

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.

Getting tough on youth drinking

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has announced a £875,000 national crackdown on underage drinking in public. Police are being given more authority to enforce the ban, which allows officers to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers. A multi-million pound public information campaign on the dangers of binge drinking will be launched in the summer and there will also be an independent review of how well industry standards on responsible sales are being met across the drinks industry.

Violent crime action plan

British The Home Office has launched its Violent Crime Action Plan in a bid to stamp out serious crime. Called *Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public* the plan is designed to guide local practitioners in their strategic planning and delivery of the Home Office's priorities in tackling serious violence over the next three years. It takes stock of the current situation, what has been achieved to date and sets out the vision to save lives, reduce harm and protect the public.

A key element of the plan is a proposal to educate 1.1m young people on the dangers of carrying weapons over the next five years. One of the first actions in the plan is the immediate deployment to the police of 100 search arches and 400 search 'wands' to increase detection of knife crime. This follows on from the success of British Transport Police's Operation Shield, which is being used to great effect at stations across the rail network.

The government's Public Service Agreements (PSAs) for 2008-11 include commitments to prioritise action to tackle the most serious violent offences, which include homicide and serious wounding, offences including weapons, domestic violence, hate crime and serious sexual offences including rape. These crimes are extremely rare - together they account for only about 1% of all crime. Yet when they do occur they cause significant harm, both to individual victims and their families in terms of physical injury and psychological trauma, and to society more widely in terms of fear of crime.

Go to www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk for more information.

Staying Safe for children

A three-year plan aimed at improving the safety of children and young people has been launched by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Staying Safe was first launched for consultation in July 2007 with parents, children and young people, members of the general public and practitioners being consulted about their concerns in relation to children's safety. The Staying Safe Action Plan for 2008-11 is the result of the consultation and sets out the work that the government will take forward over the next three years to drive improvements in children and young people's safety. A new government Public Service Agreement (PSA) to improve children and young people's safety will measure this work.

The Staying Safe Action Plan covers three main areas:

- Universal safeguarding, involving work to keep all children and young people safe and to create safe environments for them
- Targeted safeguarding to reduce the risks of harm for vulnerable groups of children and young people
- Responsive safeguarding, involving responding effectively when children are harmed

The plan contains elements on keeping children and young people safe on the streets and also addresses the fear young people experience when using public transport. It also highlights the introduction of child death review panels in each local authority area, which will look at the circumstances and factors behind every child who dies suddenly in their area. Although essentially designed to focus on learning the lessons in the event of children who might die as a result of abuse or neglect, the panels will look at all sudden child fatalities and seek to understand what steps agencies take to prevent them.

Go to www.dcsf.gov.uk for more information.



Keeping neighbourhoods safe

Every community in England and Wales will have a neighbourhood policing team by April. The teams, made up of police officers and police community support officers, will work with communities to give people a say in how their streets are policed. There are already hundreds of teams in place across the country, with April marking the goal of having teams in every community as part of the government's community safety agenda. To mark the April deadline key elements of plans include:

A 'name in every neighbourhood' campaign to highlight how people can contact their local team

A new national website ensuring everyone can easily find the names and numbers of their neighbourhood policing team

New national guidelines for neighbourhood policing including 'local contracts' between police and the public

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith congratulated police forces throughout England and Wales on the progress they have made so far, and said that April would 'mark the start of a new kind of relationship between the police service and the public.'

Text messaging tackles ASB

Youngsters are using text messaging to secretly report anti-social behaviour without fear of recrimination in an initiative thought to be the first of its kind. Young people on the Campbourne Estate, in Haringey, north London, are being encouraged to use MSN, texts, email or phone to secretly report any trouble they witness or fear on the estate.

The pilot scheme is the brainchild of Haringey's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team, which is leafleting every household on the estate with details of how to report incidents in a bid to connect with young people through a medium with which they are comfortable. ASB team members carry mobiles to receive texts from young people and regularly check a computer for emails or MSN reports. Through the leaflet young people are being asked if they are aware of any anti-social behaviour on the estate or if they have been a victim of bullying, harassment, violence or robbery. The leaflet gives a number and email address for youngsters to contact in confidence without needing to leave their name but stresses that even if they do leave their details, they will not be identified to any third party without their express permission. If the pilot scheme is successful it could be introduced throughout the London borough.

Level crossing safety in Australia

A high profile workshop has been held in Australia in the drive to tackle level crossing risk. The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) in collaboration with the National Railway Level Crossing Behavioural Co-ordination Group convened the workshop to inform key stakeholders of current and future work programmes to improve road user behaviour at level crossings as well as seek input into possible future approaches to address the issue. The ARA also devoted a full day of their annual safety conference, attended by some 170 delegates to consider the key risk area of level crossings at a time when the incidence of

collisions involving commercial road vehicles appears to be on the increase. Delegates heard from speakers from Australasia, Canada, Sweden and the UK, including Aidan Nelson of CSP who delivered a presentation on the topic 'Intelligent Transport Solutions (ITS): Can technology radically improve driver behaviour?' The key message was that technology alone will not address level crossing risk and that this needs to be complemented by education and enforcement activity. The theme of ITS carried forward into a one day workshop organised jointly by ITS Australia and the ARA to explore in more detail novel applications with the potential to reduce risk at level crossings.

'Cut transport privileges' call

London mayor candidate Boris Johnson says he will remove young people's transport privileges if the commit anti-social behaviour. The Conservative party candidate says that if he's elected he will remove the right of under-18s to free travel on London's buses if they misbehave. Mr Johnson says he is convinced low-level crime on public transport is spawning more serious crime, claiming buses are serving as "glorified getaway cars for teenage gangs ferrying them from one crime scene to the next." He says that if elected in May he will invest in more Safer Transport Teams made up of community support officers and transport police. Offenders would be able to earn back their right to free travel by undertaking community projects approved by Transport for London in a scheme known as Payback London.

'Chicken' man jailed

A man has been jailed for six months after playing 'chicken' with an approaching train on a level crossing. Andrew Ogden, aged 21 of Chorley, Lancashire, stepped in front of the train, which was travelling at up to 50mph and raised his arm, forcing the driver to emergency brake. The driver of the Manchester Airport to Blackpool service thought he had hit the defendant, Preston Crown Court was told. Since the offence Ogden has written a letter of apology to the train driver, but the judge said that although he had shown remorse, such behaviour could not be tolerated. Insp Gary Jones of British Transport Police (BTP) said: "This was a shocking case of somebody blatantly showing off to his friends that could so easily have ended in tragedy. The driver genuinely thought he had struck the man and was left extremely traumatised. I hope that people will look at this sentence and recognise that trespassing on the railway is not a game."

Level crossing reform package



Australia's transport ministers have voted unanimously to approve a national rail reform package, which provides for joint audits of the arrangements to control risks at level crossings by highway and rail authorities. The new model legislation to be adopted by the states and territories has been developed by the by the National

Transport Commission (NTC) and extends to private level crossings where the owner of the private right of way will also be required to work with the rail authority., require rail operators, rail infrastructure managers, road authorities and the owners/managers of private roads to jointly identify, assess and manage safety risks at level crossings and other road-rail interfaces. The initiative complements existing government programs to improve level crossing protection and educate road users.

Polish lessons for police

A neighbourhood policing team is being given lessons in Polish to help them deal with migrant workers. Hyndburn Community Safety Partnership in Lancashire is funding the scheme in which officers will have 10 lessons to learn basic Polish phrases. A working group has also been set up to develop ways of engaging with the Polish community in a bid to strengthen community relations.

£3m youth cash boost

Youth projects in Scotland are to receive a £3m cash boost from the proceeds of crime. The Scottish government's CashBack for Communities scheme is to provide funding for projects that support young people who are involved, or at risk from violence, alcohol, drugs or anti-social behaviour. Youth drop-in services and residential, environmental and outdoor activities will get a share of the cash with youth organisations and projects throughout Scotland able to apply for a share of the money, administered by national youth work agency, YouthLink Scotland.

Youth kits for police

Neighbourhood policing kits are being introduced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to help officers prevent young people from offending. The kits are to contain advice on situations that front line officers may find themselves in so they can refer to ACPO guidance easily. One of the aims of the toolkit is for police to get better acquainted with government youth policy and encourage a greater focus on crime prevention, including sharing information about young people at risk of offending with other agencies. The toolkits are being piloted in four police areas in London and Essex and are a central strand of ACPO's youth crime prevention strategy.

Get ready to rumble...

Rumble strips are being installed at 180 level crossings in the state of Victoria, Australia, providing drivers with audible, visual and physical warnings in a bid to improve safety. Locations for upgrades have been determined following a rigorous analysis including traffic volumes, heavy vehicle patronage and road and train speed limits. The rumble strips will be painted with reflective paint to enhance visibility, and their design tested to ensure they are suitable for all road vehicles, including motor-cycles.

Keep in touch...

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