



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Safer station safer journey

The Neighbourhood
Policing Newsletter



In this issue

Scottish Area

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CONTENTS

Page 1 and 2.

Scottish Rail Reps. New
Term New message
delivery.

Page 2.

New Chief Constable for
the British Transport
Police.

Page 3

Partnership working
Quick thinking!
Prevent

Page 4

Coming your way?

SCOTTISH RAIL REPS – ON TRACK FOR A NEW SESSION



The Scottish Rail Reps scheme takes the safety message into schools and changes the emphasis of teaching, from police officers and Network Rail safety staff and puts it on to the children themselves.

The designated Rail Rep schools identify a minimum of two pupils who, after mentoring and teaching from the BTP and Network Rail, highlight the dangers of the railway environment through peer led education using school run competitions, pupil driven assembly inputs, maintaining a bright and informative safety board and other fun events and activities.

Schools are chosen from 'Hotspot' areas identified at Backtrack meetings and through other partnership meetings. Once key locations are identified, the schools are approached to come on board. The scheme allows the school to feed the safety message through the school terms rather than during a one off visit by a police officer or representative from Network Rail. It can then be tailored by the school to problems and issues relevant to their area.



One school. Gylemuir Primary in Edinburgh, has been busy developing a recruitment poster for Rail Reps to replace those who have moved on to secondary school. Based on the famous World War One poster of Lord Kitchener it declares **"Your Railway needs you"**. Constable Frazer Robertson says: "The concept of the poster is just one example of some of the ways we are trying to make learning about the dangers of the railway both inventive and fun".



0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk

SCOTTISH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS

There are six established Neighbourhood Policing locations namely:

- Glasgow Central (including low level to Hyndland)
Contact them on: 07917 071191, or glasgowcentral.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk
- Glasgow Queen Street (including line of route to Croy).
Contact them on: glasgowqueenst.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk
- Edinburgh Waverley (including Haymarket).
Contact them on: 07917 068630, or edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk
- Edinburgh to Glasgow line of route. (Haymarket to Falkirk High)
Contact them on: 07919 528953 or, edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk
- Glasgow Subway.
Contact them on: 07917 174320 or, glasgowsubway.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk
- Stirling.
Contact them on: 07880 503581 or, stirling.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk

Each location has assigned officers who will be responsible for high profile patrols along with identifying and addressing the main areas of concern for the rail staff and travelling public alike.

It is hoped that over the next six months a number of new schools will adopt the scheme, joining those already working hard to make our community safer.

'Hotspot areas' are highlighted areas of concern which are identified through rail staff and police reporting. Databases are updated with this information and they form the basis of a partnership meeting which meets to discuss the areas of concern and formulate a way forward to tackle the problem. That partnership meeting is held every two weeks and is called **'Backtrack'**. The partnership agencies are British Transport Police, Network Rail, First Scotrail, DB Schenker, National Express East Coast, Virgin Trains and the Office of the Rail Regulator.

NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE



On the 1st September, Andy Trotter took over the reins as the new Chief Constable of British Transport Police. Having spent five years as Deputy to Sir Ian Johnstone, he had a baptism of fire being interviewed on his first morning by seasoned radio broadcaster Nick Ferrari. Mr Trotter delivered his vision for the future of BTP and answered questions from the public during the 25 minute broadcast.

In emphasising his determination to sustain BTP's operational success, Chief Constable Trotter listed driving down anti-social behaviour and ridding the rail network of violent behaviour as his priorities.

The Chief Constable expressed his desire for improved engagement with the travelling public and for BTP to uphold the professionalism expected by passengers at all times. He also spoke of the importance of the use of CCTV as a vital investigative tool on BTP's patch and the continued use of knife-arch operations in reinforcing passenger confidence on the railway.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING – OPERATION SHIELD



Operation Shield is a British Transport police initiative to tackle knife crime throughout Scotland. Officers are placed at key locations identified as hot spots for this type of crime. Members of the public are asked to walk through metal detecting equipment and if the machine beeps, they are asked to undergo a search. Any persons found in possession of any weapon is immediately arrested and taken to a police station.

Neighbourhood Policing

On Thursday 18th June, one such exercise was held at Polmont Railway Station. It was held in conjunction with Scottish Prison Service and Central Scotland Police. It ran from 1200 hours to 2100 hours and 135 people went through the Shield, resulting in 70 searches.

As an additional tool in fighting crime, a drugs detection dog is often used alongside the Shield. On this occasion three drugs dogs were used and as a result of their work one man was charged with possession of a controlled drug.

A further Operation Shield took place on Friday 21st August 2009 at Cessnock Subway Station. On this occasion it was held in partnership with Strathclyde Police G Division. A total of 65 persons were asked to go through the arch and one was reported for possession of a controlled drug.

QUICK THINKING



Well done to Stephen Febers, whilst on duty as within Kinning Park Subway Station he saw a male person enter the station with a knife in his possession. He reported the matter to BTP and officers attended. Unfortunately this individual had travelled on a train prior to police arrival and was not traced.

During a subsequent shift he had occasion to go onto the Inner Circle railway tracks where he found a knife near to the stairway at the platform entrance. He took possession of the knife paying close attention to preserving evidence and called for BTP assistance. Officers attended took possession of the knife and viewed CCTV footage showing the person he had reported in possession of a knife.

Information was received that a serious incident involving a knife had taken place nearby. Further investigation was carried out and video footage was obtained of the person who had dropped the knife. Officers then attended at Govan Police Station and advised officers there of what had taken place. The knife and video evidence was passed to them to further progress their enquiry. A man has been charged with the crime.

PREVENT

Key to keeping Britain's Railway safe is the continued vigilance by staff and the quick reporting of suspicious incidents to the British Transport Police. Often in such cases nothing much more is disseminated following police actions and enquiry, but, here is one highlighting good work by staff and police alike. On 18th August 2009, a member of Glasgow Subway staff reported seeing a man behaving in a suspicious manner. He was filming within a station and paying close attention to the CCTV system. Two Neighbourhood Police officers attended at Subway Control where they viewed the event for further enquiry with the footage quite clearly showing the man filming as described. Amazingly a little over two hours later, despite being heavily involved in policing the football and concert revellers, the male was spotted on the main concourse of Queen Street main line Station. The officers approached the man and ascertained that his intentions were, in fact, entirely innocent.

Neighbourhood Policing

The male was a BBC Television producer and was taking a picture of himself in the monitor next to the CCTV camera and is currently working on a project about CCTV for the BBC. Thanks to the vigilance of the staff and the observational skills of the two enquiry officers this was quickly resolved. It is this quick reporting of suspicious behaviour that helps us and our partners keep the railways safer.

COMING YOUR WAY?

In addition to the six established teams in the Scottish Area, there are two emerging teams.



The team based at Glasgow Queen Street station covers the North Clyde Electric line from Charing Cross to Drumgelloch. Scott McCallum and Drew Cutler are contactable on, 07917 052091, or, by e-mail at northelectrics.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk



The second emerging team situated in North Ayrshire cover Glengarnock to Irvine and from Kilwinning to Largs. Elaine Johnstone and John McGuire are contactable on, 07917 052099, or, by e-mail at northayrshire.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk

Both teams have been in place for a month and are working hard to get round their respective areas to meet as much as possible of the local communities.