

REPORT TO: Safer Halton PPB
DATE: 13 March 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety
SUBJECT: Hate Crime Awareness Raising and DVD
WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of work currently being undertaken to raise awareness of the issue of Hate Crime.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members are asked to note the report, and**
- (2) View the accompanying DVD**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Following the adoption of Halton's Hate Crime Reduction Strategy in June 2011, a series of Awareness Raising Sessions have been taking place across Partner organisations. These sessions explain what a hate incident is, why it's so important to report every incident, as well as trying to explain why not every reported incident ends in a criminal conviction.

Liverpool City Council and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council have collaborated with Lancashire County Council and produced a DVD which they have shared across the NW region as a training resource. This is now included as part of the sessions in Halton and as it's real victims and their stories, is much more effective in showing how hate crime has such a devastating effect on people's lives. The DVD highlights the importance of a multi-agency approach to combatting the problems.

A list of sessions completed and those planned is attached as appendix A.

The sessions have been targeted at those staff who already have an existing relationship with clients in the hope that this might improve their confidence in reporting incidents, either for themselves or their clients. Sessions have also been given to service user groups.

The hate crime work has been linked to the safeguarding aspect, and quarterly figures are reported to both Safeguarding Boards, the Safer Halton PPB and SSP, along with the Strategic Partnership's Equalities Group.

Cheshire Police are currently establishing a Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel, of which Halton will be a member.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy, legal, resource or financial implications in noting and commenting on this report.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Life for Children and Young People will improve for living in a safer community.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None as yet identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The safeguarding of vulnerable residents, and ensuring they feel safe both in their homes and in their wider communities, is crucial to their health and well-being.

6.3 A Safer Halton

Halton will have stronger and more resilient communities, where residents will feel safer.

6.4 Halton's Urban Renewal

None as yet identified.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

In order to ensure residents feel safe, Partners need to work together to maintain strong and resilient communities, and the increased awareness of unacceptable low level incidents will hopefully ensure there are no tragic high profiles incidents as have occurred elsewhere in the Country.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The hate crime categories as identified by the Home Office are different than those contained within the Equality Act 1010, however no abuse of any kind is acceptable behaviour and the raising awareness of such issues can help with Halton Borough Council's compliance with the General Duty of the Act.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

8,1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Hate Crime Awareness Raising Sessions for Halton

Sessions Already Completed:-

People's Cabinet
Disability Learning Partnership
Youth Cabinet
Community Development Practitioners Forum
Communities Directorate – Equality and Diversity Group
Community Mental Health Practitioners
Community Integrated Care (staff meeting with plans to do volunteers)
Older People's Care Team
SHAPS Commitment Council x 2 (service user groups)
CYP Operational Leadership Team
Safer Halton PPB
Safer Halton SSP
Ditton Nursery (staff, Governors and parents)
Adults and Communities – Provider meetings x 2
CYP – Provider meetings x 2
Warrington Road Children's Centre (staff and parents)

Sessions in the Pipeline:-

Halton's Disability Partnership (one session completed – have requested a 2nd one)
Transport Logistics (to be included in their training for providers)
Children and Families Performance Review Conference
Adult Placement Carers and Workers
Arena Housing
Strategic Equalities, Engagement and Cohesion Partnership
Community Development Practitioners Forum
Deafness Resource Centre
Liverpool Housing Trust
Halton Speak Out's annual event in June
Halton Housing Trust
PCSO's
5 Borough's Learning Disabilities Health Team
5 Borough's Learning Disabilities Social Work Team