

Many people in business are members of the Cross-sector Safety and Security Communications (CSSC) initiative so they will already be aware of the benefits of this excellent initiative.

CSSC was established in London during the Olympics, as part of a process to keep business better informed with security information and this voluntary organisation has continued to build on the success of the original project.

A national roll-out of CSSC is currently underway, in partnership with National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ), with the aim of making its security messages available to all business sectors and members of the public in the UK. The implementation is integrated with the Step Change initiatives to counter the recent upsurge in terrorism. CSSC is an initiative where authoritative security information is cascaded from a central hub to regional hubs and then onward to businesses within the region. Regional information can also be sent locally.

Since its inception six and a half years ago for London 2012, CSSC has developed into the principal communications vehicle for security-related messages. The original proposition remains the same: to provide timely, accurate, authoritative messages.

In line with NCTPHQ, there are eleven identified regions, namely: Eastern, South East, South West, Wales, East Midlands, West Midlands, North East, North West, Scotland, Northern Ireland and London (The Hub).

The ultimate goal is for each region to be linked to The Hub for distribution of centralised messages, as well as having the autonomy to send regionalised messages.

Each area will adopt the same governance model and delivery structure: there is a region-specific management board, including a NCTPHQ Detective Chief Inspector together with a local chair. Many of these chairs are now in place: The Eastern Region is chaired by Mark Duffy, Chairman of Dardan Security, and the South East Region is chaired by David Ward, Chief Executive of Ward Security. South West is chaired by Karen Ramirez and East Midlands by Andrew Nicholls.

CSSC is a registered charity, with a Board of Trustees, supported by a Consultative Board co-chaired by Sir David Veness and Commander Simon Bray. During the national roll-out, we will revisit the senior management structure to ensure adequate regional and strategic representation at the centre.

Extending the reach of

cssc in 2018

Cross-sector Safety and Security Communications

The regional operational teams of each hub include members who are seconded from both the public and private sectors. Seconded Ollie Giles from Alchemmy is developing Standard Operating Procedures and Mark Seston from CBRE is supporting the day-to-day running of The Hub.

The CSSC website, thecssc.com, was recently refreshed and revised with updated information. You can join via the website and find out more about CSSC and its work. The website also contains all the latest CSSC alerts and news.

Going forward, we are keen to ensure that everyone within an organisation receives the CSSC messages, where appropriate, and the original recipient knows how and when to pass on the different types of message. If you have any ideas or feedback on CSSC, its website and national implementation, please send them to our administrator whose details are on the site.

Personal and financial support from a number of individuals and organisations is vital to the CSSC. Particular thanks go to our auditors Wilkins / Kennedy supported by Sarah Johnson for auditing our accounts and liaising with the Charity Commission.

If you can support the CSSC in any way, please get in touch.

Don Randall, MBE
Deputy Chair of Trustees and Chair of Senior Management Team.

Cross-sector Safety and Security in the East Midlands

Having been a member of CSSC since its early days, I am delighted to have been invited to chair the East Midlands region which is being set up to cover the counties of Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

We already have support and commitment from organisations in the East Midlands such as Boots, Crowne Plaza, E.on, Next, Poppleston Allen, Post Office, RAF Police and the Salvation Army.

CSSC – EM is now in the process of looking for Industry Sector Leads (ISLs), who work in the East Midlands, and are prepared to commit to onward cascading information within their business group.

Becoming an ISL will enable you to attend various CT seminars and it is also a great way of growing your network of security and business contacts.

Getting the right contacts within the various authorities and communicating to business about the benefits of CSSC will be key to the success of this important development. There has already been some considerable interest in the project and we have now established a management board which will help to support the essential work of ISLs across the whole of the East Midlands. Part of the challenge will be working closely with five different police forces and five county councils. It will also be important to ensure that we meet the expectations of our business partners.

The Regional Management Board of CSSC in the East Midlands is working in partnership with the East Midlands Counter Terrorist team and representatives of local business. CSSC is the perfect way for businesses to work closely with law enforcement and share important security messages with their employees. It is also an ideal way of keeping fully up to date with the constantly changing terrorist threat.

Please contact me direct by email andrew@security-institute.org if you would like to know more.

Andrew Nicholls
Chairman, CSSC East Midlands

CSSC South East Region

One of the challenges we found in setting up our local branch of CSSC is that outside London the CSSC is still a relatively new concept for businesses and organisations.

This means we have concentrated on having conversations around establishing the credibility of our organisation, so finding the right people to help has been essential. The local Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs) and CSSC connections have helped massively, which means we have been introduced to the right people on the ground to help us spread the word.

Communicating its benefits, how the CSSC came into being and its hugely important and relevant role in delivering counter terrorism, is a key part of my role. The CSSC name and key messages have got to get out more consistently and nationally from the heart of CSSC in London and that is something every CSSC member can help with.

To my mind, something simple like having a coordinated push to our network of contacts that explains who and why the CSSC exists would be a massive help for all CSSC branch coordinators.

However, the biggest challenge I am trying to address is ensuring we cascade the messages from the hub far enough down the chain. By this I mean, how do we get to the smallest of businesses, the taxi and courier firms, the corner shops based on a high street near where there may be a major incident or issue, the thousands of independent businesses that are not based on a business park or in an office environment or plugged into a major communication network. We need to build our database of recipients in each region and find smart ways to alert everyone, efficiently and effectively and that might be something as simple as signposting businesses to receive text alerts.

Another issue for us is the enormity of the geographical spread of the South East region: we cover Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Thames Valley. Unlike London, we are not compact and on a good day it can take five hours to drive from one end of the region to another, which means getting people together for face-to-face meetings, to brainstorm ideas or talk through initiatives can be problematic. I acknowledge we have skype, email and conferencing facilities, but nothing beats a face-to-face meeting, particularly when you are explaining CSSC.

All that said, recruiting sector leads in the southern region is going well. We are delighted to have on our team the Head of Security for P&O Ferries, Chief Constable Thames Valley Police, the Head of Security for Virgin Airways and the National Security Manager of Santander.

Fundamentally, the CSSC model is a proven and strong asset for ensuring better security and business resilience in our local communities; we just need to build on it and improve awareness nationally if it is to have the same importance and impact that it currently has in the capital city.

David Ward
Chairman, CSSC South East

For further information please visit theCSSC.com

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