

July 2011
update
Community Safety E-Newsletter



Welcome to the July 2011 edition of UPDATE, an e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

In this issue we look at the Home Office consultation around Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and the work the Rail Personal Security Group has been doing. We also hear about some initiatives from Northern Rail and British Transport Police.

UPDATE is a tool for promoting awareness of current initiatives and encouraging the adoption of good practice. If you have any stories to share about initiatives or events in your area, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, please contact: **community.safety@rssb.co.uk**

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Belinda Coleman, Editor.

Rail industry responds to Home Office ASBO consultation

Anti-social behaviour is defined as behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people who are not in the same household as the perpetrator. It impacts on individuals and communities, and can degrade the environment.

Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are civil orders to protect the public against this behaviour in England, Wales and Scotland. An order contains conditions stating what the offender should not do. An ASBO can apply to anyone aged 10 years or over.

Despite the fact that ASBOs are civil orders, a criminal standard of proof is needed (beyond reasonable doubt) when applying for an order. But it is a criminal offence to breach an ASBO. There are 170 ASBOs currently in force protecting railway premises and there have been 55 breaches in the first quarter of 2011.

However the overall effectiveness of ASBOs has been questioned and there is a perception amongst some young people that they are a 'badge of honour', or the current must-have accessory. The government has been consulting recently on more effective responses to deal with anti-social behaviour. Now the Home Office has published proposals to replace ASBOs with Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) and Crime Prevention Injunctions (CPI).

The CBO would be available on conviction for any criminal offence, and include both prohibitions to ban

an individual from certain activities or places and also positive conditions, requiring the offender to undertake activities, that must be carried out to address the underlying causes of their offending. A breach of a CBO would be a criminal offence.

The CPI would be a purely civil order with a civil burden of proof (balance of probabilities), making it much quicker and easier to obtain than the current ASBO. The injunction would also have prohibitions and positive conditions attached, and a range of civil sanctions for breach.

The Rail Personal Security Group (RPSG) made a submission to the consultation on behalf of the industry. RPSG is a cross industry tasking group set up to raise the profile of personal security on the railway and share good practice to reduce the impact of assaults on passengers and all those who work on the railway.

RPSG believes that the new measures proposed will be more effective because a Crime Prevention Injunction would be a more accessible solution than a conventional ASBO, and could have a greater effect in curbing anti-social behaviour.

RPSG welcomes the move to include what the offender must do, as conditions in the new Criminal Behaviour Order and Crime Prevention Injunction, as well as the



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prohibition conditions that are in the current ASBOs. It is hoped that the addition of the support conditions will make a real difference in addressing persistent ASB.

However, there are many aspects of the proposals where it is not clear how they might apply to the railway, for example the introduction of Neighbourhood Justice Panels. What is the neighbourhood or community with regard to the railway? This must include staff, passengers and public. They all seek reassurance that anti-social behaviour will be dealt with so that they can continue to work or travel in safety and without fear of intimidation.

The consultation document accepts that much of what is currently termed anti-social behaviour is crime, but claims that it can be very difficult to prove that a particular criminal offence has been committed. RPSG insists that these criminal activities should continue to be dealt with as such, and not downgraded alongside low-level repetitive actions which do not meet shared expectations of staff and passengers, such as loud use of i-pods, mobile phones, or rowdy behaviour.

The proposals include a Community Protection Order which aims to bring together many existing powers for dealing with persistent place-related anti-social behaviour. This would have two levels of severity from environmental incidents to more significant or persistent disorder.

Fly-tipping is a particular problem for railway

premises. RPSG feels that this should be included in the examples of environmental incidents along with noise, graffiti and litter, mentioned in the consultation document and dealt with by the Community Protection Order.

RPSG asked if railway premises will be considered a 'place' for the purposes of the Community Protection Order. If so, it has suggested that senior staff at railway companies should be able to issue a Level 1 Community Protection Order.

The police have powers to ask a person to leave an area even if they have not committed an offence, and refusal to comply is a criminal offence. It is proposed to combine the most effective elements of these powers into a single Direction Power, together with the secondary requirement to surrender drink or drugs.

Around one in six assaults against rail staff have alcohol or drugs recorded as a primary contributory factor. The Directions Power is welcomed by the industry. But, as commented previously, if the use of drink or drugs is criminal behaviour, it should be dealt with as such and not downgraded to anti-social behaviour.

For more information about RPSG or the Home Office consultation contact Alan Davies at RSSB alan.davies@rssb.co.uk

Northern Rail launches mobile surveillance vehicle to help combat crime on the railway

Northern Rail has launched a Mobile CCTV Surveillance Vehicle allowing a Rail Response Team to roam its network, aiming to reducing crime on trains and in and around Northern's stations.



The vehicle is equipped with four state of the art CCTV cameras, with 360 degree viewing and recording capability. A trial-run saw two arrests being made as a result of the footage captured.

The vehicle will be deployed to cover large scale events, such as football matches, as well as routinely patrol stations and car parks where no CCTV is currently available to prove both a deterrent to anyone considering committing a crime or in response to a reported or potential crime.

Martyn Guiver, Head of Crime Management for Northern Rail, commented: "Our Rail Response Team deals with around 150 low level issues per month,

resulting in an average of 85 people removed from the railway, making the stations and railways a safer place for our employees and passengers.

"We wanted to deliver a totally flexible solution for our business, with over 460 stations it is not possible, nor necessary for us to install CCTV at all of these locations. The Mobile Surveillance Vehicle allows us to undertake much more surveillance work, provide further support to British Transport Police."

Detective Chief Inspector Malcolm McKinnon, of British Transport Police, said: "We welcome any initiatives or equipment which aids in the policing of the railway and would like to reassure passengers and rail staff alike that BTP and Northern Rail will continue to work in partnership to keep them as safe as possible."



Northern Rail is first TOC to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh award

Northern Rail has been formally presented with its licence to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh award following its receipt in December 2010.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme is designed to inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements. Northern is able to deliver the programme through its station adoption scheme and Schools' Charter, and is the first train operator in the world to qualify as a licensed operating authority.

Northern's Head of Crime Management, Martyn Guiver, and Community Safety Manager David Wilkinson attended St. James' Palace, London, to collect the company's Official Operating Licence to deliver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

David Wilkinson commented: "From our point of view, young people, whilst taking part in Northern Rail's Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hopefully learn,

gain knowledge, skills and understanding of the environment and develop attitudes and dispositions relevant to the railway industry in order that they can be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens."

The first school Northern will work with, is Burnage Media Arts College in south Manchester. The school has officially adopted Burnage Station and in the coming months will be installing frames and artwork on the station as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme with Northern.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award delivers key benefits: Self Belief, Self Confidence, Sense of Identity, Independence, Responsibility, Potential, Talents, Abilities, Strengths, Weaknesses, Planning and using Time Effectively, Ability to Learn from and give back to Community, Building new Relationships, Problem Solving, Presentation, Communication Skills and Ability to Lead and Work as part of a Team.

Rail crash driver jailed

A car thief who smashed through a railway crossing, putting hundreds of passengers' lives at risk, has been sent to prison.

The 20 year old had stolen a red Mercedes C180 from outside a home in March on the morning of 20 June, last year.

The stolen car triggered an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera in Peterborough and officers tried to stop him on Town Bridge.

But the offender, of Peyton Avenue, March, refused to pull over and a pursuit ensued through Stanground to Whittlesey at speeds of more than 90 miles per hour.

During the pursuit, the offender drove on the wrong side of the road, overtook vehicles on roundabouts and knocked off another vehicle's wing mirror.

Police abandoned the pursuit because it was too dangerous and could only watch as he ploughed through a closed level crossing at King's Dyke with a

Cross Country train just seconds away.

Passengers reported feeling the carriages shudder as the train smashed into the barrier debris moments later.

The Mercedes was found abandoned in Woolpack Lane, Whittlesey. However, forensic tests discovered the offender's blood on the smashed windscreen and he was traced through his DNA. He was caught after being arrested in Bournemouth for an assault.

The offender pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking, criminal damage, obstructing an engine or carriage using a railway and driving with no insurance.

He received a three-and-a-half year prison sentence at Peterborough Crown Court in early April.

<http://www.cambs.police.uk/news/newsitem.asp?NewsID=5965>

Local Community Rail Partnership enters a new era

The Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP) – supported by Essex County Council and National Express East Anglia (NXEA) has launched a new office and a new website.

The new ESSCRP office at Manningtree station, will enable the partnership to have a greater connection with rail travellers and the local community alike. It will also house a dedicated CRP officer on site.

A further ESSCRP office will also be opening at Rochford station.

The new and improved website will support the initiative, promoting the community rail lines in the area, providing train service information, dedicated station pages and information about local events and places to visit.

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Easter-crackdown on trespass in East Midlands

The Easter holidays was an opportunity for British Transport Police (BTP), Network Rail and East Midlands Trains to initiate a crackdown on youngsters who trespass on the railway.

With the onset of warmer weather and lighter nights, BTP, Network Rail and East Midlands trains joined forces to tackle incidents of trespassing, stone throwing and vandalism.

A 'Q train' was used to target 'route crime' hotspot areas. The Q train is a specially modified East Midlands-branded train posing as a 'dummy'

commuter train carrying police officers and Network Rail staff who can jump out and tackle trespassers and vandals seen whilst on board, or through vehicle patrols shadowing the train.

BTP officers also increased line side patrols during the Easter holidays.

BTP and Network Rail both work closely with children and young people in schools to educate them about the dangers associated with the railways and are also urging parents to do their bit by spreading the message and making sure they know where their children are.

Two jailed for night of violence and robbery

Two men have been jailed for a total of 11 years following a night of unprovoked and violent attacks at Bedford and Flitwick rail stations in January 2010.

The men had pleaded not guilty to numerous counts of attempted robbery, robbery and grievous bodily harm (GBH) at Luton Crown Court on in late March.

One of the men was found guilty of two counts of attempted robbery, one count of robbery and one of GBH, receiving four years imprisonment. The other was found guilty of one count of robbery and one of GBH whereby he received a total of seven years imprisonment which also accounted for another offence in which he was found guilty of robbery from December 2010.

The court heard how in the early hours of 16 January 2010, the pair had been part of a larger group attempting robbery of a victim at Bedford station. Having been unsuccessful they followed the victim on the train to Flitwick where they again set upon him

outside the station, knocking him to the ground and trying to steal his wallet.

Having escaped from the offenders, the victim fled to a nearby supermarket where he reported the incident to staff who called the police. The offenders left the station and committed further assault and robbery offences in the town.

Police responded to the reports, and the men were arrested.

Tony Holland, FCC's Crime Prevention Manager, said:

"We are very happy with the judge's ruling. First Capital Connect will not tolerate any criminal activity on its network and I hope these convictions will set an example to others before they consider breaking the law."

<http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/news/2011/two-jailed-night-violence-and-robbery/>

Dedicated police force on Sunderland Metro network

British Transport Police (BTP) has launched a publicity campaign on the Sunderland Metro to raise awareness and promote public reassurance by emphasising they are a 'dedicated force' specially trained to provide a police presence to the railway network.

The campaign, which is being run in partnership with Metro and being funded by the Safer Sunderland Partnership, aims to help tackle passengers' negative perceptions of safety on the Sunderland Metro.

Posters will be displayed at stations across the Sunderland extension of Tyne & Wear Metro and BTP officers will conduct high visible patrols on services in the area, handing out leaflets and travel passes to passengers while talking to them about any issues they may have, and providing crime reduction advice.

The campaign - which was officially launched in April and outlines BTP's unique and specialist nature - ran throughout the month and used the strap line: 'Sunderland Metro has a dedicated police force. Very dedicated, in fact.'

Chief Superintendent Terry Nicholson of British Transport Police, said:

"Crime on the Sunderland Metro has nearly halved in the past five years which is great news for passengers and rail staff, however through research we know that sometimes incidents of low level anti-social behaviour can make members of the public and rail staff feel unsafe.



“Being safe and feeling safe are equally important – which is why we are focusing our efforts on high visibility police presence on the Metro to reinforce the message and address some of the anxieties that people may have.

“We want to boost passengers’ confidence and reassure all passengers and staff that the Metro is really a very safe environment, safer than ever before.

Chair of the Safer Sunderland Partnership Councillor Tom Foster added: “This is an important campaign because we want to make sure everyone, whether they use it regularly or not, regards the Metro system in Sunderland as a safe place to be.

“We need to remind and reassure people that everyone is working together to make sure that both trains and stations remain comfortable and secure environments for passengers and staff alike.”

“The purpose of the campaign is to demonstrate to Metro travellers that Metro is one of the safest ways to

travel in the region,” said Richard McClean, Managing Director of DB Regio Tyne and Wear, which operates stations and trains on behalf of Nexus.

“Passenger safety is paramount on Metro. Through our partnership with British Transport Police we want to assure our passengers and staff that Metro is very safe and crime levels are low on the network.”

“As well as the support we receive from British Transport Police, effective CCTV is in operation on the Metro system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and we are increasing levels of staff at all Metro stations to give passengers visible reassurance that a member of Metro staff is never far away should they need their help. There are also help points on every platform where passengers can directly call for assistance if required.”

For more information go to <http://www.nexus.org.uk/news/2011/sunderland-metro-network-has-dedicated-police-force-very-dedicated-fact>

Future events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Train the Manager	5-6 July 2011, Birmingham 14-15 November 2011, Glasgow	For more information or to book a place go to http://www.suzylamplugh.org/training/trainthemanager/dates/
ACoRP National Station Adoption Seminar	21st July 2011, MerseyTravel, Liverpool	Details: http://www.acorp.uk.com/events%20Station%20adoption.html
Community Rail Awards 2011	23rd September 2011, Sheffield City Hall	Details coming soon

Community Safety Resource Centre

*****NEW! Material available to download*****

Since last month some changes have been made to the Community Safety Resource Centre website. Please visit the home page: www.railcommunitysafety.com and see the new information listed under the announcements section.

From this page, you can:

- View the 2011 Community Safety Forum Presentations and materials
- View 2011/12 meeting dates and minutes for key industry groups
- Review the updated statistics for Trespass, Suicide and Assaults

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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