



Disability Hate Crime - CPS Action Plan

This plan sets out the specific actions the CPS will undertake to improve the prosecution of disability hate crime and the experience of disabled victims and witnesses.

Crimes motivated by hate are based on offensive, senseless prejudices that have a degrading and destructive impact on the lives of others. They often involve violence or verbal abuse, but it is important to recognise hate crime, particularly disability hate crime, can take many different forms, some of which may be less easily identified, such as exploitation or crime committed by those pretending to befriend the victim.

The CPS produced a general Hate Crime Strategy in May 2014 and a supporting Hate Crime Delivery Plan in October 2014. We are also working with our criminal justice partners to develop a cross-CJS strategy to share and agree best practice.

However, disability hate crime has unique features, and we recognise the need for an additional action plan to specifically tackle this type of offending.

We have made progress in this area, and the CPS Annual Hate Crime report shows that in 2013-14 we charged more cases of disability hate crime and that the conviction rate has increased.

However, there is much more we can do to improve how we identify and record elements of disability hate crime to ensure these cases are prosecuted, and sentenced, appropriately, and that justice is delivered for those who are often the most vulnerable victims we work with.

To achieve this, we will:

- 1) Roll out a hate crime assurance regime, based on current good practice of live checks, monitoring data accuracy, and close working with the police, across each CPS area, by December 2014.
- 2) Refresh national minimum standards for Area Hate Crime Coordinators, by December 2014.
- 3) Conduct detailed analysis, including case-sampling and focus groups, to monitor the experience of victims of disability hate crime by November 2014. We will conduct follow-up analysis to assess performance by March 2015.
- 4) Seek to implement the following enhancements to existing CPS systems to improve the identification and accurate recording and monitoring of such cases by April 2015:
 - Work with the police to ensure victim disabilities are captured in the information sent to the CPS now and once the digital file is in place.
 - Introduce changes as part of the ongoing development of the CPS case management system to improve monitoring throughout the life of case, including applications for sentence uplift.
 - Ensure the outcomes of applications for sentence uplift are recorded in a new, digital hearing record sheet.

- 5) Develop resources for prosecutors to ensure they consider all relevant factors and considerations required in cases involving disabled victims. These will include guidance; a model MG3 and checklist to be published on the CPS casework hub in October 2014 and incorporated into current practice by areas, particularly CPSD, by December 2014; and a webinar for prosecutors to raise awareness and understanding of these types of cases in September 2014.
- 6) Reissue clear guidance to prosecutors and agents to ensure sentence uplift applications are made whenever possible.
- 7) Hold a disability hate crime scrutiny panel to explore and develop new typologies around this type of offending, by December 2014.
- 8) Review training and guidance for prosecutors to ensure it incorporates the full range of offending to ensure prosecutors fully understand the different forms of disability hate crime, exploitation or crime committed by those pretending to befriend the victim.
- 9) Demonstrate senior leadership for improving performance in disability hate crime, by delivering a session on disability hate crime to the CPS Senior Management Conference and inviting a speaker with a disability to improve awareness and understanding.
- 10) Liaise with the judiciary to discuss the recording and monitoring of sentence uplift applications granted, by December 2014.

To help us implement this action plan we will establish a hate crime sub-group of the CPS Community Accountability Forum to provide long-term scrutiny and guidance.