

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

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“Tokyo, Japan: The longest level crossing is no more

The longest railway crossing in Japan has been closed. The pedestrian and cyclist level crossing which closed on May 31st, 2009 as planned was located in Akishima, Tokyo, Japan. The 130 metre long level crossing crossed a total of 11 tracks and was a favourite location for railway enthusiasts, some of whom were present with local people to witness the crossing passing into history.

The level crossing was first recorded on a map dated 1931 and has in recent years seen three people lose their lives and others serious or critical injuries.”

Cutting crime – two years on

A new wide-ranging strategy on crime outlined by the UK government seeks to focus the activities of local authorities and police on anti-social behaviour and fear in communities.

The strategy is an update of the government’s Cutting Crime Strategy 2008 -11 which was published in May 2007 as the nation’s focus on tackling crime.

The update recognises new challenges, and that the public’s expectations are rightly high. It sets out a refreshed and sharpened set of priorities that show how working together can help keep communities safe and increase public confidence.

Speaking at a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) conference in London, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said a “more visible, locally accountable and innovative police service” needed to be at the heart of the new approach.

He said the country faces new kinds of crime - especially knife crime, organised crime, e-crime and identity theft – coupled with the new challenge of preventing a surge in burglary and robbery as has happened in previous recessions. Binge drinking, youth gangs, and problem families are also areas of concern, with the fight against crime overall being at the forefront of activity by the government, police, local authorities and communities themselves.

The new strategy is to be based around four key areas - burglary and robbery, organised crime, police reform and the courts. The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice will launch a new programme bringing together all their work on burglary and robbery.

The updated strategy will be published shortly, setting out how the government plans to overhaul the approach to organised crime, including e-crime and the full range of government powers to close down front businesses of known criminals.

New partnership framework published

A new national support framework for partnerships tackling community safety issues has been published.

The framework builds on Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working published in 2007, which set out the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships:

- Empowered and effective leadership
- Visible and constructive accountability
- Intelligence-led business processes
- Effective and responsive delivery structures
- Engaged communities
- Appropriate skills and knowledge

The framework sets out the role of CDRPs to represent the public’s interests and respond to their concerns. The government says it has devolved budgets and reduced bureaucracy and targets, to free up partnerships to focus more on what matters to their communities. As a result local agencies now have more tools



and powers to tackle crime and anti social behaviour.

Support will be available to partnerships according to local need and will be provided from a range of sources, including the Home Office, government regional offices, the Home Office crime team in Wales and regional improvement and efficiency partnerships. New guidance documents are available under the framework at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/regions/regions021.htm

The national support framework will continue to grow in response to needs and building on the effective practice being delivered by partnerships around the country.

Crime continues to fall on rail network

Figures released by British Transport Police (BTP) show the rail network is safer than ever with crime falling by 4.5% in 2008/09. The figures, which mark the fifth consecutive year of falling crime on the rail network, should reassure passengers and staff that the rail system is a low crime environment.

"These figures are good news for rail passengers and staff, however we are bracing for some real challenges over the next few years," said BTP Deputy Chief Constable Andy Trotter.

"Just about every category of crime is down, with robbery down 16% and violent crime down 2%. In addition, BTP has achieved 11 out of 11 of its national operational targets, and increased the national detection rate.

"The current recession and increasing unemployment have the potential to fuel some crime categories over the next year that we have previously seen drop off. We are particularly monitoring

theft of railway property, theft from passengers and staff assaults to ensure we can respond quickly when and if we see trends change.

"Over three years ago we began creating Neighbourhood Policing Teams to respond to local concerns. We now have 72 teams operating right across the rail network providing a visible, responsive local policing service. Their hard work, along with the commitment of our partners, has been a significant factor in this year's success."

Nine out of BTP's 12 crime groups show reductions, with particular success around robbery, which is down 16%. Robbery is predominantly a London problem with 68% of all robberies reported occurring in BTP's three London areas. Focused police activity, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, together with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams, has resulted in dramatic reductions.

BTP has been proactive in tackling the knife carrying culture amongst some groups of young people. Operation Shield, using mobile metal detection arches and scanners, has been run at stations across the rail network. Drugs dogs are often used as part of these operations and police efforts to proactively target knife crime, as well as increased operations around anti-social behaviour hotspots and travelling football fans, account for the big increase in reported drugs offences this year.

Mr Trotter added: "These results are a tribute not only to hard work of our police officers and police staff, but to the commitment and investment of the rail industry in improving the safety and security of passengers and rail staff."

National Tackling Drugs Week

Local partnerships and police forces are planning activities to highlight the work they do to tackle drugs and reduce the harm caused by drugs.

Their work will be showcased during National Tackling Drugs Week, which runs from June 8 – 12. Agencies involved include Drug and Alcohol Action Teams/Substance Misuse Action Teams, CDRPs and Community Safety Partnerships, and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

The week is designed to provide local agencies and police forces with a platform to publicise the work you do to tackle drugs and reduce drug-related crime. Those taking part will seek to:

- Raise awareness of work undertaken by agencies and police forces to tackle drugs and reduce drug-related crime and harm
- Use communications to address local communities' perceptions of drug use in their area and to build confidence in the work of local agencies
- Demonstrate to the public that tangible improvements are being made in communities across the country
- Launch the Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards 2009

New community TV station to tackle crime

Police and partner agencies have launched a community television network in Essex to make communities safer to live and work in.

The Thurrock Community Network TV provides crime prevention advice and information as part of its local news coverage. The network has been funded by the Home Office through the National Police and Partnerships

Improvement Fund (NPIIF). Television screens have been put up at ten venues across the borough such as shopping centres, civic offices, a health centre and local college and broadcasts a fully interchangeable rolling programme of public safety and crime prevention messages, as well as news, weather and sports information, to the borough's residents and visitors.

Five year low for youth custody numbers

The number of children and young people held in custody has fallen to the lowest level in almost five years according to latest figures from the Youth Justice Board.

A total of 2,625 children under 18 were being held secure establishments in England and Wales in March this year, the lowest level since December 2004. The figure including 18-year-olds was 2,816, down 15 per cent on August 2007, when the number of children and young people being kept in custody reached capacity at 3,363.

The crime reduction charity Nacro said the figures were "promising" but added it was too early to tell whether the numbers represented a genuine downward trend or were a statistical blip.

Neighbourhood policing and local management

Twelve sites have been set up across England and Wales to help integrate neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management. The independent policing review by Sir Ronnie Flanagan identified the need for both parties to work more closely together, and now the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Improvement and Development

Agency (IDeA) have identified 12 'exemplar sites' to offer a range of joint service delivery solutions.

As well as being promoted as sites of good practice, the 12 exemplars have a practical role to play. Over the next 12 months each has agreed to share their experiences and knowledge of neighbourhood management with neighbourhood policing teams and crime and disorder partnerships from across the country. As well as being available via email and phone to assist with queries, site visits can be arranged to the 12 locations so other areas can learn directly from the sites.

Throughout the year the initiative will be promoted to community safety partnerships, neighbourhood managers and neighbourhood policing teams. This will include the appearance at several high-profile national events, including the National Community Safety Network's Annual Conference in on June 9 and 10 in Leeds. It is hoped this will encourage other areas to use the existing knowledge of 'what works' to help develop their own neighbourhood management arrangements.

The 12 sites are: Blackpool South, Blackpool Council; Thornhill, Cwmbran, Torfaen County Borough Council; Moreland, Gloucester City Council; Ovenden, Halifax, Calderdale Council; West Central, Hartlepool Borough Council; Southcoates East, Hull City Council; Clapham Park, London Borough of Lambeth; Furzton and Shenley Lodge, Milton Keynes Council; Denton, Newcastle City Council; Redruth North, Cornwall County Council, and Town Centre, Warrington. For more information and to get contact details go to: www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=9565928

CSP and BTP join forces at national conference

A workshop highlighting neighbourhood policing on the railway will be delivered at the National Community Safety Network annual conference in Leeds.

Sue Nelson of CSP and Supt Paul Brogden of BTP's London North area will jointly deliver the workshop to community safety practitioners from across the country at the prestigious conference, which is being held on June 9-10.

The workshop follows CSP's work with BTP to evaluate the neighbourhood policing approach in the London North area, which includes key London hubs such as Paddington, Euston, King's Cross, St Pancras and Liverpool Street stations. Each of the stations has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team and CSP's work highlighted good practice and opportunities for greater community engagement. The work has led to CSP being appointed to support the development of new neighbourhood policing teams on London Overground rail services as well as assist Transport for London in the development of a dedicated team of travel safe officers for the franchise.



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