

# Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CELG(4)-02-11 : Paper 2

## Mencap Cymru

Mencap's vision is a world where people with a learning disability and their families are valued equally, listened to and included.

Across the UK, Mencap has led a campaign to tackle the growing problem of hate crime attacks on people with a learning disability and their families.

In 2011, it launched two campaigns, Stand By Me and in Wales ARCH – Awareness, Reporting and Convictions on Hate crime.

The ARCH campaign aims to:

- Increase the awareness of people with a learning disability and their families about hate crime and what it means.
- Increase the reporting rates of people who have been victims of hate-crime through providing a Wales wide learning disabled specific reporting service managed through the Wales Learning Disability helpline (funded by Mencap and Wales Government).
- Increase the numbers of convictions of those committing disability hate crime against people with a learning disability and their families.

## So what have we done?

Mencap Cymru staff with a learning disability have visited day services and gateway clubs and places where people with a learning disability meet to explain about hate crime and why it is wrong.

We have also established a 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting system using our free-phone advice and information helpline for people to report incidents of hate crime.

We are working with the police and criminal justice system in Wales to help them identify hate crime and bring about successful convictions.

So who will be giving evidence?

**Claire Bowler** is the co-chair of the Mencap Cymru Committee. She is from Pontypridd and has a learning disability. Claire has been a victim of hate crime and believes strongly that those in positions of trust must help people like herself live a life free from fear.

**Dawn Gullis**, also has a learning disability and will be known to many Assembly Members as a former campaigns officer for Mencap Cymru and now is its External Affairs Officer.

Dawn was responsible for meeting with people with a learning disability at the start of the ARCH campaign to explain to them what hate crime was and how they should speak up against it.

Dawn also has a very positive story about how she was a victim of Mate-Crime; a term used to explain the targeting of people with a learning disability by those pretending to befriend them who then go on to physically, sexually or financially abuse them.

**Wayne Crocker** is the Director of Mencap Cymru and has worked with people with a learning disability and their families for nearly 20 years. In his presentation

Wayne will highlight some of the areas of concern and difficulties surrounding the identification of learning disability hate crime and what in Mencap Cymru's view could be put in place to support the aims of the ARCH campaign.

Our running order will be:

Claire Bowler will introduce the work of Mencap Cymru as its co-chair and explain the ARCH campaign

Dawn Gullis will talk about her work on hate crime and 'mate-crime'

Wayne Crocker will discuss some of the actions that could help support the reduction of hate crime.