

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting held at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Victory House, Balliol Business Park, Newcastle on

Tuesday, 22nd October 2013 at 5.00pm

PRESENT: V Baird - Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

G Howe - Better Days

L Lane - Network

A Blackburn - Newcastle Disability Forum

S Proctor - North Tyneside Disability Forum

C Watson - Your Voice Counts

R Davies - Your Voice Counts

A Cummings - Mental Health North East

J Lawson - Northumbria Police

L Koberg - Northumbria Police

D Lowery - Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

1. ISSUES DISCUSSED

- The group were informed that a video highlighting the main points of the police and crime plan which will include BSL, audio and subtitles is currently being produced.
- The group were informed that Your Voice Counts, South Tyneside had recently produced a DVD to highlight the Safe Places Scheme. A recent event to encourage more businesses and premises to take part in the scheme saw fifteen new businesses sign up including libraries, shops and community centres.
- It was agreed that the training packages currently delivered to police officers relating to disability and mental health would be provided at the next meeting of the group.
- The group discussed the challenges officers sometimes face in recognising individuals suffering from mental health issues. The group were informed that a pilot scheme involving the inclusion of mental health workers co-located in police custody suites is currently being undertaken.
- The group were presented with a report produced by Mental Health North East which looked at youths detained by the police under section 136 of the Mental Health Act

throughout the North East. The group thanked Mental Health North East for their work in producing a very informative and worthwhile report.

- Vera informed the group that she is currently looking to introduce a Safe Haven in Newcastle City Centre which will be staffed by partners, the aim of which is to help potentially vulnerable people late at night. The staffed venue will offer somewhere to go for people who have lost their friends, mobile phone or are unable to look after themselves.