

Fear of Crime

Fear of Crime and Community Reassurance

The local authority role

Monday 1st December 2008

MWB Conference Rooms, 10 Greycoat Place, Victoria, London, SW1P 1SB

Chaired by Martin Davis, Head of Engagement and Partnerships,
The Metropolitan Police Authority

The public sector is increasingly being measured on performance in relation to public perception of crime and disorder. As part of this measurement the Home Office is proposing a single strategic target in relation to this within the recently published Policing Green Paper. This places a renewed impetus on CDRPs to reassure the public and reduce levels of fear.

Fear of crime is a distinct phenomenon that manifests itself in a variety of ways and does not simply connect to high rates of crime. Indeed, some of the highest levels of fear of crime may be in areas with extremely low actual crime levels. Local authorities have an increasingly important role in public reassurance through customer communication, publicity and visible and effective community safety initiatives.

This conference aims to explore the latest thinking, practice and solutions to tackling public and community reassurance.

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Leading Local Authority Members with responsibility for Crime and Disorder
- Chief Executive Officers
- Community Safety Managers and Officers
- Chairs and Members of the CDRP
- Community Safety Policy and Strategy Officers
- Public Relations and Press Officers

REGISTRATION

Online

You can register for this conference online at www.psstrategies.co.uk

Fax / Post

Please complete the enclosed booking form and fax, email or post it to the address shown on the form.

Further booking forms are available from the conference administration team on 01483 203536 or by emailing benedictbr@btinternet.com

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SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- Hannah Saunders, Head of Citizen Focus Policy, Police Reform Unit, The Home Office
- Rhonda Wake, Research Director, Crime and Justice Team, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute
- Commander Rod Jarman, Neighbourhood Policing and Partnership, The Metropolitan Police Service
- Dr. Stephen Farrall, The School of Law, University of Sheffield
- Marcus Gomm, Head of Safer Communities, East Sussex Safer Communities Team
- Alan Keely, Community Safety Manager, Suffolk County Council
- Dr. Julian Westwood CMILT, TravelSafe Policy Officer, Merseytravel
- Andrew Carapiet, Director of Media, MediaFriendly

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MORNING PROGRAMME

9.30 **Registration and refreshments**

10.00 **Chair's Introduction and Welcome**

Martin Davis, Head of Engagement and Partnerships,
The Metropolitan Police Authority

10.05 **Keynote Address: Improving Public Confidence**

Hannah Saunders, Head of Citizen Focus Policy, Police Reform Unit,
The Home Office

The keynote address will provide an overview of the national picture and trends from the British Crime Survey as well as the current Government view on public reassurance and how this links with the National Community Safety Plan and other initiatives from Central Government.

10.30 **Reassurance - Police Service Initiatives and Objectives**

Commander Rod Jarman, Neighbourhood Policing and Partnership,
The Metropolitan Police Service

This address provides an insight into the work currently being undertaken by the police on reassurance. It will look at current objectives arising out of the Green Paper as well as police service initiatives, including neighbourhood policing that will help the service meet these objectives.

10.55 **Questions**

11.05 **Refreshment Break**

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MORNING PROGRAMME

11.20 **Conference Streams – Highlighting Good Practice**

Delegates may select one of the following streams:

A: Scrutiny Review as a Tool for Change - The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Case Study

Marcus Gomm, Head of Safer Communities,
East Sussex Safer Communities Team

Local Authorities have a duty to scrutinise the work of their Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and the public perception of crime is a key element in any review. East Sussex carried out a major scrutiny review of fear of crime in 2006 and this presentation covers the review process, the findings and the implementation of recommendations resulting from the review process.

B: Public Reassurance After a Major Incident - the Role of the Local Authority

Alan Keely, Community Safety Manager,
Suffolk County Council

Ipswich became the centre of media attention after the murder of five sex workers in November and December of 2006. Major incidents such as this can leave a perception of local crime, often far removed from reality, on both the local community and the wider public. This address looks at the role of public sector agencies in reassuring the public at the time of the murders and the longer term community reassurance agenda.

12.20 **Feedback from Conference Streams and Questions**

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AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

12.30 **Tackling Fear of Crime on Public Transport**

Dr. Julian Westwood CMILT, TravelSafe Policy Officer,
Merseytravel

Merseytravel run public transport across five local authority areas in Merseyside and have an acclaimed travelsafe programme which uses both direct interventions to reduce crime, and communications to reduce fear and increase reassurance. The fear of crime has major implications for public transport usage levels of the system so for transport operators this is a significant issue and the experience gained by Merseytravel will be directly relevant to the work of CDRPs.

12.55 **Questions**

1.05 **Lunch**

2.00 **Experience and Expression in the Fear of Crime**

Dr Stephen Farrall, The School of Law,
University of Sheffield

Dr Farrall will discuss his recently completed Economic and Social Research Council-funded project. This presentation will explore how the fear of crime can be more precisely approached, measured and analysed.

The presentation will contain ideas about potential solutions to both measuring the fear of crime and to responding to survey-based reports of high level of the fear of crime. The presentation should assist those working in both crime and disorder and in formulating public reassurance.

2.35 **Questions**

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AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

2.45 **Conference Streams – Affecting Public Perception**

Delegates may select one of the following streams:

Stream C - How to Use the Media

Andrew Carapiet, Director of Media,
MediaFriendly

Local and National media has an important role in public reassurance. In order to utilise and work with the media, local authorities need to understand their role and the key factors in selection of news stories and engagement of public interest in reassurance initiatives. This workshop will look at the key issues around using the media in public reassurance.

Stream D - What Drives Public Confidence?

Rhonda Wake, Research Director, Crime and Justice Team,
Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute

The Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute has worked with many authorities as well as central government in measuring public perceptions of crime and disorder and in understanding the nature of public confidence. This workshop will discuss best practice examples from both police forces and local authorities.

3.45 **Feedback from Conference Streams and Questions**

3.50 **Chairs Conclusion**

Martin Davis, Head of Engagement and Partnerships,
The Metropolitan Police Authority

4.00 **Conference Close**

PSS

Public Sector Strategies has been facilitating and producing conferences for the public sector since 1994, often in partnership with local government and central government agencies and departments. For a list of forthcoming events please visit www.PSStrategies.co.uk

Conference Objectives

- To examine government objectives around performance measurement of public reassurance and the proposed single strategic target recently published in the Policing Green Paper.
- To look at the role of local authorities in public reassurance through customer communication, publicity and visible and effective community safety initiatives.
- To provide an overview of the national picture and trends from the British Crime Survey as well as the current government view on public reassurance and how this links with the National Community Safety Plan and other initiatives from central government.
- To provide a focus on police objectives around reassurance and police service initiatives, including neighbourhood policing.
- To look at how local authorities can use the scrutiny process to review and implement policies around public reassurance and fear of crime.
- To provide an academic perspective on how fear of crime is measured and analysed and how fear of crime is experienced and expressed by the public.
- To examine the role and influence of the media in public reassurance and perception of crime levels.
- To look at methodologies for measuring, evaluating and monitoring fear of crime within a community.

Further Information

For further information on this, or other Public Sector Strategy (PSS) conferences, please telephone PSS on **0118 933 2636** or email info@PSStrategies.co.uk. For booking queries please contact Benedict Business Resources on 01483 203536.