



NBCC NEWS

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NBCC launches national Safer Business Action Week to target business crime

Following the first successful national week of action organised by the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) last year, a newly branded **Safer Business Action Week** is due to be held in October with police and partners across the country joining together to tackle business crime in their communities.

The Safer Business Action Week will start on Monday 16th October and will involve Business Reductions Partnerships (BCRPs), Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and the private security industry working with local police forces to deliver a focussed operation with joint patrols, the targeted intervention of offenders and a range of crime prevention activity including raising awareness of the local issues with the general public.

Supt Patrick Holdaway, lead for the NBCC said: "The week of action is coordinated nationally but it very much focussed on local crime and ASB issues impacting retail and other businesses in the community. It is as much about engaging with businesses and the public as it is about identifying and catching prolific offenders. Last year's week of action saw some fantastic results in targeting those who cause the most harm to businesses and also in building ongoing relationships between business, partners and the police."

Bespoke branding has been created for police forces and partners to use to promote their involvement in the week, and the NBCC will be supporting with planning and marketing all of the various activities taking place.

The NBCC social media channels on LinkedIn and Twitter will have updates of the activity taking place throughout the week.

The branding for the event can be accessed via the link below:

<https://nbcc.police.uk/images/safer-business-week-branding.zip>



SAFER BUSINESS
ACTION WEEK

If you would like to get involved in the Safer Business Week of Action 2023, please contact the team contact@nbcc.police.uk

Safer Business Network Deliver Series of London based SaBA Days

When the idea of Safer Business Action Days (SaBA) was introduced almost two years ago, the Safer Business Network team was excited to be able to coordinate these on behalf of the National Business Crime Centre. In the last few weeks this has seen SaBA Days taking place in Tottenham Hale, Stratford, Bromley and Lewisham.

Their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) have grown from strength to strength on a local level, and they welcomed the idea of working with National Retailers and Security Providers to support the local communities. BCRPs have the local knowledge of high-harm offenders as well as strong relationships with local businesses and security officers and are best placed to coordinate these days of action. The Safer Business Network start the day with an intelligence briefing, bringing local and national resources together to disseminate information on local crime and prolific offenders: in the three days they have coordinated this year they have deterred, detained and arrested a large number of those individuals presented in the briefing, delivering tangible results for communities, enhancing the safety of all.

The team also visit businesses on the day, with a variety of partners that join the engagement (from SIA to the Met Business Crime Hub, from Council Community Safety to BID ambassadors) to raise awareness on the topic of abuse and violence at work. The aim is to let staff know that this is not part of the job and that the support to report and fight these behaviours is available. They promote #ShopKind, not only by being ShopKind Champions but also by providing crime prevention advice and posters to educate the public.

Gianluca Rizzo, Stratford Original BID Manager, said: "The impact of the work that Safer Business Network is having on our town centre is incredible, businesses are part of a strong and resilient community, share information with one another and are proactively fighting crime and ASB. The SABA Day in Stratford has been an extraordinary success and showed the impact that this partnership is having in our Town Centre, making everybody safer.

"SaBA Days are a great support to our communities, a day to focus an extraordinary number of resources to tackle and disrupt local crime. We have demonstrated that we have the right intelligence to focus on, and with the support of all partners success is an inevitable result."



Force Focus - Lancashire Constabulary Tackling Business Crime

Lancashire Partnership Against crime (LANAPC) in partnership with Retailers Against Crime (RAC) have hosted a conference recently around different areas of business crime on a Lancashire and national level working in partnership with businesses and different partners. This was a brilliant event which pulled all partners together from different areas and allowed networking to take place with many exhibitors too and allowed attendees to hear from a variety of experienced speakers.



Bespoke business crime reduction visits are completed on a weekly basis in Lancashire supporting neighbourhood policing teams and high demand businesses in reducing and preventing the issues they are facing regarding shoplifting and Anti-social behaviour. Business we have worked closely with in partnership recently have been McDonald's, Tesco, Boots, Sainsbury's, Booths and many more.

Within Lancashire we have a resource that are handed to business to encourage online reporting for 101 reports. These business cards are to make reporting more efficient for the business of Lancashire as when they scan the QR code this enables them to be taken directly to our online reporting platform where they can make an account and report 101 crimes. It is important that businesses are aware this is not for 999 incidents. This resource has been greatly received by businesses across Lancashire in regard to being a more efficient way of reporting and for these to be on display in offices, CCTV rooms, guarding podiums etc.

Report a crime online

If a crime is happening now, please call 999 immediately

Scan the QR code with a smart phone to report a crime online or visit the URL below:

lancashire.police.uk/reportonline

If a crime is happening now, please call 999 immediately

If you are a police force, BID, BCRP or other crime prevention partner and would like to highlight the work you have been doing in the NBCC newsletter please email michelle@purplepitchcomms.co.uk

NBCC launch Begging Guidance

Begging and homeless are not the same thing. Not everyone who is homeless begs and not every beggar is homeless. The causes of both issues can be complicated and for some individuals may overlap.

Whenever you are in a place with high footfall you are likely to encounter people who ask you for money via begging.

Some of these people will be vulnerable and need assistance from various organisations to address physical or mental health conditions and access safe accommodation. Multi agency teams and charities can support these individuals and refer them to services to address these needs.



However, it is not uncommon for organised crime groups to use people to beg to take advantage of the empathy felt towards vulnerable people and generate income. It should not be forgotten that the individuals used by crime groups in this way may also be victims of crime through exploitation.

Aggressive Begging and Anti-Social Behaviour

The offence of begging was previously contained in the Vagrancy Act 1824 but this legislation was repealed on 28th June 2022. This brought England and Wales in line with Scotland and Northern Ireland who had already decriminalised begging. There is now no offence of begging in the UK although a review is taking of what should replace the Vagrancy Act.

With the removal of the offence of begging the focus changes to the conduct of the person who is begging and whether their behaviour is anti-social. If their behaviour is likely to cause alarm, harassment, or distress to another person then the powers within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Policing and Crime Act 2014 could be used if local areas deem it appropriate. See the NBCC's related guides on [Anti-social behaviour](#) for further details.

If you are concerned about someone who is begging and you think they are homeless you can report them either to your local council or via [Streetlink](#) who will notify the local authority.

If the person appears under 18 call the police. If the person is in immediate danger or needs urgent care dial 999.

The NBCC 'Begging Guidance' gives guidance on what to do if your business is experiencing aggressive begging and also what you can do to help - click the image below to download your copy:

[Begging Guidance](#)

Why employers should consider hiring people with convictions

Latest statistics show that in England and Wales, there are around 12.3 million people with a criminal record and that only around one in four of the 50,000 people released from prison each year currently get into work within six months.

Reoffending amongst convicted criminals is thought to cost the UK £18 billion per year. Whilst Government figures state the reoffending rate is around 25%, some figures suggest that is actually as high as 40% of people reoffending within the first 12 months.

This is a huge financial cost to the UK economy and perpetuates a cycle of offending that is exacerbated by a lack of employment opportunities for people with convictions.

Reoffending is a complex issue, driven by a combination of factors that can interact in different ways. These can include unemployment, homelessness, unstable family and community relationships, and addictions – among others.

Working Chance, the employment charity for women with convictions, has published a new guide to recruiting and supporting people with a criminal record.

This is the go-to guide for hiring managers, HR professionals, and recruiters and presents compelling reasons why employers should be pro-actively hiring people with convictions, and outlines practical strategies to ensure equitable and risk-managed recruitment practices.

It explores how many people with convictions have committed relatively minor offences such as low-level shoplifting, or traffic violations. Their conviction(s) may have been decades ago or very recent but it can significantly hinder their ability to secure a job.

It also talks about how increasingly, employers across all sectors are seeing the benefits of proactively and strategically hiring people with convictions. The number of employers who see

advantages in hiring someone with a conviction has doubled in the last seven years (24% in 2023 compared to 12% in 2016).

The top three potential advantages these employers cited were:

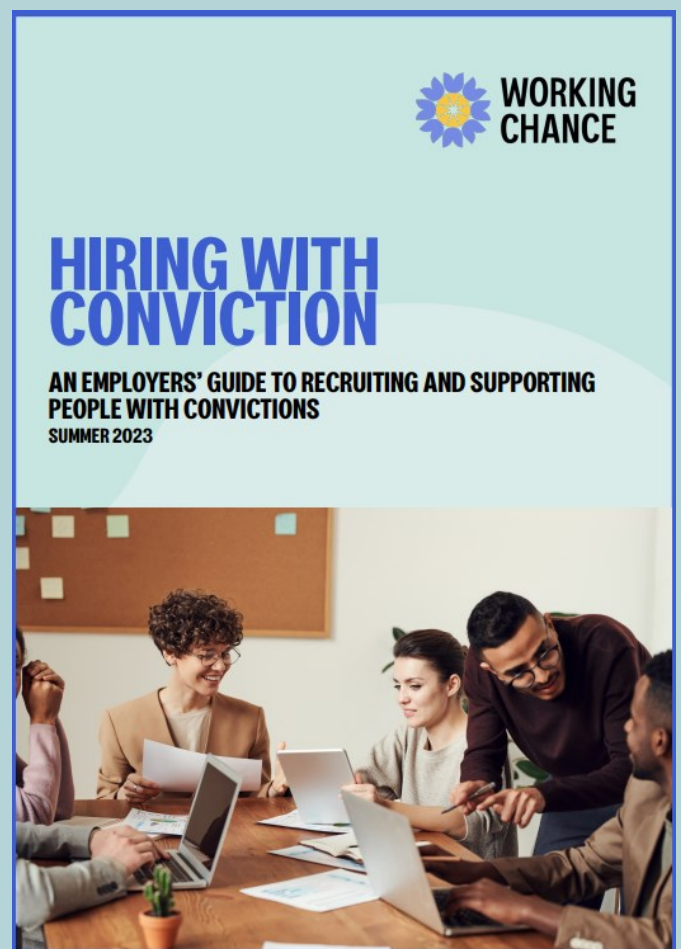
people with convictions would provide different perspectives

recruiting from this pool would help to tackle skills and labour shortages

it would improve the organisation's diversity and inclusion record.

Find out more about why hiring people with convictions isn't just about 'doing good' and giving people a chance; it makes sense from a business point of view too.

[Hiring_With_Conviction.pdf \(ams3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com\)](https://ams3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/Hiring_With_Conviction.pdf)



Crime Report 2023 | ACS | The Association of Convenience Stores

Paul Fagg represented the #nbcc at Westminster for the launch of the Association of Convenience Stores Crime Survey. Key findings from the report include:

- Estimates that there were over 1.1m incidents of theft reported last year
- 63% of shop theft is committed by repeat offenders
- 79% of retailers believe that the cost of living crisis has led to an increase in theft
- 87% of colleagues working in convenience stores have experienced verbal abuse over the last year
- Retailers estimate that just 16% of crimes against their business are reported to the police
- **£228m** was invested by convenience retailers in crime prevention measures over the last year

The report makes a number of recommendations as part of a five-point plan and the NBCC will continue to work with policing and partners in the collective fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.

You can read the full report and recommendations here:

[Crime Report 2023 | ACS | The Association of Convenience Stores](#)

Food couriers targeted by moped thieves

In the year prior to the pandemic it was reported that 7.5 billion food deliveries were made in the UK and a separate report from the NPD Group showed an increase in UK food deliveries of 39% in three years.



A similar study for hospitality EPOS company, Zonal, reveals that 28% of consumers in the UK ordered more meal deliveries than 12 months ago, with nearly half of the orders being made through online channels.

Whilst this growth is great news for the food delivery sector, it has also led to an increase in delivery drivers being targeted for their mopeds.

In the Police Foundation report titled 'Victimisation and fear of crime in the gig economy', it lists numerous first hand accounts of food delivery couriers being threatened with weapons, being chased by offenders

in vehicles, and returning from a delivery to find their moped's gone.

Not only can a stolen motorbike have a devastating impact on a courier's livelihood, that vehicle is then often used to commit other offences. If the theft has involved a physical confrontation or assault on the individual, that can also have long lasting emotional and psychological effect on the victim.

NBCC's Paul Fagg said: "We know from talking with police and industry bodies that this ongoing threat is making couriers feel scared and vulnerable. However, many have no choice but to carry on in the job regardless of the risks. It is essential that the companies they work for do all they can to protect their employees by putting security and safety measures in place and provide them with guidance on how to stay safe."

The NBCC has worked with a number of partners to develop a 'Food Courier Safety Guide' as part of their crime prevention series to provide practical advice to individuals and the companies who employ them.

The guide can be downloaded from the website and used as both a training aid for new staff and as a good practice checklist for employers:

[Food Courier Safety FINAL.pdf](#)