

# 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.

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## 'Level Up' project

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) have joined forces and SOCA Street Level Up project to reduce drug supply to run a project aimed at tackling the supply of illegal drugs in England and Wales. The 'Street Level Up' (SLU) project concentrates on identifying the supply of drugs to key sites including Bristol, Brighton and Liverpool. It is designed to make a sustained impact on the illicit drugs trade and the criminals involved, and to reduce the harm it causes to people and communities. The term 'street level dealing' includes open dealing on the street and dealing from business or residential premises.

## Hate crime victims receive more support

A new UK action plan has been launched that seeks to reduce hate crime, support hate crime victims and bring more offenders to justice.

The Hate Crime Action Plan aims to increase victims' confidence in the justice system and to encourage more people to report such crimes. The government says this will be done by:

- Giving local partnerships more advice on how to deal with hate crime and set up their own action plans to tackle hate crime in their area
- Making sure the measures to help support vulnerable and intimidated witnesses give evidence in court are more widely used
- Providing more help for probation staff to improve the management of hate crime offenders
- Setting new investigating and recording standards for the police

Drew Harris, Assistant Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) lead on hate crime, said: "We know that many hate crimes still go un-reported and it is essential that victims have both the confidence and the opportunity to report such crimes, either directly to the police or through a third party. A full understanding of the nature and extent of the problem will allow us and our partners to help protect people from the harm caused by hate crime."

Rose Simkins, Chief Executive of Stop Hate UK, has welcomed the action plan, saying: "A good deal has been achieved in recent years, but this plan acknowledges there is still work to be done to help victims to report hate crime and receive support, and to bring more offenders to justice."

Go to [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hate-crime-action-plan/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/hate-crime-action-plan/) for more information.

## Community payback keeps Britain tidy

Britain's Probation Service is teaming up with Keep Britain Tidy for this year's 'Big Tidy Up' in which offenders on Community Payback are cleaning up areas of England nominated by new Tidy Up Champions.

The 11 champions are putting offenders to work to tidy up areas of the community that will make a real difference to the lives of those living and working in the chosen area. The work with Keep Britain Tidy follows a public vote in which members of the public were encouraged to nominate and 'have their say' on projects they want to see made over by offenders in their area. This is part of the government's ongoing 'Justice Seen Justice Done' Campaign to make justice more visible.

Keep Britain Tidy launched the Big Tidy Up last year and has so far seen 15,000 clean-ups take place nationwide with a staggering 50,000 bags of rubbish being collected. But there is more to be done with the long-term goal of the campaign to see 500,000 bags of litter collected across England.

Community Payback aims to increase public awareness of the work done by offenders as punishment and to make reparation for their crimes. The introduction of high-visibility orange jackets in December last year ensures that the public can see that justice is being done and that offenders are making amends for their crimes in the community.





Victim Focus Scheme. There is also a provision for personal and social legal advice to be provided to bereaved families through a helpline.

## Rail vandalism problem 'little understood'

A research report on vandalism has found that previous methods aimed at reducing the problem in the Australian rail industry has been unsuccessful.

The Co-operative Research Centres Programme (CRC) for Rail Innovation has undertaken a comprehensive review of national and international studies on social and non-technical deterrents for vandalism and identified best practice for reducing vandalism and graffiti on rail property in Australia.

The report emphasises the need for a multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach to tackle the "little understood" problem.

CRC chief executive David George said: "It is not clear whether the lack of success of past attempts to reduce vandalism is due to poor implementation or poor follow-up analysis."

"While many methods mentioned in Australian literature have not been effective, this review discussed how these methods could be employed in a strategic and integrated way to produce the desired results."

The report notes a number of successful strategies that have been undertaken in other countries that serve as exemplars of best practices, some of which are missing in the Australian context, added Mr George.

The report has identified 10 short-term recommendations and proposes an over-arching long-term research direction to minimise and

prevent graffiti and vandalism on Australian railways. As an example, it suggests Geographical Information Systems (GIS) being employed to assist in providing a detailed visual overview of prime targets, tag trails and known areas where gangs choose to congregate.

The CRC aims to work with passenger transport rail operators to review options in taking forward the issue and with the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), hold a meeting with key industry stakeholders during October to discuss future directions for the rail industry in addressing the problem. Go to [www.railcrc.net.au](http://www.railcrc.net.au) for more information.

## Violent crime down as prison rates drop

Violent crime in the United States fell in 2008 coinciding with a drop in the number of people jailed according to new figures.

The analysis, by the Justice Policy Institute and based on the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, shows that violent crime fell by 1.9% and property crimes by 0.8%. The Washington DC-based think tank, says the results bolster the case for a connection between effective alternatives to locking people up and public safety.

"Reducing incarceration rates is not only fiscally responsible, it is also the humane thing to do," said Tracy Velázquez, executive director of the Justice Policy Institute. "This report shows that we can preserve public safety while expanding the use of community supervision and improving the systems that help people be successful, including treatment, housing, and job services."

While jails and prison populations continue to grow, the growth rate slowed in 2008, coinciding with the drop in crime. From 2007-2008, violent crime fell 1.9 percent while the growth rates of prisons and jails slowed, suggesting that lowering the number of people imprisoned can be an effective way to increase public safety.

"This data also confirms that increasing incarceration does not necessarily mean improvements in public safety. We should not starve our education and human service budgets to grow jails and prisons," Ms Velázquez added. "Focusing on increasing investments in people and communities is what will ensure that these crime numbers continue to drop."

Go to [www.justicepolicy.org](http://www.justicepolicy.org) for a more in-depth analysis of crime trends and information on effective public safety practices.

## Witnesses need confidence

The number of violent street attacks can be reduced if more witnesses are given the confidence that they can make a difference and not 'walk on by' says new charity Witness Confident.

The charity says that last year complete strangers attacked people some 850,000 times, and in eight out of every 10 cases the assault went unreported or unresolved and the attacker was left to carry on regardless.

Witness Confident will campaign that the criminal justice system should recognise witnesses as the eyes and ears of the community. It also sets out guidance for people who witness street crime on how they can engage with the criminal justice system with minimum frustration. Go to [www.witnessconfident.org](http://www.witnessconfident.org) for more information about the charity and its aims.

## Alcohol and drinking ban guides

The Home Office has produced a practical guide for preventing and dealing with alcohol related problems. It is said to be essential reference for all those responsible for, and with an interest in, tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder. It also provides clear and comprehensive guidance to the tools and powers available to enforcement authorities and provides examples of good practice, specimen forms and decision-making flowcharts. A digital, interactive version of the guide will be available on-line shortly. In the meantime go to [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk) for more information.

Guidance has also been produced as a single point of reference on Drinking Banning Orders (DBOs or 'booze ASBOs') for the police and local authorities, magistrates and approved course providers. It provides comprehensive information regarding the seeking, making and enforcement of a DBO, as well as covering matters relating to the recipient's attendance of an approved course.

Go to [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dbo002a.pdf](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dbo002a.pdf) to download a copy of the guidance.

DBOs were introduced at the beginning of September to address an individual's alcohol misuse behaviour and protect others and their property from such behaviour. Alcohol misuse, and particularly that associated with anti-social and disorderly behaviour, is a significant concern for many people in communities. Such alcohol misuse behaviour is a strong contributory factor associated with a wide range of crimes or disorderly behaviour that can include public order offences, criminal damage, minor and

serious assaults, violent offences and traffic offences.

## City-wide drink ban?

The city of Nottingham could become the first place in England and Wales to totally ban on-street drinking.

The city council is looking to see if it can introduce by-laws making it illegal to drink alcohol on every city street and in every city park or open space. The Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007, which comes into force next year, allows councils to introduce drink bans without having to seek permission from central government.

The city already has three zones where bans are in place but the council says wider restrictions would be more effective in reducing alcohol related crime and disorder. The current zones use Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) where drinkers face fines of up to £500 if they refuse to stop drinking when asked to do so.

The council says the move is targeted at street drinkers, aggressive beggars and those displaying loutish behaviour and not, for example, families enjoying alcohol responsibly while having a picnic in a park.

## Advice on tackling youth crime

Practical advice for police in tackling youth crime has been produced by the Home Office to share effective practice from the government's Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP).

It is hoped the guide will be a useful resource for police forces and partner agencies who, although they might not be one of the forces involved in TKAP, are working to understand their knife crime

problem and develop initiatives to reduce the harm caused by youth knife crime.

It will also be of interest to those who have been involved in TKAP since June 2008 or those who joined the second phase of TKAP in April 2009 when the programme was extended to cover 16 force areas.

Some of the work captured in the first phase of TKAP has been captured in the guide highlighting activity to engage young people, deliver innovative interventions to prevent knife crime, and to implement tough, targeted enforcement activity.

Go to [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/youth/youth087.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/youth/youth087.htm) to download the guide.

## Tough action on burglars and robbers

The UK government has announced plans to provide tough action in 35 areas across the country that are facing challenges in handling burglary and robbery. The Vigilance Programme will help deliver pre-emptive support, training and additional resources to the areas with a programme of support lasting for a year before being reviewed. The areas are: Barking & Dagenham, Basildon, Bexley, Bolton, Bradford, Bromley, Calderdale, Cambridge, Central Bedfordshire, City of Westminster, Croydon, Derby, Doncaster, Enfield, Havering, Kirklees, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Merton, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Redbridge, Salford, Sheffield, Stockport, Southend, Tameside, Trafford, Waltham Forest, Wycombe and York.