East Lothian Diversity News

May 2010

This special issue of the Diversity Newsletter focuses on the issue of Hate Crime.

What is ‘hate crime’?

Lothian and Borders police use the following definition ‘A crime motivation by malice or ill will towards a social group’. The distinctive feature of a hate crime is that a person is attacked not as an individual, as in most other offences, but as the representative of a family, community or group.

Types of hate crime include:

- Religion and belief
- Gender
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Race
- Age

You don’t have to be physically attacked or injured to be a victim of a hate crime. Hate crime can include:

- Having insulting graffiti sprayed in your house or car
- Having someone say hurtful things to you day after day
- Being pushed, hit or hurt
- Having something you own vandalised
- Having your belongings stolen
- People threatening you, your friends or family
- People swearing at you or making abusive remarks
- People making you feel scared, intimidated or distressed.

What you can do if you are a victim of hate crime?

Talking through what happening to you will make a difference and help you to sort things out. Tell someone – family, friends, neighbour, doctor or police. You should also report the incident to the police or to another organisation that will recognise how serious the incident has been and provide other support. **Always call the police on 999 if you need immediate help!**

When you are on foot …

- Act confidently.
- Go out or walk with friends or people you trust.
- Use a taxi – keep money for taxis.
- Try to use well-lit, busy roads.
- Stay alert – be aware of your surroundings
- Have your keys in your hand when you reach home or your car.
- Avoid confrontational situations

If you are a victim

- Make noise and shout for help.
- Go to a safe place, as soon as possible.
- In emergencies dial 999 to report to the police.
- Report straight away to any other relevant authority, for instance, head teacher in a school, housing officer, youth worker, bus driver, your employer etc.

Keep a record of all incidents as they happen, eg. times, dates, what happened, where, witnesses, etc. Keep offensive material as it forms evidence in legal action, for instance, graffiti on a wall or a leaflet/note through your door. Do not touch it unless necessary as police may want to test for fingerprints. Put the leaflet or note in a paper bag or clear plastic bag. Do not erase abusive text-message or message on your answer machine, as they too are evidence and may help identify the perpetrator. If you have been attacked, don't shower or change your clothes as it may destroy evidence. If you have had your keys taken, change the locks.

Extended Hate Crime Law comes into force

A new law has come into force to tackle hate crimes against gay or disabled people.

Legislation to better protect disabled people and those from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities came into force on the 24th of March 2010. The Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009 extends hate crimes to cover disabled people as well as those in LGBT communities.

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said: 'There is no excuse for any form of hate crime; it is simply not acceptable and it will not be tolerated. When it does happen, victims must have the confidence to report it, confident that they will receive a good level of service from the police and other agencies'.

The Act creates aggravations, similar to those which exist for race and religion hate crime, for crimes motivated by prejudice relating to disability, sexual orientation and transgender status. It means that courts, when sentencing crimes motivated by malice or ill-will based on a victim's actual or presumed sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability, must take into account the motivation for the offence. This may then result in an alternative or a more severe sentence.

Tackling Hate Crime: A Priority for East Lothian Community Safety Partnership

Reported hate crime has increased in recent years in East Lothian. Victims of racist hate crime are often repeat victims as they work in public facing jobs in the retail and catering industries. International incidents have an impact on the level of racist hate crime in Scotland. Racial hate crime accounts for 90% of all hate crime in the Force area. There have been very few recorded age, gender or honour-based violence related crimes in the Lothian and Borders Force area in the past three years although it is felt that these are often not reported. Stonewall Survey (2009) in Edinburgh and Lothian found that just 37% of respondents have been the victims of physical homophobic crime in Edinburgh in 2009. 85% of victims did not reported the incidents to the police. 66% of LGBT people had been verbally abused or threatened by someone who assumed they were LGB. 66% of respondents did not report this to police.

In 2009, the Equality and Human Rights Commission published 'Disabled People's experiences of targeted violence and hostility'. It revealed that disabled people are at a higher risk of being victimised when compared to non-disabled people. Within the disabled population, the evidence suggests that those with learning disabilities and/or mental health conditions are particularly at risk and suffer higher levels of actual victimisation. The research indicated that disabled people are likely to report incidents to a third party including family and friends. Most incidents are low level that may go undetected.

In 2009, the East Lothian Community Safety Partnership agreed that work to challenge hate crime should be a priority. 'Fewer people will be affected by Hate Crime' is now the agreed outcome that partners are working together to achieve.

Some key activities include:

- Information session on Hate Crime and remote reporting for Disabled People at the Prestonpans Resource Centre
- Project working with BME Business funded through the Safer East Lothian Fund
- 'Understanding Islam: Challenging Prejudice' Training provided to 40 partner representatives
- 6 remote reporting sites identified in East Lothian
- 'Understanding the Impact of Hate Crime' training resource for schools being offered to East Lothian Schools
- Showing of 'Gran Torino' to school pupils as part of Refugee Week 2010
- Two specialist remote reporting sites established for migrant workers
- Understanding the Impact of Hate Crime training for community development officers and local wardens

Lothian And Borders Police: Opposed To Racism

Lothian and Borders Police is committed to:

• Taking firm action against the perpetrators of racism and racial harassment.

• The thorough investigation of all reported racist incidents.

Any hate crime reported to the police will be recorded and dealt with by a local police officer. Lothian and Borders Police will deal with all reports sensitively and with understanding. The officer's name and contact details will be given to you. The police may speak to family, friends, neighbours and any person who could be a witness. If you remember anything more about the incident, or wish at any stage to find out how the investigation is progressing, you can contact the investigating officer. This officer will keep you informed. It is difficult to give precise information as to how the incident you have reported will be investigated. However, all measures at the disposal of the police will be used to gather evidence. This can include the help of Forensic Scientists and Scenes of Crime Police Officers. A senior officer will oversee the enquiry. At the end of the investigation, the officer will contact you and update you with the result of the investigation.

Interpreter / Specific Needs
If you would find it easier to give your evidence in a language other than English, you should mention this to the police officer who is investigating your case, who will arrange for a suitable interpreter. The police are mindful of cultural and religious needs and can also arrange specialist victim support services. If there is anything you require, please ask.

Become a Remote Reporting Site
Lothian and Borders Police provide remote reporting training to organisations that wish to offer a remote reporting service. Organisations need to be able to provide a private space for the individual to go through the reporting process and also be willing to signpost the victim to further support as required.

If you are interested in becoming a remote reporting site, please contact Gillian Tenant on gillian.tennant@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Need advice on Personal, home or business safety?
Lothian and Borders Police can deliver tailored information sessions to any groups or businesses and these can cover personal safety, road safety, and basic car maintenance. They also do crime prevention surveys looking at individual premises and businesses premises or general surveys of areas looking at overall crime reduction. Lothian and Borders police have numerous leaflets on personal and home security both private and commercial premises, which can be obtained at local police stations.

For more information please contact gillian.tennant@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Alternative Ways to Report a Hate Crime

Remote Reporting is a way of reporting a crime or passing on information without talking to the police directly.

There are a number of different organisations throughout Lothian and the Borders where victims, witnesses, carers or others can speak privately to a member of staff, and they will pass your information onto the police.

You can:

- ask for your information to be investigated
- leave details, but ask for your information not to be investigated
- leave no details, and ask for your information not to be investigated (this helps police monitor areas where hate crime may be rising)

Why is remote reporting important?
For different reasons many people are reluctant to got to he Police to report a crime. They may fear that there will be a lack of understanding, professionalism and confidentiality by the police. Some people think that a crime is not worth reporting. Some people may also worry about speaking directly to Police staff, entering Police stations or having the potential stigma of a highly visible police officer calling at home or to their workplace.

Remote reporting through partner organisations can help to lessen some of the concerns people may have when reporting incidents. All organisations are trained in how to take the details of an incident and all organisations involved can offer further support or advice to the person reporting the incident. Someone other than the person reporting makes the initial contact with the police, which helps to ease some of the apprehension, faced by the individual.

How remote reporting works
The victim is given the option of reporting an incident or providing information formally, informally or anonymously. The third party agency notes basic details of the incident or information on a remote reporting form and faxes or e–mails this to the Force Communications Centre. The form is then logged manually on a paper based system and sent out to the relevant local Inspector, who allocates the incident for enquiry.

It is the responsibility of the investigating officer to make contact with the third party agency to maintain communication between the victim, agency and police officer and ensure that all parties are aware of the stages of the investigation.

Remote reporting agencies Midlothian and East Lothian

East Lothian Council Customer Services - Musselburgh Office - Remote Reporting Service
Contact: Veronica Auld, LAP Officer
East Lothian Council Customer Services and front counter staff
East Lothian Council Customer Services- Musselburgh Office
Brunton Hall
Ladywell Way,
Musselburgh
EH21 6AF
Telephone: 0131 653 5224
Email: customerservicesm@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council Customer Services - Prestonpans Office - Remote Reporting Service
Contact: Muriel Warnock
East Lothian Council Customer Services and front counter staff.
East Lothian Council Customer Services - Prestonpans Office
Aldhammer House
Prestonpans
EH32 9SH
Telephone: 01875 810232
Email: customerservicesnb@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council Customer Services - Haddington Office - Remote Reporting Service
Contact: Sandra Ross
East Lothian Council Customer Services and front counter staff.
East Lothian Council Customer Services - Haddington Office
John Muir House
Brewery Park
Haddington
EH41 3HA
Telephone: 01620 827827
Email: customerservicesh@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council Customer Services - Tranent Office - Remote Reporting Service
Contact: Brenda McNaught
East Lothian Council Customer Services and front counter staff.
East Lothian Council Customer Services - Tranent Office
Civic Square
High Street
Tranent
EH33 1LH
Telephone: 01875 610278
Email: customerservicest@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council Housing Department
Contact: Muriel Warnock
East Lothian Council Housing Department for North Berwick,
Aldhammer House,
Prestonpans,
EH32 9SH
Telephone: 01875 810232
Email: customerservicenb@eastlothian.gov.uk

Victim Support Mid and East Lothian
Contact: Bob Sutherland
1 Edinburgh Road
Dalkeith
Telephone: 0131 660 3030
Email: vsmail@btconnect.com

East and Midlothian Gypsy Travellers Site
Contact: Keith Miller
Old Dalkeith Colliery
Dalkeith
Telephone: 0131 654 2095
Email: kmiller@eastlothian.co.uk

Musselburgh Bus Depot
Contact: Tomasz Niski
Mall Avenue
Musselburgh
Telephone: 0131 665 0940

Recharge Youth and Community Facility
Contact: Evelyn Tait
3 Church Street,
Tranent,
EH33 1AA
Telephone: 01875 615415
Email: etait@eastlothian.gov.uk

Citizen Advice Bureau - Remote Reporting Service
Contact: Irene Hutchison, Office Manager
8 Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1HA
Telephone: 0131 654 9059
Email: bureau@dalkeithcab.casonline.uk

Midlothian Women's Aid
Contact: Office Manager
29a Eskbank Road,
Dalkeith,
Midlothian
EH22 1HJ
Telephone: 0131 663 9827
Email: info@midlothianwomensaid.org

Penicuik Citizens Advice Bureau
Contact: Sue Peart
14A John Street
Penicuik
Telephone: 01968 675259
E-mail: suepeart@PenicuikCAB.casonline.org.uk

Dalkeith Bus Depot
Contact: Piotr Marzec
Eskbank Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3BH
Telephone: 0131 654 1595

Victim Support Mid & East Lothian
1 Edinburgh Road
Dalkeith
EH22 1LA

Tel : 0131 660 3030
Fax : 0131 660 1900
Core Hours :
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10.30AM-3.30PM

Email : victimsupport.midandeastlothian@victimsupportsco.org.uk

There are also a number of specialist remote reporting sites in Edinburgh. To find out more please visit http://www.lbp.police.uk/takecontrol/

Blow the Whistle on Gay Hate

Stonewall has recently released new guidance for the public on what to do if you have experienced a hate crime or incident

YouGov research has shown that one in five lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last three years. And three in four of those didn't report them to the police.

Blow the Whistle gives clear, concise information for people who are victims of homophobic hate crime. The guide explains what homophobic hate crime is, why hate crime should be reported and what to say when reporting it. A third of victims don't report incidents because they don't think the police would or could do anything about it.

Click here to download the guide

Remote reporting through Edinburgh and Lothian's Racial Equality Council

Each year ELREC deals with a number of remote reporting enquiries. They vary greatly in nature from one-off incidents at a workplace to more lengthy occurrences surrounding people's home life. Confidentiality and choice are key to our handling of these matters. So, as much or as little detail of the circumstance can be handed over to the police. The Police can be asked to investigate further, or not. It's entirely up to the victim.

We take and welcome reports not only from victims, but also witnesses, carers or others involved in an incident in some way. Please help us as a society to 'take control' of these crimes by reporting them so the people responsible can be held to account.

This service is soon to be available online giving greater choice to the way the crime can be reported. Great news!

Get in touch with us:
14 Forth Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3LH

Telephone: 01315560441
Email: admin@elrec.org.uk
Website: http://www.elrec.org.uk

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

This legislation was introduced to provide ways in which support and protection can be offered to adults at risk of harm.

Who is an adult at risk?
Under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, an adult at risk means: a person aged sixteen years or over whom:

(a) Is unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests

(b) Is at risk of harm, and

(c) Because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity is more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

What is harm?
Harm can happen in different ways and may include**:**

- **Physical:** hitting or shaking someone
- **Sexual:** any sexual activity that a person doesn't understand or want
- **Psychological:** threats of harm, being left alone, humiliation, intimidation or verbal abuse.
- **Financial:** stealing, fraud, pressure to hand over or sign over property or money, misuse of property or welfare benefits or stopping someone getting their money or possessions.
- **Neglect:** failure to provide medical or physical care, access to a doctor or other services or denying someone medication, food or heating.
- **Discrimination:** because of age, colour, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- **Information:** withholding information or advice about rights or entitlements.
- **Self Harm:** when a person engages in any behaviour or activity that can cause harm to their physical, psychological or social well-being.

NB - This may also be a Hate Crime

Who causes harm?

Anyone can cause harm:
- Anyone in a position of trust
- Any member of staff working with the person
- A partner, child or relative
- A friend or neighbour
- A volunteer worker
- A carer
- A health or social care worker
- Another adult at risk

Where can harm happen?

Anywhere. For example in the family home, hospital ward, care home, day services, social clubs, day centres, at work, in public places, on public transport

What to do?
If you are worried that you or someone you know may be or has been harmed **it is important to tell someone**. Sometimes harm has occurred many years ago – it is still important to report it. The person being harmed may not be able to report it themselves.

What happens next?
Staff from the social work services department, and often the police, will decide what to do. They work with the adult at risk and their family, if appropriate, and as far as possible consider their wishes when deciding what to do.

East Lothian Social Work Services – 0845 603 1576
Midlothian Social Work Services - 0131 271 3900
Emergency – 999
NHS 24 – 08454 242 424
Lothian and Borders Police – 0131 311 3131
Emergency Social Work Service Out of Hours - 0800 731 6969

Further information can be found on
http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/Article.aspx?TopicId=0&ArticleId=25075

VOICE UK

promoting justice for vulnerable victims of crime

VoiceUK are a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. We also support their families, carers and professional workers.

The Helpline is for carers, parents and professionals as well. We provide help and information about how to do things such as making a complaint and any other information or help needed if you are the victim or witness to a crime.

The new Helpline number is **080 880 2 8686**. This number will not show up on your telephone bill and is free from mobiles and most landline numbers**.**

Email helpline@voiceuk.org.uk
Textphone 07797 800 642
Windows Live MSN Messenger helpline@voiceuk.org.uk

Are you concerned about possible discrimination?

The Equality and Human Rights Commission helpline is available to give information and guidance on discrimination and human rights issues. All of their helpline staff have been specially trained to provide this service.

You can contact them by telephone, text phone, letter, email or fax. If you would like to contact them in a language other than English, please do so by using any of the ways above and tell them what language you would like to use. They will arrange to contact you in your language of choice as soon as possible.

Scotland

Equality and Human Rights Commission Helpline Scotland

0845 604 5510 - Scotland Main

0845 604 5520 - Scotland Textphone

0845 604 5530 - Scotland – Fax

scotlandhelpline@equalityhumanrights.com

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Wed 9:00 am-8:00 pm (last call taken at 7:45pm)

EAST LOTHIAN
DIVERSITY
NETWORK