



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Have you experienced homophobic hate crime?

On Friday 22nd August, I attended a really uplifting launch of a **booklet**. How you might well ask, can I **get** inspired by a booklet? Good question – have I really turned into that much of an **anorak**? Perhaps, or perhaps not – you'll have to judge for yourself.

There were several really good things about our launch. I was very proud to be sharing a public stage, in police uniform, declaring that the police and other criminal justice agencies really can be counted upon to treat homophobic hate crime seriously. We truly have evolved for the better during my time in the service – such a statement would have been unheard of ten years ago. The WAG Minister for Social Justice was there too, and gave a really inspirational speech. He pointed out (it always bears repeating) that **treating minorities with respect and dignity is one of the hallmarks of a civilised society**, and he did it in a convincing and compelling way – for me, he made the phrase 'social justice' come alive. And, **somewhat surprisingly, the media turned up in force and were really supportive.**

Perhaps there really is hope that our society is coming to terms with different sexual orientations at last. That's why I got so much out of the launch of a booklet – it offered real hope for the future. I am proud to say that I was there.

The PPP comments ... We quote verbatim sections of CC Brunstrom's blog on the police website for 26th august. The booklet is available here

<http://www.north-wales.police.uk/portal/files/folders/acpoblogs/entry6917.aspx>

quoting verbatim from the booklet People in Wales do report homophobic incidents – 429 incidents were reported in 2006 and **369 in 2007 across Wales (Ca 22 ytd in NW)**

And people do get convicted of offences with a homophobic element – 29 successful prosecutions in **Wales** in 2006 and **47 in 2007**

You don't have to be lesbian, gay or bisexual to be the victim of homophobic hate – victims don't have to prove their sexual orientation. **Homophobic hate is defined by how the offence was perceived by the victim, a witness or the motivation of the offender.**

Regardless of whether a person is charged with an offence or not the police can also:

- Inform you of decisions to issue a caution, reprimand, Anti Social Behaviour Order, final warning or penalty notice for disorder
- Offer support by contacting Victim Support or other agencies
- Discuss evidence collection eg: **installing a CCTV camera or spit-kits, focused Police patrols or tracing malicious mobile phone calls**
- Provide general Crime Prevention Advice
- Inform the local authority in the event of offensive graffiti to ensure it is removed promptly
- Analyse reported incidents to identify trends

• *Advise support groups and networks of any issues for concern or 'hot spot' areas for crimes and incidents for **crime prevention and protection**.*

Comparitively, **many thousands of crimes** of theft and violence and vandalism have occurred across **North Wales** almost without comment by Brunstrom. These victims and relations of dead drivers would appreciate a fraction of the CCs attention that these other crimes attract. NOTE even with the rules bent to suit they still only prosecuted 13% of the cases successfully.

To confirm what the PPP know and our public opinion surveys highlightThe latest Management information on the NWPF website states

Total crimes recorded 15,500 and 38% detected

Recorded burglary dwelling ... has increased year on year by 7% in Central and 69% in Eastern but Western has decreased by 11%

The detection rate has decreased to 27%

Recorded vehicle crime ... has increased year on year by 24% in central and 25% in Eastern but has decreased by 11% in Western

The detection rate has decreased to 14%

Serious aquisitive crime has increased by 19% on last year.

Class A drug suppliers charged/summonsed fell by 40 % from 30 to 18

The number of people killed and seriously injured has **increased by 62%** year on year. The number of **RTCs involving young drivers has also increased** and coincidentally the number of disqualified drivers arrested has **decreased by 37%** year on year.

These figures are self-explanatory and the whole story highlights the CC's totally distorted priorities which are absolutely unacceptable.

The PPP believes the responsibility lies with those who tacitly or directly support Brunstrom. These politicians, councillors and PA members who despite is appalling record of lies, distortion, irrational behaviour, abuse of the public and colleagues going back even to before he came to North Wales still granted him another two years of anarchy in NWPF..... WHY??

Note ... the gay members of the PPP fully support the PPP stance on this issue as do our members from the ethnic minorities. Both groups feel that Brunstrom's attitude is condescending and unhelpful and only encourages divisions in our communities.