



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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REF: 245-Diversity Consultation

POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION A BIG HIT IN LGBT HISTORY MONTH Exclusive Event Highlights Hate Crime Concerns for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Community

Humberside Police Authority began its wide ranging programme of engagement activity with diverse communities at a ground-breaking event in Grimsby, held as part of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) History Month.

The exclusive event, believed to be a first for a Police Authority, was a big success with a large number of the local LGBT community in attendance.

The presentations sparked heated debates and drew attention to the main policing priority for this particular community in North East Lincolnshire, Hate Crime.

Many of those attending had been victims of Hate Crime and were willing to share their experiences to help put into context why they thought Hate Crime is under reported.

Lynsey Brennan Harris shared her views, saying: "You feel uncomfortable at work, people make comments and snigger at you and it's not very nice. However, people are worried that they won't be taken seriously if they complain."

The discussions surrounding what could improve the service for victims of Hate Crime greatly complemented the presentation delivered by Andy Pagram, Hate Crime Coordinator for Humberside Police. Andy provided the audience with a sneak preview of the new Hate Crime reporting mechanism and accompanying launch strategy that is scheduled to get underway later this year.

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, said: "The Police Authority values every individual's opinion on policing and equality is one of our key

priorities. I'm delighted that this first event with the LGBT community was such a success and hope that our future engagement and consultation activity will prove as informative and well-received.

"The views and opinions that we obtain from such events are taken into account when we prepare the policing plan for the year ahead, so it's important that people do join in and tell us what they think. We are listening."

The Police Authority has recently put into action a two year plan of engagement and consultation activity with diverse communities to obtain views on policing and to address how their specific needs can be met.

To find out more about the event, the Authority's planned engagement activity, or if you'd like to get involved and have your say please contact Claire Harrison, Engagement and Equalities Officer on 01482 317003/07792 935581.

- Ends -

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