

Introduction: -

APPENDIX C1

On Wednesday 07th September 2011, Hampshire Police Authority attended a “Police Disability Road Show” event held at the Hexagon Centre in Chandlers Ford. The event is part of a series of planned Disability Hate Crime road shows taking place across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that have been organised by Hampshire Constabulary and other partner agencies.

Aim: -

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 they 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.

Objectives: -

To engage with disabled people to both understand and ascertain their key policing issues. To raise awareness within the disabled community of the role and responsibilities of the Police Authority. The Authority sought to also raise awareness of and encourage Hate Crime reporting amongst the disabled community.

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. These road shows are 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 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 they are a victim of. 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 6 Hate Crime road shows across the Constabulary area.

Main Report: -

Hampshire Police Authority attended the “Police Disability Road Show” organised by Hampshire Constabulary at the Hexagon Centre, in Chandlers Ford. The event was part of the Police Authority’s Community Engagement programme for 2011 / 12. The event was also attended by a number of other partner agencies including Hampshire Autistic Society, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Eastleigh Borough Council, St John’s Ambulance and First Wessex Housing.

A number of people from the disabled community and their carers attended. We were able to engage with the community members informally through discussions and obtained views and opinions about Hate Crime and policing in the Chandlers Ford Area.

At the event we spoke with a number of people (in excess of 50, 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. There was a lot of interest in the Autism Alert Programme especially the Autism Alert Card which is produced in partnership with Hampshire Autistic Society and Hampshire Constabulary.

The Police Authority produced a book on Hate Crime called ‘Helping Victims of Hate Crime’ which was displayed on the stand. The book outlines how to report hate crime, the different types of hate crime and gives information and advice of who disabled people can contact to report a hate crime. The book was very well received by the disabled people attending the event.

We informed people that if members of the community felt uncomfortable reporting disability Hate Crimes to the police there were other ways they could report this, such as through local councils, anonymously or through a third person.

We were told by a gentleman about his mobility car being vandalised and being bumped on to the pavement in Harefield, he did call 101 and got called back. He went to Bitterne Police Station to report the broken car window.

A disabled young man said that he does feel safe but feels very vulnerable when he is on his own. He claimed he did see police and PCSO’s often and believed the police were dealing with the issues.

One gentleman with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder told us that he had a good positive view of the police. He stated that he knew what the police are doing and are getting it right.

Follow-Up Action (If Required):

- 1). To forward a copy of the report and its findings to the Area Chief Inspector.
- 2). To forward a copy of the report to the Community Safety Manager.