

**Introduction: -**

**APPENDIX B**

In March 2011 Hampshire Police Authority attended the “Stop Disability Hate Crime Road Show” event held at the Waterlooville Community Centre. The event, part of a series of planned road shows taking place across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that have been organised by Hampshire Constabulary and other partner agencies.

**Aim:-**

The overarching aim of Police Authority Community Engagement is to ensure policing by consent by reflecting the views of local people in the setting of policing priorities.

The Police Authority has a statutory duty to engage with the public. By listening to the views of people from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the Authority can ensure that policies on policing reflect the services people want, and to this end, the results of engagement exercises undertaken in 2010/11 are fed into the Policing Plan process and shape policing priorities.

**Objectives:-**

To engage with disabled people to both understand and ascertain their policing priorities, experiences and concerns, and to raise awareness within the disabled community of the role and responsibilities of the Police Authority.

The Authority sought to raise awareness of and encourage Hate Crime reporting amongst the disabled community

**Methodology:-**

To engage with disabled people informally at the “Stop Disability Hate Crime Road Show” event “ being held at Waterlooville Community Centre through the provision of a stand at the event which provided information on the Authority, its work and Hate Crime reporting.

**Response Rate:-**

The Police Authority stall was well attended by a number of disabled people and their carers. We were able to engage with the community members informally through discussions and obtained a good selection of views and opinions about Hate Crime and policing in general around Waterlooville.

**Background: -**

Hampshire Police Authority provided Hampshire Constabulary with a crime prevention grant (from the Community Engagement Committee) of £3,000 to

organise a number of disability Hate crime road shows to take place across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Hate crime within Hampshire is broken down into the following 5 categories, race, sexual orientation, faith / religion, honour based violence and disability.

The numbers of recorded Hate Crimes against members of the disabled community are very low, this may be because disabled people are either unable to or unwilling to come forward and report any form of Hate Crime (or general crime) that they are a victim of.

This event seeks to encourage disabled people to report any form of Hate Crime that they are a victim of and to instil confidence within the community that the police will take them seriously and investigate any crime including Hate Crimes that they report.

To date there have been 4 Hate Crime road shows across the constabulary area.

#### **Executive Summary:-**

- Little knowledge of 101 non emergency number
- Lack of evidence leading to non conviction which effects reporting of hate crimes because individuals are scared nothing will be done.
- The visibility of the police on the streets instils confidence
- General view that the police are doing a good job.

#### **Main Report:-**

Hampshire Police Authority attended the “Stop Disability Hate Crime Road Show” organised by Hampshire Constabulary at Waterlooville Community Centre in Havant. The event was part of the Police Authority’s Community Engagement programme for 2010 / 11. The event was also attended by a number of other partner agencies including Trading Standards, Advocacy Projects and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The event is part of a series of planned Hate Crime road shows being organised by Hampshire Constabulary across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Police Authority has provided the constabulary with a £3,000 crime prevention grant to deliver these events.

At the event we spoke with a number of people (in excess of 150, including service users and their carers), and provided them with information on Hate Crime reporting, the autism alert card, how to make crime prevention grant applications and on the role of the Authority.

The aim of the event was to encourage Hate Crime reporting, we informed members of the disabled community and their carers that the police regarded disability Hate Crime as a big priority and were extremely interested in all

reported incidents. For the police and other agencies to get a clear understanding of disability Hate Crime and effectively deploy their resources it was essential that victims reported all incidents to help build up a clear picture of the problem within the community.

The event followed a similar format used in previous road shows, two discussion groups which encouraged victims to talk about their experiences. The groups were provided with advice from Hampshire Constabulary officers and other partners on what harassment was, ways of reporting this, how to tell the police, types of Hate Crime, what happens when somebody reports an incident.

We informed the group that if members of the community felt uncomfortable reporting disability Hate Crimes to the police that there were other ways that they could still report crimes, such as through local councils, anonymously or through a third person. The main message was that if you are ever subjected to harassment you must report it.

6/10 people that attended the first discussion group confirmed that they'd been victims of Hate Crime in the past, the majority of the participants stated that they'd report a Hate Crime by attending a police station but felt that police stations were "scary places" to visit. The majority of participants were aware of the 999 emergency number if they wished to report a crime but were unaware that they could also dial 101 (the non emergency number) to report a crime.

The discussion focussed on why individuals would not report a Hate Crime if they'd been a victim. One individual commented that "some times a lack of evidence leads to the perpetrator not being convicted which makes individuals feel scared to report in the future as they perceive nothing will happen".

The discussion then moved onto what you should do if you witness a crime, intervene or report it to the police? Police officers stated that if it is a serious crime then you shouldn't intervene and put yourself in danger. An example of an old lady who tackled 6 robbers was given; she could quite easily have been injured. The group were advised the best thing to do if you witness a crime is to write down all the details and then contact the police and report it

Another individual within the group shared his experiences of being a victim of Hate Crime (he'd been a victim on three separate occasions). He'd been attacked by a drunken man who said that he should be "locked up in a mental institute and that he was a spastic", during the attack he was knocked to the ground and hurt his head. He stated that the police didn't help him or find the perpetrator, as it was during the night when the attack happened. He stated that since the attack he feels that he should have somebody with him every time he goes out.

A lady within the group shared her experiences; she stated that she felt afraid of telling the taxi driver not to swear because it made her feel uncomfortable.

The following are comments and opinions (that are detailed below) made by disabled people and their carers who spoke to us at the Police Authority stall, the majority of people came from within Central OCU, there were some however that came from the North and East OCU also present at the event.

*“In Petersfield there is a good police presence and problems concerning the night time economy are well dealt with”.*

*“In Waterlooville, the police are quite good”.*

A gentleman from Waterlooville commented that he didn't see many police officers around, however he felt he didn't need to as it is a safe place to live. He stated that it is right that the police should go to the busy areas where they are needed most.

A lady from Alton commented that she'd had trouble in around market square (in the town) during the summer on Friday and Saturday nights, close to where she lived. She called the 101 number and the police dealt with the situation and later visited her at her address to reassure her.

A young man from Hayling Island stated that whenever he sees the police on the streets it made him feel safe and secure and that he felt a lot safer when the police locked up nasty people.

A young man from Havant commented that he had confidence to go and talk to the police.

**Follow-Up Action (If Required):-**

- 1). To forward a copy of the report and its findings to the OCU Commander and District Inspector
- 2). To forward a copy of the report to the Sgt Phil Lamb.
- 3). To forward a copy of the report to the Community Safety Manager.