



Newsletter

Spring 2014

Incorporating the Annual Report
2013/2014



Spring Activities

As you can see from the weather in the above photograph, spring had clearly sprung when we attended a Respect event in Burslem Park in early March 2014. The event was attended by lots of primary schoolchildren and it was a great opportunity to talk to them about people who get picked on because they are different. Many of the children spoke of their own, or a friend or sibling's experience of being bullied. They were also keen to pick up a free pen and wristband.

In February we gave talks to classes at Haywood High School and in March we gave talks to four classes at St Joseph's College. During January to March we also went into schools to give brief talks about Challenge North Staffs as part of the 'Game On' programme which is run by the Reveal Theatre Group (see more details on page 11).

We delivered some awareness-raising sessions for members of the Able Group (for adults with learning disabilities) in Bentilee in February.

In March we spoke to classes at Madeley High School and the Project Officer gave a talk about Challenge North Staffs to volunteers from Victim Support.



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New leaflets and advertising



We are in the process of changing the design of our leaflets and publicity materials after doing some consultation. We found that using images to represent different groups was problematic in that some people are not represented and the images can lean towards the stereotypical. We hope that our new leaflets will have more impact.

Our new leaflets will have a tear off slip with a gummed edge and pre-paid postage, to make it easier for people to get in touch with us.

We will be ordering new posters and a pull up banner in the same design.

We decided not to change our easy read leaflets because consultation showed that many people with language difficulties prefer to see pictures on the front of the leaflet rather than just words.

If you would like some of our new leaflets or posters please drop us an email or ring us (contact details on back page).

We will be advertising CNS again this year across Stoke-on-Trent on the JCDecaux street furniture from the 1st to the 15th of July 2014. Thank you to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for helping us to get a good price.



In the meantime, we would like to encourage people to 'like' us or follow us on Facebook and we can hopefully 'like' or follow their organisations in return. It's another way of trying to raise the profile of Challenge North Staffs.



Challenge North Staffs Annual Report 2013/14 Hate Incidents Reported to CNS

The data for this report are derived from the reports that Challenge North Staffs received from victims and witnesses.

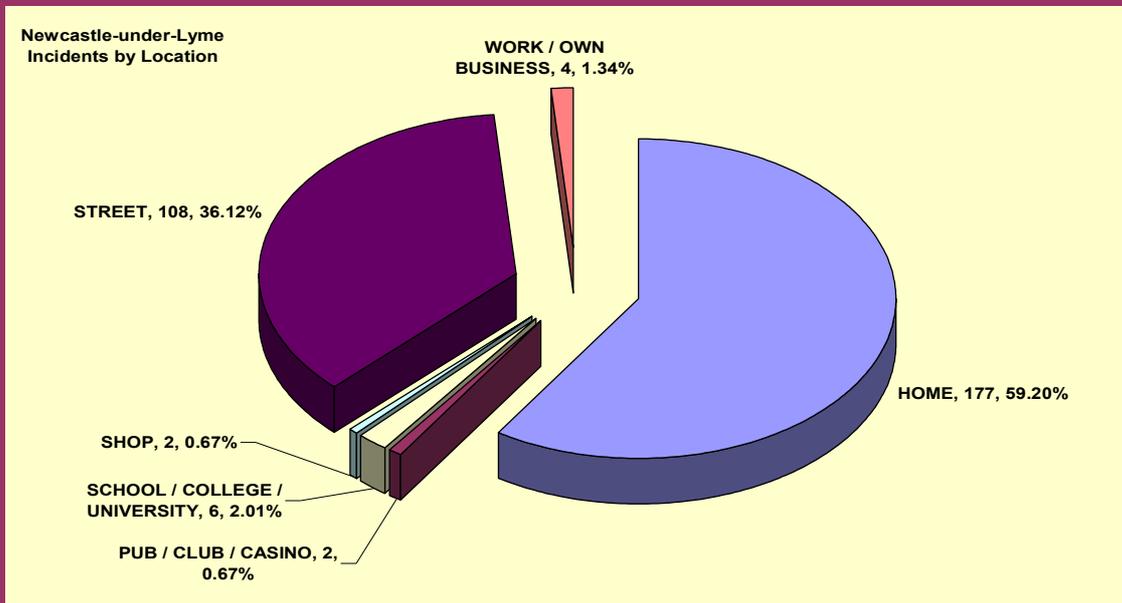
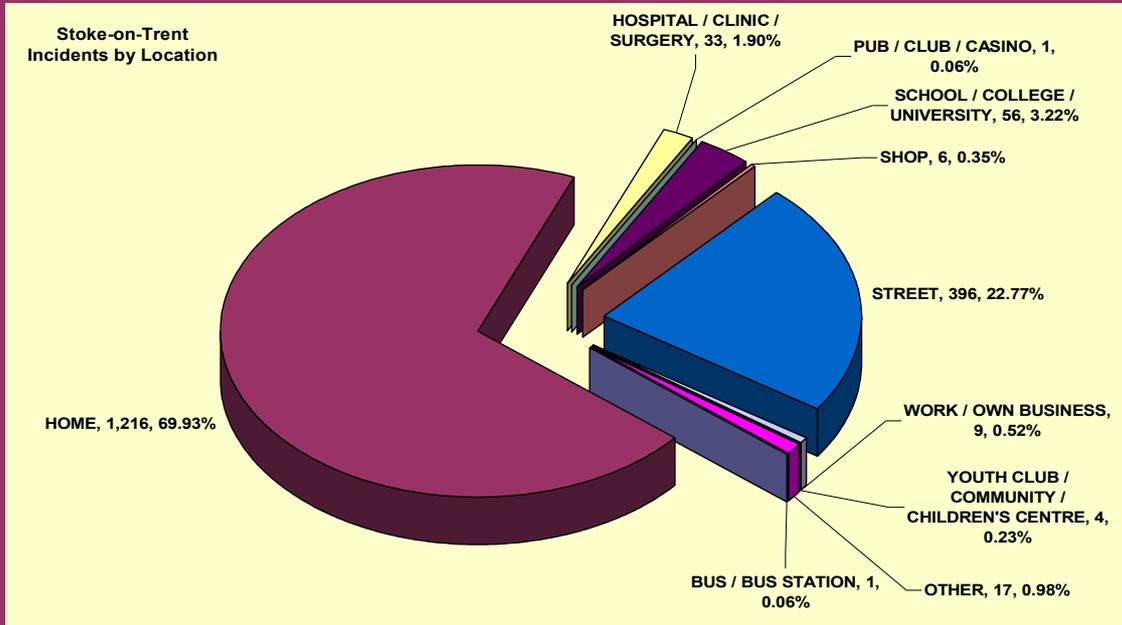
From the 1st April 2013 to the end of March 2014 100 unique individual clients reported a total of 2,181 incidents. The table below gives a full breakdown of clients and incidents they reported to us listed by the Local Authority and the reason they were targeted. We had an increased number of victims reporting this year, but a decrease in the overall number of incidents reported. (In 2012 /2013 we had 92 victims reporting 2376 incidents)

As has been the case consistently for as long as CNS has been established, more clients reported Race incidents than any other strand. Race was a factor in over 86% of all incidents reported. The full report will be available shortly on our website.

HATE INCIDENTS REPORTED TO CNS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY & STRAND		2013-2014 (FY)	
LOCAL AUTHORITY	WHY TARGETED	CLIENTS	INCIDENTS
STOKE-ON- TRENT	AGE	2	46
	CARING RESPONSIBILITIES	1	12
	DISABILITY – PHYSICAL	6	57
	DISABILITY – LEARNING	3	86
	GENDER	3	68
	LGBT	6	66
	MENTAL HEALTH	5	63
	RACE	52	1,285
	RELIGION / BELIEF	4	26
	OTHER	4	137
STOKE-ON-TRENT TOTAL		75	1,739
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME	DISABILITY – LEARNING	2	11
	MENTAL HEALTH	1	37
	RELIGION / BELIEF	3	81
	RACE	12	248
	OTHER	2	2
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME TOTAL		18	299
STAFFORD- SHIRE MOORLANDS	DISABILITY – LEARNING	1	82
	GENDER	2	6
	MENTAL HEALTH	1	82
	RACE	2	129
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS TOTAL		4	135
LA UNKNOWN	DISABILITY – LEARNING	2	2
	RACE	1	6
LA UNKNOWN TOTAL		3	8
GRAND TOTAL		100	2,181



Incidents by location:



As in previous years the majority of incidents take place around people's homes. For this reason CNS is keen to work closely with local housing providers – to help them protect and support their tenants.



Case Study from Challenge North Staffs

This case study is an example of the service CNS provides to victims of hate crime and shows how CNS' good advocacy and partnership working can drive unexpected outcomes:

Shanaz* is a woman of Asian ethnicity who is also Muslim. (*name changed for privacy reasons)

Incidents

Shanaz reported an incident to CNS in which her car tyres were slashed on her driveway. She reported this to the Police a day or two later using the non-emergency 101 phone number.

When Shanaz took the car to the garage they told her that a large knife had been used. She has not had any previous incidents like this. Shanaz believed that the incident was related to the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich which had occurred a day or so previously. The evening prior to her tyres being slashed Shanaz had seen some White youths sitting on her wall and jumping onto the grass. She told them off and they went off in a mini cab.

Shanaz felt that the Police call handler had not made it easy for her to report the incident, asking her why she had not reported it before.

Intervention

The CNS Project Officer emailed the details to the Public Protection Co-ordinator to check whether the incident had been recorded as a hate crime. We were given the contact details of the sergeant who had oversight of the matter. When we made contact he said that the incident had not been recorded as a hate incident.

Just over a week after reporting the incident Shanaz had heard nothing from the Police and said *"apologies for being so negative but if I was a vulnerable member living in the community at this point a week after reporting the hate crime, I think I would be a little bit scared....."*

CNS rang the Sergeant several times, but found it difficult to contact him due to rest days etc. After a few attempts we sent the Public Protection Co-ordinator an email explaining that Shanaz was disappointed with the lack of contact – not even a phone call.

Some weeks after reporting the incident, Shanaz was visited by a Police Officer. She said he was very nice, but that he asked her several times if she still believed it was a hate incident and Shanaz said 'yes'. He told her that in his opinion it was probably the youths who she had told off for sitting on her wall that did the damage. Shanaz said she realised that the crime couldn't be solved but that was not her main concern and she wanted it to be recorded as a hate incident.

A couple of months after the incident CNS spoke to the Sergeant about whether the incident had been recorded as a hate incident. He told us that the incident was not recorded as a hate incident. He said that the Officer who had visited had concluded that the damage to the car tyres was, on the 'balance of probabilities' done by the two youths and had reported that Shanaz had said that she had not wanted it to be recorded as a hate incident.

Outcome

The ultimate outcome is that CNS raised this case with a Senior Officer who acknowledged that the proper procedure had not been followed. He concluded, after listening to the original call that the call handler had failed to pick up that the report was a hate crime. The case is to be used as a training exercise for call handlers.



Looking forward to Summer



We will also be going along to Staffordshire PRIDE which is in Northwood Park on Saturday the 9th of August 2014. It starts at 10pm and closes at 7pm. This event is usually great fun. It is attended not only by the LGBT communities, but by all sections of the community who want to show their support and have a great day out. For CNS it is a great chance to network as well as to talk to lots of different people about our service.



CNS will also be going along to The Six Towns One City Carnival in Hanley Park on Sunday the 10th of August 2014. This event celebrates the diversity of the local communities in Stoke-on-Trent is on from 11am until 7.30pm. There is usually some great music, food and activities along with various information stalls.

Looking forward to autumn.....

Challenge North Staffs' Hate Crime Conference 21st October 2014:

“Just Because I’m different.....”

Please put the above date in your diary! The venue will be the Bridge Centre at Birches Head, Stoke-on-Trent. There will be a particular focus on Disability Hate Crime. We can confirm that Sylvia Lancaster, the mother of Sophie Lancaster, will be one of our guest speakers. Paul Giannasi, who is seconded to the Home Office, and who is recognised as an expert on hate crime, will also be speaking.

*The conference will be free of charge however we reserve the right to charge a cancellation / no show fee. Booking forms will be sent out nearer the time.



Challenge North Staffs Stakeholders Group

These organisations came together to oversee the work of the staff team and steer the direction of Challenge North Staffs

- **Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent Citizens Advice Bureau**
- **Staffordshire Police**
- **Aspire Housing**
- **Newcastle Partnership / Borough Council**
- **Staffordshire Buddies**
- **Stoke-on-Trent North Staffs Users Group**
- **Staffordshire County Council**
- **Stoke-on-Trent City Council**
- **North Staffordshire MIND**
- **Victim Support**
- **Stoke-on-Trent Safer City Partnership**
- **Crown Prosecution Service**
- **Disability Solutions**
- **ASIST**
- **VAST, Stoke-on-Trent**
- **Saltbox**
- **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**
- **Staffordshire LGBT Network**



Challenge North Staffs “The Network”

This is the name we give to all the organisations and individuals who are involved with CNS. Through the Network you can:

- Find out more about what CNS is doing
- Tell us about your concerns
- Ask questions and make suggestions about the work we do
- Help us to be in contact with your service users / members

- The Able Project
- Age UK
- Alhambra Court
- The American Clubhouse
- ARCH, North Staffs
- Ashfields Residents Association
- Aspire Housing
- The Beth Johnson Foundation
- Biddulph CAB
- Blue Mountain Housing Association
- Blurton Community Hub
- Brighter Futures
- Broadmeadow Court (Newcastle)
- Burslem Jubilee Project
- Changes Health & Wellbeing
- Childrens Centres S-o-T & N-u-L
- Co-operative Academy of Stoke-on-Trent
- DeafVibe
- ECHO
- Embrace
- Engage: Stoke-on-Trent
- Fegg Hayes Residents Association
- Furniture Mine (North Staffs)
- Green Door Project
- LINK
- Midland Heart
- Newcastle Borough Council
- Newcastle College
- Newcastle CVS
- Newcastle Partnership
- North Staffs Carers Assoc.
- North Staffordshire Polish Daycare Centre
- Regent College
- Rethink Healthy Minds
- Reveal Theatre Company
- Saltbox Christian Centre
- Sanctuary Housing Assoc.
- Sanctuary Stoke & Staffordshire
- Savana
- Staffordshire Housing Association
- Staffordshire Local Pension Service
- Staffordshire University S.U.
- Stepping Stones Community Organisation
- Stoke Probation Delivery Unit
- Sudanese Community Group
- TWOCO
- Voice UK
- VAST, Stoke-on-Trent
- Your Housing

If your organisation would like to join us please contact:

lorna.park@snsCab.org.uk
or Call : 01782 408753

Information from Our Partners

“GAME ON” – REVEAL THEATRE CO LTD

Reveal

Theatre Company

“Game On” is a programme of work that has been created by Reveal Theatre evolving over the years since its inception in 2007. “Game On” began as a commission from North Staffs Racial Equality Council and Port Vale’s “Valliant’s Against Racism” as a wish to combat racism in schools in the North of the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

“Game On” uses theatre and drama techniques to explore the views and opinions of young people originally connected to racism. Over the years, and with the encroachment of extreme organisations impacting on our communities in Stoke-on-Trent, the work has evolved to explore with the young people the impact that these extreme organisations can have in Stoke-on-Trent. This work came to a head when the English Defence League held its protest meeting in Hanley in January 2010 which also brought to the fore extreme views connected to Islamist organisations that young people were being exposed to.

Over the years “Game On” expanded and has now worked in all but one of the High Schools and Academies in Stoke-on-Trent and has also taken the programme to Stoke College, Newcastle-under-Lyme College and Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College as well as some Primary Schools in the City. The work has also been commissioned throughout Staffordshire and recently Reveal Theatre was asked to take “Game On” to Birmingham to work with Further Education students from Colleges all over the West Midlands.

The work is delivered preferably over a full academic year with Three Phases to enable the pupils to explore the ideologies, the myths and rumours and find out “whose truth is it” that extreme organisations with racist agendas are promoting. Anti-racism and cohesion are at the core of “Game On”, as is the equality and diversity agendas.

Reveal Theatre have been delighted to work in partnership with Challenge North Staffs, enabling young people to access an excellent service which can help them and their families find a way through an incredibly emotive issue which can destroy lives and homes. Young people are given information to access or store if a problem occurs in the future. When visiting schools Challenge North Staffs reinforces that discrimination can affect all communities and that reporting can be done anonymously.

Reveal Theatre looks forward to continuing to work with Challenge North Staffs to continue to stamp out racism and extremism in our communities of Staffordshire.

Julia Barton. julia.barton@revealtheatre.co.uk Tel: 07828 179614 website: <http://www.revealtheatre.co.uk>



And Finally



Ministry of Justice announces pilot for vulnerable victims & witnesses

The Ministry of Justice launched a ground-breaking pilot on 28.04.14, allowing vulnerable victims and witnesses to give their evidence and be cross-examined ahead of the actual trial.

The most vulnerable victims and witnesses involved in the pilot will be able to give their evidence and be cross-examined away from the intense atmosphere of a live courtroom, and in advance of the trial taking place. The intention is to spare them from potentially aggressive questioning in front of the jury, judge and their alleged attacker.

How it will work

The witness will give their evidence and be cross-examined by both prosecution and defence barristers ahead of the trial, in front of a judge, which will be recorded. This will then be shown to the jury as part of the trial.

MoJ is initially trialling this new approach in three courts with the aim of rolling it out more widely if successful. Three Crown courts, Leeds, Liverpool and Kingston-upon-Thames are testing pre-trial cross-examination this year.

Damian Green, Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims said:

"It is crucial that people who have experienced or reported horrific crimes are given the highest possible level of protection and support. I am determined that their needs will be put first. That's why we are trying a new approach, the first of its kind, which prioritises the victim. I hope this test will allow pre-trial cross examination to take place more widely."

These latest measures are part of making the criminal justice system better at meeting victims' needs, which also included the recent overhaul of the Victims' Code.

All children witnesses under 16 years old and those with a mental disorder or physical disability at these three courts are eligible for the pilot. As well as allowing the most vulnerable and traumatised to avoid attending the trial, it will give them the opportunity for counselling and other therapy to commence far earlier and without the impact of having to re-live their experience all over again, whilst still ensuring a fair trial.



Contact the Team

Email: lorna.park@snsclub.org.uk

Text **Hate** + your message to: **87474**

Visit: www.challengenorthstaffs.org



[0330 1111 999](tel:03301111999)



www.facebook.com/pages/Challenge-North-Staffs/323424097671832



[@ChallengeNStaff](https://twitter.com/challengestaff)

“It’s so re-assuring to know there is somewhere that people like me can turn to when we are in need”

