

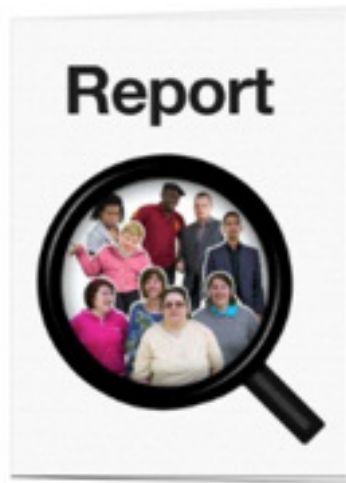
Loneliness and Cruelty

People with learning disabilities and their experience of harassment, abuse and related-crime in the community.

A Lemos&Crane report working with the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities by Carwyn Gravell

Summary EASY READ

Produced by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities with help from Hanifa Islam, Michelle McDermot and Richard West



This is a report from the first part of a project called 'Voice and Community'.



Years ago, lots of people with learning disabilities lived in big hospitals and institutions.



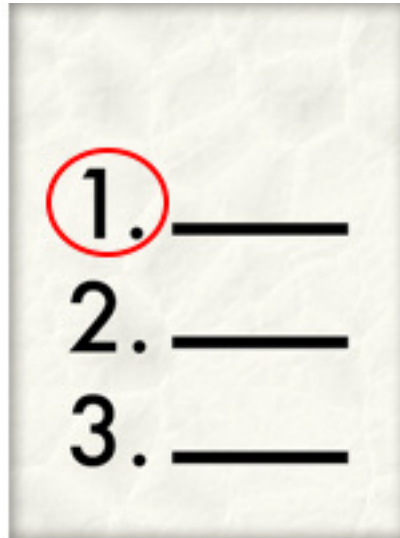
Now, people are living in the community independently or with support.



Years ago, everyone knew each other and was part of a close community where people lived. We knew our neighbours, people were more open and friendlier, and it was safer. Now, times have changed and people are frightened of each other because society has changed.



People are placed in areas which make people more vulnerable, and are at risk of being victims of crime and hate crime.



The first part of the project.



In the first part of the project we interviewed 67 people with learning disabilities talking about their lives and the problems they have with being attacked or abused.



People with learning disabilities are living independently, they enjoy going out with friends, being in with their families.



But, they can also get very lonely and are vulnerable. We know that 93% of the people interviewed had experienced being abused or attacked.



Places where people had been bullied or teased were:

- In their own homes
- Out and about on buses, the park and shopping area.





The people who made the trouble were:

- Neighbours and local people
- School children and young people
- Family
- People who pretend to be your friends but are not
- Work mates
- Family
- Support workers.



What people did:

- Name calling and teasing
- Physical attacks and threatening behaviour
- Stealing money



- Borrowing money and not giving it back
- Stealing things from your home
- Attacking your house or flat
- People getting a person with a learning disability to do something bad and then they get into trouble.



How it made you feel:

- When things happened, people said nothing because they don't want to make things worse
- Some people felt frightened and upset if a friend had done the bullying or stealing. It made them feel not wanted and lost friendships.

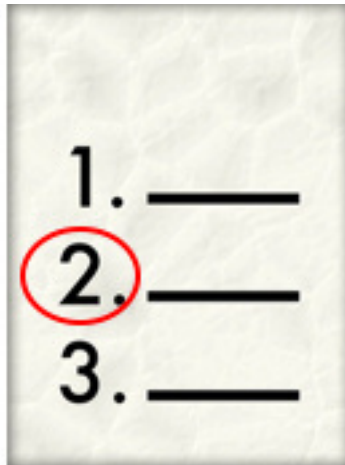




What should happen?

- When things go wrong people want action. The person who did the bad thing needs to be caught and should apologise for the hurt they caused.
- When people report things to the police, they need to be taken seriously and kept informed of what action has been taken.





The next part of the project.



What will happen next?
Over the next 2 years the project will try new ways of working to make communities safer by:



1. Look at ways to help people make more friends and get to know more people in their community.



2. Get institutions like the police and housing organisations to be better at supporting people who have been victims of crime.



3. Work with councils and communities to make them safer.

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