COUNTY- AND FORCE-WIDE DISC NETWORKS

Creating Disc Networks across counties, metropolitan areas or police forces provides significant benefits for Disc Administrators and their Members. We explain how they work and how to join them - at zero cost...

All Disc systems can be linked together into Networks, to enable Administrators to share important Alerts and other current awareness easily and instantly, and to identify ID-Soughts and prolific Offenders.

The Administrator of each participating Disc system is in control. They can choose which systems to link with, how to process information received from them, and whether to share their Offenders' personal details.

This Factsheet explains the benefits of participation in Disc Networks across counties or metropolitan areas, how they are 'GDPR-compliant by design', and how Administrators can join their own Networks easily and at zero cost.

Sharing current-awareness information

Sharing news, Alerts, documents and information about up-coming events quickly across a Disc Network offers benefits for Disc Members and Administrators alike.

Within a Disc Network, multiple Administrators can quickly and easily share information about, for example, a new counterfeit £50 note, or a new modus operandi, or offenders travelling around their area - protecting their property, customers and staff – and often saving their money too.

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For Administrators, setting up 'cross-Disc publishing' is easy; thereafter, selecting specific items of information, and the Administrators with whom to share it is a simple matter of ticking one or two checkboxes and clicking 'Save'.

Administrators can either automatically publish items shared with them to their Members, or they can review and modify them before publishing them to their own Members – or delete them altogether.

Cross-Disc publishing keeps Members better - and more quickly - informed. And it helps Administrators maximise the flow of useful information to their Members: the more they receive, the more they participate in their local Disc system.
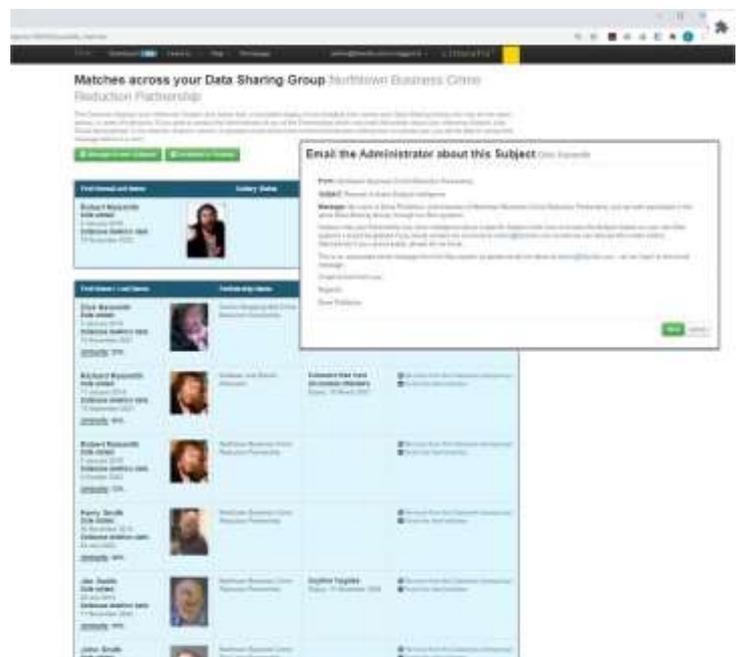

Publish current-awareness content to local Members – and right across the Disc Network

Cross-Disc Offender-matching

In addition to cross-Disc publishing, each participating Administrator can opt to allow 'cross-Disc Offender matching'. An Administrator can search each participating Administrator's Disc databases to find close matches with a 'reference' Offender.

Cross-Disc Offender-matching can identify Offenders in more than one participating Disc databases and are therefore travelling, possibly prolific Offenders - in police language, 'Level Two' Offenders. And it can help put names to 'ID-Sought' Offenders who may be unknown to one Administrator but familiar to another in the Network

Close matches which are identified by the system are displayed according to the degree of similarity between the reference Offender and those in the other participating databases. The search criteria are based on a wide

Find close matches to your reference Offender; then contact participating Administrator within Disc secure environment

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range of characteristics including name, date of birth, address etc – where present - but also physical build, gender, ethnicity, offence types etc.

Where a close match is indicated, the searching Administrator contacts the other Disc Administrator automatically through Disc's 'secure environment' to discuss the individual in question and whether or not to exchange more data.

The Administrator is always in control

Disc Networks are 'peer-to-peer' – so each Administrator can pick and choose precisely which other Administrators they want to share current awareness with, or with which they are willing to provide access to their Offenders for cross-Disc Offender-matching.

Administrators can configure their own systems automatically to publish content received through the Network directly to their local Members – or they can check each item first (and edit it if necessary) before publishing it.

Where cross-Disc Offender-matching is enabled, Administrators can opt to allow other Administrators to find possible matches across *all* their Offender data, or to exclude any data provided under a police Information Sharing Agreement.

Why map Disc Networks onto police force areas?

Many Administrators benefit from Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) with their local constabulary. But it is rare for such ISAs to allow sharing outside the police force's own area.

Extending Disc Networks only as far as police force boundaries reflects and supports this restriction. Mapping Disc Networks in this way also helps build closer relationships between local partnerships, working together, and their local police force and Crime Commissioners.

Disc Networks make a lot of sense from a police perspective too. They provide police with access to more and better local intelligence, as well as to a uniquely powerful and effective channel through which to communicate with business communities right across their force area.

Data Protection and GDPR

Disc Networks are 'GDPR-compliant by design' – as long as the Rules & Protocols of each participating Disc system allow Administrators of other Disc systems in the county or force-area to be Members.

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If so, then each Administrator is a legitimate Members of all the participating Disc system within the Disc Network, and there is no need for formal Information Sharing Agreements between them.

Privacy Notices must inform Offenders that their personal data may be shared with other local crime reduction schemes within the Disc Network for the purpose of identifying ID-Soughts or travelling Offenders.

Where an Administrator wants to copy Offender's data from another Administrator's Disc system to his or her own, both parties should document their agreement to do so in compliance with the Information Commissioners Office guidelines on 'once-off' data sharing.

Cross-Disc Offender-matching requires an Administrator to search on a 'reference' Offender in his or her own Disc database. 'Close matches' are based exclusively on the reference Offender's characteristics, and only close possible matches are displayed. This avoids 'data fishing' – routinely trawling through irrelevant data on the off-chance that it may be relevant.

How to join your county-wide Disc Network

If you wish to participate in your own county-wide Disc Network, contact us at support@littorsalis.com. We will then contact each Administrator within the network, and, subject to the agreement of each party, add you to you county-wide Disc Network. There is no charge.

Contact us for more information:
Email: support@littoralis.com
Call: 01273 900 468

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