

Learning Day

Best friends forever? Tackling “mate crime” against people with learning disabilities

17 September 2013, Nottingham



About the Learning Day

People with learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to ‘mate crime’ - physical, mental or financial abuse by those they regard as friends. While they might consider reporting an attack by a stranger, they may be reluctant and confused about reporting abusive behaviour from someone whose friendship they do not want to lose. Horrific incidents, such as the death of Steven Hoskin in Cornwall, highlight the worst that can happen.

‘Mate crime’ is the cruellest form of hate crime, but is often not picked up either by adult safeguarding services or by the criminal justice system. While progress has been made in recent years in tackling hate crime against learning disabled people, it is patchy and generally slow.

The recently published *Living in a different world* report into the handling of disability hate crime by the criminal justice system highlights the need for increased reporting as the over-riding goal. It also notes the under-use of section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to enhance sentences motivated by disability hate.

“The immediate priority should be increasing the reporting of disability hate crime.”

Living in a different world: joint review of disability hate crime. HMCPSP, HMIC, HMI Probation. March 2013

There is a consensus today that statutory agencies, as well as social opinion, need to take a big step up to tackle disability hate crime in general, and ‘mate crime’ in particular, effectively. The draft Care and Support Bill requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board to ‘help and protect’ vulnerable adults.

Multiple changes are needed: a clear definition of disability hate crime, recognition by support services of risk factors in relationships, innovative methods of encouraging learning disabled people to report hate crime, options for third party reporting, support for learning disabled witnesses, understanding of how to invoke s146, and a stronger focus on probation support for offenders who perpetrate hate crime. Strong leadership on this issue is essential.

This Learning Day will focus particularly on tackling crime against learning disabled people by those who are close to them as this remains the most problematic area to address.

The speakers will draw on recent reports, review findings and important new initiatives including the launch of ARC UK’s Real Change Challenge. Parallel sessions in the afternoon are practically focussed and will offer delegates a choice of subject area.

Agenda (subject to change)

Chaired by Louise Wallis, Respond

- **The Serious Case Review of Steven Hoskin: what we can learn from his death** - Dr Margaret Flynn, Chair of the Steven Hoskin Serious Case Review
- **Living in a different world: change across the criminal justice system** - Mick Conboy, Disability Hate Crime Co-ordinator, Crown Prosecution Service
- **The Real Change Challenge: capacity building with learning disabled people** - Rod Landman and volunteers from Safety Net, ARC UK
- **Direct and third party reporting: police initiatives on mate crime** - ACPO Lead on Disability and Mental Health

FIRST parallel session:

- A: Promoting safe friendships for teenagers with learning disabilities - Barbara Wilson, Dimensions for Living OR
- B: Encouraging learning disabled people to blow the whistle on ‘mates’ - Louise Wallis, Respond

SECOND parallel session:

- C: Finance and friendship: where it all goes wrong - Liz Tilly and Carey Jones, Building Bridges OR
- D: Making the local area a safer place for people with learning disabilities - Marcus Cook, Barnsley Hate Crime Coalition

Certificates of attendance will be issued for CPD purposes.



Who should attend

- Adult safeguarding services
- Police
- Probation
- Community Safety
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Community Learning Disability Teams
- Supported living services for learning disabled people
- Schools and further education colleges
- Health and social care services
- Other specialist learning disability services

Full details of this Learning Day, and on-line booking, can be found at www.ccllimited.org.uk

Delegate Booking Form

Book on-line at www.ccclimited.org.uk
or complete this booking form and:

Fax back to: **0115 916 3106** or

post to: Central Conference Consultants Ltd
23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD

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Standard delegate rate £165 + VAT
Reduced delegate rate £140 + VAT (Small charities with less than 10 employees only)
Volunteer delegate rate £25 + VAT

There are 10 Volunteer places available specifically for learning disabled volunteers; these will be limited to one per organisation.

Parallel Session choices (tick one choice for each session)

First parallel session A OR B
Second parallel session C OR D

Discounts for multiple bookings.

Delegate Details (please print in black ink)

Mr Mrs Ms Dr

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Job Title: _____

Organisation: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Special Requirements (e.g. access, dietary etc): _____

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If you wish to speak to us regarding your booking,
please telephone Central Conference Consultants
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