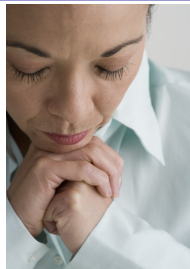




Hate Crime

Don't suffer in silence

Support for victims of hate crime



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Welcome

A new Hate Crime Service is being introduced in East Sussex. Victim Support in conjunction with the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership will manage the service, which will offer help and support to individuals and communities suffering hate crime.

Hate crime includes any crime or incident motivated by virtue of a person's race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity or disability.

Crimes will include assault, harassment,

threats, intimidation or damage to property, and are particularly insidious because victims are often vulnerable and feel isolated.

Amanda Bigden will manage the new service and recognises how important community groups are to making this service a success. She said: "Victim Support alone cannot deliver this service. We will be working very closely with the many local community groups, who already work with victims suffering hate crime. I have been in-

spired already by the support offered to me by many diverse community groups, and Victim Support is committed to building on those relationships. Victims need to feel confident to come forward and seek help, and their first contact may well be to somebody locally who they know and trust."

Any victim of hate crime can contact Victim Support on 0845 38 99

528 - phones are staffed from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday

Please see page 2 for further contact details

Special points of interest:

- Launch of the new hate incident reporting form- 1/11/08
- The next Hate Crime Steering Group- 29/01/09
- Many dates available for hate crime training—book now!

New Hate Incident Form launched

From 1st November 2008 the new hate crime incident reporting form will come into effect following consultation with local communities and representatives.

This replaces the current racist incident reporting form.

The form has been distributed across the county via

email, along with guidelines for completion, and will be found on many websites including East Sussex County Council and Victim Support, also many hard copies are being produced.

Completed forms can be emailed, faxed or posted to Victim Support, and are completely confidential. Victim Support can offer

emotional and practical support to victims of crimes or incidents, and working with local communities aims to increase the number of hate incidents reported, and support to victims of hate crimes.

Copies of the form can be requested from- Sussex-HateIncidentReport@victim-support.org.uk



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**EAST SUSSEX HATE
CRIME SERVICE**



Contact Us

National helpline:

0845 30 30 900

Victim Careline Sussex:

8am – 8pm Monday to Friday
0845 38 99 528

Online:

www.victimsupport.org

Fax: 01293 536 888

Hate Crime Project Manager:

amanda.
bigden@victimsupport.org.uk
0845 38 99 528



Victim Support Sussex

Helping people cope with crime

Victim Support- who are we?

Victim Support is a national charity providing emotional support and practical advice to victims of crime across the country. Victims of crime may be referred to us by the police, other agencies or by self referral. The service is completely free and confidential, and we will never pass on any of your details unless you wish us to. If you have been a victim of crime and would like help or advice, please call **0845 38 99 528**

What do you think?

We are always pleased to hear from you – let us know what you think of our newsletter and our new hate crime logo (top left). You can send your comments or suggestions to the Hate Crime Project Manager using the details on the left. We look forward to hearing from you.



Victim Support

Victim Support Sussex

Unit 11, Riverside Business
Centre
London Road
Shoreham by Sea
BN43 6RE



Get involved! Hate Crime training for volunteer advocates

Training for volunteers working with victims of hate crime is being offered by Victim Support between November and January, and we are looking for volunteer advocates who would be interested in supplementing our team of volunteers already working with victims of crime.

The course will cover:

- Raising awareness of how hate crime and incidents impact on individuals and communities
- The role of volunteer

advocates working with victims of hate crime

- The role of Victim Support and the Witness Service
- Levels of intervention and accessing services
- Client confidentiality
- Risk assessment and safeguards for caseworkers
- The new hate crime/incident reporting form and its completion.

If you are interested in hate crime training or would like further informa-

tion including dates, please contact **Amanda Bigden or Graham Hill** on 0845 38 99 528 or email: amanda.bigden@victimsupport.org.uk

We are particularly interested in hearing from members of the local community/community representatives and leaders who may be interested in giving their time to be part of the training and share their experiences.

We need you!

If you have any news/articles/events that you would like included in future publications of this newsletter, please let us know!

We are happy to discuss any ideas or suggestions for future issues and welcome your input. You can contact Amanda or Graham on the contact details above.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks