



United Against Hate Newsletter July 2015

Message from the Chair of the Partnership

My thanks to the Police & Crime Commissioner for providing the funding of £10k for this year's Hate Crime Awareness Week, which will enable us build on the successes of last year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Louise Couch, the lead officer for the Redditch Travel Ambassador Project, I am sure we will all ensure our support for this exciting new initiative.

Another element of good news for me personally, is that West Mercia & Warwickshire Police have encouraged interest in setting up an Independent Advisory Group, specifically for North Worcestershire. The inaugural meeting was held on the 6th July, and I am delighted to have been nominated and elected Chair of this new group. The primary purpose of the group will be to examine policies and procedures and be a 'critical friend' by providing 'grass root' views on their actions.

Partnership Update

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2015

Planning for Hate Crime Awareness Week 2015 is underway. The national campaign takes place from 10th to 17th October. Various activities will take place across the county to encourage reporting of hate crime.

Redditch Travel Ambassadors

The Redditch Travel Ambassadors Project, which has been funded by the former Choose How You Move Initiative, will begin shortly as a project coordinator has been commissioned. The project will explore the experiences of fifteen young people, who have a disability, using public transport over a year. The young people will also receive a number of sessions on such subjects as hate crime and personal safety. Once the project has taken place, a training manual for bus companies will be developed. In addition, the fifteen young people will become travel ambassadors, who will support other individuals with disabilities using public transport. The project coordinator will work with Our Way Self Advocacy volunteers to deliver this pilot.

Respect Schools Project

The schools work is coming to an end, but planning for next year has already begun. Hate Crime will be included in the Respect Schools Project for the 15/16 school year. A successful drop down day took place at Trinity High School on 1st July. Pupils learnt about social issues, disorder and hate crime in various workshops delivered by



partners over the course of the school day.

Open Day

The partnership will support Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station Open Day on Saturday 22nd August and two BDHT Community Days in Sidemoor and Catshill. The stall will include an information display and members of the public will be able to talk to staff members about hate incidents.

Reporting Centres



Please note that reporting centres will be contacted in the near future about their training needs.

For those who would like to undertake more hate crime training, a new e-learning package has been developed. We are looking for organisations to pilot the new package and provide feedback on it.

Please contact the Community Safety team on 01527 534 187 if you require your organisation to undergo any further training.

Worcester City Council Hate Crime E-Learning Course

The 'Tackling Hate' course is free and available to anyone. It addresses what hate incidents are, the effects they can have on victims and society in general and how to report an incident.

To access the course visit:

http://www.worcester.gov.uk/hatecrime/launch_nolms.html

It can also be found via the Worcester City Council homepage and searching for "hate crime" using the search facility in the top right hand corner.

Safe Place Scheme



The Safe Place Scheme is being rolled out across the County due to a successful funding bid from the PCC. The scheme offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or worry. All participating venues are identified by having a Safe Place sticker displayed. Locations have trained staff members that are able to give reassurance and help people contact the appropriate support. The Worcestershire scheme is being led by Our Way Self Advocacy.

The Safe Place Scheme was formally launched in Wyre Forest on 25th June. The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner joined in with the celebrations at Wyre Forest District Council House.



There are now businesses registered as 'Safe Places' in Kidderminster, Bewdley, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester and Redditch. The next launches will take place in Malvern and Bromsgrove.

Please contact the partnership if you know of anyone that would like their premises to be a Safe Place, or who would like to be involved in the launch of the scheme in Bromsgrove.

Students from Worcester University created a film on the Worcestershire Safe Place Scheme. Please follow the link to view a short clip of the film:

<http://youtu.be/XxGaY6jYcd8>

If you would like more information on the scheme please visit Our Way Self Advocacy at: <http://www.ourway.org.uk/>

News

Redditch underpass mural defaced

A Swastika, offensive language and lewd images were spray painted on a town mural in Redditch on 30th June. Union Street underpass mural, created by artist Andy Mills, was defaced by criminals. The underpass mural was one of 50 pieces of public art in Redditch, called the Roadway Arts Project. Police undertook patrols in the local area, but the perpetrators were not identified. The mural has now been treated with an anti-graffiti coating.





Reports to North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership

There had been eight reports to the Hate Incident Partnership between March and June 2015. Of the eight reports, one had been in Bromsgrove, one in Kidderminster and six had been in Redditch.

Partner Updates



Operation Leviathan

Operation Leviathan, an initiative targeting illegal fishing and fish theft, launched in June at West Mercia Police Headquarters. Poaching had been taking place at various locations in the county. Although it had not been proven, some members of the public thought that the fish had been taken by the Eastern European community. This could lead to tensions in the community and the potential for racial incidents, which we want to avoid. The operation would focus on raising awareness of the implications of illegal fishing and theft and break down some of the prejudices the community holds around illegal fishing.

Business and Rural Crime

A new officer has joined North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership to help reduce business and rural crime across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. David Rischmiller, formerly a West Midlands Police Inspector with extensive experience in investigations, neighbourhood policing and partnership working, joined NWCSP as a Business and Rural Crime Coordinator to work with residents, businesses and partner agencies. The position of North Worcestershire Business and Rural Crime Coordinator is funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

Community Ambassadors

Budding Community Ambassadors from 8 schools across Wyre Forest and Hagley joined forces to learn how to promote positive messages on community safety and citizenship to their peers. Over 70 students, all Year 9, have been recruited by their schools to take up the role of Community Ambassador which involves delivering assemblies, events and information around issues of personal safety, hate crime, anti-bullying, healthy relations and crime prevention.

The training, delivered by Vestia, was a huge success with all the participants really getting involved, overcoming their nerves and working well together. The Community Ambassadors learnt how to recognise their skills and qualities; various methods of improving their confidence when speaking in public, sourcing information

and how to deliver factual presentations and events.

The project is jointly managed by Safer Wyre Forest and The ContinU Trust and funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. Schools involved in the project are Baxter College, The Bewdley School, ContinU Plus Academy, Hagley Catholic High School, Wolverley C of E Secondary, Stourport High School, King Charles 1 School and Haybridge High School.



West Mercia Hate Crime Event on the 11th August

People wanting to find out more about hate crime and how to report it are being invited to a special event in Worcester on Tuesday 11th August.

The event, which takes place at the Guild Hall on High Street from 1-4pm, will include representatives from the local safer neighbourhood policing team, Victim Support, the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership, the Community Safety Partnership, Our Way and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Chief Inspector Rebecca Love said: “On a national level we know that hate crime is massively underreported and we are keen to address this issue. This event will give anyone affected by hate crime the chance to find out more about the services that are available to support them and ensure offenders are brought to justice.

“We’re delighted that so many local organisations have come together to show their support and commitment to tackling hate crime and ensuring support is available to victims. When it comes to hate crime, nobody should have to suffer in silence. If you are affected by hate crime please take this opportunity to speak to someone that can help you.”

Jude Langton, from the Community Safety Partnership, said: “Everyone has a role to play in increasing the reporting of hate crime and we’re pleased that so many other organisations share this commitment. This is a one off event but our commitment to increase the reporting of hate crime is long-term and over the coming months, we’ll continue to work give victims the confidence to come forward and report their experience.”



Contact Details

West Mercia Police	0300 333 3000
	visit www.westmercia.police.uk to email your local SNT
West Mercia Probation	Kidderminster Office - 01562 820 071 Redditch Office - 01527 585 152
	head.office@west-mercia.probation.gsi.gov.uk Hyacinth.Davis@west-mercia.probation.gsi.gov.uk
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue	0845 122 4454
	info@hwfire.org.uk cwebster@hwfire.org.uk
RBC & BDC Community Safety	01527 881 472
	communitysafety@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Wyre Forest Community Safety	01562 732 929
	safewyreforest@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Bromford Group	0330 1234 034
	customerservices@bromford.co.uk Michael.Bennett@bromford.co.uk jas.mahami@bromford.co.uk
Festival Housing	Droitwich Office: 01905 823100
	info@festivalhousing.org JSmith@festivalhousing.org AMoorhouse@festivalhousing.org
BDHT	01527 557 608 (Annette Trow, Communities First Manager)
	surjit.balu@bdht.co.uk annette.trow@bdht.co.uk
Rooftop Group	01386 420 800
	Catherine.Wood@rooftopgroup.org
WM Housing	mark.pudge@wmhousing.co.uk Jennifer.Soley@wmhousing.co.uk
Victim Support	01527 664 62
	Elizabeth.Finn@victimsupport.org.uk
Artrix Arts Centre	outreach@artrix.co.uk
Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau	bureau@bromsgrovecab.cabnet.org.uk
RBC Housing Locality West Batchley, Webheath, Oakenshaw, Headless Cross, Crabbs Cross, Walkwood, Astwood Bank,	01527 64252 ext. 2121

Feckenham	
	locality.west@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
RBC Housing Locality Central Woodrow, Greenlands, Lakeside, Lodge Park, Abbeydale, Southcrest, Mayfields, Town Centre, Smallwood	01527 64252 ext. 2131
	locality.central@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
RBC Housing Locality East Church Hill North, Church Hill South, Winyates, Matchborough	01527 64252 ext. 2111
	locality.east@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Nexus Housing	nexus@wmhousing.co.uk
Waterloo Housing Group	0800 435016
Wyre Forest Community Housing	0800 1695454 information@communityhg.com
Worcestershire Hub	01562 732928
Wyre Forest Citizens Advice Bureau	01562 60194 bureau@wyreforestcab.cabnet.org.uk