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TITLE: MIDDLESBROUGH FACE THE PEOPLE LGBT RESULTS 2008

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 30th September 2008 I attended a Face the People session with the LGBT community in Middlesbrough which had been organised by the Crown Prosecution Service and the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.
- 1.2 An interactive consultation session using the IML equipment was incorporated into the meeting. The results of the consultation session are outlined in the following report.

2 RESULTS

Demographics

- 2.1 31 people took part in the consultation session. Just over half (51%) were from outside the Middlesbrough area. These people were asked to answer the questions based on their experiences whilst working in or visiting Middlesbrough.
- 2.2 Attendees were predominantly from the younger age categories, with 42% aged between 16 and 24, 10% between 25 and 34 and 32% between 35 and 44. There were no attendees aged over 65.


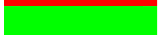
Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.3 Attendees were asked to choose the three main areas of anti-social behaviour which they felt that partners should concentrate on, with the following options:
 - Noisy neighbours and loud parties
 - Teenagers hanging around the streets
 - Vandalism, graffiti, deliberate damage and deliberate fires
 - Drug using
 - People being drunk or rowdy in a public place
 - Rubbish or litter lying around
 - Off road motorbikes, including quad bikes

- Begging
- Prostitution and kerb crawling

2.4 The top three priorities were jointly 'teenagers hanging around the streets' and 'rubbish or litter lying around' (17% each), and 'vandalism, graffiti, deliberate damage and deliberate fires' (13%). Table 2.1 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Priorities

	Percentage (%)
Teenagers hanging around	17
Litter	17
Vandalism/damage/fires	13
Drug using	12
People being drunk or rowdy	12
Begging	11
Prostitution	7
Noisy neighbours	6
Off road motorcycles	5
 1 st priority	
 3 rd priority	

2.5 When asked to explain why they thought the anti-social behaviour priorities they had chosen were a problem, by far the most popular choices were that attendees had seen anti-social behaviour taking place (41%) or had been a victim themselves (40%).

Crime

2.6 Attendees were next asked to choose the three main areas of crime which they felt that partners should concentrate on, with the following options:

- Vehicle crime
- House burglary
- Theft from a person
- Hate crime
- Shop lifting
- Criminal damage
- Violent crime
- Shed/garage burglary
- Drug dealing

2.7 Unsurprisingly, given the audience, the top choice was hate crime (22%). This was followed by criminal damage (16%) and drug dealing (15%). Table 2.2 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.2 Crime Priorities

	Percentage (%)
Hate crime	22
Criminal damage	16
Drug dealing	15
Violent crime	12
Shop lifting	10
Vehicle crime	7
Theft from a person	7
Shed/garage burglary	6
House burglary	5

	1 st priority
	2 nd priority
	3 rd priority

2.8 Attendees were again asked to explain their reasons for picking the crime priorities they had chosen. Personal experience was again the biggest factor, with 47% of attendees stating that they had been a victim themselves, and 23% that they had seen crime taking place.

Hate Crime

2.9 Looking specifically at hate crime, the attendees were asked which of the following types of hate crime they had been subjected to within the last 12 months:

- Verbal abuse
- Physical abuse – spitting
- Physical abuse – pushing/hitting/throwing items
- Mocking/mickey taking
- Other
- None of the above

2.10 The most common types of hate crime experienced were verbal abuse (35% of votes registered) and mocking/mickey taking (23%). 16% of the votes registered were for more serious physical abuse, and 11% for lower level physical abuse. Only 1% of votes registered stated that they hadn't been victims of any type of hate crime, indicating the high levels of hate crime experienced by this sector of the community.

2.11 When asked the same question regarding people they knew, a higher percentage reported more serious physical abuse (23% of votes registered).

2.12 The main reasons for believing hate crime is a problem were personal experience, with 37% of attendees stating that they had been a victim themselves, 23% that they had seen hate crime taking place, and 10% that someone they knew had been a victim. 13% stated that hate crime was not a problem in their area.

Experiences of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.13 80% of attendees stated that they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last 12 months. 70% stated that they had not reported the incident.
- 2.14 For those who did report the incident, the most popular people to report it to were friends/family (24% of votes registered), police (15%) or other like minded people (15%).
- 2.15 The main reasons for not reporting an incident were feeling that there was no point as nothing would get done, being worried that you wouldn't be taken seriously, and not wanting the stress of the investigation process, each with 19% of the votes registered.
- 2.16 The text message facility was used to ask attendees if there were any other priorities that they felt should be considered. There were several concerns regarding reporting incidents. An anonymous helpline or a texting facility were suggested to make reporting crime easier. It was felt that people with mental health problems weren't taken seriously, and that rape victims didn't know who to turn to. More police who were specifically trained to deal with LGBT issues and more effective street wardens were also suggested.
- 2.17 The final question asked attendees to state the single biggest crime or anti-social behaviour issue facing their area. Due to problems with the IML equipment not displaying the previous texting question, this question was answered verbally.
- 2.18 The predominant issues were gangs of teenagers either behaving in a generally anti-social way or being involved in hate crime. Whilst some attendees reported receiving abuse from older members of the community, it was predominantly felt that young people were responsible for the majority of hate crime experienced by this group.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The top three anti-social behaviour priorities for the LGBT community in Middlesbrough are teenagers hanging around the streets (17%), rubbish/litter (17%) and vandalism/damage and fires (13%). These decisions were based on attendees seeing anti-social behaviour taking place (41%) or being a victim of anti-social behaviour (40%).
- 3.2 The top three crime priorities for the LGBT community in Middlesbrough are hate crime (22%), criminal damage (16%) and drug dealing (15%). These decisions were based on being a victim of crime (47%) or seeing crime taking place (23%).

- 3.3 Nearly all of the attendees had been a victim of hate crime within the last 12 months, with most reporting suffering verbal abuse or mickey taking. Some reported suffering daily abuse.
- 3.4 80% of attendees had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour within the last year, and 70% hadn't reported it.
- 3.5 The most common people to report incidents to were friends/family (24%), police (15%) or other like minded people (15%).
- 3.6 The most common reasons for not reporting incidents were feeling that there was no point as nothing would get done, being worried that you wouldn't be taken seriously, and not wanting the stress of the investigation process.
- 3.7 Teenagers were seen as the main perpetrators of hate crime.