Disability harassment is wrong.

Don’t put up with it.

Report it.

The Adult Protection Committee have created a new booklet ‘Disability harassment is wrong’ which encourages people to report disability harassment.

Other words for harassment might be bullying or hate incident. Disability hate crime and harassment are an unwelcome part of everyday life for many disabled people. Name-calling, bullying and other relentless treatment that wears people down is experienced by many disabled people.

If it is not reported, non-criminal behaviour and ‘petty’ crime has the potential to escalate into more extreme behaviour. Victims become isolated, are unable to live the life they want and accept the harassment as inevitable.

The ‘Hate Crime in Scotland’ 2012-13 Report shows that disability hate crime accounted for 2.4% of all reported hate crimes. In 2012-13, 138 charges were reported with an aggravation of prejudice relating to disability, more than double the number reported in 2011/12. However, Fife statistics for the same period show only 13 reports of disability hate crime, which suggests that this type of crime may be greatly under-reported.

The disability harassment booklet, and other resources about disability hate crime are available to download from: www.fifedirect.org.uk/disabilityharassment

HOW DO I REPORT DISABILITY HARASSMENT?

If you experience disability harassment, call 999 if you are in danger.

If it is not an emergency, call the Police on 101 or the Adult Protection Phone Line on 01383 602200.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing people:
Contact the Police 24 hour SMS number in an emergency.
If it is not an emergency contact Fife Council’s SMS number 07781 480 185.
Both SMS Registration Forms are available at: fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection
Don’t put up with hate

Fife Community Safety Partnership’s new campaign encourages people to report hate incidents and to not just put up with them. A hate incident is any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by prejudice or hate. It can include, but is not limited to, verbal abuse, graffiti, damage, written abuse and online incidents.

Seven ‘Area Safer Communities Groups’ look after community safety on a local level in Fife. The groups meet monthly and meetings are attended by a cross section of local representatives from agencies who provide intervention and support as appropriate. Locations and individuals are highlighted to the group by Community Analysts who look at calls received regarding them over the previous three month period. In addition any of the attending agencies can submit any relevant address or individuals for consideration.

This process includes identifying repeat victims of hate incidents who would be considered by the group for any appropriate intervention or support. Help to the victim may include advice on personal safety or addressing the cause of the problem.

If you or someone you know has experienced a hate incident report it by:
• phoning Fife Council on 0345 15 00 22 or Police Scotland on 101
• using the online form at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/reportahatecrime
• telling staff at a Council Local Office or at your local police station
• or using a Third Party Reporting Centre

The new hate incident leaflet can be downloaded from: www.fifedirect.org.uk/reportahatecrime

Pictured are: Angela Hayes, NHS Fife; PC Shirley Buttercase, Police Scotland; Bill Harley, Fife Community Safety Partnership and John Stirling, Disabilities Scotland

Doorstep Crime

Following the launch of a doorstep crime campaign between local Councils and Police Scotland, Fife Trading Standards are asking Fife residents to be on their guard.

Dawn Adamson of Trading Standards said: “The majority of people who knock at your door are likely to be genuine, but it is important to know that some are rogue traders, doorstep criminals or uninvited sales people turning up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home.

“If you have any concerns about an unexpected person coming to the door, do not open it and always report any suspicions you may have to Police Scotland on 101 or Fife Trading Standards on 01592 583141 immediately.”

Police Scotland have launched the ‘Nominated Neighbour Scheme’, which aims to foster local support for those who choose to not answer their door to cold-callers.

Get more information on the Police Scotland website or call your local Community Policing team on 101.
Learning Disability Week

The Adult Protection Committee highlighted their Easy Read information as part of Learning Disability Week—19-25 May.

Brian Rosie explained the importance of easy read information, and why being a member of the APC is important to him: “People with learning difficulties are more at risk of harm or abuse and less able to protect themselves or report harm. Being on the APC gives people a stronger voice and acknowledges the valuable input that people with learning difficulties have to make. It is about protection and being equal citizens. It also supports services to improve delivery.

“Easy read information is important to everyone. You need this to be able to understand and make informed choices. Information needs to be available in a variety of formats.”

Adult protection easy read information including booklets on internet safety is available at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection. Click on the ‘Easy Read’ link.

Disability Hate Crime

The APC created large scale posters for the project ‘Back to Life: Back to Reality’ which were exhibited as part of last year’s Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and have recently been in the Kingdom Shopping Centre, pictured below. The posters represent the views and experiences of disabled people, and aim to encourage the reporting of disability harassment.

Brian Rosie of People First (Fife) represents service users on the Adult Protection Committee. He said “Disability hate crime is an offence. It is a commonplace experience for disabled people. We know that is true because our members tell us. We try to encourage people to report when things happen even if their family or support workers tell them to ignore it. People with learning difficulties should be taken seriously when they report things to others, like their staff or the police.”

People First are an organisation run by and for people with learning difficulties. The group develops and supports collective and self advocacy. Brian explained why People First are providing a hate crime presentation to secondary school pupils.

“We think that the way people treat each other when they are at school makes a big difference to how people treat each other when they are adults. What you learn at school also makes a big difference to what you do when you are an adult. We believe that people with learning difficulties have the right to live without fear of harassment, assault or hate crime. We talk to first year pupils and tell them our experiences of hate crime and how it made us feel.”

If you have a suitable space where one or more of the posters could be displayed, or if you require paper copies of the disability harassment booklet, please contact Communications Officer Shona McEwan on 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134.
How to protect yourself better

- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Never give out your bank details or send money unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you.
- Contacted out of the blue? Be suspicious.
- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card, ask for your PIN or come to your home.
- Make sure the website’s secure, if you are buying online – check for the padlock or “https” next to the web address.
- If you haven’t bought a ticket you can’t win anything.
- You shouldn’t have to pay anything to get a prize.
- Pressure to make a decision straight away? Take your time and just say: “No thank you”.
- Walk away from job ads that ask for money in advance.
- Computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer.
- Don’t suffer in silence – tell others about scams.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN SCAMMED

GET ADVICE. Contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 or www.adviceguide.org.uk

REPORT IT. Contact Fife Trading Standards on 01592 583141. This will stop it happening to other people.

WARN OTHERS. Protect your family, friends, and neighbours by telling them about scams you know about, and urge them to be more vigilant.
Reporting Harm reminder

There is a legal duty for all agencies named in the 2007 Act to report and record any known or believed Adult Protection concerns to Social Work. Other agencies may have responsibilities to report harm as a consequence of contracts or service level agreements with the Local Authority or health board. It is good practice, wherever possible, to inform the adult of the referral, taking care to emphasise why you are concerned and that you need to seek additional support and/or protection.

Consent is not required to report harm under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. Consent is required for any subsequent intervention, which will be initiated by social work service, following inquiry.

Any delay in reporting harm could result in the harm continuing for longer than necessary. There could also be implications for others as a consequence of delayed reporting.

APC Development Session

This year’s development session for the APC was used to help form the 2014/16 Improvement Plan.

We used a method called ‘World Café’ which is where each table had a question on it, and members moved around the tables and wrote their answers on the table cloth for everyone to see. Each table had one of the 6 quality indicators as its theme and members were asked to evidence what work had already taken place. In the second exercise members were asked to identify the gaps in evidence, and the third exercise asked members to select 3 priorities for the Improvement Plan.

We used SurveyMonkey to find what members thought of the development session and they told us it was:

*Useful* valuable *worked well* enjoyable *understand* INTERACTIVE pertinent insightful rewarding *stimulating*

If you would like to know more about ‘World Café’ methods, please contact Melanie Durowse, Quality Assurance and Development Officer, Adult Support and Protection Team, 03451 555555 ext 442101 or melanie.durowse@fife.gov.uk

APC Workplan

The Adult Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2014 was developed from the ideas generated during the successful development session held on 4th March 2014.

The APC has a statutory responsibility to:

- Keep under review the procedures and practices of those agencies with responsibility to safeguard adults at risk
- To give advice, information and make proposals in order to safeguard adults at risk
- To make, or assist in or encourage the making of, arrangements for improving the skills of officers or employees of agencies with safeguarding responsibilities

The Improvement Plan sets out the actions the APC believe will assist it in achieving its statutory responsibilities. The Plan takes account of self evaluation work and feedback from training course evaluations, policy and legislative changes and national influences.

The Improvement Plan covers a two year period up to 2016 and is subject to regular scrutiny to ensure progress.
**Public Protection Updates**

**Domestic violence**

Domestic, or private space violence in Fife has increased this past year; up 7.2% to 3,901 incidents.

Fife Chief Superintendent Garry McEwan says the rise is a direct result of a more focused and determined approach to tackling this issue: “Local organisational changes, including the introduction of a Fife Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) have significantly altered the way we deal with and report domestic violence in Fife. DAIU Officers are responsible for targeting domestic abuse perpetrators. Many historic crimes have been brought to light by the additional investigative processes introduced within Fife.”

“A Private Space Violence Working Group has been established to address the increase in violence within private-space dwellings. The multi-agency Safer Communities Groups enable early intervention and co-ordinated responses in circumstances where anti-social behaviour and violence is linked to particular premises or individuals. We also provide an enhanced level of reassurance and support to victims. 97% of these contacts were made within 24 hours of the offender being released on bail.”

**Doorstep crime**

A year long operation by Fife Police and Trading Standards has ended with 14 people being arrested and charged with more than 200 offences following a series of dawn raids in the Glenrothes area. It is believed they were part of Scotland’s biggest doorstep crime gang, involving cold callers and bogus workmen. They worked within an illegal enterprise that targeted elderly and disabled people, coercing them into parting with large sums of money.

Police have identified 54 alleged victims who have lost a total of £250,000.

**National Offender Management Unit**

Following the introduction of Police Scotland it was identified that there was considerable variance in the way different legacy force areas delivered processes and practices in the business area of Offender Management.

To address the need to realign these structures and practices the National Offender Management Unit was developed incorporating a governance, audit and compliance structure to the way Police Scotland conduct Offender Management functions nationally.

The role of the National Offender Management Unit:

- Be responsible for the development and production of national policy and procedures for the Police Service in relation to the protection of the public in respect of the management of sexual offenders.
- Be responsible for the maintenance and development of the Police Scotland Standard Operating Procedure on Offender Management.
- Be responsible for the identification, development and promotion of best practice, including continuous professional development.
- Represent the views of the Service to stakeholders and ensure amicable partnership working exists.
- Be the conduit for proposed procedural, policy and legal changes that have national implications.
- Provide the Service with clear information, and where necessary guidance, on issues affecting service delivery in this area.
- Identify links between this area and the wider work of the Public Protection portfolio.

The Unit is based at Offices in the West, East and North areas of Scotland.
**Child Protection Committee**

During the next two years the Child Protection Committee will be working on a number of areas related to child sexual exploitation, in the context of child sexual abuse. A Working Group has been set up to look at the scale of this in Fife and what activity all partners are currently undertaking to support children and young people who are or may be exploited. The Child Protection Committee’s annual conference in November will focus on this key area.

**Child Protection Training** information is available at: www.fifechildprotection.org.uk. Click on the ‘Inter-agency Child Protection Training Courses’ link and click ‘Inter-agency Training Courses currently available.’

**Barnardo’s CAPSM Project** (Children Affected By Parental Substance Misuse) supports children (0-12) and their families throughout Fife where there are current or past substance misuse issues. For further information on their new Wednesday After School Group contact Barnardo’s on 01592 266775.

**White Ribbon**

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow has triggered work on sex trafficking and prostitution. Senior Police Scotland officers have devised an action plan with the help of officials involved in the London Olympics. A campaign to make Glasgow a ‘White Ribbon’ city ahead of the Games is also gathering pace. The White Ribbon campaign aims to change attitudes about violence against women.

**Training**

Scottish Women’s Aid training calendar is available at: www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/news-events/training-events

Roshni offer courses relevant to both adult and child protection and minority ethnic communities. For further information contact Naveela Ali on 0141 218 4010 or email: naveela@roshni.org.uk or visit: roshni.org.uk/roshni-training-calendar/

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**Protection 4 All**

The Protection 4 All network includes nurse advisors from Child Protection, Adult Protection and Gender Based Violence. They support an extensive programme of child and adult protection training and provide advice across NHS Fife. Protecting people across the lifespan is a priority for NHS Fife.

The Protection 4 All network promote the key connecting protective messages. A DVD by the Protection network includes key messages:

- NHS FIFE takes protection seriously and is committed to multi-agency working
- There are overlapping principles and key themes:
  - **Recognise** (what is of concern?).
  - **Respond** (what do you do now?).
  - **Record** (where do I record?).
- Protection is everyone’s responsibility

The DVD highlights your responsibility to consider what further training you may need in order to meet the requirements of your own particular roles and responsibilities.

Further learning opportunities are available through multi-agency and NHS Fife training programmes. These are regularly advertised on the NHS intranet or contact the advisors for more information. The DVD is relevant to any workplace setting.

**Useful telephone numbers:**

**Child Protection Team (NHS):** 01592 648114

**NHS Gender Based Violence Nurse Advisor:** 07789 273 572

**NHS Adult Protection Nurse Advisor:** 01383 565335
The APC has a programme of inter-agency adult protection training. Full details of all courses can be found by clicking on the Training Page at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection
This also gives information about accessing the Adult Protection e-learning module.

Forthcoming courses:

**Working Together:** A one day course from 9.30am-4.30pm. 2014 dates: 2 Sept/2 Oct/ 6 Nov/ 3 Dec.
Venue to be confirmed.

**Adult Case Conferences:** A half day course from 09.30-12.30 or 13.15-16.16 on 18 November 2014.
Venue to be confirmed.

**Investigative Interviews:** A one day course from 9.30am-4.30pm. 2014 dates: 19 June—Conference Room, Auchterderran Centre, Cardenden.
25 September—venue to be confirmed.

**Recording & Defensible Decision Making**
A full day course from 9.30am-4.30pm. 2014 dates: 2 June, Conference Room, Auchterderran Centre, Cardenden.
8 October—venue to be confirmed
12 December—venue to be confirmed.

**Pre and Post-course questionnaires**
The APC is interested to know what difference the training is making; has the training informed your practice and in what way? We introduced a pre-course questionnaire and then do a follow-up approximately three months later. This gives you time to:
- Reflect on the course messages
- Discuss what you have learned with your line manager
- Put any learning into practice

It is crucial that the training course is not seen as the end of your learning. The post impact evaluation process provides an important stage of the learning process and your line manager plays a key role in ensuring that you optimise the learning time invested by supporting the completion of the post impact evaluation form. There is a section for your line manager to complete. Please support your learning and development by completing the forms when prompted by that email in your in-box.
Victim Support

“I am Ross Hamilton, the Diversity Co-ordinator for Victim Support Fife.

I support people affected by hate incidents all across Fife. I offer practical and emotional support to people who have been a victim of hate incidents because of their age, disability, gender, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. I will go out and visit people in their homes, business premises as well as meeting people in our office to talk the incident over as well as talking about the criminal justice system, going to court, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, and inform them about other agencies in Fife who may be able help and offer additional support.

I work closely with the Police, Fife Community Safety Partnership and other agencies in Fife to tackle the issues and raise awareness of hate incidents in Fife.

Many people are still unsure what qualifies as a hate incident and I have been trying to give people more of an understanding on how this type of crime can impact individuals and communities. I have been attending local shops and takeaways in Fife to speak about hate incidents and speak about the various methods for people to report to the police and other agencies.

No victim of hate incidents should have to suffer in silence, being a victim affects people differently and the best thing to do is to report it to the police or to speak over the issue with someone like myself who can suggest methods to cope, options they have and support in a confidential manner.”

To contact Victim Support Fife call: 0845 241 2126 or email: victimSupport.Fife@victimsupportsco.org.uk

Internet Safety

A ‘Caught in the Net Discovery’ Workshop was held at Lochgelly Centre in March to help the APC develop a drama on internet safety for an audience of people with a learning disability.

Lots of ideas and opinions were given on the day, and those involved are now working out what happens next! There will be more details in our next newsletter.

The Adult Protection Committee have worked with the Community Safety Partnership to create internet safety resources for adults at risk.

The new SafetyNet booklet and Easy Read version is available to download from: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection.

Go to our ‘Keeping Safe’ page then go to the ‘Internet Safety’ link. If you would like paper copies of the information please contact: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk or call 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134.

For more information about staying safe online visit:
• www.fifedirect.org.uk/internetsafety
• www.facebook.com/fifecommunitysafety
• twitter.com/safeinfife
Police campaign

A Police Scotland campaign ran throughout March to educate young men about rape. The campaign, ‘We Can Stop It’, featured posters, radio adverts and social media.

New laws, widening the definition of rape in Scotland, came into effect in 2010. It is hoped the campaign will persuade victims that reporting rape early increases the chances of offenders being traced.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 means any sexual intercourse without consent between a man and a woman or between two men is rape. For the first time this included cases where the victim is incapable of agreeing through drink or drugs.

The campaign targeted young men, both heterosexual and gay, to raise their awareness of what rape is. The adverts feature a number of statements from men which support positive behaviour and knowledge that sex without consent is rape.

Support & help

National rape crisis helpline
0141 331 4180 (office)
08088 01 03 02 (helpline - 6pm to midnight)
support@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk
www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline
0800 027 1234 (freephone, open 24 hours)
www.domesticabuse.co.uk

Scottish Women’s Aid
0131 226 6606
0800 027 1234 (freephone, open 24 hours)
contact@scottishwomensaid.org.uk
www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

Shakti Women’s Aid 0131 475 2399
www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Victim Support Scotland
0845 603 9213 (weekdays, 8am – 8pm)
www.victimsupportsco.org.uk

White Ribbon Scotland—involving men in tackling violence against women.
0131 718 6076
info@whiteribbonscotland.org.uk
www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk

Worried Sick

According to ‘Worried Sick’, a survey and report by the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), 98 per cent of survey respondents believe changes to the benefits system have had a detrimental effect on mental health, increasing stress and anxiety. The survey also found that 78 per cent saw their income fall, while 57 per cent have been affected by the Bedroom Tax. As well as additional mental health and emotional help, there were six incidents in which SAMH staff had to carry out suicide interventions directly related to welfare reform issues.

The report is available at: www.samh.org.uk.

Work capability assessments, introduced in 2008, have come under fire over complaints that people are being incorrectly assessed as fit to work and losing benefits. A recent Mental Welfare Commission Report entitled ‘Who Benefits?’ gives information about the benefits assessment and death of Ms DE.

The full report is available at: http://www.mwcscot.org.uk/media/180939/who_benefits_final.pdf

Info sourced from holyrood.com and Scotland on Sunday
Elder Abuse

Through the first Scottish national consultation of its kind, the Older People Services Development Project have revealed elder abuse as a previously-hidden problem within Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) communities.

New information has been created in partnership with Age Scotland to generate wider awareness of these issues, and to help identify signs of elder abuse or neglect within BME communities. The consultation revealed that, contrary to the perception BME communities ‘always look after their own’, this group of older people can face a range of difficulties. Indeed, it is sometimes the traditional reliance on family that can leave some older BME people vulnerable to financial, mental or emotional harm.

Afraid to speak out for fear of abandonment, some older BME people are even unaware the problems they experience are harm. Older people who may already experience isolation and confusion through language and cultural difficulties can also be denied financial independence and the means to access support or necessary social services.

The new information provides a general overview of the different types of elder abuse and the options available for people if they suspect that they, or someone they know, are being harmed. The Age Scotland Factsheet, and booklet ‘Elder Abuse—providing information, raising awareness’ are available on the Adult Protection website: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection. Click on the ‘Keeping Safe’ link and then click ‘Elder Abuse Awareness Day.’

Keep Safe

I Am Me is a community group working with Police Scotland and PACE Theatre company, to raise awareness of disability hate crime. The project also promotes the ‘Keep Safe’ initiative which works with local business to create safe areas in the community. The project began in Renfrewshire, and hopes to become national.

For more information visit: www.iammescotland.co.uk/ or visit their Facebook page.

Harm

An Abertay University sociologist has made a film aimed at tackling the cultural taboos surrounding self-harm. Jan Law teamed up with independent film-maker Sam Goncalves and Dundee-based support group Rebound to give a voice to people who self-harm and help health professionals better understand why they do so. The six-minute film is called Harm and can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOTsKIRUsWE

Val Nicol who is the Champion for Kirkland High School for LGBT issues, is working on a Fife event for schools and CLD staff to raise awareness of the film as well as other useful resources that can be introduced to school and youth groups.

LGBT Youth Scotland, in partnership with the Fife Cultural Trust and Kirkland High School have produced a short film titled ‘Silence Helps Homophobia.’ The 7 minute film is available at: www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/shh

Shh...
We should all take care of our own mental health and that of others, and challenge stigma and discrimination.

The Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival (SMHAFF) celebrates getting creative and connecting with others.

The 2014 Festival runs from 1-19 October and promotes the power of the arts to improve mental health and wellbeing. This year’s theme is ‘POWER’. Fife’s Festival programming is funded by the Adult Protection Committee and Fife Cultural Trust.

This year’s Festival will include projects which link the theme of ‘power’ with Adult Protection messages.

If you would like to get involved or would like to join up with another organisation to do a joint project, please email your ideas before the end of June to: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk or call Shona on 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134.

ENABLE Direct is a helpline for people who have learning disabilities, their carers and family members.
Call 0300 0200 101 or e-mail: enabledirect@enable.org.uk

NHS 24 has a new telephone number. Call 111 free from landlines and mobile phones for advice and support when your GP surgery is closed.

The C500 is the UK’s only key safe to achieve Police approval.

Placing a key in the KeySafe’s secure vault is a convenient way for you and authorised visitors to enter your home.

It eliminates the need to leave keys under doormats, or issue multiple sets of keys and allows immediate access to emergency services and care workers.

Visit: www.keysafe.co.uk for further information.

In our next edition look out for:

- Revised Adult Protection Guidance for agencies working with adults at risk of harm. This will be called ‘Inter-agency Adult Support & Protection Guidance’
- Large Scale Investigation Guidance
- Financial Harm Guidance

These new documents will soon be available on our website: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection

The Adult Protection Committee wish to thank individuals and agencies who have contributed to the development of new resources and the revision of previous Guidance.

STOP HARM. SPEAK UP!
If you or someone you know is being harmed or neglected, call the Adult Protection Phone Line 01383 602200

If you have an idea or article for inclusion in our next newsletter, please email: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk