

Report on

“No Place for Hate” Event

held on

14 October 2015



INTRODUCTION



During National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2015 (Saturday 10th October to Saturday 17th October), the Disability Hate Crime Partnership organised a special event at Lambeth's Disability Hub, "We are 336," looking at issues around Disability Hate Crime. Over 50 people attended, including

representatives from Disability Advice Service Lambeth, Carers Hub Lambeth, Lambeth Council, Mosaic Clubhouse, Voiceability, Learning Disability People's Assembly, Certitude (Solidarity in a Crisis), Lambeth Autism Group, SELvis (South East London Vision), Healthwatch Lambeth, Lambeth Parent's Forum, Lambeth Landmark, Merton Centre for Independent Living, Metropolitan Police and Lambeth Mencap.

Disability Hate Crime is on the increase but it remains very under-reported in Lambeth, as it is nationally. The main barriers are that someone experiencing hate crime may not recognise it as such and if reported, it is not recorded as a hate crime. Lack of information and access to support services also discourage disabled people from reporting Hate Crime.

The Partnership held the event to raise awareness of what Disability Hate Crime is and what we, as individuals and organisations, could do about it. It was a combination of talks and interactive elements to engage in an informal way with disabled people and find out their views on hate crime and what they would like to see happen in Lambeth.

Since the Partnership's last public event in October 2014, it has developed well with the Working Group meeting monthly. Funding has been secured from Trust for London for a two year project to employ a Hate Crime Advocate and Outreach Worker from early 2016. Disability Advice Service Lambeth chairs the Partnership and the Working Group is supported by DASL's Community Development Worker, Louise Holden. The Partnership works closely with the Lambeth Hate Crime Forum, which is coordinated by Mark Healey, Lambeth Council's Hate Crime Prevention Coordinator.

This report is about the 14th October event and summarises the contributions made and the comments and feedback from the table discussions held on the day which the Partnership will be using to help develop information and support services for disabled people experiencing hate crime.

1. Speeches

Mark Healey, Hate Crime Prevention Coordinator for Lambeth opened the event with a passionate speech which is available to watch at www.youtu.be/bINI1DXzxwo.

Mark also announced the good news that Trust for London had awarded £70,000 to fund a part-time dedicated worker, employed by DASL, to develop the Partnership's work and help set up a third party reporting centre at 'We are 336'. This was greeted with a huge round of applause!

Richard Keagan-Bull from the LD People's Assembly introduced the event's agenda.



Left to right: Matt Le Vine, Mosaic Clubhouse; Mark Healey, Lambeth Council, Richard Keagan-Bull, Learning Disability People's Assembly



2. "Oh Dear" Drama

Members of Lambeth Mencap and the Learning Disability People's Assembly performed an enlightening and engaging drama which prompted a lively discussion about hate crime and what to do about it.

3. Mosaic Clubhouse Video

We showed a video of members and staff from Mosaic talking about what they felt regarding Disability Hate Crime and Mental Health.



4. Graffiti Wall

There were facilitated table discussions about what people thought Disability Hate Crime is and what people wanted to do about it; everyone put their thoughts and ideas onto coloured paper.

As well as a timeline of the major advances in Disability Hate Crime Prevention in the UK over the last ten years, people were encouraged to add their comments and views they had written to the Graffiti Wall. This was a great informal way to have the opportunity to share personal experiences and hear about the support available from the local police and other agencies.



COMMENTS PUT ON THE GRAFFITI WALL ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT HATE CRIME

People can be vulnerable through a lack of capacity because of age, disability, new to area etc.

When people see you have a disability, they take advantage "easy target"

Someone took my money, I thought she was my friend

"Lack of support"

People don't even know me but think it's ok to call me names, swear & shout at me!

She had it planned - pre-meditated

Saying nasty things

Calling me names because of my hair / skin colour

People don't necessarily trust the police because they sometimes don't believe what we say

People stole my bike

"Pressure"

Being taken to places I don't want to

Someone has sabotaged my heating (in a shared house) - I think it's a hate crime

It takes me a long time to trust anyone because I'm afraid I'll be taken advantage of

"Frustration and isolation"

I thought they were my friends but sometimes I think they use me! I always pay for things

Things have gone missing from my house and I don't know who took them. It's hard for blind people.

"Feeling scared or threatened"



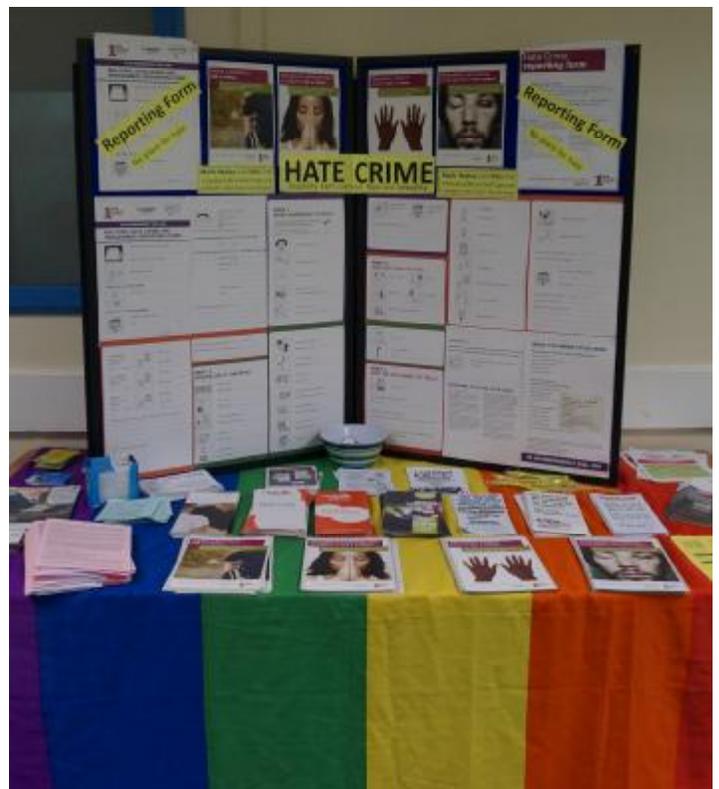
5. Interactive Activities throughout the event

As well as everyone putting their notes into the Graffiti Wall, there was a Video Box where Mosaic Clubhouse gave participants an opportunity to record their stories and testimonies. The edited video of these is available to view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yfLFgzw3Rs showing what local disabled people feel about Disability Hate Crime in Lambeth.

Naomi Edwards, Detective Sergeant from the TP Safeguarding Team came to raise awareness of the London Hate Crime Survey and to support people to complete it if they had reported a hate crime.

Mark Healey provided the Hate Crime Stall and there was information about the organisations involved in the Partnership.

We also had several recent news stories about hate crime displayed to prompt discussion about what is classed as a hate crime.



Local stakeholder members worked on various designs for logos for the Partnership, which everyone had the opportunity to vote for during the event. The Working Group will take the votes into consideration when finalising its logo.

The Winner



Second place



Joint third



6. Table Discussions: Action Planning

There were facilitated table discussions to get views on what to take forward for 2016. Here is a summary of what people told us.

Some personal comments

“Go on a march!”

“It was frightening when it happened to me.”

“I need to trust people sometimes. It is

difficult to
decide what
to do.”

“Tell your family.” “Tell the police.”

“Don’t give people your bank details.”

“If you don’t like staff or feel taken

advantage of, tell a social worker or care manager.”

“Note down car registrations.”

Badges, saying “leave me alone, I
have a disability”

“Shocked at lack of reporting”



Personal comments put on the Graffiti Wall about what to do about hate crime

PROVIDE MORE AWARENESS & INFORMATION ON HATE CRIME AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS

KEEP EVIDENCE AND CALL POLICE TO STOP CRIME

BEING CONFIDENT CAN HELP

SORT THINGS OUT!
MAKE IT CHANGE!
RAISE AWARENESS!

SOCIAL SUPPORT

GO INTO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

KNOWING THE WARNING SIGNS

TELL SHOPKEEPERS ABOUT MY NEEDS

NOT TALKING TO STRANGERS

MORE DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

GETTING HELP FROM ORGANISATIONS

KEEPING FAMILY INVOLVED CAN HELP KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

MORE REPORTING TO POLICE, PEOPLE TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT TO REPORT

WE NEED EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING - ESPECIALLY IN COLLEGES



Ideas to consider taking forward for 2016

- Raise awareness, more on TV
- Public / street / hate crime stall / events / community workshops to talk about personal experiences and share ways to report and support each other. Cover different subjects to relate to different people. Hold events at pubs, churches, community events.
- For the Police to: -
 - Have a visible presence in the borough, to make more arrests and to keep a look out for vulnerable people.
 - Listen and believe someone when they are reporting a hate crime.
 - Be involved at community workshops to address lack of understanding and gain trust.
- More signposting for support.
- If we experience a hate crime, we need to report it. Have reporting card telling people where to report crime.
- Have a Lambeth poster campaign - use these to signpost to support services.
- Clear Communication and Education- start with children and parents; have workshops and disability awareness training in schools.
- Counter ignorance - use positive language when talking to children as negative words can affect their self-esteem, for example, calling a child with dyspraxia, "lazy".
- Self-help groups - Wandsworth have a forum called Lifetimes.
- Up-to-Date Directory of services and groups available.