

Rt Hon Teresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

26 January 2016

Dear Home Secretary

North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) response to the HMIC's inspection; 'Joint review of disability hate crime' dated July 2015.

North Yorkshire Police are committed to identifying and supporting victims of Hate Crime and have taken steps to ensure this is a priority, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. In December 2011 a working group was established and an action plan was created. This action plan involved force wide communications, additional training within the Force Control Room (FCR) and the introduction of the THRIVE initiative. This ensures FCR identifies vulnerability from an early stage and guarantee the incident is assessed and dealt with appropriately.

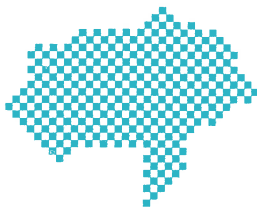
Further to this, in May 2015 the working group devised two further action plans, which are currently ongoing. These plans aim to enhance the confidence of victims of hate crime to seek support and ensure this work is linked in with our Supporting Victim's services. These plans will make certain that agencies involved have the relevant training and skills, to ensure victims of hate crime receive the service they need.

Another aspect of these plans is to develop the Independent Advisory Group's (IAG's). These groups provide a vital link to different communities and allow North Yorkshire Police (NYP) to gather the views of their work, from the people who receive the service.

I feel confident that NYP are taking the steps needed to improve their links with vulnerable members of the community and provide staff with the capability and training required, to meet the needs of the public.

My own office has taken steps to improve local support too, as I felt Hate Crime was drastically under reported. I commissioned a Hate Crime report, which included focus groups held across North Yorkshire and York with people from diverse communities, representing racial, religious, disability, sexuality and gender identity backgrounds. 17 groups were held in total, gathering views from about 120 people. This report has made a number of recommendations to NYP for improvements to service delivery. They included providing officers with specific training, information about the Supporting Victims Service and ensuring reporting mechanisms are improved.





However, it is important that this work does not lose momentum and to demonstrate to NYP that hate crime is under reported and more needs to be done.

Yours sincerely

JULIA MULLIGAN

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

