



CPS Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel - Wessex

Being a victim of crime is a traumatic experience for anyone. Being victimised because of racial origin, religious beliefs, disability or sexual orientation is even more offensive and CPS Wessex is working hard to successfully prosecute cases of hate crime.

Hate Crime is defined as: Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

We have specific policies tackling:

- Racist and religious hate crime
- Homophobic and transphobic hate crime
- Disability hate crime
- Crimes against older people

For more information on our policies please visit our national website.

The panels meet four times a year and are vitally important; they have a crucial part to play in helping us to ensure our service to victims and witnesses is always as good as it can be.

Panel members are drawn from local communities and involve a wide range of people from many backgrounds. The panel is independently facilitated by Dr Chris Lewis from Portsmouth University. Cases are presented by the Area Hate Crime Champion who also answers any questions the community members may have. The Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor sits on the panel and ensures that issues are actioned appropriately. The three police forces across Wessex are also represented.

The panel members are given full access to concluded hate crime cases and then highlight best practice or suggest areas for improvement.

Community Panel Members

Prof. Chris Lewis, Independent Facilitator, Portsmouth University

After a career in the Home Office as Head of a Research Unit, Chris moved to Portsmouth University in 2003, where he continues to teach, research and write about Crime and Justice. Since then he has advised CPS HQ and the Home Office on Diversity issues and carried out a range of research and consultancy, including international comparisons and international technical assistance: evaluation of local criminal justice projects including the way that fraud is developing: community partnerships and youth justice. He is also keen on environmental issues and is currently Chair of CPRE Somerset. He can be reached on chris.lewis@port.ac.uk

Roger Redding, Rev to Gypsy / Traveller Community, Wiltshire

I have been a priest for the Church of England since 1989 and for 16 of those years was Chaplain to Gypsies, Travellers and Showmen.

I have a broad knowledge of Traveller culture and customs and links to all the major Travelling Communities

Anna Braczek, Dorset Race Equality Council

Anna has been a part of Dorset Race Equality Councils team for over three years. She is a strong supporter of race equality work across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. Elimination of racial discrimination, promoting shared values of peace, responsibility and racial harmony as well as encouraging communities of Dorset to celebrate different cultures are some of the main aspects of her day to day engagements.

Anna comes from Poland; she also lived briefly in Germany and has been in Dorset for nearly a decade. Supporting equality and diversity is a big part of her personal and professional life.

- Sue Newell, Community and Equality Manager, Corporate Strategy and Communications, Borough of Poole
- Helen Thompson, Transgender Community, Wiltshire and Swindon
- Paul Taylor, Victim Support
- Rajni Bail, Ethnic Minorities Team, Eastleigh Borough Council
- Kate Ross, Victim Support
- Sharin Mashih
- Amanda Frost, Bournemouth People First
- Paul Thomas, Bournemouth People First, Independent Learning Disability Advisor
- Farzana Saker, West Wiltshire Interfaith Group

http://www.cps.gov.uk/wessex/our_partners/wessex_scrutiny_and_involvement_panel/hate_crime_scrutiny_panel