

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.

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

Have a say on Community Payback

A new campaign that explains how the public can have their say on the work offenders carry out on Community Payback has been launched by the UK Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

In 54 Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Areas across the country, the public will for the first time be able to vote through the government's citizens' information website Directgov on what physical work offenders should carry out. The scheme receiving the most votes will be undertaken first by offenders carrying out Community Payback, which the government says represents a real and distinct choice for the public.

The scheme will be promoted in local newspapers and on local radio and information will be provided on how, across the country, the public can suggest other projects offenders should undertake throughout the year. These could include renovating community centres, clearing undergrowth and cleaning off graffiti for local communities.

Giving the public a say on Community Payback is the next stage in the government's Justice Seen, Justice Done campaign launched in March to address public concerns about crime and justice.

Branded high-visibility jackets were launched in December last year for offenders to wear whilst carrying out work on Community Payback. The roll-out of the new jackets across England and Wales built on a recommendation from Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Adviser Louise Casey's review, 'Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime', published in June last year outlining the importance of Justice Seen, Justice Done.

Every year more than 55,000 criminals receive Community Payback, carrying out more than six million hours of physical unpaid work on behalf of their communities to payback for their crimes. However, more often than not the public say they do not know about it or know how they can have a say on what offenders do. A recent poll of 1,000 people conducted by Ipsos MORI found 74% have not heard of Community Payback in their local area and only around 5% of people know that schemes can be nominated. Once explained, top preferences for Community Payback were cleaning streets (57%) and removing graffiti (44%).

Funding of £6.8 million is available to support the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Areas in 2008/09 and 2009/10.



Areas were invited to bid to become Pioneer Areas on the basis of a variety of data including deprivation, population size and crime information. But equally important was their determination to work with local communities to address local concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and justice.

The Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Pioneer Areas are: Barking & Dagenham, Barnsley, Birmingham, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bradford,

Brent, Bristol, Caerphilly, Camden, Cardiff, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hackney, Halton, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees, Knowsley, Lambeth, Leicester, Lewisham, Liverpool and Luton.

Other areas are: Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, Newham, Newport, North East Lincolnshire, Northampton, Nottingham, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Oldham, Peterborough, Preston, Redcar & Cleveland, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sheffield, Slough, South Tyneside, Southampton,

St. Helens, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Swansea, Tameside, Thanet, Tower Hamlets, Wakefield, Walsall, Waltham Forest and Wolverhampton.

- To vote on the priority of projects in pioneer areas and suggest projects across areas in England and Wales go to:

www.communitypayback.direct.gov.uk. Voting closes on April 24, 2009. The winning projects will be announced in June.

Justice Seen, Justice Done

A new campaign has launched to ensure that everybody knows the level of service they should expect from any police force in England and Wales.



The campaign, which includes radio and print advertisements, highlights the set of promises outlined in the Policing Pledge, which has been introduced following recommendations in the independent policing review conducted by former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, and published last year.

The pledge, which began to roll out in December, and to which all 43 geographical police forces and the national force, British Transport Police have committed, gives people an unprecedented say in how their communities are policed.

It allows them to hold their local police to account to ensure they receive the level of service they expect. It is designed to bring confidence to communities in their local force, by providing the same level of police service throughout

the country, while also prioritising areas local residents consider to be most important.

Research shows that currently, only 47% of people know what services they are entitled to from their local police.

There is also a new number people can text to get the phone number for their local neighbourhood policing team and their police force non-emergency number.

Members of the public are invited to text 'PLEDGE' followed by their postcode to 66101 to receive the details about their own local team.

CAAs go live

The introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework on April 1 reflects a new era of public service partnership working, according to government.

It allows people to hold their local public services to account for the differences they are making to the quality of life wherever they live.

CAA represents a fundamental shift in emphasis towards subjects people care about deeply, such as crime and safety, which are not delivered as a single body but by a number of partners looking to achieve the same goal.

Six independent inspectorates – the Audit Commission, the new Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation, and Ofsted, the schools inspection service – are from April 1 working together to gather information and make joint assessments about public services in 152 Local Area Agreement (LAA) areas in England.

The role of CAA is to give an independent assessment of local public services and focus on how well those services, working together, are achieving improvement and progressing towards long-term objectives.

At its heart is a new area assessment in which the inspectorates will provide their joint view on the short, medium and long-term prospects for better results for local people.

This will be linked to assessments of performance and value for money provided by the individual public bodies and will be carried out by the relevant inspectorates.

These will be published on a new website in November this year and will describe how the health, wealth and safety of people in each area are developing. The area assessments will not be scored but will highlight particular successes as well as flagging up where services are failing to deliver.

The starting point will be priorities set out in LAAs, alongside sustainable community strategies, in recognition that what matters locally varies from place to place.

CAA recognises the importance of effective partnership working, including working through formal arrangements such as crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs), and will reflect how these, as well as less formal joint working arrangements are improving the quality of life for local people. To learn more about CAAs go to www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa for more information.

'Reclaim the streets', says think tank

Police officers should be instructed to reclaim the streets for the law-abiding majority by waging a concerted campaign against anti-social behaviour, according to a new report.

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) report, produced by a working group chaired by Ray Mallon – an elected mayor and former police chief in Middlesbrough, UK who courted controversy for his hard-hitting, zero-tolerance style of policing - says the public regard confronting rowdy and abusive behaviour as the top priority for law enforcement officers.

legitimate publicity on grieving families. These include not using pictures of victims supplied from social networking sites without the family's consent and publishing helpline numbers for charities working with people with suicidal feelings. It also warns against the republication of photographs of previous suicide victims each time a new death occurs.

The guidance is also of relevance to railway suicides as there is evidence of 'copycat' suicides in locations where previous incidents have been given intensive media prominence. And research conducted in Austria in 1976 – still considered by experts to be of relevance in informing the railway suicide debate – showed that where the prominence of media coverage was substantially reduced suicides on rail infrastructure dropped by 76%.

The new guidance has been welcomed by leading charity Samaritans and Papyrus, a charity addressing suicides in young people.

Survey highlights knife and gun crime concerns

A survey of more than 1,700 children and young people by children's organisation 11 MILLION and research body You Gov has revealed the level of concern children and young people have over gun and knife crime.

More than one in six of those aged eight to 17 say they believe knife crime is a problem in their area – and this more than doubles to 36 per cent of young people from London.

Seven per cent say gun crime is an issue where they live – and this rises to 18 per cent of young people from lower socio-economic groups in Manchester. But the anonymous poll also shows that only two per cent of those aged 12 to 17 actually carry a knife illegally, with fear or self-protection the most common reason given. And, of those 968 12 to 17 year olds questioned, only four respondents said they had been in possession of a gun illegally.

Young people also make a clear distinction between what they think the responses should be for possession of a knife, and possession of a gun, or use of a knife or gun.

For a young person caught carrying a knife, young people favoured non-custodial options, such as education about the risks, dangers and consequences, or curfews. But custody was seen as the best deterrent for those caught carrying a gun, and young people also wanted longer custodial sentences to deal with serious gun or knife offences.

In terms of relations with the police, more than 80 per cent of children and young people aged eight to 17 say they like the police – but less than half believe the police respect them.

The poll also reveals that the police are seen as good role models by a quarter of children and young people, and are trusted to give good advice about gun and knife crime, while joining the police is one of the top career choices.

Many also feel safer rather than under threat when they see police officers in their area.

But the percentage of young people who like the police decreases with age – 70 per cent of those aged 16 and 17 like the police, down from 90 per cent of those aged eight, nine, 10 and 11.

They also trust the police less the older they get, see others as better role models and think the police respect them less than younger children do.

On stop and search, there is some support among young people for more to be carried out to reduce gun and knife crime, and for more police to be on the streets to keep them safe.

But of those who had been stopped and searched, 39 per cent thought less of the police afterwards – while only nine per cent had a better view.

Multi-agency approach is best

Strategies to tackle gun and knife crime must be multi-agency and

focus on intervention, prevention and enforcement if they are to reduce the problem long term, a report from Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner for England has revealed.

Single interventions by agencies working in isolation have far less chance of success, according to the study undertaken by the independent Centre for Crime and Justice Studies.

The report looked at interventions that had been rigorously and independently assessed and evaluated within the last ten years, and then analysed what the evidence said about their effectiveness.

In terms of enforcement, the report suggests that 'hot spot' policing, which is targeted and intelligence-led, can make a short-term difference.

However, the report also points out that there is no evidence of longer-term benefit and that such tactics may have difficulty in winning and sustaining acceptance among communities.

The report also highlights approaches that evidence suggests do not work. Zero tolerance and deterrent approaches in the criminal justice system, such as mandatory or increased sentencing, do not appear to be effective in reducing violence among young people, while so-called shock tactics, such as taking young people on tours of prisons, have been shown to be ineffective – and can be counter-productive.

Clamping down on serious youth violence

An extra £5 million to tackle knife crime and increase targeted police action to tackle a minority of young people who commit serious violence, regardless of the weapon involved, has been announced by the UK government.

The new funding will be used to extend the government's Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) for another year and to include two new police force areas: Kent and Hampshire. Maintaining this targeted

approach to tackling knives and serious youth violence is part of the government's wider plan to crack down on the small minority of young people who commit violent crime.

Recently published NHS data for 2007/2008 (which pre-dates TKAP) showed an eight per cent reduction in the overall number of admissions to hospital for assault by sharp object. Provisional Home Office TKAP management information shows that since June 2008, police have conducted more than 150,000 stop and searches and seized 3,000 knives.

ASB in the pink

A residents' association in Nottinghamshire, UK has won funding to expand an innovative scheme to tackle anti-social behaviour said to deter young people with acne or spots from hanging around in groups.

Residents in Mansfield, working with housing association LHA, installed pink lighting in two underpasses leading on to their estate and have now won funding to install the pink lights in a third.

The project was developed in consultation with Nottinghamshire Police who recommended the new method after hearing it had been used to reduce anti-social behaviour outside a parade of shops in Lancashire.

Fluorescent pink lighting is commonly used by beauticians and skin specialists to examine blemishes and highlight acne, making it unflattering to stand under. The colour pink is also thought to have a calming affect and is seen as 'uncool' by some youths, so encouraging groups to move on.

The pink lights work in a similar way to ultraviolet lights, which are now a common feature in public lavatories to deter drug users.

But the National Youth Agency said young people have a right to congregate as most youngsters are law-abiding, and that the scheme will simply move the problem elsewhere.

New funding to tackle mobile phone crime

New funding of £250,000 has been made available to help police more swiftly identify stolen mobile phones. The scheme will see the Police National Computer (PNC) linked to the National Mobile Phone Register (NMPR) enabling frontline officers to quickly and easily check if a phone has been registered as stolen from its rightful owner.

The Home Office and National Mobile Phone Crime Unit have also been working with industry to build safeguards into new developments in M-Commerce – which will see mobile phones being used like debit cards – and are also developing a charter to ensure the roll-out of M-Commerce takes crime prevention into consideration. This is part of wider government action to ensure future developments in mobile phone technology include crime-prevention measures.

Tracking gun 'fingerprints' crackdown

A new state of the art £8 million national ballistics service to assist police in solving gun crimes has been officially opened by the Home Office.

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) provides a specialist 'CSI-style' analysis of all ballistics – effectively giving guns and bullets a 'fingerprint' that can be tracked. This means that police across the UK will be able to match guns to offenders in double quick time and trace which gun a bullet has been fired from when criminals are using it more than once.

NABIS will support the police to solve crimes where firearms have been used quickly, identify the few individuals who import, store and supply illegal firearms and track down the people involved in illegally converting or adapting firearms.

Since NABIS began work three months ago it has already linked over 100 incidents in which firearms have

been discharged and have received over 700 items for analysis.

Prison reform report

The Centre for Social Justice's Prison Reform Working Group - chaired by former high profile politician and prisoner Jonathan Aitken – has published a new strategy for reforming prisons and rehabilitating offenders.

The 276-page report, "Locked Up Potential" provides a comprehensive analysis of and 70 policy recommendations for the UK prison system. It details policy ideas for prison management and governance, overcrowding, mental health and substance abuse, prisoner's families, personal development through education, training, work and the arts, prisoners and their victims, resettlement, and three proposed new Acts of Parliament.

The three core recommendations of the report are:

- Localising the management of the prison system by abolishing the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and replacing it with a network of Community Prison and Rehabilitation Trusts (CPRTs).
- Scrapping the government's £1.2bn 'Titan' prison building programme for 'super jails' and reinvesting part of the budget to build five 'Mitson Academy' model prisons where the emphasis is said to be on a more reforming and positive structure.
- Revolutionising prison rehabilitation to reduce re-offending and the annual £12 billion it is said to cost.