



# Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 29th  
October, 2014  
6.30 pm

Committee Room Two  
Town Hall  
Redditch



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- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact  
Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce  
Democratic Services Officers**

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e.mail: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) /  
[a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

# Welcome to today's meeting.

## Guidance for the Public

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### **Agenda Papers**

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

### **Chair**

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Democratic Services Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

### **Running Order**

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

**Refreshments** : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

### **Decisions**

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

### **Members of the Public**

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### **Further Information**

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**Do Not use lifts.**

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# Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Wednesday, 29th October, 2014

6.30 pm

Panel

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs: Jane Potter (Chair)      Pattie Hill  
 Andrew Brazier                  Wanda King  
 Carole Gandy

<p><b>1. Apologies and named substitutes</b></p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p><b>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</b></p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.</p>
<p><b>3. Minutes</b> (Pages 1 - 6)</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes attached).</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>
<p><b>4. Domestic Abuse Projects - Briefing Note</b> (Pages 7 - 12)</p> <p>James Cooper, Senior Community Safety Project Officer</p>	<p>To consider further information about projects undertaken by or on behalf of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership to tackle domestic abuse.</p> <p>(Briefing note attached)</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>
<p><b>5. LGBT Projects and Initiatives - Briefing Note</b> (Pages 13 - 14)</p> <p>Sarah Kelsey, Community Safety Project Officer</p>	<p>To consider further information about projects delivered by or on behalf of the North Worcestershire community Safety Partnership to support the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in the Borough.</p> <p>(Briefing note attached)</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>
<p><b>6. Adult Safeguarding - Presentation</b></p> <p>Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing</p>	<p>To consider further information about work undertaken by the Adult Safeguarding Group.</p> <p>(Presentation to follow).</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>

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## 7. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act”.

These paragraphs are as follows:

Subject to the “public interest” test, information relating to:

- Para 1 – any individual;
- Para 2 – the identity of any individual;
- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;
- Para 5 – legal professional privilege;
- Para 6 – a notice, order or direction;
- Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime;

and may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.



# Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Andrew Brazier (Chair), and Councillors Pattie Hill, Roger Hill and Yvonne Smith

### Also Present:

Superintendent Kevin Purcell and Councillors Rebecca Blake, Bill Hartnett, and Pat Witherspoon

### Officers:

Alasdair Baker, Sue Hanley and Bev Houghton

### Committee Services Officer:

Michael Craggs

### 63. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrew Fry and Adam Griffin. Councillor Yvonne Smith was named as substitute for Councillor Fry.

### 64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

### 65. MINUTES

With reference to the resolution at the previous meeting on 10th April 2013 that the Panel receive a report on positive activities funding projects at a forthcoming meeting, Members heard that the parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to consider a report on this issue at its next meeting on Monday 4th November. Therefore, Members were encourage to attend that meeting if they so wished to hear the discussion. It was therefore suggested and

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Chair

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agreed that the Panel would therefore no longer receive this item to help avoid any duplication.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on Wednesday 10th April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### **66. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLICING IN REDDITCH**

The Chair welcomed the Divisional Superintendent for West Mercia (North Worcs), Supt Kevin Purcell, to the meeting to give a brief overview of the policing arrangements for Redditch in the future.

Supt Purcell advised the Panel that West Mercia Police were in the process of recruiting Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) who would work within local secondary schools to offer support to pupils and teachers and the local community. Ideally, candidates would have previous experience of working with young people and particular skills suited to working in a schools partnership environment.

More Special Constables were also being recruited to compliment the work of Police Officers and PCSOs. They were to be trained up to the required level over a shorter time period than in previous years so that they could quickly join the Safer Neighbourhood teams and support important work in the local community.

Members were advised that West Mercia Police were attempting to strengthen their engagement with young people by recruiting police cadets as part of a force wide volunteer scheme. This would primarily give the cadets an opportunity to raise their understanding of policing and to help them to become good citizens. One of the force's intentions was to break down barriers to entry for under represented communities, for example around financial concerns, and to generally have a more diverse range of volunteers within the scheme.

The Panel was told that these initiatives would help to further increase the visibility of the policing in the local community. The force has already received very positive feedback from residents around there visibly being more police on patrol.

Members heard that the police were looking at whether it the police base in Redditch should be relocated to an alternative facility as the existing station was said to be very costly to maintain. It was



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confirmed that there would always be a policing base in Redditch no smaller than the existing station.

The Panel was also informed that West Mercia Police were working alongside Worcestershire County Council and other partners around how to best deal with people in custody that have mental health issues. We were told that this is a national issue and not something that could be resolved satisfactorily by working purely at the local level on an ad hoc basis.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thanked Supt Purcell for attending the meeting and providing some very useful information. Supt Purcell confirmed that he would be very happy to attend another meeting in future or another suitable council meeting to update Members further on the policing arrangements in Redditch and West Mercia.

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

**67. NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE AND OPTIONS FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY**

Officers provided an update on the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP). This gave a summary of the work of the NWCSP to date, a list of the shared community safety priorities and also Redditch's own local priorities, and what activities it had planned to meet these priorities. The Panel was also referred to a performance summary for North Worcestershire and Redditch. This explained that the recorded levels of crime had decreased in both locations by around twenty per cent during the previous three years.

In addition, Members were provided with the terms and reference and operating protocols for the NWCSP, and also its agreed three year plan for 2013-16. This tied in with the wider community safety strategies which eventually linked all the way up to the West Mercia Police & Crime Plan.

Members were very encouraged by the reduced levels of recorded crime. They were informed that this mirrored a reduction in crime across the country which was principally attributed to excellent partnership working across several agencies in the previous few years.

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Members were also advised that drug related offences had significantly reduced in the previous three years, although this was not listed as a specific crime type. In particular, it was reported that alcohol related crime had reduced considerably.

There had been a very slight recent increase in robbery offences in Redditch. Officers had therefore been looking to introduce effective preventative measures. One example included encouraging residents to register their technological devices, including mobile phones and tablets, online to help deter potential theft.

Elsewhere, Members heard that Community Safety Officers were working in collaboration with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to encourage local residents to report cases of premises and shops selling alcohol illegal to anyone underage, including proxy alcohol sales to anyone underage.

Community Safety Officers were also working with other partners to tackle domestic abuse. It was suggested that any victims could be referred to their relevant ward councillor if they required any support from the Council.

The Panel was advised that no further meetings had been scheduled for the remainder of 2013/14. Members were encouraged to inform Officers if there was any pressing issue they wished to scrutinise in the meantime.

Finally, Members wished to place on record their gratitude to Michael Craggs for all his work for the council on what was his final committee meeting. Councillor Hartnett gave his own personal thanks as Leader of the council.

### **RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

#### **68. NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MINUTES**

The Panel received the confirmed minutes of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) meeting on 11th June 2013.

Members were advised that Sue Hanley, as NWCSP Chair, had since issued a written request to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to reconsider alternative preventative measures to help reduce suicides from Musketts Way footbridge over the A441

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Bromsgrove Highways beyond the caging of the railing. This request had been unsuccessful. However, WCC was currently leading a consultation on a Worcestershire Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Plan with key local partners. Members would therefore have the opportunity to provide their own input via this route.

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm  
and closed at 7.45 pm





Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

## Briefing Note

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**To:** Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel      **From:** Bev Houghton, Manager  
**Subject:** Domestic Abuse                              **Dept:** Community Safety  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### Overview

This briefing is to inform the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel of the many community safety initiatives dealing with issues of domestic abuse that are currently taking place in Redditch.

Domestic abuse involves the misuse of power to control an intimate partner or a family member. It can take the form of physical & sexual violence, intimidation, psychological abuse, social isolation and economic coercion. Abuse is often hidden and is rarely a one-off occurrence.

During 2013/14 the Police in Redditch recorded 744 crimes and incidents linked to domestic abuse and in the UK as a whole, almost 1 in 4 women and more than 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

The Community Safety Team, in partnership with other agencies, delivers various projects and campaigns throughout the year. The projects aim to provide direct support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse; promoting recognition, reporting and recovery.

### Sanctuary Scheme

Since 2008, Redditch Sanctuary Scheme has delivered appropriate, relevant and cost-effective security advice and improvements at the homes of people who have left abusive relationships. The project seeks to help protect them from further victimisation, reduce the need to seek alternative accommodation and restore feelings of safety for survivors and their children.

The risk of harm to clients is known to increase as the abusive relationship ends and for some time afterwards. Perpetrators often visit the home of their former partner to continue the abuse and may seek to gain entry by force, intimidation or other tactics.

Referrals are received directly from clients and a wide range of agencies. Each case is assessed with appropriate multi-agency input and the security offered is tailored to the needs of the client, the circumstances of the property and the nature of the risk posed by the perpetrator.

Security upgrades include locks, door viewers, external lighting, fencing, replacement front and rear doors, external letterboxes and fire-proof letter bags. In high risk cases a "safe room" can be created inside the property by replacing an internal door with a high specification door that could withstand a sustained attack for a time period long enough for the victim to summon help.

Support is available to all residents irrespective of housing tenure, subject to landlord consent and it is also necessary for the perpetrator to have been excluded from the property before any improvements can be made.

Between April 2013 and March 2014 the Community Safety Team received 33 Sanctuary referrals from various agencies and organisations. As a result, security improvements at 26 properties were made at a cost of £8,936.88, with an average per case of £388.56.

At present the scheme is mainly funded by a grant from the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner with additional support from some landlords, including Redditch Borough Council, on a case-by-case basis.

Figures below show the growth of the scheme since 2008/9 to the last financial year.

<u>Financial year</u>	<u>New cases where security improvements completed</u>
2008/09	3
2009/10	8
2010/11	10
2011/12	11
2012/13	13
2013/14	23

Feedback from clients is very positive and many describe the “liberating” effect that the improvements have, both for them and their children. There are a number of cases where it is known that the perpetrator has attended the property after security works have been completed and access has been prevented as a result.

In a small number of cases, we are aware that clients have resumed their relationship with the perpetrator after security improvements have been made. This pattern of behaviour is recognised in studies of Domestic Abuse as part of the long process some victims and survivors will go through in order to break free from abusive and controlling partners. Whilst it is concerning that a small number of clients may return to their relationship; it is right that if assessed as suitable, Sanctuary support is offered based on the applicant’s circumstances at the time of seeking help. This aspect of the project is fully considered throughout the risk assessment process.

Research undertaken following Freedom of Information requests in July 2014 shows that 7 households who received support from the scheme are also currently affected by the Housing Benefit under occupancy reduction (“bedroom tax”), none of whom receive Discretionary Housing Payment. This is two fewer households than in 2013 and it is known that in at least one case, the impact of Housing Benefit reductions has led to a client moving to alternative accommodation forfeiting the protection of the security improvements.

## **Workplace Domestic Abuse Policy**

Development of a workplace policy follows a conference called “Domestic Abuse – The Hidden Cost to your Organisation” hosted by Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse in October 2012 which was attended by Cllr Debbie Taylor and Lindsey Wood, Acting Human Resources Manager. The Community Safety Team has prepared a draft policy for consideration and adoption by both Councils; this has been passed to Human Resources for comment during August 2014.

The policy aims to promote consideration of the potential of Domestic Abuse as part of managing staff safety whilst at work; helping staff to spot the signs of abuse and promoting a sympathetic and effective response to any disclosures by staff.

The draft policy provides a checklist of practical actions that will allow colleagues and managers to assist staff who are affected by abuse; such as improving workplace security, adjusting job duties, protecting employee personal information and supporting financial independence.

The draft policy also states that any employee who is experiencing, or has experienced domestic abuse will not be discriminated against because of this, in terms of their existing employment or career development.

## **CRUSH Schools Programme**

The CRUSH programme was developed by West Mercia Women's Aid and offers group support and empowerment for young people aged between 13 and 19 years, who have witnessed, experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse. The programme aims to help young people gain the skills and knowledge to be able to avoid abusive relationships and exit an abusive relationship safely. In addition, the project helps young people exposed to domestic abuse at home.

The programme is delivered to groups via a weekly session led by specialist, trained facilitators over a period of ten weeks.

Sarah Kelsey, Community Safety Project Officer, has qualified as a CRUSH facilitator and works with Middle and High Schools in Redditch and Bromsgrove to introduce the programme to the school curriculum. One aim is for the project to be delivered in all High Schools across Redditch and Bromsgrove by the end of the academic year.

Plans are in place to deliver the CRUSH programme at Arrow Vale Academy and Woodfield Middle School, in partnership with Early Help, from January 2015. Also, both Trinity High School and Tudor Grange High School have agreed to include the project in the 2015 curriculum; however, the delivery details are still being finalised.

An awareness session on healthy relationships and domestic violence will also take place at Ipsley Middle School in the New Year.

## **White Ribbon Campaign 2014**

As in previous years and as part of the membership of the Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse; the Council's Community Safety Team along with a number of local agencies will take public action to show opposition to all forms of domestic abuse, irrespective of the victim's gender.

The campaign begins on 25th November - UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women & White Ribbon Day and runs until the 10th December which is Human Rights Day and is symbolised by the White Ribbon.

By those involved publically showing that they recognise and oppose abuse, the campaign aims to encourage people experiencing domestic abuse to seek support and take actions to protect themselves. All the events that take place centre around one or more of the key campaign learning areas in the context of domestic abuse: recognition, reporting, recovery and access to support.

The theme of this year's campaign will again be "Step into Their Shoes", encouraging people to think about and empathise with the experiences of victims and survivors and how find out how they can support them. A number of activities have been organised including:

Worcestershire Heels Walk – Each year teams of men from across Worcestershire walk a mile around Redditch town centre wearing women's shoes to publicly show their opposition to domestic abuse. The participants carry placards, wear t-shirts and hand out literature showing the campaign messages. In 2013 approximately 30 men took part in the walk, supported by female volunteers and students from NEW College.

**This year's Heels Walk will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, with a briefing from 1pm and setting off at 2pm. Male Elected Members are welcome to participate in the walk and Female Elected members are welcome to join the support team accompanying the walkers. For further information or to sign up, please email [saferrredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:saferrredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk).**

White Ribbon Theatre – In 2013, the Council's Community Safety Team organised public theatre performances in the Kingfisher Centre. Actors told stories in character as survivors and a perpetrator of domestic abuse and performed these to members of the public. There was a strong response from members of the public, which led to good quality interactions and engagement with support services.

This year, the team has worked with colleagues in Wyre Forest to commission theatre performances in three High Schools across North Worcestershire with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse amongst teenagers. Between 200 and 300 young people aged 14-16 in each school will see the performances and take part in a variety of activities designed to challenge abusive beliefs, attitudes and behaviour.

The commission has been funded by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner via North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and performances will take place at the following locations:

Redditch – Tudor Grange Academy  
Bromsgrove – Bromsgrove North High School  
Wyre Forest – Baxter College

Step into Their Shoes – In schools where theatre performances are not taking place, the Community Safety Team will visit to deliver short assemblies on the impact of Domestic Abuse. During these visits the young people will also be encouraged to make a pledge and take a "Shoe Selfie". These photos will be used to help promote the campaign in the future.

Wearing the White Ribbon – as in previous years, the Community Safety Team and colleagues around Worcestershire will be wearing and distributing White Ribbons for people to show their support for the campaign.



## **Diamond Club for Black and other Minority Ethnic Communities**

The Community Safety Team has commissioned Early Help to design and deliver a programme of support for women from black and other minority ethnic communities. The programme seeks to identify women who are thought to be at risk of experiencing domestic abuse, but who may not have recognised or disclosed this.

Participants attend group sessions with activities based on art therapy and life coaching to help them recognise the presence of controlling attitudes in relationships, abusive behaviour and identify the early signs of risk, offering access to additional support where required to enhance their own personal safety and that of their children.

Early Help have been delivering the Diamond Club for a number of years with some financial support from the Community Safety Partnership. Early Help Support workers identified a gap in provision for women from minority ethnic communities, for a variety of cultural and practical reasons, and the Community Safety Team sought funding from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver a bespoke version of the project for minority ethnic women. By tailoring promotion and group activities to specific cultural groups, the project seeks to reduce cultural and practical barriers to minority ethnic women seeking support.

The project covers the North Worcestershire area and the first cohort was set up in Redditch in September 2014, working with the Polish community.

The project will seek to support 2 other cohorts from different community groups and in the longer term, will also help to identify and support the establishment of a network of community based mentors/champions, who could then go on to assist future service users and advocate on their behalf

The success of the pilot will be evaluated using practitioner and participant interviews, leading to detailed case studies and the identification of areas where agencies need to target further resources and/or improve service delivery.

### For More Information

If you have any queries about any of the Domestic Abuse Initiatives highlighted, please contact

James Cooper, Senior Community Safety Project Officer

Alasdair Baker, Community Safety Project Officer or;

Sarah Kelsey, Community Safety Project Officer

Tel: 01527 534187 / Ext: 2134 or Email: [saferrredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:saferrredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk).



**Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel****Briefing Note**

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**To:** Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel      **From:** Bev Houghton, Manager  
**Subject:** LGB&T Projects and Initiatives      **Dept.:** Community Safety  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Overview**

This briefing is to inform the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel of the community safety initiatives dealing with issues affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB&T) communities that are currently taking place or have previously taken place in Redditch.

These projects are in addition to the Domestic Abuse projects and initiatives outlined in the previous briefing note, all of which are targeted at or offered to residents who may be of LGB&T communities who are experiencing or at risk of Domestic Abuse.

**Worcestershire LGB&T Hate Crime Forum**

This is a countywide meeting held as a sub-group of the West Mercia Police Independent Advisory Group arrangements. The meeting is held monthly and is attended by a number of statutory agencies and LGB&T support organisations. The group discusses community support activities, campaign opportunities and community safety issues affecting individuals and local LGBT communities across Worcestershire. The meeting is supported by council officers and Sarah Kelsey, Community Safety Project Officer attends the meeting to provide the link between the forum and the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership.

**North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership and Reporting Centres**

North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership provides practical support for victims and witnesses of Hate incidents and crimes. The partnership has received reports via its community reporting centres from gay, bisexual and transgendered residents who have been the target of harassment because of their sexuality or perceived gender status. Hate incident cases are discussed and support offered through a multi-agency, victim-centred approach. Any resolutions identified are discussed with the victim to ensure they are fully comfortable with any proposed actions.

**Respect! - Community Safety Schools Programme**

The Community Safety Schools programme has been delivering hate crime awareness workshops called "Respect!" in local High Schools for 5 years. The workshops include activities and exercises around all aspects of hate crime awareness including scenarios about people affected by LGB&T hate crime. The LGBT sessions are delivered within the context of a young person coming to terms with their sexuality and the prejudice they might experience when they choose to come out. The young people are asked to look at the situation in relation to it being a school friend or classmate and what they could do to provide support or report any bullying. The programme has recently obtained a copy of the Crown Prosecution Service resource 'Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Hate Crime Schools Project' and this will be integrated into the Respect! Programme delivery in schools this year.

**"Breaking the Cycle" – North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership Film**

The making of this film was commissioned by the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership to be used as a training tool for the community based Hate Incident Reporting

Centres and other organisations. The film depicts the stories of real life victims of Hate Crime all reported to reporting centres in Worcestershire. A number of the stories portrayed are those of victims of LGB&T hate crime and show the true impact that these incidents have on an individual's quality of life. It is hoped that the film and its accompanying training manual will be purchased by organisations and agencies to train front-line staff and volunteers and any income generated will be used to fund future activities of the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership.

### **Hate Crime Awareness Sessions**

The North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership delivers a number of awareness raising sessions to members of the public on hate crime/ incidents and within these sessions scenarios and case studies about LGB&T hate crime are used. Using funding received from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, the partnership delivered a number of activities to promote national Hate Crime Awareness week (13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October). Working with colleagues from Wyre Forest, the Community Safety Team commissioned a street theatre company to deliver a number of outdoor performances in the town centres of the three North Worcestershire districts. The event in Redditch was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October and took place in the Market area. A series of interactive street theatre performances throughout the day showed the impact of Hate Crime on individuals and how victims and witnesses can report incidents and access support. The event was supported by West Mercia Police officers and PCSOs and Bill Longmore, West Mercia Police and Commissioner attended the afternoon performances to speak to the actors and staff involved in developing the project.

### **Redditch Night Club - Gay Night Pilots**

As part of LGB&T History Month in February 2011 and 2012, Fever Night Club held a Gay Night at its Market Square venue. The aim was to encourage members of the gay community to have confidence to take part in social activities in Redditch; this was following local research that indicated that the majority of local residents felt safer socialising and using night-time economy venues out of the area. Both events were backed and promoted by the Night Club Manager, who was very supportive of the concerns raised by local members of LGB&T communities. Unfortunately, each of the Gay nights held operated at a loss to the night club and it was decided by the Manager not to hold future events.

### **Theatre Production Commission: Palace Theatre - February 2011**

Again during LGB&T History Month, a professional theatre company was commissioned to put together a production which reflected some of the harassment faced by LGB&T communities. The production was held at the Palace Theatre, with guest speakers invited to attend from the Police and the Gender Trust. Unfortunately, despite quite substantial advertising, the event was not well attended and partners agreed that this method of engagement had not worked in this format.

### **For More Information**

If you have any queries about any of the LGB&T Initiatives highlighted, please contact

Sarah Kelsey, Community Safety Project Officer

Tel: 01527 534187 / Ext: 2134 or Email: [safferredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:safferredditch@redditchbc.gov.uk).