

## DISABILITY MONITORING

Lancashire Police Authority want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly. The Authority has always done its best to support people working for us who have individual needs, even if they are not registered as disabled.

We have asked staff, members and volunteers for information to help us to check that anyone who has disabilities is treated fairly.



## DISABILITY CONSULTATION EVENT 2007

Our first ACE Newsletter was sent out after our Disability Consultation Event in November 2006. We said we would hold another event in 2007 to check on progress and make plans for 2008.

The event this year was held on Tuesday 30th October at Blackburn Rovers Football Club, Ewood Park, Blackburn. We wanted to look at how the Constabulary communicate with disabled people and how we can monitor their performance in this area.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? OUR PLANS FOR 2008

The next edition of the ACE Newsletter will be sent out in early 2008 to feed back on our consultation event in October and to let you know our plans for 2008.

**We will continue to keep you informed.**



## Welcome

A warm welcome from Lancashire Police Authority to the second edition of our ACE newsletter. We wanted to give you an update and keep you informed on the work that we have been doing to make sure that our information is made accessible to everyone.

## Our New Website How do we Look?



When we spoke to you at our event in November 2006, some of you suggested that we needed to make our Police Authority website better. We listened to your views and can proudly say that we have a new website with a more accessible design. Please log on and tell us what you think [www.lancspa.gov.uk](http://www.lancspa.gov.uk)

### Our new website has:

- A readspeaker so you can listen to the pages being read out to you
- A British Sign Language mini website for BSL users which contains key information
- Background colours and size of text that you can change to make the information easy to read
- A Text only version to remove all of the images
- More documents available

We also want to make sure that we have clear summaries of our key documents in an easy to read format.



## CONTACT:

If you have any comments on our newsletter or would like it in a large print version, please contact Danielle Norton. Telephone: 01772 531209 Email: [danielle.norton@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.norton@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk)

# TRAINING

## ON DISABILITY AWARENESS

When we consulted you last year, you said that training on disability awareness for police officers and police staff was important.

The Police have courses to help staff make sure they have a better understanding of disabilities and help them work better with disabled people, for example deaf awareness and mental health awareness courses. All officers and staff have training on disability when they join the Constabulary. Some training courses help officers carry out a specific job. For example, Officers who work in police custody areas are trained to help them carry out their role and to help them to deal with disabled detainees. Public enquiry assistants and police officers receive training that will assist them when communicating with disabled people.

Police Officers and staff who have disabilities are given help so that they can progress within the Constabulary; and trainers have guidance on how to make training information available to staff who have disabilities.

During the summer, all police officers and staff received a personal copy of The Disability Guide handbook. This provides information about physical, sensory, mental health and learning disabilities. There are also contact details for organisations that can provide further information and advice. The handbook makes sure that staff have information on Disability related issues, especially around Communication and the Quality of Service that they provide. Police Authority staff also have access to this Guide.

In addition, the Police are involving people with disabilities in reviewing their training courses to be sure that training in this area is relevant. When they have done this work, the Police will tell the Police Authority what they have found and any changes that they will make.



## TRAINING ON MAKING INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE

Both Lancashire Police Authority and Lancashire Constabulary want to make sure that our information is accessible. In May, 6 Police Authority staff and 2 Police Officers were trained in making information accessible. Catholic Caring Services told us how to keep our writing simple so that it is easy to understand. They showed us how pictures can help people understand our writing. Thanks to Catholic Caring Services for their help.

# POLICE AUTHORITY VOLUNTEERS LOOK AT DISABILITY ISSUES

Lancashire Police Authority has 57 volunteers known as Independent Custody Visitors who check the police cells and the people who are in police cells. In May our volunteers talked to the police about the needs of people with disabilities in custody.



- There is transport to take disabled detainees into custody and the courts
- There is wheelchair access
- Cells have a mixture of high and low beds to meet different needs
- Custody is accessible for visually impaired people
- All custody areas have a wheelchair
- Lighting is good
- Information is available to help people with visual or hearing disabilities

As a part of their visits, Custody Visitors now check to make sure that:

The Police Authority through the independent custody visitors will continue to work with the police to make improvements in custody for people with disabilities.

## PLACES WHERE WE CAN MEET THE PUBLIC

Lancashire Police Authority meets the public many times during the year. We meet in village and community halls, schools and other meeting rooms. We have checked all venues we use to see how they are accessible to people who have disabilities. We have looked at public transport, wheelchair access and equipment to help people with hearing and visual impairments. We now keep a list of the venues that have the best access.

We are always looking out for good buildings where we can meet groups of up to 60 people. If you know of a building near you please contact:

**Ian Dickinson.** Lancashire Police Authority, PO Box 653, PRESTON PR2 2WB  
Telephone: 01772 533462 Email: [Ian.Dickinson@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Dickinson@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk)

