

NO PLACE FOR HATE

The newsletter produced by the Derbyshire Hate Crime Network
April 2022 Edition 2

Welcome to the second edition of this newsletter produced by the Derbyshire Hate Crime Network. The network enables people to share experience of hate crime and empowers organisations to work together to tackle the harm that hate crime causes to individuals and communities. We draw on the knowledge and passion of our members to respond to hate crime in Derbyshire.

This edition contains a "Spotlight On. Derbyshire LGBT+" as well as a focus on schools through an article from Cara Williams at New Mills Primary School and case studies of secondary-age students. There is also a Service Briefing on the amazing work being done at Stop Hate UK.

Please get in touch if you have any ideas for content in future editions or if you have any feedback on this issue.

If you would like to join the Derby Hate Crime Network, please get in touch.

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Please contact Jonathan Butt if you would like to join us for the next meeting: jonathan.butt@derbyshire.gov.uk



Spotlight on...

Derbyshire LGBT+

Derbyshire LGBT+ was established in 1983 and we continue to be the only social support organisation for LGBT+ people across the county. As we approach our 40th anniversary, we recognise that our services are needed now more than ever before. Statistics show us that over the last few years Hate Crime against LGBT people has dramatically risen, bullying in schools is still a major problem, and we still face inequality in goods and services. Every single day we have people coming for support with a whole range of issues from homelessness, violence, bullying and harassment, to issues of coming out around gender identity or sexual orientation. Our service is needed now as much as it has ever been.

The devastating impact of COVID-19 has meant a huge loss in income generation, service delivery and a shortage of volunteers. This has also had an impact on the funding that we apply for. Competition for funding is at an all-time high which has then led into longer waiting times between the initial application and the decision making.

A number of our service users report incidents of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic hate incidents/crimes and the experiences of many in our community highlight the perception that many perpetrators see us as an "easy target" to hate and abuse.

Through our groups and drop-ins, we come into contact with hundreds of LGBT+ people every month, a percentage of these seek support for extreme behaviours brought on by incidents where they have been targeted because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. It is important to note that a person doesn't have to identify as LGBT+ to be on the receiving end of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse.

Suicide prevention is a common thread across much of the work we do. Many people come to us in times of extreme crisis and often just by talking to someone from their community, offloading onto someone who isn't there to judge but is there to help, can be enough to prevent a loss of life. We never underestimate the power of our listening ear service and many we have helped report feeling a great sense of relief and empowerment simply by talking to someone else from their community.

Since June 2018, with funding from the then Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hardyal Dhindsa, D+ had a designated Hate Crime Advocate, John Yates-Harold. John's role was to report and record hate crime; support victims; provide training; and liaise with the police and other agencies. The OPCC also funded the HCA role at Disability Direct currently filled by Greg Johnson. We are coming to the end of our funding for this and it is uncertain as to whether this will continue.

However, Derbyshire LGBT+ will continue to record hate incidents/crimes against LGBT+ communities in Derbyshire. Training, support and liaising with other agencies will decrease and/or incur a charge. This will no doubt impact negatively on LGBT+ communities and on those services which LGBT+ communities access.

Recent data shows that hate incidents/crimes against LGBT+ communities have increased both locally and nationally. Having a member of the community to report the hate incident/crime to has meant that LGBT+ victims have had a community champion for the past 3 years.

Derbyshire LGBT+ receives no funding from national or local government. We are currently operating with a deficit budget of £92,000 which has already impacted on the services we offer. We have reduced the number of drop-ins we provide as well as reducing our working hours. Staff are bid writing to secure as many pots of funding as we're able to access and we are also crowdfunding and operating a Just Giving page. People can now fundraise, donate and set up monthly payments to us with just a simple click of a button. We are determined to stay open and to continue our work supporting LGBT+ communities across our county.

Case Study: Alfie, 12

Proud to be ginger!

Hi, my name is Alfie and I go to a secondary school in Derby. I'm only 12 years old and in the last year I've been teased a lot because I have ginger hair. For example, being called a ginger t**t. I am guessing that most people who are reading this article don't know how it feels unless they, like me, have ginger hair. It makes me feel like my hair is really, really noticeable in a bad way. It takes my confidence away and makes me feel rubbish.

For the people with ginger hair and people who get bullied because of their appearance stay strong - it's the bullies who are the weak ones.

Think before you speak as, you never know, you might be the victim of bullying one day too.

But bullies never win.

I'M PROUD OF EVERY PIECE OF MY GINGER HAIR - and you should be too.

16th March update: Alfie came home today having been kicked by the same bullies for having ginger hair. It has been reported to the school but so far there has been no action taken.

As this case study shows, the words and actions of other people can have a massive negative impact on others. The important thing is to stop and consider our actions be they online or in our communities. Crime that is motivated by hostility to someone's Race, Religion, Disability, Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity can be a Hate Crime.



WATCH:

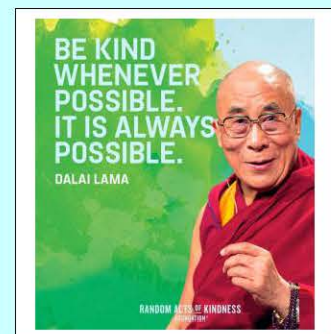
<https://bit.ly/3hGLIT3> to learn about the effects of prejudice-based language and what happens if this is left unchecked in the school playground.



LISTEN:

Nicola Roberts: "Sticks and Stones"
Taylor Swift: "Mean"
Mark Wills: "Don't Laugh At Me"
Morgan Frazier: "Hey Bully"
Kelly Clarkson: "People Like Us"
Hunter Hayes: "Invisible"
Kelly Rowland: "Stole"

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3sHwfsW> for more suggestions



Case study: Alex*, 14

Alex is 14 years old, identifies as non-binary and uses the pronouns they/them.*

Me and my friends are always sending each other TikTok videos which are always silly and they're just a bit of fun and aim to make us laugh.

Last summer, just before we had our summer break from school, I sent a video of myself showing off and doing daft things. My friends perceived this as something more serious than it was actually meant and they sent me death threats on Messenger. These messages made me really upset and I told my parents. I was scared to tell my parents because I didn't know if I'd get more hurt from my friends for snitching on them.

The messages were really horrible and the people who I thought were my friends and accepted me as non-binary said some really hurtful things.

My parents immediately contacted the school but because it was the day before the summer break, my Head of Year didn't make contact. So my dad contacted the police.

My dad took a screenshot of the messages and sent these to the police officer who had emailed my dad. We didn't hear anything more over the summer and I was really anxious and scared about starting school again in September. My parents both said that if any of my friends who sent the messages did or said anything that I should tell a teacher.

One of my friends was okay but the other two just ignored me. That was really hard every day but I guess it's better than getting death threats. My parents met with my Head of Year and she gave me lots of support. She really understood.

The police officer phoned my dad and spoke to him about Restorative Justice as a way of resolving the problem. I asked my dad if he would ask the police officer to get my friends to write me letters of apology. I didn't want anything more. I just wanted them to apologise for sending death threats.

Months went by and eventually in January this year, the police officer came round to my house with letters from my three friends. They apologised for what they had done and I felt like it had finally been sorted out. I was relieved.

I'm glad it's all over. I'll think about what I send on TikTok in future because something that was so silly was misunderstood by my friends and led to something really upsetting. I'm glad I had support from my parents, my school and the police.

*Names have been changed and any potential identifying details altered.
Submitted by John Yates-Harold, Derbyshire LGBT+

As this case study shows, one person's innocent actions can sometimes be misinterpreted by others. This case was resolved through RJ although the time frame of 6 months from the texts being sent and the letters of apology being received by the victim is not ideal.

Case study: Shay*, 13

Shay is 13 years old, identifies as transgender and uses the pronouns he/him.*

I've always known I'm different to other kids but I didn't have the words to describe how I felt until I came across a book called "Be Who You Are!" It helped me to find the words to talk to my parents. We found the MermaidsUK website and they helped me over the phone and their website had some really useful information. It helped me to know that I'm not the only person in the world like this.

I'm lucky that I went to a really good primary school in north east Derbyshire. They really listened to me and most of my teachers understood. My Head Teacher was brilliant and he really helped me. The other kids were curious at first but accepted me without any problem. Some of the parents were confused but then John came in to do a parents' meeting and they understood and mostly accepted me.

It's when I started at secondary school that the problems started with kids from other primary schools. I was bullied really badly. My parents came in and my head of year listened to them but nothing really changed much and I just got used to the bullying.

I started going to the youth group at Derbyshire LGBT+ and talked a lot to the others at the group. The group became like my sanctuary, it was my safe place apart from home.

John from Derbyshire LGBT+ came to school to do a Y8 assembly and he spoke about hate crime. I realised that what I had been experiencing at school was hate crime; well, hate incidents. John spoke to my head of year and things really started to change. The bullying became a lot less and I started to feel more confident and stick up for myself.

It's a shame that the bullying only seemed to get better when we labelled it as hate crime but now I know the signs and what to look out for, I can call it what it is and report it to my teachers.

*Names have been changed and any potential identifying details altered.
Submitted by John Yates-Harold, Derbyshire LGBT+

As this case study shows, sometimes understanding what constitutes hate incidents/hate crimes helps people to identify and label things that are happening to them. Research shows that the experiences of LGBT+ young people in our schools is improving but there is still a long way to go to ensure that schools are safe spaces for everyone.

School focus:

New Mills Primary School

As a teacher of Upper Key Stage 2 in the High Peak area of Derbyshire, I use class values and virtues rather than class rules. I teach the children that everyone is different, and everyone should be valued for who they are, what they feel and what they believe.

I aim to foster an atmosphere where the children feel confident to share worries and questions; we have a weekly 'Time to Talk' slot - the children can leave me a note in a jar if they don't want to speak in front of everyone.

The children have shared their feelings about comments made towards them about their height, their hair colour, being taunted about something that happened when they were in their first year of primary school, etc.

I frequently refer to a quote on my classroom wall:



Building this trust and the right atmosphere in my classroom is as important as teaching Maths, English, Science and all the other subjects we fit in.

I want my pupils to go to secondary school as kind, well-rounded individuals who look out for each other and know the difference between right and wrong. Hate doesn't have a place in this.

Article kindly submitted by Cara Williams

As this case study shows,

Case Study

submitted by Ian Davey, Stop Hate UK

A caller told us he had been walking with his brother in their local playing fields. Both are visually impaired minority ethnic people and the caller uses a white cane. They heard some people shout, "Look at the P***s with a white cane."

As the brothers moved towards the offenders, the caller stayed on the path and his brother moved on to the grassed area.

The caller then heard the youths order their dog to "Attack him." They also started to verbally abuse the caller calling him a "Black b*****d" and similar offensive language while their dog seemed to circle him. One of the youths then punched the caller twice in the face and demanded he hand over his phone, which he refused. His face became swollen.

The youths left the scene, but the caller was left feeling very shocked and disorientated and he couldn't find his way back to the path. He was also really scared of being attacked again. His brother had been unaware of what happened as he had taken the grassed route to avoid the youths.

The caller told us he reported the incident to the police and although he said they told him it was a priority; they did not go to the playing fields nor to the library where he told them he would be. He made more calls to the police but got the feeling he was not being taken seriously, particularly after visiting the police station and not being seen even after waiting for 45 minutes. Eventually he did speak to an investigating officer who wanted to visit him after 9pm, but as a visually impaired person this was not suitable as he was scared to answer the door this late. It was left that he would not get a visit until the officer was on a day shift.

We discussed various options with the caller, including suggesting he report how he had been dealt with and also getting help from Victim Support. We also discussed personal attack alarms and body cameras as the caller feels very scared and anxious about going out and leaving his house. He shared with us that he had even had thoughts of ending his life after this incident, so we discussed Samaritans. After the call, he gave us some feedback...

"Thank you very much. You made me feel so much better today as I was feeling so low that I just wanted God to take me away from everything that is ASB. I had a feeling of hopelessness & you made me want to be strong at least to try to carry on through these hard times. Please tell your manager that I was so happy with the chat we had today."

Comment – while we always encourage victims to report issues to the Police, sometimes, as in this situation, the response is not ideal. This incident does not involve Derbyshire Police. It highlights the true value of third-party reporting agencies who can offer that essential support as the caller's comments demonstrate.

ONE **KIND** ACT CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

MANY SUCH ACTS CREATE A **MOVEMENT**



Service Briefing:



Stop Hate UK

Stop Hate UK - who are they?

Stop Hate UK is a leading anti-hate and anti-discrimination organisation for corporate, statutory and community sectors.

We operate the UK's only **free** dedicated **24-hour** anti-Hate Crime reporting service for all aspects of a person's identity or perceived identity (Disability, Faith, Race, Sexual orientation, Transgender identity, and beyond such as Gender, Age, and Alternative subculture).

Stop Hate UK has been tackling Hate Crime for 26 years and the Stop Hate Line and ancillary services have been available in Derbyshire since 2008.

The Stop Hate Line is a **live**, 24hr 365 day service for persons suffering Hate, witnesses to Hate as well as professionals dealing with clients or service users.

The service is primarily a reporting facility but our experienced team also provide advice, information and guidance. Many people suffering Hate do not report to statutory authorities for several reasons and so very often go on suffering in silence.

The Stop Hate Line is **confidential** and **independent** from statutory agencies:

We listen, we believe, we do not judge and we advise 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

We all know that barriers to reporting still exist, and that is why our service is confidential, independent, and easily accessible so people can get the support they need, exactly when they need it.

What happens when I contact the Stop Hate Line?

When people contact us we record any incident they report, provide knowledgeable advice & information and with their consent we will pass the report to local agencies, including where appropriate to the police, to provide support/investigation. Stop Hate UK find that people who contact us need reassurance as well as information. Our conversational approach allows people the time to describe what is happening to them and the impact the Hate Crime is having on them and their families. Our average call length is over 20 mins.

Stop Hate UK can also assist with keeping logs of incidents and encourage reporting and cooperation with the Police. Operators also signpost callers to local services, through the use of a directory of local agencies. If the caller wants to talk in another language, Stop Hate UK will call them back in their preferred language.

This will either be done by an operator, or via a conference call involving an operator and interpreter. Stop Hate UK operators between them currently speak about 6 different languages, so on occasion a caller will speak to an operator directly who can talk to them in their own language.

The Stop Hate Line is more than just a free phone number - there are several ways of contacting us:

Phone: 0800 138 1625

Text: 07717 989 025

Text Relay: 18001 0113 293 5100

BSL: via www.stophateuk.org

Email: talk@stophateuk.org

Chat: www.stophateuk.org/talk

Online: www.stophateuk.org/tell

Post: PO Box 851, Leeds, LS1 9QS

The Text Relay service, which enables people who are deaf or have hearing or speech impairments to use the helpline. People can also report using a British Sign Language service via our website

Stop Hate UK continuously work to develop relationships with social media platforms. Our work around **online Hate** has provided us with ‘trusted flagger’ status and increases our chances of having harmful content removed where possible. We are able to offer consultancy on online hate incidents and/or assist contacts in gathering evidence to report online Hate Crime.

Spreading the Word

While we believe we have a unique and necessary service it won't perform at its full potential if persons suffering hate do not know of its existence. Please spread the word throughout your networks. To assist we have a quantity of promotional resources - please see our latest catalogue on our website www.stophateuk.org (under resources tab) - much of which can be provided free of charge. Please contact Jonathan Butt at County Council in the first instance Jonathan.Butt@derbyshire.gov.uk who holds some stock for the whole of Derbyshire.

Training

We are currently also offering two one-hour briefings on our services to our commissioned areas to help embed our service locally:

1. Reporting Hate Crime and Hate Incidents to Our Helplines

Objectives: To provide participants with an understanding of 'Hate Crime' and 'Hate Incidents' and how to use the Stop Hate UK Helpline services to report, seek support and further guidance.

2. Reporting Online Hate to Our Helplines

Objectives: To provide participants with an understanding of online 'Hate Crime' and 'Hate Speech' and how to use the Stop Hate UK Helpline services to report, seek support and further guidance.

Both are offered **free of charge** to organisations in Derbyshire.

We also have other training available across the Hate and Discrimination arena - see website for more details.

We are active on several **Social Media** Platforms and regularly post messages promoting our work and will target local Derbyshire groups with bespoke messages. However, the greatest community reach is found when posts are shared across local networks.

Follow us:



@stophateuk



stop_hate_uk



Stop Hate UK



stophateuk



www.stophateuk.org

Some important diary dates:

- **Hate Crime Network meetings (on Teams): 15th June 10am-12pm; 13th September 2pm-4pm; 8th December 10am-12pm**
- **April 22nd: Stephen Lawrence Day**
- **April 26th: Lesbian Visibility Day**
- **May 4th: Deaf Awareness Week**
- **May 9th: Mental Health Awareness Week**
- **May 15th: Dementia Awareness Week**
- **May 17th: International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia**
- **May 21st: Armed Forces Day**
- **May 24th: Pansexual Visibility Day**
- **May 29th: Derby Pride Rainbow Walk**
- **June (all month): National Pride Month**
- **June 12th: Pulse Night of Remembrance**
- **June 13th: Loneliness Awareness Week**
- **June 20th: World Refugee Day**
- **June 22nd: Windrush Day**