

Policing pledge publicity campaign

An advertising campaign is being launched to let people know what rights they have under the national policing pledge.

Television, radio, press and online adverts will be run as part of the next phase of the pledge campaign, which aims to let people know what they can expect from their local police force. Attention will be focused on two aspects of the pledge, which research has shown people are not as aware of. They are that:

- Neighbourhood policing teams spend 80 per cent of their time on the beat in their local area
- People can make an appointment to see their local police about non-emergency problems at a time that suits them, and within 48 hours

More than half of the public think they would have to wait more than 48 hours for an appointment with a police officer to discuss a non emergency matter, and only three per cent of people think local police spend more than 75 per cent of their time on the beat in their area.

The research also found that people would like more information on how to contact their local police and other crime and anti-social behaviour services in their area. As a result leaflets with this information will be delivered to more than six million households in 60 areas across the country.

The information will also be available on a new crime and justice section on the Directgov website, <http://localcrime.direct.gov.uk>.

The new section will include the facility to look up people's local neighbourhood policing team,

victim support services and nearest court. It will also help people find crime statistics for area, and nominate projects for offenders doing community payback.

The policing pledge is a set of promises from the police to the public about the services they provide. All 43 police forces in England and Wales along with British Transport Police, have signed up to keep these promises. To see the new policing pledge adverts go to

www.youtube.com/ukhomeoffice#p/u/0/YqqSSw-9mFI and

www.youtube.com/ukhomeoffice#p/u/1/uDRfo1sTX3g

FIPs reduce ASB, says research

Family intervention projects (FIPs), which involve working with some of Britain's most challenging families, are significantly reducing anti-social behaviour, according to new research.

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) has been collating comprehensive data on all families referred to FIPs since 2007 and results for the 699 families that have so far completed the project show "overwhelmingly positive" improvements across a wide range of measures.

As a result of the FIPs:

- Families with no involvement in anti-social behaviour increased from 10% to 66%
- Families with four or more anti-social behaviour problems declined from 46% to 8% - an 87% reduction
- Families facing one or more housing enforcement actions dropped from 47% to 15%, a cut of 68%

In addition, families with education and learning problems dropped from 76% to 47%, while families experiencing truancy, exclusion and bad behaviour at school reduced from 56% to 25%, a drop of 55%.

Funding to roll out FIPs, targeting families involved in persistent anti-social behaviour was announced in 2006. Since then the scheme has been steadily expanded in recognition of studies that say tackling family issues at source is a key method of targeting crime.

FIPs tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, youth crime, school absenteeism, drug and alcohol addition, domestic violence, poor mental health and inter-generational disadvantage. Families are supported by a dedicated key worker who co-ordinates a multi-agency package of support and works directly with family members to help them overcome problems.

Youth crime punishments – let the people decide!

More communities affected by youth crime and anti-social behaviour will, for the first time, have their say in how young offenders are punished and forced to make amends to their local neighbourhood.

Youth Offending Teams across North West England will take part in the first official programme - Making Good - allowing members of the public to propose local work for young offenders. If the scheme, developed by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), proves to be successful it will be rolled-out across the country from early next year.

Types of projects to be put forward could range from cleaning graffiti and repairing vandalised public furniture, to work in local libraries and charity work.

Making Good will form part of the government's new youth sentencing system - the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) – which came into effect on November 30 to further tackle the underlying causes of youth crime and make neighbourhoods safer and better places to live.

The YRO provides judges and magistrates with a choice of 18 rigorous options from which they will be able to create a punishment specifically designed to deal with the individual circumstances of the young offender before them and so help them turn their backs on crime.

It puts forward a range of sentencing options that will effectively punish and rehabilitate young people, including intensive fostering, intensive surveillance and supervision requirements, electronic monitoring, curfews, the required attendance of substance abuse or mental health programmes as well as undertaking tough community work and reparation. Custody will continue to be available to punish those who commit the most serious offences or who are persistent offenders.

The community payback element of YROs, which will see young offenders scrubbing off graffiti and repairing the damage wrought by vandals in cities, towns and villages across the country, not only gives offenders a hard lesson through tough punishment, but also brings a benefit to local communities who have been affected.

Until January 31 public suggestions will be considered and implemented where possible by 18 youth offending teams across the North West including in Blackburn, Blackpool, Bury, Halton and Warrington, Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, St Helens, Salford, Sefton, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan and Wirral. The programme will be rolled out across England and Wales in early 2010.

Tilley Awards 2010

The Home Office is seeking volunteers to take part in the 2010 Tilley Awards. The awards, set up by the Home Office in 1999, celebrate local initiatives that can demonstrate three things:

- The use of a problem-solving model
- Partnership working
- Measurable impact on crime reduction or community safety issues

The awards focus on the SARA problem solving approach - Scanning for problems that are a priority for the local community; Analysing available evidence sources such as local crime data, local intelligence obtained from strategic and delivery partners and feedback from the local community; Developing the best Response to address the problem, and Assessing the impact of that response.

The awards are named after Prof Nick Tilley, who devised the SARA model. He is a Visiting Professor at the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College London. He is also Professor of Sociology at Nottingham Trent University and

a consultant to the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate at the Home Office.

Email:

Darren.kristiansen@homeoffice.gov.uk providing a telephone number, organisation and details of the Government Office area within which you are based if you are interested in the awards.

Youngsters act as anti-knife ambassadors

A National Youth Task Force made up of 27 young people has been set up to promote the UK government's for It Doesn't Have To Happen (IDHTH) anti-knife campaign.

A major part of the campaign focuses on youth engagement and the youngsters will help to spread IDHTH in their local communities and on the campaign's Bebo site. As regional ambassadors, they undertake tasks to extend the reach of the campaign and act as creative consultants and editors of the campaign site.

The Youth Task Force has been handpicked through local youth organisations and Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) partners in London, Luton, Nottingham, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Preston, Leeds, Manchester and Bristol. Members are 14 - 20 years old and have experiences of knife crime in their area. Crucially, they are keen to do something to fight knife crime, and are committed to the campaign's aims.

The task force is managed by specialist agency Uproar, which has an in-house youth team working on the campaign. Go to www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/stopknifecrime/ for more information on the campaign.

Highlights of Not In My Neighbourhood Week

Hundreds of activities involving communities and local partnerships took part in this year's Not in My Neighbourhood Week across England and Wales.

Approximately 300 local partners, local police, neighbourhood watch schemes and voluntary groups took part with the aim of highlighting the work they do to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Local events included:

- The launch of a crime reduction guide in Manchester
- High visibility patrols
- Removal of graffiti
- Dealing with street drinking issues
- Execution of warrants by the Courts Service
- Truancy Sweeps
- Family activity events including firework displays
- Local clean-ups involving the Community Payback scheme

In addition, officers from British Transport Police (BTP) took part in several events around Britain's railway network, linking with local police and partners as well as railway businesses. Activities included on-train patrols, property marking, crime reduction surgeries and knife arch operations. The BTP involvement in the NIMNW initiative highlighted that the railway is part of the wider community and its crime reduction and reassurance activities cannot be seen in isolation of what goes on in the wider community.

CDRP survey

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and the Home Office have jointly commissioned the Office for Public Management (OPM) to carry out a survey of all crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) in England.

The survey follows on from and builds upon the previous Community Safety Capacity Survey, undertaken during February 2009. The findings from this earlier survey have been used to inform support programme for CDRPs and CSPs across the country, and have proved invaluable to IDeA in ensuring the solutions central agencies devise for local agencies are in the format required by partnerships. The survey will help inform the Home Office's work in reviewing its crime strategy and is intended to provide a valuable source of information not only about the capacity of local CDRPs, but also about the challenges being faced and the effectiveness of support arrangements.

The survey will explore the structure of CDRPs as well as the roles played by partner agencies in delivering the safer communities agenda. The findings will be shared with the National Police Improvement Agency and Local Government Association.

Contact

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Vandalism up on rail network

German railways have signalled a sharp rise in cases of vandalism and efforts are now being stepped up to tackle crime on the network.

During 2009, 39,078 offences were recorded, a 9% increase on 2008, at a cost so far of 50 million Euros.

Gerd Becht, Board Member of Deutsche Bahn (DB) and Head of Security, said: "Crime and vandalism prevention forms a core part of the company's social responsibility. There is a general consensus among experts to say that only a reinforcement of preventive measures can reverse this trend." DB has decided to run a "prevention train" comprising of four thematic coaches and offering an educational tour by DB experts and police.

SOCA to be more accountable?

The Commons Home Affairs Committee has recommended that the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) should be made more accountable.

The committee's latest report highlights that it interacts with SOCA and its officers frequently in the course of its inquiries and has been impressed by their work, even though members understand that the agency is working on complicated, sensitive cases that take time to resolve.

But it concludes that the public expect evidence of results, and the recovery of criminal assets is an easy way to measure results and justify the Agency's significant budget. As a result, it may be time for SOCA to have some measurable targets along with some mechanism for day-to-day accountability of the agency, which for obvious, operational reasons is less transparent than other police services

One idea being considered is to create a police authority to specifically oversee SOCA's work.