



**BRITISH  
TRANSPORT  
POLICE**

**North Area, Newcastle, ECML  
Neighbourhood Policing Team  
PACT Meeting Minutes**



Author:	PCSO 9277 Price
Date:	09/06/2011 10am
Location:	Centurion Bar, Central Station, Newcastle.

**1. PRESENT:**

<b>Steve Armstrong</b>	<b>Eastcoast</b>	<b>SA</b>
<b>Dennis Middleton</b>	<b>Eastcoast</b>	<b>DM</b>
<b>Bill Donnelly</b>	<b>Samaritans</b>	<b>BD</b>
<b>Barry Kadleck</b>	<b>Samaritans</b>	<b>BK</b>
<b>PC 2560 Zoe Hingston</b>	<b>Northumbria Police NPT</b>	<b>ZH</b>
<b>Rev. Stephen Sorby</b>	<b>Railway Chaplain</b>	<b>SS</b>
<b>PS Steph Reynolds</b>	<b>BTP</b>	<b>SR</b>
<b>PCSO Vaughan Price</b>	<b>BTP</b>	<b>VP</b>

**2. APOLOGIES:**

<b>NODA</b>	<b>Taxi's</b>
<b>Sam Douthwaite</b>	<b>Street Pastors</b>

**3. UPDATE PROBLEM SOLVING PLANS:**

**OUTSTANDING PROBLEM SOLVING PLANS**

<b>Problem Solving Plan reference</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>ECMLN S/01/ 08042011</b>	<b>ASB on Eastcoast trains heading from Aberdeen to London Kings Cross throughout Friday afternoons largely centred around large groups of males/females, particularly stag and hen parties who are booked into or near the quiet coach shouting and swearing and consuming large amounts of alcohol. This is leaving a lot of passengers intimidated.</b>	<b>PI Bridges</b>

**4. UPDATE ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**SR Action N-16-1 is now discharged and was for a single point of contact for Newcastle, Durham and Darlington with regard to homeless people. This will be the Duty Station Managers for each Station.**

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM MEETING**

<b>REF/ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
<b>N-17-1</b>	<b>To contact Peter Williams Customer and Commercial Services Manager East Coast with regard to the PSP in order to discuss ways of avoiding large groups travelling in the quiet coach and any other ideas to reduce this problem.</b>	<b>PS Reynolds</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>N-17-2</b>	<b>To arrange for the ECML NPT to attend the NE1 meetings at the Gate in Newcastle.</b>	<b>PC Hingston</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>N-17-3</b>	<b>To arrange for the CRO to liaise with BTP officers and staff at the new Sainsburys shop on Newcastle Station with regard to a possible security issue as the entry/exits lead directly onto the street. Insp McLaren has been involved and is aware of the potential issues.</b>	<b>PS Reynolds</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>N-17-4</b>	<b>To arrange for Network Rail to liaise with the Samaritans in order to co-ordinate future training.</b>	<b>Bill Donnelly Barry Kadleck</b>	<b>ASAP</b>

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### a) Performance

**SR** Introductions and explanation that Steph had been away 4 months and is glad to be back and pleased to see some new faces.

**VP** An overview of what the NPT have been engaged in since the last meeting, this included the usual patrols of trains and some of the smaller stations on the ECML, the ongoing Operation Connection survey and work on the new PSP.

An action was raised to liaise with Network Rail and Samaritans to arrange future suicide prevention training. This is to simplify the process of inviting people to the training from different parts of the railway community and ensure a good representative cross section from the industry.

**BD** From previous actions, the Samaritans posters are in production and have been passed for use, the smaller stickers are already in Taxi's. The postponed taxi op will go ahead in the very near future. The single point of contact for the homeless remains with individual DSM's at Newcastle, Durham and Darlington. In total 4 new actions were raised (please see above)

**SR** The new PSP for ASB onboard East Coast Trains from Scotland on Fridays including large groups of drinkers, stag and hen parties was outlined and what BTP had done so far to combat the problem. Particular trains from Edinburgh and Berwick to York were the main problem services in relation to ASB from such groups, Steph asked whether there had been any feedback from EC staff ? SA said not really, everyone just tends to get on with it, a lot of the problems stem from the way passengers book tickets and it's not always possible to identify large groups travelling together. SR asked whether there was a possibility of making certain problem trains dry (alcohol free) and using a poster campaign similar to that being used by TPE which is particularly effective. SA said that the new policy of complimentary alcoholic drinks for first class passengers may not compliment any possible dry train application. SS said the design of the posters are important in getting across the message. SA said that not all the problems come from stag and hen parties, Riggers are often in drink and can be very aggressive toward staff and passengers, but possibly some trains could be made dry.

SS mentioned a new bar opening soon in York allowing passengers another place to buy and consume alcohol before travelling which may exacerbate the problem. SR offered

reassurance that any such problems in the early stages could be addressed through BTP by the local licensing department and that BTP would be monitoring it closely to ensure that it is being operated with the licence and in an acceptable manner.

SR stated that Edinburgh BTP are fully supportive of the PSP and have pledged to allocate officers at their end to monitor trains heading south and travel where possible.

SR and SA discussed the possibility of contacting the booking centre to see if any large groups could be identified in advance if travelling on a particular train. It was confirmed by SR that if someone is too drunk they must not be allowed to travel.

VP stated that if alcohol is confiscated before travel this reduces the mess made of the coaches and does not allow people to carry on drinking on the train but this can only happen on dry trains. DM said it is unlikely East Coast will ever stop selling alcohol but publicising offenders who have been prosecuted is a good deterrent in the opinion of most TOC's. BD asked if it is possible to declare a train dry if it is observed to be a problem train. SA said no, they do not have that authority, advance warning should be given. SR said that BTP did not want to see all trains made alcohol free but to manage such services so that all passengers enjoy a trouble free journey.

**b) Intelligence**

DM stated that incidents of trespass are down at Durham but verbal abuse is an issue and stated that CPS had dropped one case due to insufficient evidence despite CCTV footage and two statements being taken. A general discussion on Police, CPS and the Magistrates started but it was beyond the scope of the meeting although reassurance was provided with that individual case in mind that if the CPS had authorised a charge against a suspect it was unlikely that there was anything at fault with the evidence of the train staff, especially as they'd not been called to give evidence at court. It was re-iterated that all crime should be reported as nothing can be done if it is not.

ZH said the Northumbria Police NPT have moved to Eldon Square from Market Street in Newcastle, ASBO's and CRASBO's being pursued but not much impacting on the station at the moment. SA said begging/ ASB is not as bad at the moment.

**c) Any other business**

SA raised a possible access problem with the new Sainsbury's store on the station allowing people to pass from the front of the station right through the shop onto the

concourse, Insp. McLaren is aware of this and see action above.

#### 6. NEW PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

<b>NEW PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED</b>		
<b>Problem</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Problem Solving Plan Needed? (Yes/No)</b>
<b>No new priorities identified</b>		

#### 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is at the Centurion Bar Central Station Newcastle  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 10:00 Hrs.