



Open Out Tackling Hate Crime in your community!

Open Out is a multi agency project offering victims and witnesses of Hate Crime the opportunity to report and resolve incidents with or without police involvement. Since its inception in 2001 the Open Out scheme has recruited more than 100 reporting centres and information points and through these, successfully tackles Hate Crime in Cambridgeshire. The Open Out scheme was set up to meet recommendations set by the Macpherson Report in the wake of the death of Stephen Lawrence. The report recommended that the public should have more access to facilities to report incidents, other than police stations.

What are the objectives of the scheme?

Open Out aims to;

- Provide alternative centres, other than police stations, in which victims and witnesses of Hate Crime can report incidents in complete confidence.
- These centres must be easily accessible to the public such as community centres, libraries, leisure centres, councils, cafes and colleges.
- Offer support, information and advice to victims and witnesses of Hate Crime
- Information shared with other relevant agencies, in order to provide the best possible service.

- Thoroughly investigate each incident based on the wishes of the individual
- Aid to prosecute offenders where appropriate.
- Develop a true picture of the level of Hate Crime in our community.

What is Hate Crime?

Any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by an offenders hatred for someone because of their;

- Race
- Religion
- Gender
- Sexuality
- Disability
- Age

What forms can Hate Crime take;

- Verbal Abuse
- Threatening Attacks
- Bullying in school or workplace
- Damage to home or property
- Physical abuse
- Harassment

Many Hate Crimes go unreported leaving offenders free to commit similar offences with impunity. Indeed many offenders consider minority an easy target because many incidents are never recorded. Even when they are, the person reporting them may feel uncomfortable notifying the police about a hate crime incident.

Hate Crime Hurts and destroys lives and communities, reporting it enables Open Out and other partners to highlight areas of concern and take appropriate steps.

Open Out Partners

- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Oxmoor Opportunities
- Southern Division Hate Crime Team
- Cambs Fire and Rescue
- City Council Equalities Team
- Victim Support
- Cambridge City Council Racial Harassment Service
- Witness Support
- Commission of Racial Equality
- Diverse
- Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity Service
- Luminus
- Hunts Mind
- Cambridgeshire Traveller Initiative
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Muir Housing
- Huntingdon Youth Service

If you or anyone you know has been a victim of Hate Crime please contact an Open Out Coordinator.

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