

making it stop

disability hate crime in Merton



report by **Stay Safe East**
for **Merton Centre for Independent Living**



contents



about Merton Centre for Independent Living

3



about this report

4



what is disability hate crime?

6



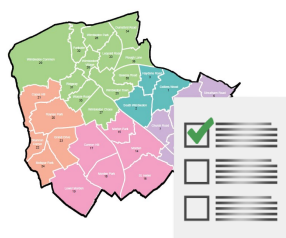
disability hate crime in this country

8



disability hate crime in Merton

14



what needs to happen in Merton

23



word list

31



about Merton Centre for Independent Living

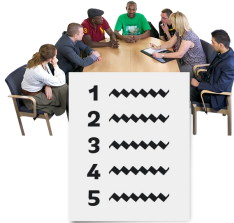


Merton Centre for Independent Living is an organisation for **disabled** people in **Merton**. It is **run** by **disabled** people. We **work** with people with **all types** of **disability** in Merton.



We want to **help** people

- be **in control** of their lives
- get **involved** in their **community** and make things **better**



We **offer**

- **advice** and **advocacy**
- **training**
- **events**





about this report



In **2016 Stay Safe East** and Merton Centre for Independent Living did a project to **find out** about **disability hate crime** in **Merton**. They looked at **information** about hate crime and also **talked** to **disabled** people.

This **report** is about what they found out.

It includes



- **what people said** about hate crime



- **numbers of hate crimes** that get **reported** in Merton



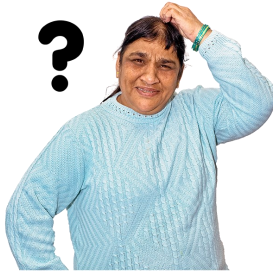
- **where** people go for **help**



- what **Merton Council**, **police** and **other organisations** do about **hate crime**



At the **end** of the **report** there is a **list** of things that **Merton Council**, **police** and **other organisations** should do to make things **better**.



Some **words** in the **report** are **hard** to understand. These words are in **green**. There is a **list** of the **hard words** and what they **mean** on **page 30**.



what is disability hate crime?



Any **crime** that happens because someone **hates** another **type** of **person** is a hate crime.



Hate crimes can happen to



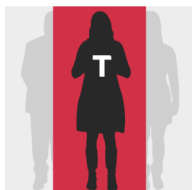
- **disabled** people
- **Black** or **Asian** people or people of **other races**



- people of a different **religion**



- people who are **gay** or **bisexual**



- people who are **transgender**

Disability hate crime can **start** out as



- **teasing** someone



- **telling** other people someone is **disabled**



- **complaining** about someone for **no reason**



- using **bad words**



- **damaging property** or **stopping** someone **moving** about



Disability hate crime can **get worse** and worse and **end** in **killing** someone.



disability hate crime in this country



Disabled people are **more likely** to be **hurt** or **abused** than other people. **Violence** against **disabled** people is **going up**.



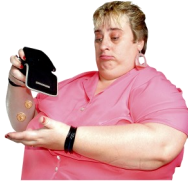
Race hate crime is the **most common** kind of hate crime. **Disability hate crime** is **second** most common.

This table is about the people who suffer the most hate crime each year.

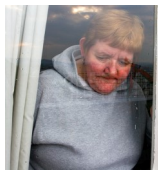




Disability hate crime usually happens to **people** who are **outside society** for **another reason** as well. For example a **disabled** person is more likely to be a victim of **hate crime** if they are also



- **poor**



- **lonely** or **isolated**



- living in a **council house** or **flat**



- a **woman**



- **gay**



- **Black** or **Asian** or **other races**

I grew up hearing the **n word** all the time and being spat on. It is a bit like terms about disabled people



Most people who **do disability hate crime** are **young white men**. This is **like** people who do **other crimes**. But there are **some differences**.

For example



- more **family members** and **carers** do **disability hate crime** than other crimes



- more **women** do **hate crimes** than other crimes



- **disability hate crime** is sometimes done by **groups** of people together

They said this is the problem with this country but don't worry we will soon get rid of you with this government.



The **law** about **disability hate crime** is **not** as **strong** as for other hate crimes.



Not many people **report** disability hate crime.

This is because



- people do **not understand** what **disability hate crime** is



- they do **not take it seriously** enough



- the **police, social services** and **other organisations** do **not work** well to **stop** it



- **some disabled** people think there is **no point reporting** it

Some of the police were respectful. Others said
Why are you are wasting our time? You are a disgrace.
Why can't you pull yourself together? Just snap out of it.
A lot of people with mental health issues hear that
but you are clinically depressed.



In **London** things are getting **better**.

Disability Hate Crime Matters is a **new way** for **police** to deal with **hate crime** in London. It started in **2015**.



Since it started **lots** more **disability hate crimes** have been **reported**.



The **Equality Act** is a **law** that says how **different groups** of people should be **treated**.



It says that organisations like **councils**, **health services** and the **police must deal** with **hate crime**.



If **nothing happens** after **hate crime** is **reported** people can **die**.



The **story** on the next page is about someone being **killed**.

Be careful. It might upset you.



Bijan's story

Bijan lived in **Bristol**. He was a **disabled** person from **Iran**.



His **neighbours bullied** him. This was **hate crime**. He told the **police** but they said he was **wasting** their **time**.



He took **pictures** of the **young people** who bullied him. They said that was **sexual abuse** and **Bijan** got **arrested**.



When **Bijan** went **home** again his neighbours **beat** him up. They **dragged** him out of his house and **killed** him by **setting fire** to him.



The **day** before Bijan died he **called** the **police 12** times.



After he died the **killer** went to **prison** for **life**. **3 police officers** went to **prison** too.



disability hate crime in Merton



In the **last year** the number of people **reporting hate crime** in **Merton** has **not gone up** much. This is **different** from other parts of **London**.



total hate crimes

Last year there were about **500 disability hate crimes** in **Merton**.

Only **12** got reported.



reported hate crimes

It's an everyday experience. Right now it's happening to someone.



Organisations in **Merton** do **not** talk about **disability hate crime** enough. They talk about **anti social behaviour**. This is **not** the **same** thing.



There is **no plan** in **Merton** for dealing with **disability hate crime**.



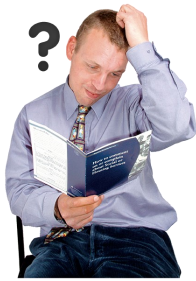
Some things about **Merton** make it **hard** to **report disability hate crime**



- **Wimbledon police station** is the only one that is **open 24 hours** a day. People are **put off** by how **far** they have to go to **report** a crime.



- there are **no third party reporting** centres in **Merton**



- **Merton Council, police and health services do not give out good information about disability hate crime**



- there is **no local information** about hate crime in **easy read** or **sign language**



- **Merton Council, police and health services have not done much work with disabled people** in the last few years



Disabled people in Merton need more **help to understand** what **hate crime** is.

They need **help to report** it.



- **some disabled people understand** what **hate crime** is and **some do not**



- **some** disabled people do **not report** things they **think** are **less serious** like being called **bad names**

People try to bully me being disabled.
They call me names and take the mickey.
The stuff based in hate is the name calling,
the spastics, the weirdos.
I've never reported.



- **half** the **people** we **talked to** said they had been **bullied** or **hurt** in the **last year**. **Some** of them had been **bullied more** than **3 times**.



- **disabled** people in **Merton** want to **know more** about **hate crime** and what to **do** about it



- **disabled** people in **Merton** want things out in the **open** about **hate crime**. They want to **talk** about their **experiences**.



- some **people** in **Merton** do **not trust** the **police**. They talked about **bad experiences** with the **police**.



- people said the **police** need **training** from **disabled trainers**



- **some disabled** people in **Merton** have had **other** types of **hate crime** too like hate crime because they are **transgender** or because they are **Black** or **Asian** or people of **other races**



- **some women** said they get **abuse** or people **threaten** to **rape** them **because** they are **disabled**



- **some men** and **women** said they get **domestic abuse**



- there is **no help** in **Merton** about **domestic abuse** that is just for **disabled people**



- **most disabled** people in **Merton** said they would **report hate crime**
 - if they could **get help** from a **disabled organisation**
 - if **hate crime** was taken **seriously**



Disabled people want the **hate** to **stop**.
They want **help** that **keeps going**.

They want to



- be **safe**



- **talk** to someone who **listens** and **believes** them



- **understand** what **choices** they have



- **understand** what will **happen** next



- feel **in control**



- get **good support**



- know **something** has been **done** about the **hate crime**



- **get on** with their **life** and **not** feel **scared**



Having an **advocate** will **help**.



Advocates can

- give people **time** and **help** to **speak up**



- **work** with people for a **longer** time



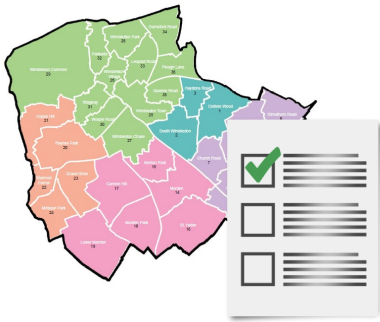
- **help** people **get over** their **terrible** **experience**



Being part of a **self advocacy group** will **help** too.



It can **help** people to **feel good** about themselves.



what needs to happen in Merton?



Everyone needs to **work together** in **Merton** to deal with **disability hate crime**.



On the **next pages** there are **jobs** for



- **Merton Council**



- **the police**



- **housing associations**



- **Merton Centre for Independent Living**



jobs for everyone together



1. write a **report** about hate crime called **No Place for Hate in Merton**



2. have a **campaign** to **tell** people about **hate crime**



3. let everyone know **where** they can **report** hate crime in **Merton**



4. have **meetings** with the **police**, **Council** and **disabled organisations** to help people feel **confident reporting** hate crime



jobs for Merton Council



1. make new **information** about hate crime and put it on the **police** and **Council websites**. Make sure it is in **easy read** and tells people how to **report** hate crime.



2. work with **other organisations** to make a **plan** for **keeping** everyone in the community **safe**



3. have **meetings** with **other organisations** and the **police** to deal with **serious local cases**



4. **make sure** everyone has the **information** they need about **serious local cases**



4. **check reports** about **abuse** and make sure **no hate crimes** get **missed**



5. **train** Council **staff** about hate crime



6. make sure **disabled** people get enough **help** when they have had **domestic abuse**



jobs for the police



1. start a **group** with **disabled people** and **organisations** to **talk** about how the **police deal** with **hate crime**



2. have a **police officer** in **charge** of working on **hate crime** cases



3. get **more police officers** working with **disabled** people



4. work with **Merton Centre for Independent Living** to **train** police staff about hate crime.



5. ask **disabled** people to join the **police advisory group**. This is a **group** who **give** the police **feedback** about how to work.



6. **check** through **crime reports** to see how **well** the **police** are doing and **what** they can do **better**



7. work with **different organisations** like groups for **gay** people and groups for **Black** and **Asian** people to talk about **hate crime**



8. **Train police officers** to work with **schools** and **young people** about **hate crime**



jobs for housing associations



1. have **good information** on their **websites** about **hate crime**



2. put an **article** in their **newsletters** about **hate crime** and how to get **help**



3. **check** through all the **reports** about **anti social behaviour** to make sure **no hate crimes** get **missed**



4. **tell** the **police meeting** about any **serious cases**



Training Room

5. **train staff** about **hate crime** so they can **spot** it and **help**



jobs for Merton Centre for Independent Living



1. make an **easy website** where **disabled** people can **report** hate crime



2. provide **advocates** for **disabled** people who have had **hate crime** done to them



3. have **meetings** for people to **talk about** their **experience** of hate crime



4. make a **leaflet** and **poster** about **hate crime** and how **Merton Centre for Independent Living** can help



5. make a **plan** for **working** with **disabled** people in **Merton**



6. hold **groups** for people who have had **hate crime** done to them



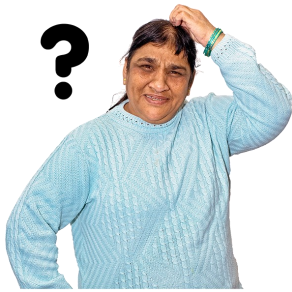
7. run **workshops** at different **events**



8. check local **facebook** and **twitter** sites and make sure **no one** is saying **bad** things about **disabled** people



9. work with **disabled experts** on **training** for the **police** and **other organisations**



word list

advisory group

a **group** of people who give **advice** about how to **work**. For example a **police advisory group** is a group of people who **help** the **police** work **better**.

anti social behaviour

behaviour that causes **trouble** or **upsets people** in the **community**. It is **not** as **serious** as **hate crime**. It is **important** that people do **not mix up hate crime** and **anti social behaviour**.

bisexual

someone who **likes** both **men** and **women**

Equality Act 2010

a **law** that says **everyone** should be **treated** the **same**. It **protects** some **groups** of people who often get **treated badly**, like **disabled** people and people of **different** **rac**es.

n word

a **very bad word** about people who are **Black**. It causes a lot of **hurt** when it is **used** by **people** who are **not Black**.

third party reporting

telling an **organisation** you **trust** about **hate crime**. They will **report** the **hate crime** for you.

transgender

someone who is a **different sex** to what people **thought** when they were **born**. **Sometimes transgender** people have **operations** to **change** what they **look** like. **Sometimes** they do **not**.

easy read by

