

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

**Meeting held at the OPCC, Victory House Balliol Business Park,
Benton Lane, Newcastle, NE12 8EW
Monday, 24th February 2014 at 5.30pm**

ISSUES DISCUSSED

- The group were informed of the work undertaken by Northumbria Police by Superintendent Steve Wade in creating a force Hate Crime Strategy to improve victim satisfaction due to an increase in the reporting of hate crime. Members discussed the consultation process and how this could provide a true cross-section from the disabled community.

Members of the group continued to discuss the strategy and how success can be shaped with comments received including ways to market the strategy, how to liaise with groups, increased training for safe reporting centre staff and increasing educational programmes in schools.

- Joscelin Lawson, Northumbria Police provided members with the training packages that are currently provided to officers in relation to Hate Crime, Mental Health Awareness, Anti-Social Behaviour, ADHD and Vulnerability awareness.

Members were asked to review the training and provide comments on improvements that could be made.

- The Commissioner presented members with the draft Mental Health Concordat. This relates to the provision of emergency support for people in mental health crisis and is hoped to result in dramatic improvements across the country as part of a far-reaching new agreement between police, mental health trusts and paramedics.

The agreement – called the Crisis Care Concordat – has been signed by more than 20 national organisations in a bid to drive up standards of care for people experiencing crisis such as suicidal thoughts or significant anxiety.

The Concordat will help cut the numbers of people detained inappropriately in police cells and drive out the variation in standards across the country.

-