

March update

PARTNERS IN
COMMUNITY
SAFETY



Welcome to this, the first 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 in support of industry groups addressing route, station and on-train crime, level crossing safety, personal security and fatalities management. In addition the **CSSU** can provide support to industry partners interacting with the victims of railway accidents.

The newsletter will appear monthly to keep industry practitioners informed as well as those from partner organisations working in or interested in community safety issues. Please feel free to use this newsletter to tell others of your successes as networking good practice helps us all. 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.

Annual plans:

Annual plans for the National Route Crime Group (NRCG) and Rail Personal Security Group (RPSG) have been produced for 2005. If you would like copies of these please contact feedback@trackoff.org or peteredwardscssu@aol.com (RPSG).

Graffiti management

costs the industry many millions of pounds as well as leaving both customers and railway staff feeling insecure. Work to identify good practice approaches to tackle this insidious nuisance at stations, on trains and along the line of route is coming to a conclusion and will be tabled at this month's meeting of the National Route Crime Group. If you would like to learn more of this work please contact peteredwardscssu@aol.com

Railway Crime Conference, 16 March 2005

This conference is a must for all practitioners wishing to learn how the industry intends to take forward a range of initiatives to tackle crime and other antisocial behaviour on the railway in 2005. In addition to keynote speeches from government and industry leaders the conference showcases a number of case studies that really are working. So, if you haven't already registered to attend, visit the RSSB website at www.rssb.co.uk or the campaign website www.trackoff.org to view the conference programme and complete the on-line application form.

The conference comes in the first week of **Trackoff 05** an industry campaign that will run throughout the spring and summer to raise the profile of how railway crime and other public behaviour issues impact on the safety and performance of

the network. As well as the conference the campaign kicks off with the launch of Network Rail's **No Messin'** initiative aimed at young people.

Track Off, the industry's education programme

is very much alive. In recent weeks work has been ongoing to prepare material for schools to download materials for use on classroom electronic whiteboards that are fast becoming the approved technology tool for enhanced learning. Feel free to visit the industry's very own and regularly updated National Grid for Learning accredited website www.trackoff.org to learn of all that's new to support delivery of the Track Off campaign in schools.

Public behaviour communications materials

RSSB manages the contract that generates the industry's Track Off and other campaign materials. This spring sees the re-tendering of the contract to ensure that best value is obtained for the many industry partners using these core materials to promote positive public behaviour on and around the railway. Within a few weeks a panel from RSSB, the CSSU, Network Rail and ATOC will be considering proposals submitted by short-listed suppliers who have already jumped the first hurdle of the European Union-wide competitive tendering process that attracted more than 40 expressions of interest.

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☛ **Networking**

the industry's national partnership groups with those operating locally under the leadership of Network Rail is being encouraged by the regular exchange of meeting minutes. Ideas that have been developed in one area and shown to work are visible to all. Likewise all those working locally are able to follow the deliberations of the national groups. To learn more of the minutes exchange the contact is suenelsoncssu@aol.com

☛ **The Home Office Fear of Crime Practitioners Forum**

on 12 April 2005 will focus on crime on the railway and other public transport. If you have current examples of work to address the fear of crime and would like to see them included in the rail industry's presentation at this important forum, please send them to suenelsoncssu@aol.com

Not surprisingly the accident at Ufton Nervet on 6 November 2004 has sharpened public interest in **level crossing safety** even though Great Britain's level crossings are among the safest in the developed world. A particular concern is the ease with which both learner and more experienced drivers of road vehicles, plus pedestrians can access information that explains how the various types of level crossings found on all railways in Great Britain can be used safely. Work is in hand to develop an easy to navigate public

website. Next month's newsletter will have more details on this project and the launch planned for later in the spring.

☛ **Competent presenters**

are much in demand to take the Track Off and other community safety messages into schools and the wider community. Network Rail, the British Transport Police and many train operators provide presenters at their own expense. To ensure that the rail industry's presenters operate at the leading edge when delivering these important messages work is under way to develop a competence specification and training materials to help both newcomers and established hands alike. Work is also on-going to develop an **Accreditation Scheme** to assure schools and other youth organisations that all those who deliver the railway community safety messages have both passed background checks and successfully demonstrated their competence as presenters.

☛ **Alcohol**

is a factor in many assaults on both railway staff and the public. Indeed, as delegates to a rail industry conference on drugs and alcohol held on 24 February 2005 were told, Cabinet Office figures show that alcohol fuels around one million fights per year. To learn more of the industry's work to raise awareness of alcohol and drugs contact mick.stormonth@rssb.co.uk

The second phase of the industry's year-long **staff assaults campaign** rolls out this month with the introduction of the second poster in a series of four that will now be seen at mainline stations across the network. In addition the British Transport Police are joining forces with the campaign in April with the launch of a new training package to accompany DNA kits for those front-line staff who regrettably have to cope with being spat upon by unruly rail users.

☛ **Trespass warning sign**

a new approach to warning young people of the dangers of trespass at known hotspots is to be researched following a suggestion from the mother of a 15-year-old boy who died on the railway in December 2003. Tyler Deacon of Leicester was killed while trying to "race the train" and now his mum Dot is working with the industry to help prevent further needless deaths.

Details of the level of risk posed to passengers, workforce and members of the public from railway crime are contained in a new Railway Group report published this week by RSSB. View the report on the RSSB website www.rssb.co.uk under publications.