

Regional Hate Crime Charter

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the Forum on SEStran's work developing a regional hate crime charter for public transport in partnership with Police Scotland, Transport Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland.

2. ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Transport Scotland co-developed a 10-year plan; the Accessible Travel Framework seeking to improve accessible travel in Scotland. One of the core outcomes of the Accessible Travel Framework is to ensure disabled people feel comfortable and safe using public transport – this includes being free from hate crime, bullying and harassment when travelling.

3. REGIONAL HATE CRIME CHARTER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- 3.1 SEStran (South East Scotland Regional Transport Partnership) is a member of the Hate Crime Working Group, chaired by Transport Scotland and is working with partners Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland, to develop a regional hate crime charter for public transport tackling hate crime in relation to all five protected characteristics under current legislation:

- Race;
- Religion;
- Transgender identity;
- Sexual orientation;
- Disability.

- 3.2 SEStran aims to pilot a charter on a regional scale. The first stage will involve a pilot charter in three local authorities (West Lothian, Fife and Clackmannanshire). The Charter will aim to design and implement policy and guidance which challenges hate crime on the transport network, encourages reporting and thus prevention of hate crime on public transport.

The programme of work is expected as follows:

- Contact local authorities [**COMPLETED**]
- Poll transport operators (gauge current levels of training and willingness to participate) [**COMPLETED**]

- Meet with representative groups (work through the Charter and processes we are putting in place i.e. empowering bystanders, responsibilities of drivers, reporting and prevention, etc.)
- Agreement with local authorities and operators
- Operator training from Police Scotland
- Launch

4. SURVEY FOR OPERATORS

4.1 SEStran invited transport operators within Fife, West Lothian and Clackmannanshire to complete a survey which aimed to gauge current levels of understanding and any previous training undertaken by transport operators in relation to hate crime.

4.2 In total, nine operators responded to the survey, primarily from Fife. Some of the results of the survey are as follows:

- 80% of respondents did not make reference to hate crime in their company policies, but would consider including hate crime reporting procedures in the future.
- 55% of respondents currently record incidents of hate crime on their network.
- 90% of respondents would consider holding a hate crime training event for their staff, provided by Police Scotland
- 90% of respondents would consider signing a Hate Crime Charter for Public Transport and promoting the aims of the Charter on their network.

5. FIFE EVENT

5.1 SEStran, Police Scotland and Disability Equality Scotland will be holding an event in Fife at the end of June. The event will provide an opportunity for transport operators and representative groups to discuss perceptions/ experiences of hate crime, monitoring of the Charter, wording of the Charter, impact of the Charter.

5.2 The working group will take any lessons learned from this event before carrying out similar events in West Lothian and Clackmannanshire.

6. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are invited to note the contents of this report.

Catriona Jones
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