

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

£10m boost for aspiring youngsters

Youngsters from 15 deprived areas across England are set to benefit from £10m of government cash.

The money has been awarded to projects as part of the Inspiring Communities initiative and will fund activities designed to raise the aspirations of deprived young people.

Activities include offering young people free visits to university campuses and colleges, taking part in Dragon's Den-style events, a community gardening project, a youth radio station and a volunteer mentoring programme.

The 15 areas are Barking and Dagenham, Barnsley, Blackburn with Darwen, Bolton, Bradford, Bristol, Cumbria, Kent, Lancashire, Manchester, Norfolk, North East Lincolnshire, Rotherham, South Tyneside and Stoke-on-Trent.

'Booze ASBOs' introduced

Drinking banning orders (DBOs) – dubbed as 'booze ASBOs' - have been introduced by the UK government in a bid to cut alcohol-related crime.

Alcohol misuse, and particularly that associated with anti-social and disorderly behaviour, is a significant concern for many people in the nation's 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 (can involve rowdy, threatening and abusive behaviour, disorderly groups of people and urinating in public)
- Criminal damage
- Minor and serious assaults
- Violent offences
- Traffic offences

DBOs are a new civil order that came into force on August 31 and are similar in their working to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and can be given for periods between two months and two years.

They can be applied for by either the police (including British Transport Police) or local authorities in England and Wales (referred to collectively in Home Office guidance as 'relevant authorities') against individuals aged 16 and over who are responsible for alcohol-related crime or disorder.

Relevant authorities can make an application to the courts for a DBO. The DBO is intended to deal with individuals who are involved in criminal and disorderly behaviour that is alcohol-related, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and nuisance. In particular, they are intended for use in cases where other early intervention approaches have not worked. DBOs could also be relevant in cases of criminal damage to property, committed while under the influence of alcohol.

DBOs must include any prohibitions on entering licensed premises as are necessary to protect other people from criminal or disorderly conduct that the individual may commit under the influence of alcohol. Ultimately, DBOs are designed to protect the community from a specific range of behaviour that is associated with an individual's alcohol misuse.

Magistrates' courts and county courts where the principal proceedings involve alcohol misuse crime or disorderly behaviour by those who are party to the proceedings or could be made a party can issue DBOs, which will initially only be made on application.

This will enable the effectiveness of DBOs in tackling the problems of alcohol misuse behaviour to be proved before a wider roll-out for criminal cases on conviction. It will also give the courts time to become more familiar with the legislation before DBOs are introduced on conviction. For more information go to www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dbo002.htm and download the newly published guidance.



Not in My Neighbourhood Week

The third 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' (NIMNW) will run this year from November 2 – 6. Now in its third year, NIMNW provides opportunities for local agencies, police forces and partners to highlight the work they do.

The key objective of the week is to inform local people of action taking place in their area to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and to make their communities safer. NIMNW aims to:

- Increase awareness among the local community of what the police and local agencies do to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Increase public confidence in the work the police and local agencies are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and make communities safer.
- Encourage the public to engage with police and local agencies and play their part in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Engage local and regional media and encourage them to support the work you are doing locally.

A handbook has been produced for 2009 giving ideas and suggested approaches to planning weeks of action. It can be downloaded at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/nimnw2009.htm

Neighbourhood Watch study

A new study commissioned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) finds that watch

schemes are effective in reducing crime and are valued by the communities in which they operate.

The objective of the project, commissioned by Frank Whitely, the ACPO lead on Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was to look at the available literature providing evidence of the impact of NHW schemes on crime reduction. It finds a compelling case to demonstrate that NHW is effective in reducing crime and suggests further research is needed to examine how NHW can be most effective.

In assessing the evidence author Richard Slatter of Hertfordshire Constabulary, created a database of 443 documents from around the world, of which 280 were research papers. Documents were searched for references to effectiveness and for related views and experiences. The results were categorised and ranked in terms of quality and depth.

The most reliable results show that in the UK, Neighbourhood Watch schemes are effective in reducing crime in 79% of cases when compared with similar areas where no schemes exist.

The studies show that Watch schemes are generally highly valued by the general public, who appreciate them not just for their impact on crime but also for the reassurance they provide and the ways they encourage greater community spirit and cohesion.

Metal dealer's £300K pay back

A 61-year-old scrap dealer who was previously convicted of metal theft offences has been ordered to pay back £300,000 following a confiscation of funds hearing.

David Dutton of Romford, who runs scrap metal firm L T Mumford in Barking, Essex, must pay back the sum within six months as part of proceedings brought by British Transport Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act. The confiscation hearing at Basildon Crown Court was sought by BTP detectives following Dutton's earlier conviction in April this year for four counts of possession of criminal property. Dutton pleaded guilty and was jailed for 16 months. Failure to pay will see Dutton face a further three years in prison with the debt still having to be repaid.

The figure was calculated by assessing the value of Dutton's assets, including his property and bank and building society accounts, which police believe have been financed through criminal activities over the past six years.

Metal theft has become an increasing issue following large price rises for copper and other metals on world markets. In 2006 BTP recorded 1,183 crimes rising to 1,886 in 2007 and 2,249 in 2008. Metal theft is estimated to cost Britain around £360m a year. BTP has taken the lead in tackling metal theft and chairs the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Conductive Metal Thefts Working Group. BTP's response

and fits. Some even carry a risk of coma or death.

The decision follows a public consultation based on proposals put together by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). Subject to parliamentary approval the following will all be banned:

- GBL (Gamma-Butyrolactone) and a similar chemical – which are converted in to the Class C drug GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) in the body and often used as ‘club drugs’. They will be controlled as Class C drugs and banned when intended for human consumption.
- Synthetic cannabinoids - man-made chemicals sprayed on herbal smoking products such as ‘Spice’, which act on the body in a similar way to cannabis but can be far more potent, will be controlled as a Class B drug alongside cannabis.
- BZP (Benzylpiperazine) and related piperazines, which are stimulants taken as an alternative to amphetamine, will be controlled as Class C drugs.

The government will also be running a new campaign to educate young people on the danger of ‘legal highs’. The campaign will launch during this autumn’s university and college student fresher weeks.

New controls to keep public safe from violent offenders

The government’s updated violent crime strategy outlines how it plans to further protect the public from violence.

In a bid to prevent violent people from re-offending Violent Offender Orders (VOOs) are being introduced. The orders make it possible to ban serious offenders, who have reached the end of their prison sentence or licence, from places, events, and from contacting specified people for between two and five years. Like sex offenders, they must tell police if they move home, change their name or go abroad. Breaking any of these rules is punishable by five years in prison.

Police can apply to a magistrates’ court, which can issue a VOO. Offenders must have served at least 12 months in prison for serious violent offences, including manslaughter, attempted murder, GBH or malicious wounding.

Resettlement for young people leaving custody

The Youth Justice Board has confirmed its plans to help make communities safer by improving the support for young people once they have left custody.

A new programme, Integrated Resettlement Support (IRS), replaces the pilot Resettlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP), having built on its successes over the past 5 years. IRS is a voluntary programme designed to assist young people with the

transition from custody back into the community, and to work with local partners to ensure that all appropriate services are offered to each young person.

It is believed that better provision of services in the areas of education, employment, substance misuse and accommodation will help young people turn their backs on crime when released from custody.

It is anticipated that over the next two years there will be a change in the way people work with young people after they leave custody in order to reduce the chances of re-offending. These changes follow the Government’s announcement for an additional £8.4m to reduce youth reoffending and improve resettlement and rehabilitation.

Annual Youth Justice Convention 2009

The Annual Youth Justice Convention is said to be the leading policy and networking event for all those committed to tackling youth crime and will be held on November 11-12 at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre.

Bringing together delegates from youth offending teams, the police, local authorities, the secure estate, probation and other key stakeholders, this conference will address the key issues in youth crime today. Speakers at this year’s event are to be confirmed.