



# Still living in a different world?

Has anything changed with hate crime against disabled people?

This is an EasyRead version of:  
**Joint Review of Disability Hate Crime  
Follow Up. 2015.**

# What is in this report



1. About this report

1



2. What should happen?

3



3. How we did the new review

5



4. What has happened so far?

8



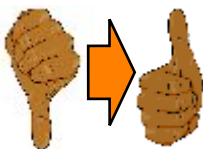
5. The main things we found out

11



6. Some examples of good work

17



7. What needs to happen now?

18

## Some of the words we use in this report

**Arrested** - When the police tell someone they think they have broken a law and take them to the police station.

**Charge** - When the police tell a person officially which law they think they have broken.

**Crime** - When someone breaks a law.

**Criminal justice system** - Services like the police, CPS, courts and probation services working together.

**CPS (Crown Prosecution Service)** - The service that deals with crimes after a person is arrested and up to the trial in court.

**Hate Crime** - When you become the victim because of who you are.

**Evidence** - Information to prove a person has broken a law or not.

**Investigate** - Find out what happened and get evidence.

**Intermediary** - Someone independent who helps witnesses who need support to understand and speak up.

**Probation Services** - The services that work with people who are found guilty of a crime.

**Review** - A planned and organised way to find out about something.

**Sentence** - The punishment for a crime. For example, how long a person will go to prison for.

**Victim** - The person who the crime is against.

**Witnesses** - People who tell the police about a crime and give evidence to courts about it.



# 1. About this report

This report is from 3 independent organisations that inspect or check what is happening with:

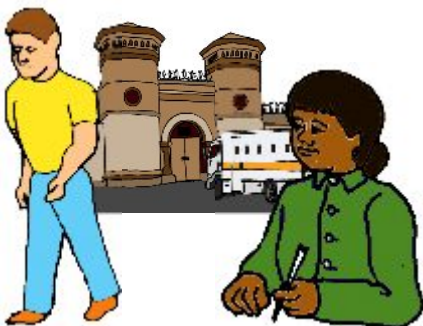


CPS

- the CPS



- the police



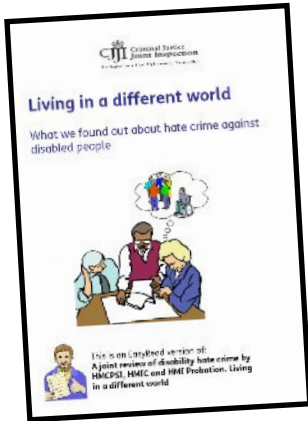
- probation services.



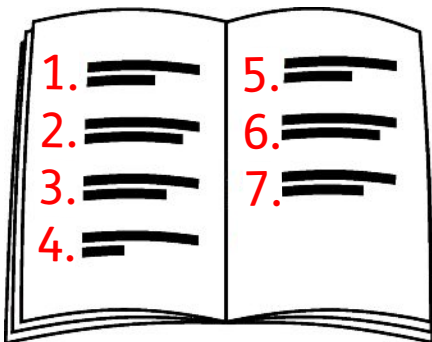
When we use the word **services** in this report, we mean the CPS, police and probation services.



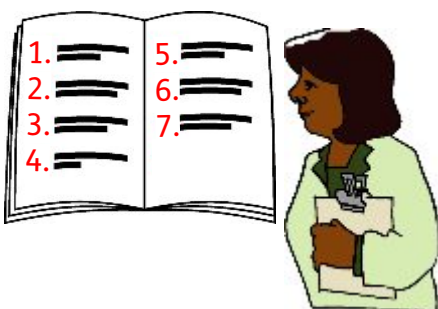
In 2013 we looked at how the services deal with disability hate crime.



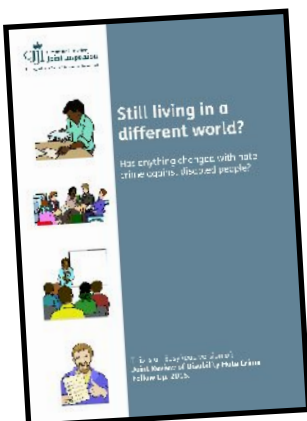
We wrote a report called **'Living in a different world'**.



The report said 7 things should happen to make sure services deal with disability hate crime better.



We checked to see if these things are happening.



This new report tells you what we found out.

## 2. What should happen?



'Living in a different world' said services should work quickly to make sure:

- more victims tell the police about disability hate crimes



- victims get the right support



- people get punished properly for disability hate crimes.

The report said these 7 things should happen:



1. Services use a clear definition to explain disability hate crime.



2. Services agree how to deal with disability hate crime and how to get more people telling the police about it.





3. Services train their staff to recognise and deal with disability hate crime properly.



4. Police use every chance they can to find out if a crime is a disability hate crime.



5. CPS should keep better records if a crime is a disability hate crime.



6. CPS make sure lawyers know how to ask courts to sentence people for disability hate crime.



7. Probation services make sure their staff understand disability hate crime.

### 3. How we did the new review



#### We asked the police, CPS and probation services:

- What have you done to make these 7 things happen?



- If you have not done them, what has stopped you?



#### To try to answer these questions we:

- visited 6 police force areas



- spoke to CPS managers and hate crime experts all over the country.





- looked at information about cases the police and CPS said were disability hate crimes



- looked at probation service files.



### **We wanted to find out:**

- how good the police and CPS are at seeing disability as the reason for a crime



- how well the services deal with disability hate crime



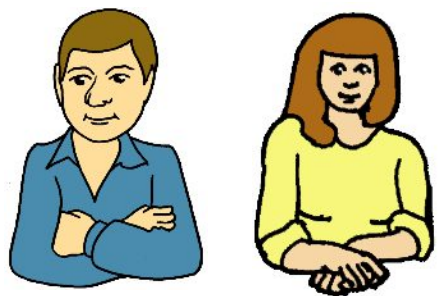
- how well they support victims



- things that stop people getting a bigger punishment if a crime is disability hate crime.



We did not have enough information to find out if disability hate crime happens more to some groups than others.



For example:

- men or women



- people from different countries or backgrounds



- people who are older or younger.

## 4. What has happened so far?



'Living in a different world' said services should make sure:

- more people understand disability hate crime



- more victims report it



- it is an important part of what services do every day.



This is what has happened so far with the 7 things they need to do.



## 1. Use a clear definition

Services agreed a definition but not all are using it properly.



## 2. Agree how to deal with hate crime

Some services understand disability hate crime better.



Many still do not recognise when crimes are disability hate crime.



## 3. Train staff

Police and CPS services are training staff but some are doing better than others.

Things are happening too slowly.





#### 4. The police investigating disability hate crime

Police forces have not checked how well they collect evidence for disability hate crime. Some try new ideas but do not know how well they work or share them with other areas.



#### 5. The CPS recording disability hate crime

The CPS are not much better at this.



#### 6. Asking courts to sentence for disability hate crime

The CPS are not much better at asking lawyers to do this.



#### 7. Probation staff

The CPS and probation services are better at sharing information for sentencing reports. They are not good at thinking about how to keep the victim safe.



They still do not treat disability hate crime as seriously as they should.



## 5. The main things we found out



### Knowing when a crime is a disability hate crime

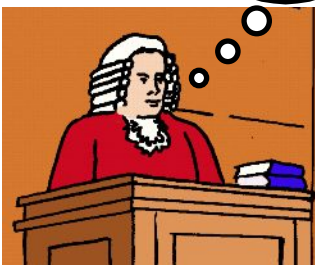
Fewer crimes were marked as disability hate crimes last year than the year before. Services still find it difficult to tell when a crime is a disability hate crime.



Police think about this when looking into a crime but often do not understand why.



Some think any crime against a disabled person is hate crime – which is wrong.



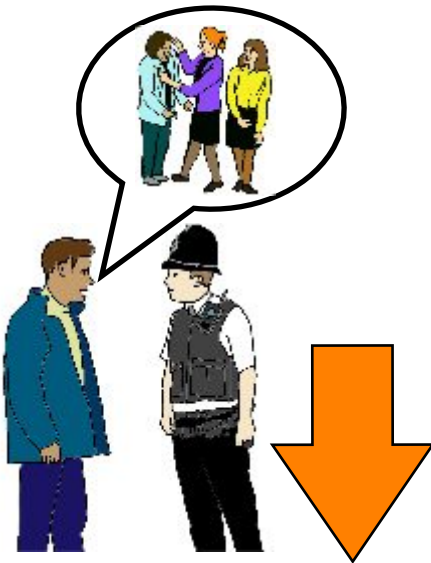
The police cannot charge someone with a disability hate crime, however, a court can punish someone more if the judge is sure that the legal rules are met.



Leaders in the police, CPS and probation services still need to get better at dealing with disability hate crime.



Services do not link different things that happen to a person that show they are a victim of disability hate crime.



### **Telling the police about disability hate crime**

We know a lot of disability hate crime happens but only a very small number of victims tell the police about it. Things have not got any better.



### **Investigating hate crimes and making sure people go to court**

Services are not training their staff as quickly as they should.



This means they do not understand disability hate crime and services are not better at dealing with it.



Often the CPS and lawyers do not ask the police for information to charge someone with disability hate crime.



Probation services do not always think about disability hate crime in reports to help the court decide what sentence to give.



Often these reports are the wrong type or do not think about how the crime affected the victim or how to keep them safe.



Probation services often do not find enough information and sometimes just believe what the person who did the crime tells them.



In 2013 we said the police and CPS should keep better information about disability hate crime.



This is what we found out this time:



- The police are a bit better at telling the CPS when a crime is disability hate crime.



- 1 out of every 3 disability hate crimes that people tell the police about needs to be written down better.



- The CPS are a bit better at recording which crimes are disability hate crimes but are still making mistakes.



- The CPS are not keeping good information about crimes which the courts treat more seriously because they are a disability hate crime.





## Supporting victims

Victims of disability hate crime have the right to know what is happening with the person who did the crime quickly.



Many police officers we spoke to did not know this.



It can sometimes be difficult for the police to give victims information as quickly as they should.

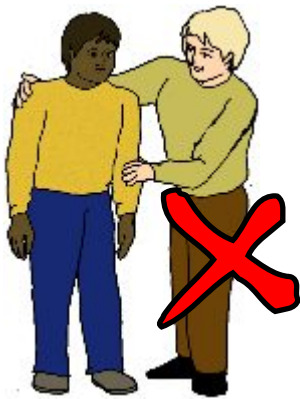


For example, if they finish work before they can do this.





Sometimes police forces do not tell other services about disability hate crimes.



This means victims do not get support to stay safe or stop them happening again.



Sometimes the police do not collect the best evidence to show someone is the victim of disability hate crime.



For example, using video interviews. **Intermediaries** can help victims give evidence but many police forces do not use them.



## 6. Some examples of good work



5 of the 6 police forces we looked at have community organisations where people can report disability hate crime.



In Lancashire the police have lots of training and information to help them recognise disability hate crime.



The CPS Hate Crime Co-ordinator in the North East of England checks the CPS files about disability hate crime and says how well they are doing.

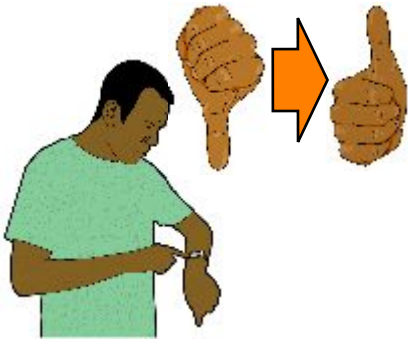


A policeman told other services about hate crime against a disabled woman and kept going back to check she was safe.



This meant the housing association gave her better locks on her door and the council tried to find her somewhere new to live.

## 7. What needs to happen now?



This new review shows things are not changing quickly enough



Services have not used this chance to make the criminal justice system fairer for everyone.



Things are difficult but services must make sure they all do better with disability hate crime.



They need to work together and agree it is important to change things.



The CPS has now said they will make sure this happens.

It is important for us to keep checking this.



## Credits

This paper has been designed and produced for Williams Lea by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd.

Ref ISL 002/15. May2015.



[www.inspiredservices.org.uk](http://www.inspiredservices.org.uk)

It meets the European EasyRead Standard.



Artwork includes material from the Inspired EasyRead Collection and cannot be used anywhere else without written permission from Inspired Services.

[www.inspired.pics](http://www.inspired.pics)

© Crown Copyright 2015

2903293 May 2015

Prepared by Inspired Services for Williams Lea

