under review

The Home Office is undertaking a review of the role magistrates play in dealing with breaches of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs). Concerns have been expressed that breaches are not being dealt with severely enough, and Home Office Minister Tony McNulty has said the issue will be addressed as part of a wider review of the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour interventions due to be commissioned later this year. The review is expected to report in spring 2009 and is being commissioned in response to a recommendation in the National Audit Office's 2006 report, Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour which can be found on www.nao.org.uk

New crime strategy unveiled

The Home Office has announced a new strategy for crime reduction - Cutting Crime: A new partnership 2008-11. The new strategy focuses on seven themes:

- Stronger focus on serious violence
- Continued pressure on anti-social behaviour
- Renewed focus on young people
- New national approach to designing out crime
- Continued reduction of re-offending
- Greater sense of national partnership
- Freeing up local partners, building public confidence

The document sets out the main lessons learned in the past ten years - which has seen overall violent crime reduce by a third - and looks forward on how to address new challenges. According to the report there is good evidence that the combination of enforcement and support is working to reduce anti-social behaviour, although it is recognised that tools and powers for addressing the issue are still relatively recent and further support is needed to embed the approach nationwide.

It also concludes there has been strong progress on improving the life chances of young people but there are still too many young people left behind, enhancing the risk of offending. A key element of the new approach involves the development of a youth crime strategy aimed at both young victims and young offenders. This will include strengthening the links between the police, schools and youth services to ensure improvement of young people's safety, encouraging positive activities and building on Safer Schools Partnerships.

There will also be a focus on working closely with the corporate sector to design crime out of new products and services including developing incentives for businesses to 'think crime', working with consumer groups to increase the demand for crime-free products and services, and supporting the inclusion of crime prevention in the professional training of scientists and designers. Although more crimes are being detected and brought to justice, and re-offending rates are starting to reduce, the strategy highlights that more can be done, particularly in tackling prolific offenders.

Underpinning the strategy is the recognition that partnership is a key element in tackling crime. The government intends bringing together key partners at a National Crime Reduction Board to drive delivery and provide shared ownership of crime reduction. Strong relationships will continue to be built between the police and local authorities, while other crucial relationships, such as between government and industry, will be strengthened to help in shaping services, as well as in delivering them.

Through a proposed new Public Service Agreement (PSA) to be published in the autumn, there will be fewer targets mandated from the centre, and greater flexibility to respond to local crime priorities.

Performance assessment will be simplified with a single framework for assessing performance on community safety, streamlining three frameworks into one, being developed during 2007/08 for implementation in 2008/09.

For full details go to www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk



New national regulations for CDRPs

New legislation that sets out the framework for national minimum standards and information sharing for CDRPs came into force on August 1st. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy)

Regulations 2007 define minimum standards on how Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) should operate as they develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. Until now, there have been no underpinning national standards for CDRPs which has led to considerable variation in their ability to reduce crime.

In addition, the Crime and Disorder (Prescribed Information) Regulations 2007 strengthen CDRP partners' existing obligations to share relevant information by specifying the data that relevant authorities have a duty to disclose to each other.

The regulations are to be accompanied by guidance outlining how to meet both sets of regulations and will include examples of good practice.

The guidance will be based around the key components for successful partnerships and is currently being developed in conjunction with contributors from stakeholder organisations. It is intended the guidance will be written in plain English with toolkits to assist those CDRPs wishing to model their own practice on what has been identified as working elsewhere. It is hoped the guidance will be available from September.

The new regulations are a key strand of the government's CDRP reform programme set up following a detailed review of CDRPs under the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The overall objective of the review was to make CDRPs more effective, responsive and visible.

In addition, the review has also led to the repeal of two main duties on CDRPs - that of producing three-yearly audits and strategies (2005/8 being the last in the current format), and the duty to report annually to the Secretary of State on a partnership's work and progress. Both were seen as unnecessarily bureaucratic and a barrier to being

properly accountable where it matters most - in local communities.

- The new regulations - numbers 1830 and 1831 - can be found at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200718.htm>

British Crime Survey 2006-7

Figures published in the British Crime Survey (BCS) 2006-07 show that overall crime rates held steady in England and Wales over the past year. This is part of a long-term trend - crime rates peaked in 1995 then fell by 42% over the subsequent 10 years. The decline reduced the risk of the average person becoming a victim of crime by 41%, although that risk increased by one percentage point last year.

Police recorded crime rates showed violent crime rates fell by 1% over the last year - the first fall in that category in eight years. The number of police recorded crimes involving firearms declined by 13% during the same time period. Some crime categories did show increases, but vandalism was the only category to show a statistically significant change over the year - vandalism reports increased by 10%. However, even with that increase, reports of vandalism are still 11% lower now than they were in 1995.

Ian Johnston, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on crime and Chief Constable of British Transport Police, said: "ACPO welcomes the news that crime trends remain stable over the last year. Recorded crime is down by 2% and several other key crime areas show a recorded fall. I particularly welcome the news about the 13% decrease in firearms offences. The police service remains committed to reducing the perception of crime and we will continue to engage with communities through neighbourhood policing projects that are rolling out nationwide."

View the BCS results at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk
10th level crossing symposium takes shape

Paris, France is the venue for the 10th world symposium on safety at the road/rail interface to be held from June 24th to 26th 2008.

Building on the success of the previous

level crossing events held in the USA, Australia, the UK and Canada, the 10th symposium will be only the second time that a European venue has hosted the event. The symposium provides a platform from which to:

- Discuss advances in level crossing technology and operation
- Promote best practice in both level crossing risks and trespass prevention
- Develop international co-operation
- Share international dialogue on how to collectively deal with safety at the road/rail interface.

Organisers are now calling for abstracts of papers on topics relating to safety and human issues, engineering and operation, and risk management which need to be submitted by September 30th, 2007. The event is being organised by the International Union of Rail Companies (UIC) with the French Ministry of Transport, French train operator SNCF and the infrastructure manager RFF.

For more information go to www.levelcrossing2008.com

Tilley Award results at policing conference

The Tilley Award, funded by the Home Office, was set up in 1999 to encourage and recognise excellence in crime reduction using problem-oriented principles. This year is the ninth annual award and following a record number of entries, 12 shortlisted projects and three finalists have been selected.

Summaries can be found at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/tilley/tilleyawards2007.htm

The overall winner of this year's award will be announced at the 2007 Problem Oriented Policing Conference to be held in Birmingham on 4-6 September.

This year the focus is on new developments in policing and crime reduction, particularly the challenge of the police and other agencies working together to create safer communities.

The conference will showcase problem solving principles and developments at international, UK national and local levels. For more details go to www.ukpopconference.co.uk

Level crossing trucking row

A row has broken out between the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and the trucking industry following "flippant" remarks about level crossings in the wake of a collision between a truck and a train in which 11 people died.

ARA is "horrified" by the attitude displayed towards truck driver behaviour at crossings by the South Australian Road Transport Association (SARTA) in a recent bulletin.

"The SARTA article dreams of a day when all rail lines 'are moved 5kms out to sea'," said Brian Nye, Chief Executive Officer of ARA. "This remark, although made in jest, is indicative of the trucking industry's lack of understanding on the issue and willingness to improve safety. Instead of leading discussion on ways to increase safety at level crossings, the trucking industry is excusing itself of responsibility."

The SARTA article attempts to justify the trucking industry's complacency by arguing that in the real world, 'some people will unfortunately mess up occasionally and cause injuries and death'. The article states that it is natural for some drivers to 'kill themselves through sheer stupidity or carelessness'.

In the past 14 months, there were 5 major level crossing crashes involving heavy vehicles. 15 lives were lost and more than AUS\$100 million in damages resulted. In Victoria alone there were 109 near misses where truck drivers nearly collided with trains.

"The ARA has requested the involvement and support of the trucking industry but the trucking industry has not been forthcoming," added Mr Nye. It is important that the trucking industry co-operates on the issue because its drivers are often at the centre of it.

Crossing death crash footage

Horror camera footage of a level crossing collision in which four young people died clearly shows the youngsters' car weaving round the barriers into the path of the train. The footage shows the last moments of the four who were killed when their car was hit on a crossing by an Amtrak train

in Lakeland, Florida. The warning lights and barriers were said to be in full working order but yet again, the tragedy shows it is invariably the behaviour of the public which needs to continue to be addressed if fewer accidents at half barrier level crossings are to be achieved. The footage - which comes with a health warning - can be found at: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20070717/BREAKING/70717006>

Partnership Profile - D is for Doncaster

In this series *Brief Lines* will each month feature a crime and disorder reduction partnership or community safety partnership operating in England, Scotland or Wales. Next month will feature a partnership beginning with 'E' so let us know which one you think it should be and why.

DONCASTER in South Yorkshire has a population of 290,000 and is a blend of urban and rural with the town centre of Doncaster itself at its heart. In January 2007 Doncaster won Respect Area status and was named as one of 40 areas in England and Wales to attract additional funding under the government's Respect Agenda. Doncaster is also one of 50 government-designated action areas on anti-social behaviour nationwide.

The Safer Doncaster Partnership (SDP) is Doncaster Metropolitan Borough's statutory body tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. It is currently tackling six key priorities in its three-year strategy to 2008 based around reducing overall crime, anti-social behaviour and the harm caused by alcohol and illegal substances as well as providing public reassurance, tackling fear of crime, adopting a victim centred approach, plus addressing diversity and improving community cohesion.

Doncaster's council services are provided through neighbourhood management areas based on five geographic areas - north, south, east, west and urban, the latter of which focuses on Doncaster town centre. The SDP mirrors this arrangement with five Joint Area Groups (JAGs) sitting beneath the SDP management board which is chaired by Doncaster's elected mayor. Each of the JAGs meets on a

regular basis and is chaired by the local police superintendent with the local authority's strategic director in attendance. Also attending are representatives from relevant bodies that are managing community issues in the neighbourhood. The JAGs are essentially tasking and review groups tackling crime as it is happening. They review community safety data, based on the British Crime Survey and that of the police, in line with the borough's strategy on tackling crime, and then determine what action needs to be taken.

Doncaster has a number of community safety initiatives which have led to it being seen as one of the country's foremost local authorities in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in its communities. They include:

Neighbourhood Response Team -

Doncaster is thought to be the only area in the country to have introduced such a scheme which was set up in April 2006. The team is on hand nightly to tackle anti-social behaviour such as noise complaints and nuisance. There is also a party patrol which works every Friday and Saturday nights targeting parties where noise or behaviour may have prompted complaints

FLAG - The Fighting Litter, Abandoned Cars and Graffiti (FLAG) initiative involves a dedicated team responding to reports of the above and clearing them up.

Designated Public Place Orders -

DPPOs were introduced in October 2006 and trialled in Mexborough and Doncaster town centres. They provide the police with the power to request a person to stop drinking alcohol in a specific place if they are causing a nuisance. More than 90 warnings were issued in the first three months and on-street drinking has noticeably declined in these areas since.

Community Safety TV - A network of twelve 48-inch plasma screens across Doncaster which broadcast community safety films on a range of issues including acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour and personal safety.

For more details on Doncaster's work go to: www.doncaster.gov.uk

Research highlights chemical crisis risk

The chemicals sector tops Britain's league table of industries at most risk of facing a crisis in the next five years, according to research conducted on behalf of docleaf, a crisis communications and crisis management company. The research measured data collected by VAR International, an independent research organisation, from 100 publicly quoted British companies. The companies were interviewed and asked a series of questions to establish the level of resource they have committed to crisis planning, and identify some of the steps they have taken to equip themselves for the unexpected events that can strike. According to docleaf, the overall results were encouraging in that they showed UK companies were starting to take the issue seriously. However there is still a long way to go and docleaf thought it troubling to see that many firms are unsure where and how crisis management should fit into the corporate structure. The researchers reported they had to talk to people in at least nine different departments, including health

and safety, finance, marketing, business continuity, operations, risk management, production, human resources, and facilities management. Around two thirds of the companies surveyed had suffered some form of crisis over the last five years, and the type of crisis was quite sector-dependent. Overall the chemical and construction companies appeared to be the least prepared to manage the crises that those industries faced. The chemical industry, for example, did not conduct simulations or have detailed crisis response plans in place to the same extent as the others. The oil and gas sector appeared particularly well prepared, and this is likely to be in no small part due to the severity of incidents that hit this sector and the negative fall-out that companies can, and do, suffer. In terms of the 12 industries surveyed, transport was seventh of those most prone to risk of crisis, with chemicals, construction, and aerospace taking the top three slots. To view the research in full go to www.docleaf.com

Online crisis support

A new on-line support system that can help people in crisis has been set up by the Church of England. iChaplaincy is offered free to businesses,

organisations and individuals in the UK and provides a support service to anyone whether they have a faith or not. The service can be particularly relevant to people in the workplace and is well-placed to offer confidential support and advice in the event of crisis or trauma. A number of companies have included a link or have assigned a dedicated page on their intranet site for the support offered by iChaplaincy and view it as part of the support structure offered to employees. iChaplaincy evolved from workplace chaplaincy already offered in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and is led by Rev Rachel Shock, the country's first official on-line chaplain. For more information go to www.ichaplaincy.org.uk or email Rachel at ichaplain@ichaplaincy.org.uk to learn more about how your company can take advantage of the service.

Keep in touch...

If you have any news you wish to share, details of an event you want to highlight, or would like further information on Community Safety Partnerships Ltd contact suenelson@comsafetypartners.com or aidannelson@comsafetypartners.com