

# Access Dorset

Nothing About Us Without Us!



## TOOL KIT

### Supporting People experiencing Hate Crime or Incidents



Let's stop disability hate crime

## Crime – WHAT IS IT?

**A crime is when someone breaks the law of this country. There are lots of kinds of crimes. These are some of them:**

- \* Taking something that belongs to someone else and keeping it. This is called stealing or theft.
- \* Hurting someone or making someone worry that they are going to be hurt or attacked.
- \* Breaking or damaging property that belongs to someone else.

**Nb: Anyone who sees a hate crime can tell the police.**

## Incident – WHAT IS IT?

**A disability hate incident happens when someone does something because they do not like disabled people. But it is not a crime. This could be these kind of things.**

- \* Playing loud music at night to keep a disabled person awake so that they move away.
- \* Parking a car so that a disabled person cannot get into their home.
- \* Standing in the way so a disabled person cannot get past.
- \* Calling a disabled person bad names.
- \* Making fun of a disabled person when they are on a bus or a train.

**Nb: It is important to tell the police about disability hate incidents. This is because the person who carries out the disability hate incidents may start carrying out disability hate crimes.**

## Disability hate crime – WHAT IS IT?

**These are some of the things that could happen.**

- \* Using bad language, this includes calling a disabled person names.
- \* Being told or sent a nasty message. This could be in a letter, in an email, on the internet or in a message on a mobile phone.
- \* Having money taken.
- \* Being hit or hurt.
- \* Being hurt in a sexual way.
- \* Being touched in a sexual way. This is when a disabled person's body is touched in a place that is private and it upsets the disabled person.
- \* Making a disabled person worry that bad things will happen to them.
- \* Having property damaged or broken.

**Nb: Anyone who sees a DISABILITY hate crime can tell the police.**

## WHO carries out a disability hate crime?

**Anyone can carry out a disability hate crime. In most cases the disabled person does not know the person who carried out the disability hate crime.**

**But it could be someone the disabled person knows. Or it could be someone who tries to make friends with the disabled person so they can carry out a disability hate crime.**

## Advice For People You See Experiencing Hate Crime Or Incidents

- \* Encourage the person to tell the police about the hate crime they have experienced.
- \* If they do not feel able to do this encourage them to tell a friend, family member or a local organisation they may feel safe with.
- \* These people can then support them or tell the police about the crime for them.

## Why you should YOU tell the police?

- \* This will help the police to find out about crimes happening in the area.
- \* It can help them stop other crimes from happening in the future.
- \* You can ring 999, but you should only do this if you or someone else is being hurt or in a lot of danger.
- \* If something happens that is not urgent tell the police using their non-emergency number, which is 101 in England and Wales.
- \* You can report disability hate crimes to the police at their True Vision website at [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk).

**Nb: You can ask someone to help you if this is better for you. Support yourself as well as the person experiencing the crime.**

## How to help someone if something happens on a bus, a train or a taxi

- \* If a disability hate crime happens to someone while they are on a train you can call the transport police on 0800 40 50 40.
- \* If a disability hate crime happens while they are on a bus or a taxi, get in touch with the police where they live.
- \* In all cases, if it is an emergency ring 999.

## **How to help someone at school or college or where you live**

- \* If a disability hate crime happens to someone at school or college they or you should tell someone who works there, like a teacher. Ask the school or college to tell the police for you
- \* If they are scared or you do not think they will believe them, they can tell student services or the National Union of Students.
- \* Some schools have websites that they can use to say what happened.

## **How to help someone if the crime occurs where they live**

- \* If a disability hate crime or a disability hate incident happens where they live they should tell their local council.
- \* They may work with the police to sort it out or they may be able to deal with the person or people who are carrying out the disability hate crimes to stop it from happening again.

## **How to deal with a hate crime via phone or internet**

**If a disability hate crime happens while they are on the internet or on a mobile phone, advise them to:**

- \* keep copies of whatever is sent to them, like emails and texts.
- \* They may need to show them to the police.
- \* If a disability hate crime happens by telephone, advise them write down when they got the calls and what was said.
- \* They can also dial 1471 to find out the telephone number that called.

## Third Party Reporting Sites

A third party reporting site is a place where you can tell someone what has happened. The third party reporting site then tells the police for you.

In this area :



### Third Party Reporting Centres

Bournemouth People First  
Poole Forum  
People First Dorset  
Autism Wessex  
Local Authorities  
Victim Support

**Nb: When a third party reporting site passes on the details to the police they do not have to give your details. They may be able to tell you about local support services.**

## What do I tell people they need to know about the crime?

This is really useful information the person can give to the police or the reporting site.

Advise the person to write down the following:

- \* What happened.
- \* When it happened.
- \* Where it happened.
- \* If you or the person you saw was hurt and how they got hurt.
- \* If anything was stolen or broken.
- \* Why they think it was a disability hate crime.
- \* How many people were there when it happened.
- \* If they know the people, who they are and where they live.
- \* If they don't know the people, what did they look like.
- \* Was there anything about the people that made them stand out, like a tattoo or coloured hair?
- \* If they had a car, what sort of car it was and what colour it was.
- \* Any notes they have made saying when and at what times the crimes or incidents happened.
- \* Copies of any letters, emails and texts that are about the crimes or incidents.
- \* Photographs of any damage to their property.



**Nb: These are all things that will help the police find out more.**

## What you can say to the person to help them

### If they are feeling scared about telling someone:

- \* It is ok to be scared
- \* This is always the hard part about disability hate crime. If you do not tell someone what happened it may never be dealt with.
- \* If you do not tell someone what happened the person who carried out the crime may keep doing bad things or sometimes worse things.
- \* You do not have to give your name.
- \* Sometimes it is hard to tell someone about a disability hate crime because you know them. It is not easy, but it is the right thing to do
- \* You may be worried about telling a member of your family or a friend because they might not believe you or think that you should not live on your own.
- \* Telling someone may stop another person getting hurt and having bad things happen to them.
- \* Telling someone may help the police stop what is happening





## What happens after they tell someone about a disability hate crime?

**If they tell the police what happened the police must make sure that they know what happens next. The police will only be able to do these things if they have given their name and address:**

- \* Get in touch within one day to say what they are going to do next.
- \* Check to make sure they are not at risk.
- \* Make sure they know what is happening to the person who carried out the disability hate crime, if they have been caught.
- \* Make sure they have someone to talk to about what has happened and who will make sure they have what they need.

Supporting each other in the community

# Stronger Together