

Stop Disability Hate: The role of third parties in addressing under-reported Hate crime in York

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Our Project Partners

- York Disability Rights Forum (YDRF)
- City of York Council (CYC)
- North Yorkshire Police (NYP)



The Issue: There are rising numbers of hate crimes recorded by North Yorkshire Police but anecdotal evidence suggests they are considerably under-reported. (Community Voices, April 2019, YHRC)

Research Aims:

Research Aim: understand the role that 3rd Parties play in reporting disability hate crimes and how to improve approaches to disability hate crime in the city.



Objectives:

1. Identify the barriers faced by local statutory, voluntary and community organisations who are / may be well-positioned to increase reporting of disability hate according to PANEL principles
2. Analyse the role 3rd parties play in reporting disability hate crimes
3. Provide the partners with recommendations for reducing the incidence of disability hate crime and hate incidents in the City of York.

Methodology and Participants

We conducted 8 semi-structured interviews and 1 focus group

Focus Group 3 NYP Officers 1 CYC Officer	VCSE Sector Voluntary Sector x 5 Housing Sector x1
3rd Party Reporting Centre 1 Participant	City of York Council 1 further participant

The Models of Disability

We created, and shared with the research participants, posters that outlined two foundational models of Disability.

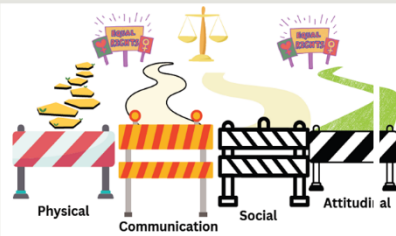
The Social Model of Disability: *“In our view it is **society which disables physically impaired people**. Disability is **something imposed on top of our impairments** by the way we are unnecessarily isolated and excluded full participation in society”.* **UPIAS (1975)**

The Social Model of Disability.

IMPAIRMENT: A person's physical, sensory or cognitive difference. E.g. being blind, experiencing bipolar, having MS or a learning difficulty

DISABILITY: An inability to take part in everyday activities on an equal basis with others due to barriers erected by ableism in mainstream society.

Disability is something that is created by society



Trying to 'fix' or 'cure' the person is discriminatory



It's societal barriers that disable people with impairments



Everyone in society is responsible for inclusion

- The concept, “Social Model of Disability” was coined by the disabled academic Mike Oliver in 1983.
- It was later expanded to incorporate those with non-physical impairments

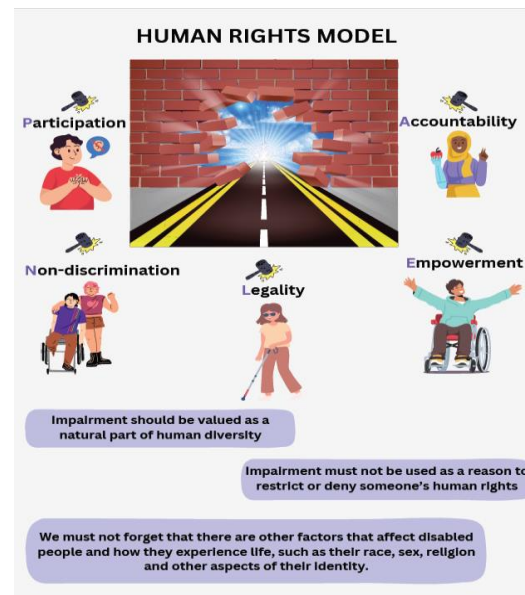
Findings

Key Finding 1.1: Though Third Parties fluently recalled the definition of Disability Hate Crime they often did not recognise

[On the definition of disability hate crime] “It's quite vague and there's just a lot open to interpretation, I think it just leaves lots of grey areas and I guess it's a bit of a double-edged sword”

The Human Rights Model of Disability:

- Emphasis that persons with disabilities are rights holders (inc. legal capacity)
- Focus on removing barriers and limitations to facilitate socio-economic rights access
- Distinguish between environment factors and discrimination
- UN Convention for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD) came force 3 May 2008



Key Finding 1.2.: Disability Hate Crime is considered by many a difficult concept to understand and so people with Learning Disabilities are less likely to identify that it

“I had someone from North Yorkshire Police offering to come in and speak to people.... as soon as I told them about the people we were supporting, with learning disabilities as the most prevalent, condition, they offered to adapt what they were going to do and come and speak to people as a group.”

Key Finding 1.3.: Awareness of the existence of Third Party Reporting Centres is too low to make them effective

“It is unclear how the public would know we are a 3rd Party Reporting Centre”

Findings Continued:

Key Finding 1.4. : Those who had received the Third Party Reporting Centre training did not feel confident in their new role.

“What we got from the police is not quite what we wanted. It went over a lot of the same stuff about what hate crime is, what's reportable, but not actually how to support that person that's making the report.”

Key Finding 2.1.: Under Domestic Legislation, strands of hate crime are treated differently. Disability is given the least protection.

“When we deliver training, we don't need to explain racism, homophobia, sexism but maybe we need to explain disability hate”

Key Finding 2.2.: Public transport is perceived as a hostile environment for disabled people and is a common setting for unacceptable behaviour

“Last night the bus was so full that somebody with a wheelchair couldn't get on the bus...nobody was willing to get off to make space...even though it's advertised all over the bus that that's what you should do...that poor woman was sat in the cold.”

Key Finding 2.3.: Key elements of the Public Sector infrastructure is inaccessible, potentially due to lack of representation of disabled people in decision making roles

“It comes down to lived experience - we have [senior police officers] with lived experience, one is a woman, one has Pakistani heritage, one is bisexual, but we don't have people with a disability.”

Key Finding 3.1.: Staff who work with and support disabled people rely heavily on the Safeguarding Framework rather than reporting incidents as Hate Crime

“In terms of ... what we would do if somebody came in to make a report, we'd currently follow our safeguarding reporting procedures, which...is not exactly the same but...that's how we would support somebody, because we're not 100% confident in this, in the third-party [reporting] side of things.”

Key Finding 3.2.: Chronic underfunding of services which support disabled people has led to under-staffing and thus less capacity to support disabled people.

“[When asked about staffing levels] “we're just at the brim of capacity!”

Key Finding 3.3.: Due to many factors many disabled people and those that support them have had a negative experience with police which leads to hesitancy in making a police report

“We would share our own experience of making reports to the police ...because I suppose we feel a duty of care in that situation, given that the person is likely already to be feeling stressed, anxious, upset by the experience... is reporting it going to make any difference?”

Key Finding 3.4.: Inadequate finance and benefits are a source of hardship

“But those benefits don't actually meet the cost of those additional needs people facing day-to-day life where the disability is a long-term health condition.”