

# Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Seminar Update Newsletter

May 2013



## Introduction from Ron Hogg



PCC Ron Hogg

I'd like to start off with a big thank you to all those who were able to attend and could contribute to my first two seminars which I held during the last couple of weeks.

My aim was to encourage partners from the broad range of organisations across County Durham and Darlington area to work together to identify gaps in service delivery in order to improve outcomes for the public and to help increase confidence in reporting these crimes.

The seminars focused on two of my personal priorities, which I outlined recently in my Police and Crime Plan 2013-17, which I launched last month:

- ◆ **To reduce the impact of Hate Crime**
- ◆ **To reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse, particularly violence against women and girls**

The participation from those who attended both events was excellent - everyone was working towards the same goal and I'm looking forward to taking forward the actions that were raised so that positive change can be made to help Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse victims.

### And finally:

I must give thanks to the Speakers for the insightful presentations, as well as the Facilitators for each of the break-out sessions; without your support these events would not have been possible!

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## Volunteers

Volunteers from across the organisations have been asked to work together over the coming year in small groups to take forward the actions raised from these events.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered - if you feel you can contribute as we move forward, please get in touch.



# Hate Crime Seminar Overview

Wednesday 17 April 2013, County Hall, Durham

Presentations were provided by the following speakers:

- **DCC Michael Banks**, Durham Constabulary
- **Jayne Forman**, Victim Support
- **Phillippa Scrafton**, Darlington Borough Council
- **Sylvia Lancaster**, The Sophie Lancaster Foundation

*"Going forward, I am pleased to announce that, following Sylvia Lancaster's campaign, Durham Constabulary will be the next force to record crimes committed against those who follow alternative cultures (such as goths and punks) as a hate crime"*  
**PCC Ron Hogg**

## Feedback from the break-out groups:

### Key outcomes from Group 1: Sexual Orientation (Facilitator: Emma Roebuck, Gay Advice Darlington)

- Need someone to pull organisations together from across the various sectors (NHS, police, councils etc.) to drive a regulated campaign so that the message gets out there
- Messages of confidence should be out in communities BEFORE incidents happen, not afterwards
- This will help improve confidence in the community to report a hate crime
- The community cohesion element should be established and enhanced now so that the trust is there upfront between victims, the police and the other partner organisations involved

### Key outcomes from Group 2: Gender Identity (Facilitator: Lynne Paterson, NHS)

- Although the current service (for example in Darlington) is really good, there are pockets of people in different communities across the force area that we need to get in touch with and bring together
- Lack of reporting, low confidence in how it could be dealt with
- When people do report hate crimes, they shouldn't just be classed as LGBT issues as a whole, but taking trans issues as a separate entity, to break down transphobia statistics further in order to deal with that type of hate crime in the most effective way
- Group would like to ensure that communication and education issues are addressed and these should be taken forward - also to build on communication networks. Volunteers from the group willing to take this forward

**Feedback from the Hate Crime break-out groups continued:**

**Key outcomes from Group 3:**

**Race, Belief & Faith**

(Facilitator: Mohammed Perwaze, Durham Constabulary)

- Need greater media publicity for groups and individuals out there in communities and in rural areas
- Questions raised about barriers with engaging with BME communities - many issues within some BME community groups which are kept 'in-house' and go unreported - must be greater engagement undertaken with these groups and individuals to improve confidence and knowledge to increase the number of reported crimes
- Timescales - not a short-term fix, want to see enhanced long-term links - we need to continuously do a lot of work with our communities, so they can see

regular faces as engagement work continues

- Not seen as just a police responsibility to take a lead, but as a 'partnerships' responsibility in taking this forward



**Key outcomes from Group 4: Learning Disability**

(Facilitator: Tammy Ross, Durham County Council)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to make it easier for people with a learning disability to report a hate crime</li> <li>• 3rd party reporting centres need to be more widely advertised</li> <li>• Education of our young people, particularly in</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schools, to provide young people with a better understanding of learning disabilities</li> <li>• Need to map out what Learning Disability services are available - existing agencies also need to have a better joined-up approach</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 3rd party reporting centres could be linked up to the safe places scheme as well as the Good Neighbour Scheme - all 3 working together would be a good hub for people with learning disabilities to go to access support</li> </ul> |
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## Feedback from the Hate Crime break-out groups continued:

### Key outcomes from Group 5: Gypsy Roma Travellers

(Facilitator: Ruth Scott, Durham County Council)

- Difficult to break down physical and cultural barriers that are in place
- Identified a basic lack of knowledge from everybody, including organisations and general public - intergenerational work and informal education are good starting points
- Small steps needed to take things forward, engagement work already in place but need to focus on building trust and understanding as to 'what is a hate crime' so confidence can be built on to report these crimes

### Key outcomes from Group 6: Disability

(Facilitator: Kelly Stockdale, Durham Constabulary)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group felt that working in partnership was important to tackle disability hate crime in the future - there are lots of cross-cutting themes that tackling this issue needs to be bigger than just one organisation</li> <li>• Tackling this issue needs to be undertaken throughout the full criminal justice system</li> <li>• Needs to be better awareness of 3rd party reporting and what the</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• term 'safe places' means - service also needs to be enhanced</li> <li>• Important to continue Community Cohesion Officer roles, to break down barriers / visit more groups, schools etc.</li> <li>• Strengthen links with health / care vulnerability groups</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More media engagement - long-term campaign (all agencies to take every available opportunity)</li> <li>• Training - Age UK volunteers</li> </ul> |
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## Attendees...

The event was attended by approximately 85 delegates from a range of agencies and organisations across County Durham and Darlington including:

Victim Support, UNISON, Durham Constabulary, NHS, Sophie Lancaster Foundation, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust, Durham County Council, Gay Advice Durham & Darlington, Darlington Borough Council, Livin, Blindlife in Durham, Spectrum, North East Humanists, DISC, Durham University, Independent Advisory Groups, Darlington BME (Black Minority Ethnic) Network, Crown Prosecution Service, Tees Valley YMCA, amongst others.

## Domestic Abuse Seminar

Friday 26 April 2013, Northern Echo Arena,  
Mowden Park RFC), Darlington

Presentations were provided by the following speakers:

- **David Plews**, Darlington Borough Council & **Cllr Lucy Hovvels**, Durham County Council
- **Supt. Paul Goundry & Sgt. Ellie Lear**, Durham Constabulary
- **Claire Boshier**, Victim Support
- **Lisa Davies & Julie Ward**, One Billion Rising



*"A lot of really interesting ideas came out from the break out groups which I will be taking back with me to my own workplace"*

**Feedback from attendee**

### The break-out groups...

The Facilitators for the six break-out groups asked the their group to identify actions covering the three national strategic objectives: **Protection, Prevention and Provision.**

- Tammy Ross, Durham County Council
- Judith Morton, Darlington Borough Council
- Helen Murphy, Durham Constabulary
- Lisa Davies, One Billion Rising
- Jo Hall, NHS
- Jayne Forman, Victim Support



### Summary of feedback for Protection:

- Improve court process; considering areas where the experience can improve for the victim.
- Greater consistency still needed in the court processes and the approach/attitude of the judiciary. The introduction of the family courts has helped a great deal.
- Criminal Justice System - frontline services are crucial, but there is a need for more robust sentencing/timely resolutions relating to issues where there have been breaches of bail etc.

## Feedback from the Domestic Abuse break-out groups continued:

### Summary of feedback for Prevention:

- Perpetrator Programme - explore opportunities for a perpetrator programme
- Information Sharing/Collaboration – needs to be improved among agencies at the standard and lower levels of Domestic Abuse to enable early intervention of problems as homicides are often from this category rather than the MARAC level.
- Wider range of agencies to feed into MARAC
- Raise awareness of the links to domestic violence and the needs of vulnerable adults and children (and highlight under reporting). Training - Staff in agencies need better training to help them have the confidence to ask relevant questions of women they feel may be at risk
- Reassurance - needs to be given to victims about the prosecution process at an early stage - It was felt that women were reluctant to report to the police soon enough due to fear of the process /having children removed etc.
- Better restraining orders needed
- Education in schools/academies (particularly around Youth Offending). Also better child protection training for teachers. Link health promotion with infants and juniors to raise awareness in schools.
- Education for the general public (who need to be aware of the more complex issues surrounding Domestic Abuse)
- Education and marketing to raise awareness of the consequences of offending to target perpetrators.
- Evaluate effectiveness of marketing campaigns for improved future planning
- Proactive marketing campaign to promote reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence (aimed at LGBT, disability, the over 50's).



### Summary of feedback for Provision:

- Commissioning – need to pull together community budgets
- Identify and remove barriers to reporting, support and access to services (including the under reported groups such as LGBT, disability and the over 50's).
- Support needed for women escaping violence from older sons.
- Provision of accommodation for female victims with alcohol / drug dependency issues - this is a big problem as refuges won't take them and there is no alternative support.
- Child Support Workers – There are very limited services to support children who are involved in families where there is domestic abuse. There was an agency in Darlington who had a child support worker, but funding for the post is no longer there.
- Speak to victims to identify best form of future police / criminal justice support
- Improve signposting to services and education.
- Identify opportunities to promote reporting by ensuring the victims are supported.

## Domestic Abuse seminar attendees

The event was attended by almost 100 delegates from a range of agencies and organisations across County Durham and Darlington including:

Durham Constabulary, NHS, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust, First Stop Darlington, One Billion Rising, Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Gay Advice Durham & Darlington, Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre, Sanctuary Supported Living, Victim Support, UNISON, Independent Advisory Groups, Foundation UK, Family Help, Harbour Support Services, Crown Prosecution Service, Richmond Fellowship, amongst others.

## Feedback from the events

- *“Excellent network opportunity with people I haven’t met before”*
- *“Learnt a lot which I can share with my colleagues, I thoroughly enjoyed today”*
- *“I will remember to be more tolerant with people”*
- *“Need a further event in six months or a year’s time, to build on this one”*
- *“Some of the presentations were really thought provoking”*
- *“Car parking at County Hall was difficult, an alternative venue might have better parking”*
- *“I think working together is the only way we can make a real difference for victims”*
- *“More time for the break-out groups, in fact a full day event next time would be great”*
- *“I got a lot out of the seminar today and I’m looking forward to the next one”*

## Next steps...

One of my team will be in contact the volunteers to take the actions forward.

We will also keep you updated by newsletter as the actions are progressed. I will also be hosting another seminar for Hate Crime and for Domestic Abuse in a year’s time to see how the actions have progressed. If you need to contact my office, please don’t hesitate to get in touch:

Tel: 03000 264631 or email: [enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk)

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### Further information - Police & Crime Commissioner links:

Durham PCC website: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk>

Police and Crime Plan: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

Police and Crime Plan video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PCC.Durham>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DurhamPCC>

Durham Constabulary’s website: <https://www.durham.police.uk>

