

June update

**PARTNERS IN
COMMUNITY
SAFETY**



This is the fourth monthly newsletter from the industry's Community Safety Support Unit, funded on a two-year trial basis from the RSSB-managed research and development programme.

The CSSU works under the wider community safety banner in support of the industry's efforts to tackle railway crime, level crossing safety, personal security and fatalities management. The unit can also provide support if required to industry partners interacting with the victims of railway accidents.

If you have items for the newsletter please email the CSSU team at suenelsoncssu@aol.com by the 21st of the month to ensure inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

☛ ASBOs target rail offenders

Northern Rail is among several railway businesses continuing to make use of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs). A youth involved in incidents at Ilkley, West Yorkshire, has been banned from Northern services for five years. And two youths in Manchester received three year ASBOs with 18 month youth custody sentences for vandalising Northern trains over an 18 month period.

☛ Sign up for the Teaching Zone

The industry's education website for teachers www.trackoff.org is now receiving a staggering 155,000-plus hits a month with more than 10,000 downloads of materials and lesson plans. It is the number one site on all the main search engines if you key in 'railway crime' and is regularly in the top 10 of the Department for Education National Grid for Learning's (NGfL) list of educational websites.

A key element of the site is the Teaching Zone which features lesson plans and associated material that align to the school curriculum. Now individual rail companies can do their bit to spread the industry's education messages by having their own site featuring the Trackoff material but fronted by their own corporate identity.

The benefit is that it gives the industry a consistent approach with all parties giving the same railway crime and safety messages. It shows the industry working as one - which fits with the general public view of there being one railway out there - and demonstrates corporate and social responsibility so enhancing company reputations with the communities in which they operate.

And the cost of setting up the basic site? It's free. Downloadable images of your organisation at work can be included for free too. Fact sheets about your company or organisation to add to the basic package can be set up following NGfL guidelines for just £25 a page.

The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) has thrown its weight firmly behind project and has already set up its own site complete with fact sheets at www.teachingzone.org/nationalrail. The association is encouraging all its train operator members to join with Northern Rail, Hull Trains and Thameslink who have now got their own sites too. Freight operator EWS is signing up to the scheme along with RSSB.

If you want your organisation to be a part of the Teaching Zone scheme contact suenelsoncssu@aol.com or call her on 01904 448439 for more details. It's so easy you can be signed up within a week of reading this....

☛ You've been framed....

Railway crime offenders in South Wales who receive ASBOs from the courts can expect to be featured in a 'rogues' gallery' in rail staff mess rooms and at signing on points. Arriva Trains Wales and British Transport Police have set up a trial to display photographs of offenders in lockable notice boards in key operational staff areas at Cardiff and Newport. The aim is to make staff aware of people with ASBOs relating to the railway environment so they can report their presence to the police if they venture on to railway property against the restrictions of their ASBO.

The train company has also agreed that uniformed police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs) and special constables from all four Welsh police forces (not just BTP) are able to travel free on Arriva Trains Wales services to help reinforce high profile policing of the railway environment and offer reassurance to passengers. This initiative will be reviewed every six months to monitor its effectiveness.

Contact: catherine.tryon@arrivatw.co.uk or call her on 02920 720 546 for further information on both schemes.

* Meanwhile, the local community in the Rhondda is helping in the drive against crime on the railway. A local children's community group helped Arriva Trains Wales and the BTP to deliver hundreds of cards to households near the station at Dinas Rhondda advising residents how to report rail crime using the industry's 0800 40 50 40 "report it, don't ignore it" telephone number. A similar exercise was undertaken at Troedyrhiw near Merthyr.

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☛ Focus on crime in Wales

The Rail Passengers Committee Wales convened a working party with British Transport Police, train operators Arriva Trains Wales and First Great Western, Network Rail, the Crown Prosecution Service and magistrates to discuss growing concern over railway crime. Under scrutiny were assaults on passengers and staff, public disorder, trespass and criminal damage experienced on the South Wales network.

RPC Wales hopes this joint initiative will raise the profile and concern about crime on the network, help reduce the fear of crime among passengers and staff, and increase the number of detections.

☛ Operation Philadelphia nets offenders

A joint British Transport Police and London Underground initiative is reaping benefits for Tube passengers on the Metropolitan line.

Operation Philadelphia is focusing on low level crime and disorder offences following concerns about increasing anti-social behaviour on Tube trains in the evenings. High profile joint patrols between BTP officers and LU revenue inspectors are beginning to pay dividends with 45 arrests being made in the first month of operation alone.

The patrol teams are focusing their efforts on stations north and west of Harrow- on-the-Hill as far as

Watford, Uxbridge, Chesham and Amersham. Previous experience has shown that fare evasion can link with crime and disorder offences so enforcing ticket infringements can have other benefits in terms of cracking down on anti-social behaviour.

Chief Inspector Paul Wilson of the BTP says: "It's about reclaiming the ground. If you tackle crime at its lowest level then it can impact on reducing other crime.

So far our approach is proving to be successful. There are transferable lessons here too - such an approach would be equally effective on any railway routes where there are similar problems."

The campaign will be reviewed around the end of June after three months of operation. Contact paul.wilson@btp.pnn.police.uk for more details.

☛ Fights, cameras, action

Southern are keeping an eye on the safety of thousands of passengers with its new customer information and CCTV systems in the South London area. Colour footage can now be 'patrolled' from hundreds of enhanced CCTV cameras at 38 stations watching out for warning signs of suspicious or anti-social behaviour from a control centre at Streatham Hill station.

If operators see someone doing something they shouldn't they can

use the public address system to say: "You in the red sweater - stop!"

They can also respond to calls from new customer help points linked to the Streatham Hill centre, giving reassurance to passengers that they are being looked after in the event of trouble.

The state-of-the art cameras offer real-time images and an operator can make them pan, tilt and zoom from desk top controls. Anything from four up to 70 CCTV cameras are in place at any one station.

Transport for London has co-funded the £3.5 million project. Phase Two will provide another 300 cameras at a further 17 stations and will ultimately provide an additional 40% CCTV coverage at 55 stations.

☛ Smoke alert

Southern's new trains are being held up by an unexpected culprit - cigarette smoke. During the past year delays of around a whopping 48 hours have been caused by smoke alarms being activated on trains across the Southern network. Most of the time this is down to a small number of anti-social passengers lighting up for a crafty fag, mainly in the toilets of the new trains.

When the alarms go off the train must be stopped and the alarm reset by a member of staff. Smoking on Southern's trains is an offence under the railway bylaws.

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☛ Joint police day of action

British Transport Police officers and special constables from both the force and West Yorkshire Police took part in a joint day of action. A total of 37 railway locations were checked, 15 trains escorted, and three incidents dealt with by officers including two youths caught trespassing on the East Coast Main Line.

The officers liaised with railway staff at manned locations and helped with a leaflet drop targeting hotspots at Shipley near Bradford and Sandal near Wakefield. They were also able to give first aid to an elderly woman who had fallen from a train.

The initiative, called Operation Target, aimed to reassure staff and the public with high profile patrols on trains and at stations backed by the use of marked police vehicles in support.

☛ Turn in a Tagger

A reward of £1,000 is being offered for people to Turn in a Tagger - the culprits behind graffiti attacks. Crimestoppers is linking with Northern Rail, British Transport Police and Metro (West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive) in the campaign.

Special posters featuring pictures of local graffiti are being displayed at hot spot stations to help track down the culprits. Members of the public are being urged to call Crimestoppers on 0800 551111 with information about the taggers.

Contact:

steve.alder@northernrail.org for further information

☛ Hands off our staff, or else...

Zero tolerance towards public and passenger abuse of Northern Rail staff has resulted in 15 prosecutions over the most recent quarter. All the cases were found proved and the offenders were convicted, receiving fines and costs amounting to an average of £307, together with a criminal record.

A further 21 cases are currently being prepared by Northern's prosecutions team for magistrates' court hearings.

☛ On the Mersey beat

Merseyrail's focused drive against crime is producing good results.

- A penalty fare scheme targeting non-fare paying passengers has resulted in ticket-less travel reducing from 11.5% to 4.6% since it began in August last year.
- Automatic ticket gating - where passengers have to insert a valid ticket to gain access to platforms - at Merseyrail's five underground stations plus Southport has seen the company's revenue increase by 20%.
- An increase in private security personnel has led to an increase in the ability to evict problem youths committing anti-social behaviour from stations. This drive to nip such activity in the bud before it gets out of hand has reduced physical assaults on staff by 60% and cut verbal and threatening behaviour by 40%.
- On train digital CCTV has produced good results for the BTP with a number of arrests made

based on the CCTV images. One arrest resulted in the offender being jailed for four years for carrying out a train robbery.

- In addition ASBOs continue to be applied for with the emphasis on Merseyrail's hotspot stations.

☛ Learn about RSAS

The British Transport Police are holding a meeting on 21st June to update industry parties on the Railway Safety Accreditation Scheme (RSAS).

The scheme allows the BTP to accredit certain suitably skilled and trained employees of rail companies with limited police powers to help in the fight against crime.

The aim of the scheme is to help demonstrate industry commitment to public safety and have a real, practical impact on anti-social behaviour.

The force is inviting train operators, security companies and other stakeholders to the meeting to be held at the Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ beginning at 10.30.

There will be presentations on how the BTP will manage the scheme with the industry, an outline of vetting procedures and an overview of training requirements for relevant staff.

Confirmation of those attending needs to be received by 10th June. For further information email claire.osment@btp.pnn.police.uk from the BTP's complementary policing section or call her on 020 7830 8914.

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☛ Schools database

A specially-devised schools database is soon to roll out for use by industry presenters. Finishing touches to the database are currently being undertaken with a view to it being available from July.

The database will enable school visits to be pre-planned in target areas and assist in providing a rapid response to emerging problems. It will, among other things, highlight what schools have had presentations, when and from whom; the age range of pupils; the proximity of the school to the railway and whether it is close to problem locations; whether a school has ordered materials from the Trackoff website, and if pupils have attended a crucial crew or junior citizen scheme where a railway safety message has been given.

Presenters will be given the facility to update the database themselves through the industry website, www.railwycrime.org which will be re-vamped to cater for the launch of the database and other emerging activity.

☛ Pan-industry presenters' scheme

An awareness training and accreditation scheme for industry presenters is nearing completion.

The work began earlier this year and is being managed as an RSSB research and development project with input from the CSSU. Representatives from Network Rail, train operators and the BTP have been consulted about the content of the scheme.

The project is due for completion towards the end of June and it is planned to present the scheme to the cross-industry National Railway Crime Group at its meeting on 20th July.

The scheme will highlight the skills and competencies required by presenters and will feature a toolkit that industry organisations can use so the scheme requirements fit with their own HR processes. Full details of the scheme will be rolled out once it has been finalised in the coming weeks.

☛ Youngsters use art for rail messages

South West Trains and Northern Rail are assisting in a trial of an initiative that involves young people via their schools producing modern artwork with a railway theme. The youngsters' work can be used in Partners Against Railway Crime (PARC) educational resources aimed at young people aged between eight-16 and published on the Trackoff website.

Called Art Works, the initiative involves pupils aged 14 to 18 with a creative aptitude and gets them to think what emotions are involved in the consequences of railway crime. They are then asked to portray those emotions in imagery that can be linked to relevant stories or events.

This is not another design-a-poster competition but a way of asking young people to think how artwork can convey the emotions they think are felt by those who are affected by anti-social behaviour and crime on the network. They are asked, for

example, to try and imagine how a train driver must feel if his or her train hits a trespasser. It is another way of getting young people to think about the consequences of inappropriate behaviour on the railway.

This is not a competition with a prize other than the satisfaction of having artwork published in communication media being produced by the industry to convey the impact of railway crime.

☛ Echo the safety message

The Northern Echo, a regional morning paper covering the North East and parts of Yorkshire is publishing a 12-page supplement highlighting railway safety messages and alternative activities to keep youngsters off the tracks.

The move comes following the deaths of two teenage boys in Darlington at Easter. The supplement will reinforce Network Rail's No Messin'! message and will be publicising events throughout the summer holidays, culminating in two days of specially organised activities for young people and adults on August 25th and 26th.

For more information on Network Rail's No Messin'! campaign go to www.no-messin.com

For details of the Darlington events and others in her area contact Vicki.smith@networkrail.co.uk