

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

**Meeting held at OPCC Victory House on
26th March 2015 at 5.30pm**

- Nitin Shukla from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner updated the group on a pilot scheme to tackle inconsiderate parking which affects members of the disabled community. The PCC was keen to support any initiative to reduce the effect inconsiderate parking has on all members of the community.

It was agreed that a working group consisting of OPCC staff, Northumbria Police, Royal National Institute for the Blind and Guide Dogs Association would be formed to identify an area where the 6 month pilot could be operated.

A letter produced by the group is to be delivered to residents of the agreed area in Fawdon to inform them of the planned pilot and the effects of inconsiderate parking to the community at large.

- John Hall from Northumbria Police attended the group following a request by members to receive more information on the accessibility of Forth Banks Police Station, Newcastle to members of the disabled community.

Northumbria Police in response to this request produced a leaflet clearly explaining what facilities and access can be expected when visiting the police station to report a crime or access the custody environment. This leaflet was forwarded to all groups to be distributed to their service users.

Some of the Accessibility features included:

- DDA compliant main reception desk
- Wheelchair access to custody facilities
- Wheelchair access to all functions and services of the building
- DDA compliant wash facilities

Within Custody, accessible features include:

- DDA compliant discreet charge desk
 - DDA compliant cell with W/C and additional cell call points
 - Interview rooms are large enough to accommodate a wheelchair turning circle
 - DDA W/C for visitors
 - All doors are DDA compliant in width
- Sgt Philip Cleugh updated the group on the development of the Hate Crime Strategy. The group were to receive the delivery plan in relation to the strategy once finalised.