



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR NORFOLK

# **DISABILITY ADVISORY FORUM**

## **2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Introduction by Stephen Bett, Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk



It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Disability Advisory Forum over the last year.

I thank them for sharing their views and experiences with me, as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and the police. I hope they are very proud of the difference they are making.

To name just one of their achievements, I have watched with delight as the Safer Places scheme has been welcomed across Norfolk.



Safer Places was introduced in the county after Forum members said they sometimes felt scared or unsafe while out in their local area. Cromer was the first town to become a Safer Place, and last month's launch in Norwich brought the total to seven locations. I am pleased to have been able to attend some of the launch events and to meet users of the scheme. It is clear Safer Places means a lot to them, helping them feel safer while going about their daily lives.

As well as making Norfolk a safer place for the people who live, work and visit here, the Forum is also changing the way our communities are policed.

By being part of police training sessions and giving a community perspective on crime and policing issues, the Forum members are helping our officers and staff to think about things in different ways and better prepare them for responding to the needs of Norfolk's people.

My message to the Forum's members - Thank you for what you do on behalf of our communities. Your efforts are very much appreciated. I look forward to another successful year to come.

Stephen

### **Foreword from Simon Bailey, Chief Constable for Norfolk**



Welcome everybody to this year's Disability Advisory Forum annual report.

As the Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary, I lead the organisation who is determined to provide a first class service to its residents, visitors and businesses, irrespective of disability.

I commend the Forum for helping advise both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Constabulary on issues affecting those with disabilities in our communities who need the police to help them.

We have a zero tolerance on disability hate crime, and we will always rigorously pursue those offenders who commit these crimes. I am very grateful to the members who make up the Forum and continue to help shape the way the Constabulary provides its services to the community.

Simon

# **Disability Advisory Forum Members**

**Thank you to our members for their continued support and commitment to the Forum:**

Sabrina Bartram

Philip Brown

Simon Dack

Sara Elderfield

Helen Hancy

Robert Harrington

Ian Hubbard

Kevin James

John Lucas

Bernie Reddington

Gemma Renaud

Caroline Robinson

Hazel Simons

Benjamin Slade

John Watt

Marc Roberts

# Review of the Year

## Norfolk Safer Places Scheme

A Safer Places scheme provides vulnerable or disabled people with somewhere to go if they find themselves in need of a helping hand while out and about. It began as a result of members of the Disability Advisory Forum highlighting the need for a safe place to go for those who are disabled or feel vulnerable.

A Safer Places scheme was launched in Norwich City Centre in June 2014 with 27 premises, including the City's bus and train stations and Norwich City Football Club, signing up to be a 'Safer Place'.

Norwich is the seventh location in the county to welcome the scheme, following launches in, Cromer, Dereham, Gorleston, Attleborough, Fakenham and King's Lynn.



Re launch of the Cromer Safer Places scheme in June 2014

## Updates provided to members at Forum meetings throughout the year:

Forum members were given a talk about Hate Free Norfolk by Michelle de Oude, County Community Relations and Equality Officer, who is also the Chair of the Hate Free Norfolk Network.

Gemma Renaud, one of our Forum members, gave a presentation around Tourette's syndrome.

Members received a talk from D/Sgt Laura Stevenson regarding training sessions being developed to improve general awareness of officers when dealing with people who may have a mental health issue or disability.

Ian Sturgess, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordinator within the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office gave Forum members an overview of his role.

## Staff changes within the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office:

Following the organisational review of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mandy Allen, Consultation and Engagement Officer has moved on to pastures new and attended her last Disability Advisory Forum meeting in April 2014.



We thank Mandy for all her help and support in facilitating the Disability Advisory Forums.

### **Appointment of Performance and Compliance Officer**

Sharon Lister was recently appointed as the new Performance and Compliance Officer within the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and takes over the responsibility of supporting the Disability Advisory Forum.

One of our Disability Advisory Forum members, Kevin James, was involved in the recruitment process, sitting on the stakeholder panel.

### **Looking to the year ahead:**

#### **Mental Health Crisis Concordat**

Norfolk has taken a significant step towards improving support for those with mental health issues with the signing of a key agreement.

A Norfolk Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat was signed on Friday 21 March 2014 by Norfolk MP Norman Lamb, Minister for Care and Support, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Jenny McKibben and key people from organisations across the county dealing with mental health.



The national programme supports dramatic improvements across the country as part of a new agreement between police, mental health trusts and paramedics to improve mental health crisis care and potentially save lives. A county action plan and working group are being established and Disability Advisory Forum members will have the opportunity to hear about this work in the coming months.

## **Join Us**

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