



PRESS RELEASE

21st October 2014

RAD officially launch Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC)

On 15th October, the District Commander of Essex Police, Chief Inspector Richard Phillibrown and DC Phil Merriam – Hate Crime & Vulnerable Adults – Performance Review Officer visited the head office of Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD) to award a certificate endorsing the organisation's status as a Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC).

When a Deaf person is a victim of hate crime, they may struggle to communicate the incident to Police, as highlighted by the case study below;

'Claire* is Deaf and owns a hearing dog for Deaf people. When her new neighbour complained to the council about her dog barking, she was asked to keep it under control. Claire didn't believe that it was her dog making the noise. After explaining her situation in sign language to an advisor at RAD, she was able to prove that her dog wasn't even in when the barking was heard and the council threw out the case.

Afterwards, Claire was horrified when her neighbour began to pile rubbish in front of her door. RAD arranged several meetings with the police and council which resulted in her neighbour being rehoused.'

*name has been changed

Whilst the situation was very distressing for Claire, she was able to turn to RAD for advice and support.

Now all Deaf people living in Essex will have access to the service to report their experience of hate crime in sign language to RAD. Staff fluent in British Sign Language have received specialist training in crime reporting to ensure the very best support, advice and outcome can be achieved.

To report a hate crime/incident to RAD:

Telephone: 0845 688 2525

SMS: 0774 996 5727 or

email HIRC@royaldeaf.org.uk

Note to Editors:

For further information on hate crime reporting at Royal Association for Deaf people, please contact:

Susan Marsh, Advocacy, Family and Advice Services Manager

Telephone: 0845 688 2525

Email: susan.marsh@royaldeaf.org.uk

For more information on Hate Crime Incident Reporting Centres, visit

www.stopthehate.org.uk

Photos:

1. Left to right: Paul Lennon - Lead Caseworker, Emma Hampson - Assistant to the Director of Services, Chief Inspector Richard Phillibrown, DC Phil Merriam, Jan Sheldon - Chief Executive, Daniel Clements - Youth & Transition Service Co-ordinator, Susan Marsh - Advocacy, Family and Advice Services Manager