

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.

Transport Police PCSO recognised

British Transport Police PCSO Dan Luczak of the West Midlands neighbourhood policing team was short listed as Community Support Officer of the Year in prestigious national policing awards organised by Jane's Police Review. The annual awards highlight the work of 'bobbies on the beat' who are not attached to high-profile units or squads and who rarely make the headlines. Nominees for the five award categories are judged by a high-profile panel, which looks for examples of excellent practice that has made a real difference to the lives of the communities these officers serve. Dan was recognised for his energy, enthusiasm and proactivity in tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder.

New powers for PCSOs

CSP Police Community Support Officers are getting new powers to give them a more prominent role in neighbourhood policing. From December 1 a set of 20 standard powers for PCSOs take effect in all police forces with the aim of ensuring their minimum responsibilities are consistent across the country in their drive to deal with day-to-day neighbourhood policing and low-level anti-social behaviour. These powers will include the right to:

- Confiscate alcohol in public places
- Issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for anti-social behaviour
- Seize drugs

In addition PCSOs will also be able to draw on further powers at their discretion of their chief constable. These can include the right to:

- Detain people suspected of offences
- Issue FPNs for disorder, including graffiti
- Enforce byelaws
- Deal with begging
- Search those suspected of carrying dangerous items

The list of standard powers aims to strike an appropriate balance between the need to maintain the largely non-confrontational, community engagement role of the PCSO and the need to ensure that all PCSOs are provided with a robust set of powers that will allow them to contribute more effectively to deal with neighbourhood policing and deal with low-level disorder and anti-social behaviour. In addition to the standard powers, a new minimum age of 18 for PCSOs is being set and there will be common equipment and uniforms. The Home Office will now introduce a common code of practice for all forces. First introduced in 2002, PCSOs are trained and equipped to perform a number of tasks formerly carried out by full police officers. Their presence frees up police officers to focus on other work and they also provide a valuable connection to people in the community. There are now 16,000 PCSOs working in England and Wales. To view the full list of standard powers go to: www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk under 'publications.'

Criminal justice plan

A new three-year strategy for managing criminal justice in England and Wales is to be rolled out from 2008. The Criminal Justice System Strategic Plan 2008-2011 will build on previous work to deliver a justice system which:

- Is effective in bringing offences to justice
- Engages the public and inspires confidence
- Puts the needs of victims at its heart
- Has simple and efficient processes

To achieve this criminal justice services - police, prosecution, courts, probation, prison and youth justice services - will be urged to work more closely together through their Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) and other local partnerships to deliver. This work will also support the government's wider crime reduction and re-offending strategies to make communities safer as set out in its new crime strategy - Cutting Crime - A new partnership 2008-2011.

For more information go to:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/criminaljusticesystem



New youth taskforce

A new Youth Taskforce has been established by the government to focus on delivering positive outcomes for young people - including steps to prevent them getting into trouble and encouraging them to have respect for their community. Commitments in the Respect Action Plan published in January 2006, including setting up a national network of Family Intervention Projects to change the behaviour of the most anti-social families, alongside rolling out parenting advice across the country, have been met and the Taskforce will now use its base in the new Department for Children, Schools and Families to broaden its efforts by ensuring there are activities for all young people to fulfill their potential. They will be part of the delivery arm for the government's strategy for youngsters 'Aiming High for Young People' published in July. But the move has been condemned by local authority practitioners who say creating a youth taskforce out of the Respect Action Plan demonises youngsters as it infers anti-social behaviour is solely the province of young people. At a community safety conference 'Safer and Stronger Communities: Protecting the Public, Securing our Future' held in London, delegates attacked the move and urged the government to re-think its approach. Meanwhile on-going funding of up to £18 million over the next three years will also be provided to sustain the recently established network of 53 Family Intervention Projects. The Respect Taskforce's work on preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour will continue but will come under the new Youth Taskforce underlining the importance of young people. The government says it remains committed to tackling anti-social behaviour, and the new

teams will continue to work closely with specialist teams in the Home Office and other government departments.

No cash for bomb victims

The government has been accused of axing support for traumatised survivors of the London bombings. People left psychologically scarred by their experiences during the 2005 blasts have been told they no longer qualify for priority help and should go to their doctor instead.

Funding has been withdrawn from the Trauma Response Programme, which was set up two years ago to help those suffering from post-traumatic stress such as flashbacks, nightmares and anxiety. It means that 7/7 patients will no longer get priority treatment and will have to join health service waiting lists, which in some areas can be more than a year long.

At least 900 people were treated under the programme.

A report on the programme's performance is to be published in December. It has concluded that four out of five patients benefited from the "psychological first aid" offered by the programme after suffering from travel phobia and depression as a result of seeing dead and maimed people in the bombings. The report is set to recommend that the National Health Service (NHS) should fund a network of psychologists who would be on standby to help survivors of future disasters or major incidents.

A Department of Health spokesman said although the programme has come to an end, all those still in need of help would still receive it through the NHS.

Police focus on high speed rail link

British Transport Police officers are at the forefront of policing Britain's new high-speed rail line linking the

country with the rest of Europe.

As Eurostar transferred operations to the High Speed line (HS1) to a huge international fanfare, policing teams were in place to help keep passengers and staff safe and protect the line of route.

Four Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) based at the international stations at St Pancras, Ebbsfleet, Stratford (from 2009) and Ashford cover the whole of the 68-mile high speed line. A total of 75 police officers and PCSOs are operating 24 hours a day and this will rise to 100 when Stratford opens in 2009. The HS1 teams have their own dedicated intelligence cell based at Ebbsfleet as well as Special Branch and CID support. As part of the project BTP has been liaising with the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), HM Revenue and Customs, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the French and Belgian police authorities.

BTP is providing a complete policing package to the new high-speed neighbourhood from counter terrorism policing to dealing with crime, anti-social behaviour and events.

The high speed line police commander, Chief Insp Jeff Boothe said: "This is BTP's international neighbourhood. We have been part of this project since the start and now is the chance to translate all we have learned into practice. The key to our success will be the relationships we build with our partners in the rail industry, in local police forces and local communities. It's a very exciting time for us and our neighbourhood policing teams are absolutely committed to providing a world class policing service for this world class railway."

Film giant urged to take rail suicide action

America's freight railroads have joined one of the country's leading suicide prevention groups in urging Warner Bros. to help prevent suicides on railway lines. A new film, "Rails and Ties" portrays the heartbreaking story of a woman who kills herself on the railway in view of her son who then seeks out the train driver to confront him.

Now the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA) have joined forces to urge Warner Bros. to display a national suicide hotline number as part of the introduction to the film in cinemas and when the film is produced in DVD format.

Improved safety has helped reduce vehicle-related crossing fatalities to 365 in 2006 from 1,115 30 years ago, but the number of pedestrian deaths has fluctuated during that period. Last year 525 pedestrians died on the tracks in the US, up from 373 in 1976. However, no firm numbers exist on how many of those are suicides.

"The railroad industry and the suicide prevention community are working together to reduce the number of suicides not only on the railroads but across the nation," said Ed Hamberger, president and chief executive officer of the AAR.

The US approach mirrors that adopted by the UK rail industry which pro-actively seeks to encourage responsible depiction of the railway among film makers and photographers. Recent fashion shots for a national store chain showing models on railway lines has attracted widespread condemnation in the industry, as did the 2004 film "Millions" made by Pathe Pictures which showed a young boy building a den next to railway lines. To view the letter sent by AAR and SPAN USA to Warner Bros go to www.aar.org/AAR_SPAN_LTR_TO_WB_RT.pdf

Intelligent audit

CSP has recently supported Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey on an audit assignment for the Railway Safety Commission of Ireland (RSC). The audit, completed in November

2007, saw CSP's Aidan Nelson working as the lead auditor for a statutory RSC audit of Irish rail operators. The audit was undertaken by a team of senior professionals covering safety management systems, competence management, railway operations, infrastructure engineering disciplines and traction and rolling stock. The audit team used an integrated structured interview approach to generate verifiable evidence of controls in place. To learn more of the approach adopted contact david.marsden@ghd.com.au or aidannelson@comsafetypartners.com

Cross-border learning

November 2007 saw those responsible for regulating safety on Ireland's railways both north and south of the border gathering for a staff development day. The Dublin based Railway Safety Commission organised the event which featured substantial input from CSP who led discussions on the topics of risk arising at level crossings and decision making where safety is a factor to be considered. Contact aidannelson@comsafetypartners.com for more information.

Crucial Crew gangbusters

A new Crucial Crew game has been given the go-ahead as part of an initiative to combat gang-related crime in inner cities. The game is being funded through Greater Manchester Police for the Manchester Multi-Agency Gangs Strategy (MMAGS), which operates in some of the city's most notorious areas for street gangs - Moss Side, Hulme and Longsight. Before MMAGS started in 2001 about 60% of shootings in Manchester were gang-related and people in some southern areas of the city were 140 times more likely to be shot, according to a Home Office report. MMAGS brings together police, probation officers, youth workers and education officers to tackle the issues. The Crucial Crew initiative is the latest tool to be brought into the partnership and will be used to target children in primary schools to help them get early messages that involvement in gang culture can lead to serious crime and imprisonment.

The new game is set to be launched in spring 2008 and will be available on CD and online at www.crucial-crew.org

- Crucial Crew - sometimes known as junior citizen or citizenship courses - are a series of safety-related workshops held in UK schools for children aged 8-11 to reinforce personal safety messages. A number of interactive on-line games have been developed to supplement the workshops tackling issues such as railway safety, bus travel, fire safety, drink and drugs, electricity and gas safety etc.

Police youth strategy

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is set to agree a new youth strategy in December. New guidance, 'It's Never Too Early, It's Never Too Late' has been put together by ACPO's youth issues group to help police work with young people. The guidance focuses on four themes:

- Engaging with young people
- Children and young people as victims and witnesses
- Children and young people at risk of offending
- Children and young people who offend

The strategy also contains six sections that tie into the four themes, including using ACPO's neighbourhood policing youth toolkit to reduce the use of police jargon. Chief constables will discuss the strategy when they meet on December 5.

BTP fix it for Jimmy

British Transport Police officers have reunited TV personality Sir Jimmy Savile with his glasses after they snatched from his face by a woman thief. Sir Jimmy aged 81, had his trademark pink tinted specs stolen by a woman in her 20s as he left a Leeds city centre hotel close to the railway station. The officers tracked down the glasses in a nightclub and returned them to the veteran DJ and presenter. Sir Jimmy said the officers were "terrific" as they had gone out of their way to hunt down the specs.

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