

# UK Missing Persons Bureau Newsletter

## Force Visits

### Upcoming events:

- Missing People Christmas Carol Service 12th December 2016
- Child Rescue Alert conference 17th November 2016

Inspector Steve Cox has spent the past four months visiting police forces from around the country to gauge good practice within and between the forces.

Steve recently joined the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) as the new National Staff Officer. When he began, Steve wanted to gain an insight into the difficulties force's face as well as their good

practices. The long term outcome of this is to improve communication between local forces to overall improve police practice.

Each visit involved Steve speaking to the force and in turn the force answering questions on a various number of topics. These ranged from IT capabilities to return home interview practices and missing migrant children. The structure of these visits

were informal and to give the opportunity of one-to-one discussions on the good practices of the forces as well as any areas in which the forces can improve their practice.

With the last force visit expected by the end of September, Steve Cox will then publish a document detailing the best practices from around the country.

## Safeguarding Children on Transport Week

There was a week of activity at Birmingham New Street Station between 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September. British Transport Police and West Midlands Police contributed with operational activity consisting of increased patrols during the week accompanied by members of the Children's Society charity. This resulted in two missing children being found during the week.

Members of the local council and the Children's Society were on hand to raise awareness to passengers and staff of the risks of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and how to keep children safe on transport. The charity the Railway Children delivered training to retailers, businesses and staff at the station to help them recognise if a child is vulnerable or at risk, and to encourage them to report it.

### UK MPB Success Statistics

Between April and September, the UK Missing Persons Bureau has successfully located 53 missing people who were vulnerable to a variety of risks. Along with this, the UK MPB made 2700 contacts with forces across the UK. There were also 400 international enquiries. 100% of high risk cases where assistance was requested was supported within 24 hours.

### Data Report

The Data Report for 2015/16 is due to be published shortly. It will contain analysis on data regarding missing and absent persons, including demographics, risk assessment, harm suffered, length of time missing, the issue of missing from care, the reasons for going missing and unidentified bodies.



## North Wales Unidentified Murder Victim

On November 14th 2015, the skeletal remains of a male were discovered at Clocaenog Forest, near Corwen, Denbighshire. It is believed the body had been at the location for a number of years, possibly from 1995-2005 when the incident is thought to have occurred. He is believed to have been over the age of 54 at the time of his death, most likely in his 60s. Dentistry shows work typical of that carried out in the UK between 1980 and 2000. Additionally, it is thought he suffered from arthritis and an inflammatory joint condition, which affected his back and a number of other joints; likely to have given him

pain and reduced movement. He had previously suffered an injury to his spine, a broken nose and possibly an injury to his left wrist.

Also found at the scene were a pair of badly decomposed Spencer underpants and dark green Pringle jumper. They may have belonged to the individual, although this cannot be confirmed. Following extensive investigation work, the police established the man died from blunt force trauma to the head but this occurred at a different site, and a murder investigation was launched.

If anyone wishes to contact the UK Missing Persons Bureau the reference is 15-006991.



## Good News Story

In 2010, a British family lost contact with their son who had gone travelling in Thailand. He usually e-mailed the family updates on his whereabouts but the family grew concerned when this stopped. An extensive investigation was conducted on his whereabouts did not find any trace of the missing man.

However, at the start of August 2016, the Lucie Blackman Trust reported that the missing male had been located safe and well, six years after his disappearance. An officer at the UK MPB contacted the charity and Suffolk police to confirm the report. On the second of August, only a day after the Lucie Blackman Trust

located the missing man, the case was officially closed.

This case highlights the success of charities that locate missing people, even long after people are reported missing. And reminds the families of other missing people to not give up hope of finding their loved one.



## CRA Conference 17th November

A conference will be held for the Child Rescue Alert (CRA) strategic leads and key roles in each region and force. The agenda will include case studies where a CRA was launched, debriefs and lessons learned from CRA exercises throughout the year, and examples of where regional areas are working well together to reduce impact on resources and improve their CRA response.

## Changes to the UKMPB

Over the past few months, there have been many changes to the UK MPB team with new members joining and a few farewells. The two newest members to the team are India Ghosh and Joe Hayden. India, the new Data Analyst joins the team from Surrey Police where she was a Holmes Indexer after graduating from Nottingham Trent University. Before joining the UK MPB as the newest Intelligence Officer, Joe was a Detective for 4 years in the Cayman Islands and before that he was based in Reading with the Ministry of Defence Police.

The UK MPB will relocate in May 2017, the new office location is still currently in the decision making process, the team hope to be able to share this news soon.

