

# 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.

## Subway police go on patrol

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport has joined forces with the British Transport Police to improve security on the Glasgow Subway. For the first time ever, the subway network now has a full-time police presence. Community police constables John McCrone and Jack Mitchell are now responsible for security at the subway's 15 stations, on board subway trains and at the network's headquarters. Under the two-month pilot - likely to be made permanent - the pair are patrolling the subway on a day-to-day basis, ensuring the safety of passengers and staff, and dealing with any incidents of disorder. Both men were hand-picked for the job after years of experience with the British Transport Police. Like the London Underground the subway is now being policed by the force, with Strathclyde Police providing additional support when required.

## Supporting survivors guide

Harrowing stories from survivors of major incidents and disasters, including the London bombings and the tsunami, form the backdrop to a guide produced by CSP on behalf of the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC).

'Supporting Survivors - a guide outlining help for people in a crisis' is a key output of a conference organised by ATOC in November last year. The two-day event brought together survivors from recent mass casualty disasters and emergency responders from the police, local authorities and other agencies to continue to learn from the experiences of those for whom a major incident is a personal disaster that changes their lives.

The conference came out of ATOC's work in helping Britain's main-line train operators build a national incident care capability. Central to this work are incident care teams of specially selected volunteers trained in how to respond to the needs of survivors in the hours and days immediately following an event requiring a humanitarian response.

The Supporting Survivors guide sets out the background to how emergency services respond to an incident and how the effort of other agencies complements their work to provide an integrated approach to society's response to disaster.

A key message from the conference - which is carried over into the Supporting Survivors guide - is that the quality of humanitarian help received in the aftermath of a disaster can shape for years to come people's reactions to a tragedy that has transformed their lives.

Sue Nelson of CSP has extensive experience in personally assisting survivors of major rail incidents and other events, including the Southall, Ladbroke Grove, Hatfield, Great Heck and Potters Bar tragedies.

For more information about the role of the rail industry's incident care teams contact [peter.lovegrove@atoc.org](mailto:peter.lovegrove@atoc.org).

To learn more about disaster response and managing humanitarian issues in a crisis contact [suenelson@comsafetypartners.com](mailto:suenelson@comsafetypartners.com)

## Bad start to year for child fatalities

Two teenagers have been killed on the railway in two separate incidents in the first weeks of 2007.

Victoria Swift, aged 14, died near Wrexham on January 15 after she was hit by a train. Police believe she was on the railway with five other young people when the accident happened. A local councillor said residents had previously raised concerns about teenagers playing chicken on the tracks in the area, and had worked with the British Transport Police and Network Rail to raise awareness of the risks.

In the second incident 15-year-old James Gibbs died in hospital after surgery for head injuries after apparently leaning out from the platform at Treorchy station in the Rhondda on January 25.

Both deaths have highlighted the dangers of members of the public being on or near the railway. Each year around 50 people are killed while trespassing on the railway but in 2006 that figure increased to more than 70, the highest since the early 1990s.



## Extra Respect cash for 40 local councils

One year on from the launch of the government's Respect Action Plan extra cash is being given to 40 local authorities in recognition of their strong track record in tackling anti-social behaviour and their willingness and capacity to do more.

All 40 'respect areas' have signed up to:

- Family intervention projects to tackle 'neighbours from hell'
- More parenting classes for parents struggling with troublesome children
- 'Face the people' sessions where the police, local authorities and others can be accountable to their local public
- Keep up their action to tackle anti-social behaviour by using the full range of tools and powers available
- Preventing and dealing with any problems in social housing

New government statistics show significant increases in the powers being used by local councils and police to clamp down on anti-social behaviour. A survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in England and Wales, show for example, there has been a 90% increase in acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), with more than 18,000 used over the last three years, and 4,000 parenting contracts in the same period - an increase of nearly 250%.

The Respect drive is a cross-government strategy to tackle bad behaviour by encouraging a modern culture of respect. It involves central government, local agencies, and local communities working together to drive out anti-social behaviour.

Find the 40 Respect areas by going to [www.respect.gov.uk](http://www.respect.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood policing teams in place a year early

A £100 million cash boost means that neighbourhood policing teams will be in every community in England and Wales by this April - a year earlier than originally planned.

A key priority in the government's National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009, published in November 2005, was for such teams to be in place by 2008. The teams patrol streets and public transport undertakings, build links with local people and deter anti-social behaviour. Now the extra cash will ensure that there will be 16,000 community support officers and neighbourhood policing in every community by Easter.

An update to the National Community Safety Plan (NCSP) has been published to address the government's greater focus on public protection which is at the heart of the Home Office Reform Action Plan. Six new Home Office objectives have been introduced guiding the work of public protection and a sixth NCSP theme has been added to emphasise the importance being placed on preventing extremism and countering terrorism.

The NCSP update charts progress in the first six months of the plan, which has been broadly welcomed by key partners and stakeholders. Download the update by going to [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/communitysafety01.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/communitysafety01.htm)

## Green light for Prince's Trust kids

Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) has joined forces with the Prince's Trust to help youngsters in 10 schools across the principality that are at risk of poor attendance and attainment in the classroom.

The train company has agreed to sponsor the trust's Cymru xl clubs which provide three hours a week alternative curriculum support to young people facing difficulties in the education system. The xl curriculum is designed to motivate and engage young people and through practical informal learning, they gain qualifications. For many the qualifications gained through xl will be the only ones they leave school with.

Each of the participating schools will receive a visit from a British Transport Police liaison officer who will work with the young people to explore the dangers of straying onto railway property.

The schools involved will undertake a project that looks at the negative impact of graffiti, including the impact and cost of graffiti removal. The youngsters will also take part in a competition to design an anti graffiti poster for use by Arriva Trains Wales. Go to [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/news.aspx](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/news.aspx) for more details.

## Historic railways targeted

Heritage railways staff are being urged to review their security arrangements after a spate of thefts of historic artefacts. The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and the Yorkshire Dales Railway are among a number of preserved railways which have suffered thefts from rolling stock and buildings. The Heritage Railway Association believes the items are being stolen to order and some members are now considering using CCTV cameras to combat further crimes.

## Crime figures stable, says survey

Crime figure in England and Wales remains stable according to the latest British Crime Survey (BCS) with the latest recorded crime statistics showing a drop of three per cent, say new figures released in January.

Overall, violent crime figures are currently stable, with last year's figure down 1% on the previous year, although they have fallen by 43% since 1995. The risk of becoming a victim of crime has increased from 23% to 24%, but is much lower than the peak of 40% in 1995.

According to the government there were 8.4 million fewer crimes committed last year than in 1995. And although robberies remain a key concern, last year there were 23,000 fewer committed than five years ago.

The BCS is generally accepted as the most authoritative and reliable indicator of crime trends and has measured people's experience of crime in the same way for more than 25 years. Other BCS headlines include:

- Domestic burglary down 3%
- Criminal damage up 1%
- Vehicle crime down 4%
- Drug offences up 9%
- Firearm offences down 14%

For full details on the BCS go to [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html)

## What's On....

- **Community Cohesion in Your Local Neighbourhood**, a one-day conference organised by the Community Safety Advisory Service on Thursday, March 1st between 0930 - 1600 at St Alban's Centre, London EC1N 7SD. The conference will examine some of the issues that impact on community cohesion at a local level and suggest ways that the voluntary and community sector can help to tackle them. Go to [www.csas.org.uk/events/Conf07.htm](http://www.csas.org.uk/events/Conf07.htm) for more information.
- **Railway Community Safety Forum 2007**, a one-day event organised by the Rail Safety and Standards Board on Wednesday, March 14th at Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham. The forum aims to update delegates about the rail industry's community safety risk management approach; share examples of good practice; showcase activity in the community safety arena, and provide practitioners with practical ideas and solutions. Contact RSSB's conference manager at [stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk](mailto:stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk) for further details.
- **5th National Crime Mapping Conference** organised by the University College London Centre for Security and Crime Science on May 9th - 10th at Tower Guoman Hotel,

London. The event is designed to appeal to those working in law enforcement, crime reduction agencies, academia, and also technology companies interested in the benefits of crime mapping for supporting policing and crime reduction. For more information go to [www.uk-cmc.org/events](http://www.uk-cmc.org/events).

- **Building on a Firm Foundation**, the annual conference of Action Against Business Crime on Thursday, February 22nd at Aintree Racecourse, Ormskirk Road, Aintree, Liverpool, L9 5AS. The event will show how partnership working is helping businesses and communities deal with the increasingly difficult issue of customer theft, violence against staff and anti-social behaviour. Go to [www.brc.org.uk/aabc/events.htm](http://www.brc.org.uk/aabc/events.htm) for more information.

## 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)