

In the professional press

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JOURNALISTS and the police are not usually the easiest of bedfellows. In West Yorkshire, however, the partnership between a retired television reporter and a former police officer is a marriage made in heaven, so **Police Review** (June 10) would have us believe. Paul Johnston, who recently retired from West Yorkshire Police, has got together with Colin Baker, a former reporter, to create a course for officers who need a bit of media nous. Yorkshire Television has joined in, allowing trainees to visit its studios to see what goes on behind the scenes and to be mockinterviewed in a studio setting. Everyone wins, says Baker, who believes that it's in everyone's interests that the police do not appear "bumbling or unprofessional" on TV.

While police officers are off practising their interview technique, other people are coming up with ways of understanding the motives for crime. **Young People Now** (June 8) highlights the link between attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and crime. The condition, the article explains, is not just about hyperactivity, but about impulse control. "It's very easy for these young people to get into crime because they can't always curb their impulses," says Caroline Hensby, the founder of the ADHD support group Adders.

False assumptions are also causing problems in the charity sector — more specifically in the sensitive area of in memoriam giving and legacies. A feature in **Professional Fundraising** (June) gently probes the difficult issues surrounding whether and how fundraisers should follow up in memoriam donors. Charities, worried about the possible sensitivities of the usually recently bereaved donors, are reluctant to try to form long-term donation relationships and dismiss them as one-time givers. But this is wrong, argues the article: "in mem" donors are apparently crying out for a relationship with the organisation. Charities should not be afraid to tread the fine line between respecting the needs of the donor and the memory of the dead person and "nurturing that relationship into a pledge".

Dealing sensitively with people is what the Red Cross Fire Victim Support Service (FVSS) does best. It helps people to pick up the pieces when the fire engines have left the smouldering remains of their home. **Fire** (June) follows a few West Midlands FVSS volunteers in the specially converted motor home that is their support vehicle. The stories are heartwarming: locating insulin to replace medication destroyed in a fire for a diabetic woman who spoke no English; comforting an old man who had lost all the pictures of his grandchildren; calling an ambulance for a man with chest pains after the stress of the fire. "It's an amazing feeling to be able to help people in distress," one volunteer says.

Finally, volunteering of a different kind and on a much, much bigger scale. **Third Sector** (June 8) reckons that 70,000 volunteers could be mobilised if London were to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. They would be recruited in sports clubs, volunteer centres and community associations, and, according to the chairman of the London 2012 Forum, "will also leave a volunteering legacy that will benefit communities . . . for years to come".