

## Disabling Hate Crime

The Equality and Human Rights Commission are supporting Vision Sense to map and tackle hate crime against disabled and Deaf people in the North East in 2008/09. We need this project to understand why it happens, how we can prevent it in the future and ensure effective reporting and prosecution.

The project includes:

- Conflict resolution with offenders in the criminal justice system to promote good relations, understand and prevent hate crime.
- Work with disabled and Deaf people to promote safety and resist 'victim' politics.
- Work with gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans men and women to explore lessons we can learn from successful tackling of homophobic violence and hate crime on Teesside.
- Partnership work with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities to research what works in race hate crime resistance and safe space reporting in the North East.
- Work with statutory partners to improve reporting, map statistics and patterns and promote good relations between communities.
- A positioning, 'mapping and gapping' literature review and emancipatory research report.



### **Brent Martin 1983 – 2007**

Brent was a learning disabled man who was beaten and kicked to death in Town End Farm, Sunderland in 2007. His killers have been sentenced to 22, 15 and 18 years.

This project will honour Brent's dignity and memory.

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**Presentation by Susie Balderston, Policy and Training Director, Vision Sense.**

**If you require this information in another accessible format, contact us on [access@visionsense.co.uk](mailto:access@visionsense.co.uk) or call 0845 108 0553.**

## What is hate crime?

Hate crime is a human rights issue. Disabled and Deaf people have the right to live with dignity, safety and without fear, resentment, violence, abuse, hostility, intimidation or prejudice.

We cannot become victims, be more isolated or exclude ourselves from work, community activities and transport because of hate crime and threat.

The Home office defines hate crime as:

**“Any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”**

This can be a crime, attack, abuse, offense or threat on the grounds of a person’s:

- Race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality or national origins
- Religion or faith
- Gender or gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disability

There are greater punishments for crimes successfully prosecuted where a hate element can be demonstrated, through a criminal’s language, writing or attitude to disabled or Deaf people.

## Workshop Group discussions – What do you think?

Group One: What are the experiences of disabled and Deaf people in your organisation, community or workplace in relation to hate crime? Think about harassment, intimidation, prejudice, abuse, violence, theft, vandalism, graffiti, insults and fear of crime... in the workplace, on public transport, in community activities, at school, college or using health and social care services, etc.)

Group Two: How do we tackle hate crime? What is effective for our region in:

- Public and private sectors (Councils, Police Forces, Emergency Services, NHS Trusts, Housing Groups etc), Community and voluntary groups and organisations
- Rehabilitation and reducing re-offending?

Group Three: How do we empower ourselves as disabled or Deaf people to effectively prevent crime and abuse and stay safe, without becoming isolated?

Group Four: Would you come forward to report a hate crime? Would you come forward as a witness to a hate crime? Why? What would encourage you to do so?

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