

South Bank Patrol committed to community safety

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) was launched today, 1st December in South Bank (Lambeth borough). CSAS is a Home Office initiative that enables the Chief of Police for each force area to designate limited but targeted police powers to employees of non -police organisations who contribute towards community safety.

South Bank Patrol is currently operated by The Shield Guarding Company who has now become an accredited member of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). South Bank Patrol is managed by South Bank Employers' Group which reports to the South Bank Partnership. The partnership co-ordinates and monitors initiatives to improve the South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars area under the joint chairmanship of Kate Hoey MP and Simon Hughes MP.

South Bank Patrol, which comprises ten staff, have a remit to address a wide range of local issues including; illegal street trading, anti-social behaviour, counter terrorism, street drinking and rough sleeping. The service, which commenced on 1st October 2008, also acts as the eyes and ears of the local authority and businesses in the neighbourhood.

Under CSAS, the MPS has agreed to designate the following police powers to South Bank Patrol:

- 1) Power to request name and address of a person acting in an anti - social manner
- 2) Power to request name and address for relevant offence
- 3) Power to require any person in a designated public place to surrender alcohol
- 4) Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- 5) Power to seize tobacco from persons aged under 16

Whilst South Bank Patrol have been successful in reducing crime in the area to date, the delegated powers will offer enhanced responsibilities and allow the team to handle crime and security issues in a more direct manner. Furthermore, issuing South Bank Patrol with designated police powers will make businesses, residents and visitors in the area feel safer.

Forces which have introduced CSAS within their communities have already indicated benefits of crime reduction, improved communication and cohesion and public reassurance. It is also found that CSAS improves police effectiveness and efficiency by freeing up police time and resources.

David Clark, Security Co-ordinator, South Bank Employers' Group said

“We are delighted to launch our own Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in South Bank. We believe that the scheme will enhance the already very strong relationship between South Bank Patrol and the MPS (Lambeth borough) and help us achieve our goal to make South Bank a safe, secure and welcoming place for people to live, work and play.”

Eric Dench, South Bank Business Watch Chair and Head of Security for the London Eye said

“South Bank Patrol has had an enormous impact on reducing illegal trading, anti-social behavior and low level crime in South Bank. They act as ambassadors for the area offering reassurance and assistance to visitors and are recognised by local businesses as highly professional, efficient and resourceful.

Over the past two years they have become intrinsic to maintaining the security and safety of the area. By granting CSAS powers to South Bank Patrol, the MPS (Lambeth borough) Borough Commander is showing tangible investment in partnership working and South Bank Patrol. I firmly believe that the granting of these powers will have a positive and enduring impact on the wider South Bank community.

Notes to editors:

Although CSAS has been launched in Southbank on 1st December , the initiative will not start operating until 14th December 2010.

- CSAS has been made possible through the Police Reform Act 2002 and is a voluntary scheme.

The Police Reform Act 2002 enables the Commissioner to establish and maintain a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme. Organisations who provide community safety patrols and who satisfy a range of policy requirements may apply to become accredited. Employees of such organisations who have been trained to approved standards may then apply for accreditation themselves.

Only after an organization has satisfied strict criteria that include enhanced vetting and training standards, equal opportunities and race relation policies and approved complaints and accountability procedures will they be awarded accredited status. Employees must similarly satisfy strict standards in terms of vetting and must receive training in relevant areas of law, the use of powers and appropriate procedures. This will include human rights, race relations and equal opportunities.

An accredited person wears the uniform of their employing organisation, upon which the Home Office approved national accreditation badge will be displayed. They are also required to carry an identification card which confirms the powers the individual is able to exercise.

- **About South Bank Employers' Group**

South Bank Employers' Group is an association of the major organisations in the South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars with a long term commitment to improving the experience of the area for employees, visitors and residents.

Members of South Bank Employers' Group include: British Film Institute, Coin Street Community Builders, Elizabeth House Partners, Ernst & Young, Guy's & St Thomas' Charity, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, ITV, King's College London, London Development Agency, London South Bank University, National Theatre, Network Rail, Shell, Park Plaza Hotels, Southbank Centre, The London Eye Company, Whitbread plc.