

About the Citizenship Projects



In November 2004 members of Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Forums went to a workshop run by Dave Hingsberger from Canada

He is famous all over the world for his work on Rights and Inclusion for people with learning disabilities



We talked about our lives and things that are important to us



**then we wrote a
Bill of Rights**



BILL OF RIGHTS



1. The right to feel safe when going out.

- from strangers, from burglars and from bullying



2. The right to feel safe in our own homes.

- to learn how to be safe in our home
- to feel safe from staff
- to be able to report staff when they are unkind



3. The right to confidentiality.

- when making a report it won't come back on you
- we decide who sees our life plan
- around health issues (patient - doctor)



4. The right to relationships.

- to learn about friendships
- marriage
- engagements
- sex education



5. The right to have feelings.

- the right to grief
- the right to get angry



6. The right to say NO!

- bullying
- drugs or drink
- strangers
- to parents
- to staff



7. The right to Adulthood.

- make our own decisions
- to get married
- have children
- have sex
- birth control
- to vote
- to have a drink



8. The right to live where you want to live.

- to live where you want to
- to live with who you want to



9. The right to independence

- to make decisions
- to go out
- take care of our own stuff
- run our own lives
- to choose what to do
- come and go when we want
- be the boss of our own life



10. The right to transport

- accessible transport
- the right to learn to drive





Bournemouth Forum
INDEPENDENT SPEAKING UP GROUP

Number 1 and 2 of the bill were about feeling safe. Dorset People First and Bournemouth Forum are now running Citizenship projects across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole to look at ways we can make people **be** and **feel** safer when they are out.

Why don't people with a learning difficulty feel safe?

Because they are more likely to have been a victim of crime.....

- 3 out of 4 people with a learning difficulty have been harassed in public

- 1 out of 4 people with a learning difficulty has had things stolen from them

- They are 4 times more likely than others to be robbed with violence or threats

- They are 4 times more likely than others to be victims of sexual abuse

Mencap found that only 17% of crime against people with a learning difficulty is reported to the police.



Why?

Some reasons people with learning difficulties may not report crime.....

Not knowing what to do

Thinking no-one will believe them

Others persuading them not to because.....

They want to protect them?

They think nothing can be done

They don't believe them


We asked people in Dorset what has happened to them

We found out that.....


Over 80% of people who go out on their own have been a victim of crime

The most common crimes people talked about were harassment, theft, physical assault

When we asked people if they had told the police they asked us.....



Do they care about that ?



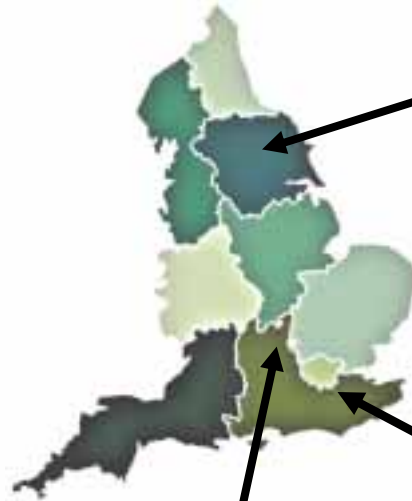
Would they want to know ?



Would they be bothered ?

We want to do something to make things better.....

We looked at What is being done in other parts of the country.



Speak Up Rotherham



Coventry



Hertfordshire

We are using some of the ideas from Hertfordshire People in Partnership Project here in Dorset.

An easy to use Crime Reporting Form

The image shows a sample of a 'Crime Reporting Form'. At the top, there is a black header with the text 'Crime Reporting Form' in white. Below the header, the form contains several sections with icons and text:

- Date of incident:** A horizontal line for writing the date.
- Police case:** A horizontal line for writing the case number.
- Please tell us your name:** A section with an icon of a person and the text 'My name is' followed by a horizontal line.
- Please tell us where you live:** A section with an icon of a house and a horizontal line.
- Postcode:** A horizontal line for writing the postcode.
- Your telephone number:** A section with an icon of a telephone and a horizontal line.
- Day time:** A section with a sun icon and a horizontal line.
- Evening time:** A section with a moon icon and a horizontal line.

These will be available from places like:
Police Stations, Day Centres,
Social Workers and from
Dorset People First.

Safe Place schemes

Many of the shops and businesses in town centres belong to crime prevention schemes such as Radio Link, and PARC.



Members of these schemes will provide help and support to people who feel unsafe or have a problem.

We have also just got a grant from

South West Dorset



Primary Care Trust

to make ICE cards.



*** ICE ***

In Case of
Emergency
Cards

For people with
learning difficulties
and carers

These can be used on their own or
as part of the Keep Safe schemes



We have worked with the Borough of Poole and Poole Forum to make Keep Safe Cards for people who live in Poole





Earlier this year, we did training sessions with four shifts of police officers in Poole about the Crime Reporting Form and improving access to the criminal justice system for people with learning difficulties.

We are now working on extending this training to police officers across the whole of Dorset.

Crime Reporting Form

Date of incident: _____

Time of incident: _____

Please tell us your name

 My name is: _____

Please tell us where you live

 _____

Postcode: _____

Your telephone number

 _____

 Day time: _____

 Evening time: _____

We are also doing training and workshops for social workers, staff, carers and people with learning difficulties



If we all work together
we can make life better for
everyone

