

# A life without fear?

**A Call for Collective Action against  
Learning Disability Hate Crime**



Mental Health  
Foundation



Esmée  
Fairbairn  
FOUNDATION



foundation for  
people with  
learning disabilities

# The What Works Hate Crime Project



## Easier to Read Summary





### If you need help to read this you could ask:

- Someone in your family.
- A friend or carer.
- A support worker.



### This easy read summary will:

- Tell you about the What Works Hate Crime Project.
- Answer some of your questions about learning disability hate crime.
- Tell you about the What Works Hate Crime Report 'A life without fear?' and Recommendations.

Words highlighted in **blue** are explained starting on page 14.



People with a learning disability have worked together with the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities to make this easy read summary.

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities want to say **THANK YOU** to the East Sussex Learning Disability Involvement Team and their experts by experience for helping with making this summary in Easier to read: Sonia Reed; Graham Oliver; Dominic Steel; Tim Sully and Jeanette Gallivan-Young. Also Patricia Charlesworth; Ruth Simmonds and Christine-Koulla Burke.

# What is learning disability hate crime?



It is a **crime** towards someone because they have a learning disability.



It covers things like:

- **Physical abuse** – this is when someone hits you.



- **Verbal abuse** – this is when someone shouts at you or calls you names.



- **Online / phone abuse** – this is when someone calls you names over the phone or by text or email.



- **Threatening behaviour** – this is when someone says they are going to hurt you.



- **Bullying / teasing** – this is when someone or a group of people are horrible or make fun of you **deliberately**.
- This usually happens more than once.



- **Damage to property / theft** – this is when someone breaks something you have or steals from you.



9 out of 10 people with learning disabilities have experienced learning disability hate crime.



Many people with learning disabilities do not know what has happened to them is a learning disability hate crime.



People with learning disabilities do not report hate crime.

# What we did



The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities asked people in the **United Kingdom** what they were doing about learning disability hate crime.

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

People filled out **questionnaires**, this is what we found out about what they do:

- Speak out about learning disability hate crime.
- Support people with learning disabilities in the community.
- Offer **victim support**.
- Offer ways people with learning disabilities can report hate crime.
- Teach people how to support someone with learning disabilities.



We put all the learning disability hate crime projects on a **digital map**.





We did some interviews to find out more about what the projects were doing.

These included **Safe Places projects** and **third-party reporting centres**.



Our research told us that Safe Places projects and third-party reporting centres offer a good service but need to be better at supporting people with learning disabilities.



People with learning disabilities helped with the **interviews** of the projects.








People with learning disabilities shared their stories of hate crime.



We chose some projects as examples of **good practice** to put into the report.

# Our Report called ‘A life without fear’ says:

 	<p>We want projects that deal with hate crime to learn from people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>We want people with learning disabilities to help train and speak out about hate crime.</p>
	<p>We want people with learning disabilities to be supported to be <b>leaders</b> in their <b>community</b>.</p>
	<p>We want more people to speak out about learning disability hate crime.</p>
	<p>We want to help families and supporters who work with people with learning disabilities, to understand about learning disability hate crime.</p>





We want people with learning disabilities to be supported to learn about learning disability hate crime.



**We want Local Authorities to:**



- Make plans that help stop learning disability hate crime.



- Make sure **housing managers** check people with learning disabilities feel safe at home and check that they are doing this.



We want training on learning disability hate crime in all **schools**.

This should involve people with learning disabilities.

We want schools to use Books Beyond Words to support people with learning disabilities.



We want **local organisations** to write a plan together on how they will stop learning disability hate crime.

**We want all justice system staff, the**



- Police
- **Judges**
- **Lawyers or solicitors**

to be trained on how to support victims and **recognise** acts of learning disability hate crime.



**We want the Government to:**

- Make sure the police are writing down correctly that someone has a learning disability and needs support.
- To see learning disability hate crime as important and able to tell us how many people with learning disability are victims of hate crime.



**We want the Home Office to:**

- Help everyone to work together and learn from each other.
- Check how good safe places are and make them better.



## We want the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to:

- Make sure there is good training for young people in school on hate crime.
- Check that the police are writing down when someone with a learning disability is reporting crime.



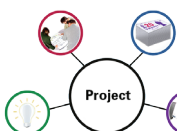
## We want the Department for Education to:

- To make sure all schools are doing training on learning disability hate crime and check that they are doing it well.



## We want the Police to:

- Have a way to know when someone with a learning disability is calling to report a hate crime, so they can be supported well.
- Make sure learning disability hate crime is correctly recorded.
- Check how victims of learning disability hate crime are supported and see if any changes need to be made.



We want to make sure projects that look at learning disability hate crime know if they are doing well, so other projects can learn from this.



We want **victim support services** to help more people with learning disabilities.



### We will:

- Work with the reference group of people with learning disabilities on hate crime.
- Work with the National Forum for Learning Disabilities and Autism Hate Crime to make sure changes are happening.
- Make changes to the Home Office action plan on hate crime.
- Make sure there is good information from research on hate crime.
- Check how other people are experiencing hate crime.



We want all the good practice in the report to be something people do all the time.

# Glossary

(Explaining words)

These are the words highlighted in **blue**

Word	Meaning
Crime	Something that is illegal or against the law.
Deliberately	Doing something on purpose.
United Kingdom	The countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Questionnaires	A form you fill out to answer questions.
Victim	A person that has had something bad happen to them.
Digital Map	This is when data (the things we found out from the questionnaires) is put onto a map on a computer.
Safe Places projects	A safe place helps people with learning disabilities if they feel scared or at risk while they are out and about in the community.

Word	Meaning
<b>Third Party Reporting Centres</b>	A place to get support and help to report a hate crime that is not a police station.
<b>Interviews</b>	To question someone to try to learn more.
<b>Good practice</b>	A good or the best way of doing something and there are results which show it works well.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Advice or suggestions – things we think should be done.
<b>Leaders</b>	A person that guides or directs others.
<b>Community</b>	All the people living in an area.
<b>Housing Managers</b>	A person who supports people with housing issues and helps them to look after their tenancy.



Word	Meaning
<b>Local Organisations</b>	Groups that share an interest or purpose in your community like the local council, health, police, housing or support services.
<b>Justice System Staff</b>	Staff that work in the legal process to help prevent crime and punishing those that commit crime.
<b>Judges</b>	Someone who's job is to make decisions in a court of law.
<b>Lawyers or solicitors</b>	Someone who's job is to provide people with legal advice and services.
<b>Recognise</b>	To notice something or someone.
<b>Researched</b>	To study something really well to try to find out new facts.

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**#stoplearningdisabilitieshatecrime**

**Please visit [learningdisabilityhatecrime.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://learningdisabilityhatecrime.mentalhealth.org.uk)  
to read our digitalised report**



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**Mental Health  
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**Registered Charity No.  
England 801130  
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Company Registration No. 2350846**

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