

Regional Hate Crime Charter & Reporting App

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This paper provides an update to the Forum on SEStran's work so far 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** City of Edinburgh Council recently launched a Hate Crime Charter for Public Transport with partners Edinburgh Trams, First Scotland East, Scotrail Alliance, British Transport Police and Police Scotland. SEStran aims to build upon Edinburgh's work and pilot a similar charter on a regional scale. The first stage will involve a pilot charter in three local authorities (West Lothian, Fife and Clackmannanshire).

- 3.3** 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.

- 3.4** The programme of work is expected as follows:

- Contact local authorities
- Poll transport operators (gauge current levels of training and willingness to participate)
- 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 has drafted a survey which aims to gauge current levels of understanding and any previous training undertaken by transport operators in relation to hate crime. The survey will also ask if operators are willing to participate in the Charter. We anticipate that this will involve hate crime training (if required), review and implementation of company procedures to report and challenge hate crime on your network, formal signing of the charter, and launch of the charter (including a joint communication and marketing campaign with all partners). Once approved, this questionnaire will be sent to all operators.

5. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Catriona Macdonald
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