



Message from Alan Johnson

'A new cross-Government strategy aiming to bring an end to violence against women and girls was set out on 25 November.

Violence against women and girls ruins lives, breaks up families and has a lasting impact across the generations.

Much has been done over recent years to increase protection for women and to prosecute their attackers. However, this is a complex problem which demands an even broader response to stop violence from happening in the first place.

Changing attitudes that tolerate violence against women and girls will take time but is essential if we are to eradicate this blight on women's lives.

As well as measures to further protect victims and tackle perpetrators, the **'Together we can end violence against women and girls' strategy** signals a new focus on preventing violence from happening.

The strategy sets out a range of actions for the police, local authorities, the NHS and government departments across three key areas - Protection, Provision and Prevention.'



Message from James Hall, Chief Executive, Identity & Passport Service

'Identity cards will be available to people who live or work in Greater Manchester from 30 November.

Anyone with an address in the Greater Manchester region can now make an appointment for their identity card with the first appointments taking place at the end of this month.

By linking individuals to one identity using biometric information - their face and fingerprints - the £30 cards will provide a secure and convenient way for people to prove who they are in everyday situations. The cards can also be used in place of a passport for travel throughout Europe and, like a passport, will last for ten years.

The National Identity Service will deliver recognisable benefits to people, businesses and local authorities including:

- ? a universal and simple proof of identity that brings convenience for organisations and individuals and

- means an end to the use of photocopied bank statements, phone bills and birth certificates;
- ? a universally acceptable and convenient way for young people to prove their age;
- ? convenient travel within Europe, using the credit-card sized identity card; and
- ? ensuring that foreign nationals living, working and studying here legally are able to easily prove their identity and helping to combat illegal immigration and working

Airside workers at Manchester and London City airports are also eligible to enrol from 30 November.

Further information on the National Identity Service for individuals, can be found at <http://www.direct.gov.uk/idsmart>, and for businesses at www.businesslink.gov.uk/idsmart.

Current Business at the Home Office

- ? The UK Border Agency has **now issued over 100,000 identity cards to foreign nationals**, mostly to spouses and students extending their stay.
- ? New measures to protect the public, increase police accountability and tackle crime and disorder were welcomed by the Home Secretary after the **Policing and Crime Bill received Royal Assent** on 13 November. The new act gives a clear voice to local people in the policing of their areas and also brings in new powers to ensure the police and local communities have the powers they need to deal with issues that matter to the public, such as gang-related violence, prostitution and alcohol-related disorder.
- ? **Security at the Olympic Park** was boosted with the launch of 'hand geometry' biometric access control for on-site workers. Security minister Lord West and Minister for the Olympics Tessa Jowell unveiled the new system on 16 October. The system is designed to help ensure only those who are meant to be on the site are able to gain access to it.
- ? Lord West gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on 13 October, during its **inquiry into the Home Office's response to terrorist attacks**. Former Home Secretary John Reid MP; Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on terrorism, Margaret Wood; and the new ACPO President, Sir Hugh Orde, also appeared before the committee, which has now extended the inquiry's remit to cover the Prevent strategy.
- ? **Email addresses for the office for security and counter-terrorism** will change in the New Year, as a new computer system is rolled out. The upgraded technology will improve connections with stakeholders as part of the x.gsi community. The changeover begins in January and will be completed by March.
- ? The Migration Advisory Committee, the government's advisers on skills shortages that can sensibly be filled by migration, has **recommended additions to the shortage occupation list**.
- ? On 9 November, the UK Border Agency launched a **campaign on illegal working aimed at small to medium sized businesses**. National, regional and trade press, as well as local radio ads, will be used to remind employers of their responsibilities when employing foreign nationals. The points-based system and ID cards for foreign nationals help support employers seeking to comply with legislation, whilst the civil penalties of up to £10k per illegal worker are in place for those who break the rules.
- ? On 2 November, a **statutory children's duty**, section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, came into force. It requires the UK Border Agency and its contractors to exercise particular care

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children while carrying out immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions.

- ? On 3 November it was announced that the **restrictions on working in the UK** currently applied to nationals from Bulgaria and Romania (the A2 countries), will continue until the end of 2011. Given the present labour market situation in the UK, the UK Border Agency believes it is important to give weight to the need to protect the interests of the resident workforce.
- ? On 12 November, the UK Border Agency published the **draft Immigration Bill** which both consolidates and simplifies immigration law. This will make it easier to take immigration decisions and enforce the law and it will help migrants to understand their position in the UK. Simplification of the law is not an end in itself, and the draft bill supports and reinforces many wider changes in the immigration system.
- ? On 12 November the **Prime Minister set out the case for the UK's tough but fair immigration system**, in a speech in west London. During his speech the Prime Minister emphasised that migrants must accept the responsibilities that come with living in the UK - obeying the law, speaking English, and making a contribution. He also talked about new measures to build on the success of the points-based system.
- ? As part of **national Compact Week**, the Home Office celebrated its commitment to partnership working with the Third Sector by inviting a range of Third Sector organisations to exhibit in the atrium of the Home Office in London from 2 November to 5 November. The Home Office is currently reviewing how best it can support the Third Sector in the significant contribution it makes to helping people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and cutting crime.

Good Practice Projects

- ? On 13 November a national campaign aimed at helping older people and students protect themselves from distraction burglars was launched with a role play class led by 'The Bill' star Graham Cole. The class, at the Peckham Settlement, is part of a six-month campaign to provide advice and practical support to elderly people and students. These groups can be vulnerable to distraction burglary, where criminals trick their way into a victim's home often by posing as utility company workers. Approximately 9,000 distraction burglaries take place each year. **'Secure Your Home' packs** are also available and face-to-face advice will be provided through road shows in England and Wales.
- ? Policing and Crime minister **David Hanson recently met residents from the Glebe Farm Estate**, a deprived housing estate once blighted by crime and antisocial behaviour, to see how they took a stand against gangs ruining their lives. Life on the estate has improved after residents, local businesses, the police and local authority joined forces to tackle troublemakers. After key people were identified and issued with antisocial behaviour orders, reports of antisocial behaviour on the estate to West Midlands Police fell by 62 per cent in just one month between March and April 2008.
- ? **'Not in my neighbourhood week'** began on 02 November and minister Alan Campbell was taken around York to see the fight against antisocial behaviour in action with graffiti being removed from public spaces by the safer York partnership. Previous projects have included the 'One in four' campaign, informing residents of the importance of securing their homes while they spend time in their gardens during the summer months. Work in York to combat crime is having a positive effect as overall crime

rates fell by 2 per cent between 07/08 and 08/09 according to police recorded crime figures.

Consultations

- ? Minister for Policing, Crime and Security David Hanson recently announced the results of the 2009 **consultation on 'Protecting the public in a changing communications environment'**. In a statement, he said that the majority of the 221 respondents had recognised that communications data was crucial to protecting the public and that it was necessary to respond to rapidly changing technology to maintain capability. He added that, in the light of the consultation, the government had ruled out the option of a single database of all communications.

- ? The Home Secretary announced the **government's response to the consultation on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)** on 4 November. It includes measures to:
 - o clarify the test of necessity and proportionality, ensuring that RIPA techniques are not used for trivial purposes;
 - o raise the rank of authorising officers in local authorities to a minimum of 'director' level; and
 - o give elected councillors a role in overseeing the way local authorities use covert investigatory techniques.

- ? The UK Border Agency **public consultation on the fees charged for immigration and visa applications** runs until 1 December if you would like to take part.

- ? A list of all **current Home Office consultations** is available on the Home Office website.

- ? **UK Border Agency (UKBA) consultations** are available on the UKBA website.

Contact us

If you're having difficulty contacting the appropriate part of the Home Office relating to your area of practice, the Corporate Communication Unit may be able to help.

If your query relates to immigration, asylum, Home Office research and statistics, identity cards, passports, or visas, you should **contact the appropriate area directly via its own website** in the first instance.

If, however, you are still having difficulty making contact with the Home Office, then please feel free to email the **Corporate Communication Unit** or phone: **020 7035 6525**.