

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member – Communities  
**DATE:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Sefton Communities Together Against Hate Crime –  
Hate Crime Week 2010  
**WARDS AFFECTED:** All  
**REPORT OF:** Susan Holden, Equalities Director  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sue Holden 0151 934 4722  
**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the report is to present the Cabinet Member with information relating to the events that took place during Hate Crime Week 2010, 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

To note the information relating to the events during Hate Crime Week 2010

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to:-

- i) Note the information contained in the report.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Immediately following the expiry of the call-in period for this report

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

There are no alternative options.

## **IMPLICATIONS:**

Budget/Policy Framework: N/a

### Financial:-

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Not applicable

Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Asset Management: Not applicable

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:**

The events held during Hate Crime Week involve a wide range of partners and community members.

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	✓		
2	Creating Safe Communities	✓		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	✓		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	✓		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People	✓		

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

None

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Sefton Equalities Partnership organise an annual Hate Crime Week each year during which a number of events are held to raise awareness of hate crime and the reporting process. This year events took place during the period 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 under the banner “Sefton Communities Together Against Hate Crime” and focussed on Challenging Extremism.
- 1.2 This year saw events taking place across the Borough which helped to take the Hate Crime awareness raising message into schools and colleges and neighbourhood community centres across Sefton.

## **2. Programme of Events**

### **2.1 Hate Crime Conference – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The conference was opened by Councillor Brenda Porter, Chair of Sefton Equalities Partnership & Cabinet member for Communities and the day was chaired by Barry Morgan Chair of Sefton’s Hate Crime Group.

The conference focussed in detail on two key equality strand areas where the under-reporting of Hate Crime is of paramount concern - namely Disability and Transphobic Hate Crime, both of which have been high-lighted under the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan as being areas requiring greater awareness raising.

The guest speakers, who shared their expertise and knowledge from both a National and regional perspective on these important issues, included:-

- Superintendent Paul Giannasi, Office for Criminal Justice Reform
- Dr Pam Thomas Breakout UK
- Martha Hand, National Trans Police Officers Association
- Jenny Anne Bishop ,Co-ordinator of Trans Forum
- Karen Hughes Arson Task Force Leader Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services

The speakers presented on how the positive steps that can be taken in breaking down barriers and raising awareness of how the philosophy of Hate Crime threatens everybody and not just the few.

The conference provided delegates with an opportunity to share experiences from across communities and to examine how by working in partnership the ethos of hatred which seeks to target particular groups within our communities can be challenged.

Workshops helped to identify ways of taking forward the message of how to raise awareness and understanding of Hate Crime and how to further support the lack of understanding around disability and transphobic hate crime.

The day ended with delegates pledging their determination to carry on through shared learning and partnership working to deepen understanding and support others to increase awareness on the truly damaging effects of Hate crime and how Sefton Stands Up To Hate Crime.

## 2.2 Hate Crime Week Events

### a) Work in Schools

- Gee Walker, the mother of Anthony Walker delivered a message of peace to children from Thomas Gray , All Saints , Netherton Moss, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Oswald CE, Holy Spirit CE and Litherland Moss Primary Schools in Bootle in support of Social Inclusion.
- Sefton Equalities Partnership, Social landlord Riverside and Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre have worked together with Gee Walker to deliver peace talks to year 6 pupils as part of a continuing series of initiatives in these neighbourhoods linked to last year's launch of the Values Statement promoting community cohesion

### b) Bedford and Queens Road Community Centre

Bedford Road Community Centre presented the Anthony Walker Foundation DVD "Colour Blind" which looks at the effects of racially motivated hate crime on families and communities and the Stigma Mental Health DVD looking at the negative effect of stigma associated with Mental Health. These films were shown to parent, carers and staff in the community centre and were very well received and one parent commented that:

*"Mental health issues are all around us, I think more should be done to tackle racism and attitudes toward mental health in early years".*

Queens Road Community Centre presented the Anthony Walker Foundation DVD, "Colour Blind" followed by a question and answer session to young people attending the after school club at the centre. The sessions received very positive feedback from the young people which included comments such as:-

*"We are all the same on the inside"*

c) Young Advisors

The Young Advisors went into four schools across the borough, to give a presentation to pupils about hate crime and what it is. Pupils were shown pictures of victims in their hospital beds and the devastating effects that something as small as name calling could lead to people isolating themselves or even being beaten to death.

Many of the young people had heard of hate crime at football matches. They found the sessions very interesting but were unaware of Hate Crime in any great detail.

One pupil in one of the session's indicated that they had been on a bus when a gang boarded. There had been a couple of young people on the bus minding their own business and one of the gang went over and punched the boy in the face, and when they couple tried to get off the bus one of the gang pulled a knife out and threatened to knife the boy. The pupil called her mother and she then phoned the Police telling them where they got off the bus (the pupil was too scared to call them herself).

The rest of the young people remained silent and were holding back on saying things, and this indicated to the Young Advisors that more than anything it is still a sensitive issue in a lot of places. One young man did agree that people in his community still do not feel confident enough to talk about these issues as it is still a very delicate area for young people to feel safe talking about.

The following schools took part in the sessions:-

- Deyes High School, Maghull, Year 12 (20 pupils)
- South Sefton Sixth Form College, Year 12 (20-25 pupils)
- Range High School, Formby, Year 7 (15 pupils)
- KGV College

d) Hate Crime Football Tournament

A seven-a-side football tournament was held to help raise awareness of the issue of hate crime. Teams representing the partners in Sefton's Hate Crime Group took part in the event at Litherland Sports Park on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The teams included:-

- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Equalities Partnership
- Sefton Leisure Services Department
- One Vision Housing
- NHS Sefton
- Merseyside Police
- Sefton MBC Community Safety Department
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Sefton Young Offenders.

The partners were joined by players from the Everton Foundation, Liverpool Homeless FC and Mersey Marauders FC in the 12-team competition which also benefited a very good cause. £550 was raised for the Michael Causer Fund, set up in memory of an 18-year-old gay man who was killed in a homophobic attack in Huyton in 2008.

The winners of the event were the Everton Foundation who saw off the challenge of Sefton Leisure in the final.

The players representing the Goodison Park club's community programme received a trophy and medals from Councillor Porter.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to:-

- i) Note the details of the events that took place during Hate Crime Week 2010.