

Minutes of the joint meeting on Hate Crime

Cross Party Group for Learning Disability and Cross Party Group for Disability

Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament

Wednesday 4th February 2015

1pm – 2.30pm

People who were there

Jackie Baillie MSP
Michael McMahon MSP
Annabel M Goldie MSP
Ken Mackintosh MSP



Jan Savage (ENABLE Scotland (Secretariat))
Kayleigh Thorpe (ENABLE Scotland)

Lorne Berkley (Quarriers)
Helen Hunter (Quarriers)
Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers)
Alice Drife (Quarriers)
John Wheeler (Quarriers)
Florence McQuilter (Quarriers)
Iain Cuthbertson (Quarriers)
Sally Elfverson (ENABLE Glasgow)
Jane Feeney (ENABLE Glasgow)
Andrew Jahoda (University of Glasgow)
Ewan Smith (Police Scotland)
Ian Hood (LDAS)

Rhona Neill (People First)
Keith Lynch (People First)
Sue Kelly (Inclusion Scotland)
Ewan Hamilton (Key Community Supports)
Maureen Martin (Edinburgh Development Group)
Frances MacDonald (Edinburgh Development Group)
Sofi Taylor (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde)
Alistair Low (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde)
Faye Keogh (Turning Point Scotland)
Ross Gilligan (Disability Agenda Scotland)
Sam Cairns (Equal Say)
Kirsty McDonald (Equal Say)
Eric Mitchell (Capability Scotland)
Maureen McAllister (Arthritis Care Scotland)
Rachel Le Noan (Down's Syndrome Scotland)
Duncan Fisher (The Big Partnership)
Lisa Ross (Mindroom)
Jacq Kelly (Leonard Cheshire Disability)
Robert MacBean (The National Autistic Society)
Gloria Greganti (ARK Housing Association)
Sylvia Crick (ARC Scotland)

People who could not come and sent apologies

Sarah Waterson (RNIB Scotland)
Diane Willis



1. Welcome

Michael McMahon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He said today was a joint meeting between the Cross Party Group for Learning Disability and the Cross Party Group for Disability.

He said it was good the 2 groups had come together to talk about hate crime.



2. ENABLE Scotland's Be The Change campaign

Andrew Jahoda is Professor of Learning Disabilities at the University of Glasgow.

He talked about ENABLE Scotland's Be The Change campaign.

This is a campaign against bullying of people who have learning disabilities.

Andrew said that children who have learning disabilities are more likely to be bullied than children who don't have learning disabilities.

He said more children need to understand about learning disability. This will make them less likely to bully children who have a learning disability.



He said ENABLE Scotland had made lesson plans for schools to teach children about learning disability.

Jan Savage is from ENABLE Scotland. She talked about the Be The Change campaign.



She said that the lesson plans were important. But they were not enough on their own.

The Be The Change campaign tells everyone to stop using hurtful language about people who have learning disabilities.

Keith Lynch is from People First. Keith said he had seen a mug in the shop in the Parliament that said 'numpty'. He said he didn't like that.



Jan said the Be The Change campaign is all about speaking out about hurtful language.

Michael McMahon MSP said he would look into the mug.

3. John Wheeler, Chairperson of Quarriers Discovery Group

John spoke about his experience of bullying and hate crime.



He said that when he is on the bus or at the shops he worries about being bullied and threatened.

He said one of his friends had been bullied in his own home by people banging on the windows.

He said lots of people are bullied because they have a disability.

He said it happens all over Scotland.

He said we need to keep pushing to change everyone's attitude.

He said that many organisations across Scotland are supporting people to stand up to hate crime.

4. People First – Hate Crime Film

Keith Lynch from People First showed a film about hate crime.

The film was made by people who have learning disabilities.

The film said that not many people tell the police if they have been the victim of a hate crime.

The people on the film said sometimes when you are bullied support workers tell you to ignore it.

People said they sometimes feel like they have to put up with hate crime.

The film said people should listen when someone says they have been a victim of hate crime.

People should realise it is a hate crime and report it.

You can watch the film online here –

www.peoplefirstscotland.org/gallery/



**People First
(Scotland)**



5. Euan Smith, Police Scotland



Euan said in the past the police sometimes didn't take hate crime seriously.

He said that was the wrong thing to do.

He talked about a project the police are doing in Renfrewshire called Keep Safe.



The police have set up 43 Keep Safe Places where people can go for help.

He said there are plans to do this in other areas too.

He said the police want to get better at dealing with hate crime.



And they want to make sure people report hate crime to the police.

6. Helen Hunter, Quarriers



Helen talked about hate crime against people who have learning disabilities.



She said Mencap had done some research about hate crime.

They found out that 2 out of 3 people who have a learning disability had been a victim of crime.

9 out of 10 people said they had been bullied.

Helen said that we need more information about hate crime against people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



Helen said Professor Nick Watson from the Centre for Disability Research has started some work on this.

She said the public have got to learn that hate crime and bullying are unacceptable.

Helen said we need joint work across Scotland to tell the public about hate crime.

7. Questions

One person said there is a National Action Plan on hate crime in England.

This is a plan to help stop hate crime.

But there is not a plan like this in Scotland.



One person said it would be good to have a mobile phone app where you can report hate crime.

Euan Smith from Police Scotland said that making an app might be expensive.

But he said people can report a hate crime on the Police Scotland website –

www.scotland.police.uk/



8. Actions – what happens next

Everyone agreed that the Convenors of the two Cross Party Groups should ask some Parliamentary Questions to the Scottish Government.



We said the Convenors should ask these questions:

- What is happening with the plans for being able to report a hate crime through a third party reporting system for disabled people?
- Can we introduce a National Action Plan on hate crime in Scotland, like they have in England?
- Sometimes people report a hate crime but no one is prosecuted for it.
How does the government keep track of these cases?
- When no one is prosecuted for a hate crime how do the police and courts support the person who reported the crime?

Everyone agreed we will talk to the Convenors of other Cross Party Groups.

We will ask the Convenors to sign a letter to the Scottish Government.

The letter will tell the Scottish Government it needs to do more work to stop hate crime.



Everyone agreed that the MSPs in the Cross Party Groups would speak up in Parliament about hate crime against disabled people.