



United Against Hate Newsletter January 2016

Message from the Chair of the Partnership



It's that time every year when we look both backward and forward at the same time. **2015** was a successful year for the partnership, with the Learning Disability Hate Crime Awareness Conference in October & Safe Places Scheme becoming more widely recognised. In **2016** we plan to build on those successes by developing more Safe Places, to enable more people to seek temporary shelter, undertaking more research to develop the Redditch Travel Ambassadors scheme, & continue to support, train & encourage the Reporting Centres. The partnership will also be planning to hold another event in October 2016, any suggestions for a theme would be most welcome.

Ken Hazeldene
Chair NWHIP

Partnership Update



Hate Crime Awareness Week 2015

National Hate Crime Awareness Week ran from the 10th – 17th October. During the week, we ran two events in North Worcestershire and a countywide conference.

The conference was organized in partnership with South Worcestershire and focused on learning disability hate crime. The conference had over 70 attendees and the PCC opened the event. Whilst at the conference, attendees watched theatre productions that rose awareness of what hate crime is and how to report it, as well as a video on the Safe Place Scheme. The event was funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



A film has been produced which captures what happened on the day and can be watched by following the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyHzpheJKpk&feature=youtu.be>

The other two events, which were held in the Redditch Kingfisher Centre and Kidderminster Swan Centre, were pop-up information stands. These were held with the police to help raise the public awareness of what hate crime is and how to report incidents.



A Twitter chalkboard campaign ran alongside Hate Crime Awareness Week Activities. Members of the public and partners wrote their thoughts on hate crime and ways of tackling it on a chalkboard, which was then photographed and Tweeted via @NWHateIncident.

JP Ken Hazeledene Chair of the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership said: "No one deserves to be targeted for being who they are. It is really important that we don't just ignore hate crime and 'let someone else deal with it'. Hate Crime is shockingly underreported – particularly disability hate crime – so I hope this campaign encourages people to speak up in the future."

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

North Bromsgrove High School will have a drop down day on 27th January to make students aware of safety and hate crime.

Parkside Middle School is currently having Hate Crime sessions delivered to their Year 7 and 8 students. Alongside this the Year 8 students are receiving sessions from BDHT on ASB and community responsibility.

Catshill Middle School is having a drop down session in February which will look at Hate Crime; this session will be done alongside BDHT who will also be doing sessions

on ASB and community responsibility.

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 has now formally launched in Wyre Forest, Worcester, Redditch and Malvern.



The next launch will take place in early 2016 in Bromsgrove. Currently businesses are being signed up in this area and Our Way Self Advocacy has been back in the launched areas to recruit new businesses and monitor success. A phone app is also being looked at, to increase the accessibility of the scheme.

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.

Please follow the link to view a short clip of the Worcestershire Safe place Scheme 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



Reports to North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership

There had been four reports to the Hate Incident Partnership between September and December 2015. Of the four reports, two had been in Bromsgrove, one in Kidderminster and one had been in Redditch.

National Increase in hate crime reports to the Police

In October 2015, Home Office figures suggested that there had been an 18% rise in Hate crimes in England and Wales.

Police recorded 52,528 hate crimes in 2014-15, up from 44,471 in 2013-14, with more than 80% being racially motivated, the statistics showed.

However, factors in the increase may have included improved recording of crime, a greater awareness of hate crime and an improved willingness of victims to come forward.

Although there had been a large increase in reporting of hate crime across West Mercia (46.2%), the figures were actually down for the North Worcestershire area (-16.7%).

However, as numbers of hate crimes were small, a slight decrease in reporting may be reflected differently in the analysis.

Partner Updates



LGBT History Month, February 2016

To celebrate LGBT History Month the LGBT forum is holding an event at the Artrix Arts Centre. On Tuesday 2nd February there will be a free showing of the film Pride, as well as information stalls in the foyer.

<http://www.artrix.co.uk/whats-on/cinema/pride-lgbt-history-month/>

Closing the gap with messages that matter

Safer Wyre Forest and other groups collaborated with the Wyre Forest Safer Neighbourhood Team to deliver aspects of the #managingharm event to Year 9 students across four secondary schools, funded by the PCC. Each day they received interactive activity on hate crime, internet safety and sexual exploitation, drugs and alcohol, fire safety and the dangers of swimming in open water.

The hate crime section covered the definition and why people may be targeted. This was then followed by two short films on disability hate crime and discussions around what they might do, how the victims may feel, where a hate crime could be reported and to end the section they were informed about the Safe Place Scheme in Worcestershire. Information leaflets, wristbands and pens were given to the students to encourage reporting.

Over the days they engaged with 700 students and the event has been hailed a success across the alliance, having identified a gap to this key target audience. Following positive feedback from Stourport High School, Baxter High School, King Charles I School and Bewdley School, it is hoped the programme will go-ahead again later this year.



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
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RBC & BDC Community Safety	01527 881 472
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Wyre Forest Community Safety	01562 732 929
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Bromford Group	0330 1234 034
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Festival Housing	Droitwich Office: 01905 823100
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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, Feckenham	01527 64252 ext. 2121
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RBC Housing Locality Central Woodrow, Greenlands, Lakeside, Lodge Park, Abbeydale, Southcrest, Mayfields, Town Centre, Smallwood	01527 64252 ext. 2131
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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