



#ImWithSam Report 2017/18



#ImWithSam

Overview of the campaign

The campaign has worked across the 8 objectives that we believe will make a real difference to learning disability and autism hate crime.

This has included speaking engagements, workshops, and ongoing relationship building with key influencers in the hate crime world.

Dimensions has sat on the advisory group the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Online Hate Crime Hub - an innovative London based project to tackle hate speech that will feed into a new national initiative. Through this, #ImWithSam has developed strong links with MOPAC's hate crime team, which we hope to sustain past the conclusion of the hub project.

We continue to promote awareness of hate crime of #ImWithSam and the issue of hate crime via our communication channels.

A key area of work has been engagement with police forces, raising awareness of the barriers victims face when it comes to reporting hate crime. To date, we have delivered workshops and training to members of Essex Police, Surrey Police and Greater Manchester Police - as well as members from other forces at several hate crime conferences.

We continue to promote our schools materials as and when they are relevant, but hope to develop a more strategic approach to this in the coming months. This may be part of a wider effort to be involved in schools via the Involvement team.

We continue to promote awareness of hate crime of #ImWithSam and the issue of hate crime via our communication channels. Recently, Campaign Advisor Mark Brookes has had an [article published in the Huffington Post](#) and has appeared twice on BBC Sussex Radio to respond to news stories on hate crime. We are anticipating a piece from BBC Online focussing on learning disability and autism hate crime



Highlights from the year

National Police Chiefs Council - Annual Hate Crime Conference

#ImWithSam was invited to the annual hate crime conference to run a workshop for police officers on learning disability and autism hate crime.

The workshop was the most popular session on the day and was attended by officers from across the country, as well as regional prosecutors.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week

NHCAW 2018 involved a series of actions and events:

- Surrey Police hate crime conference
- Action day in Paddington Station with British Transport Police
- Facebook Live streamed talk on hate crime and #ImWithSam with Mark Brookes

The week also marked the anniversary of the launch of #ImWithSam and an opportunity to share our achievements on social media over the week.

Surrey Police training programme

Dimensions has been commissioned by Surrey Police to deliver hate crime awareness training to all of the force's frontline officers.

At the conclusion of the session we will have trained close to 1000 police officers over a period of 6 months.

The training is currently delivered alongside a session from Waymarks that focuses on learning disability and autism awareness and how the police can deal sympathetically with both victims and offenders.

Petitions Select Committee inquiry

Dimensions was invited to give evidence to the [select committee's inquiry into online abuse of disabled people](#).

The committee is likely to publish a report making recommendations to government. The focus of our evidence was the need to change the law in relation to disability hate and we hope to see this reflected in the report from the committee in the coming weeks.



Upcoming projects

Police training

We will complete the training programme for Surrey police officers and are discussing opportunities to deliver similar training to more members of staff within the force, including Police Community Support Officers and contact centre staff.

We are arranging a visit from Home Office representatives to observe the training in the coming weeks.

We are evaluating the training with a view to evidencing changes in officer confidence around learning disability and autism hate crime and also an increase in recorded hate crimes. We may develop these findings into a brief report that can be used to promote similar training to other forces.

Nottingham Trent University research

We are developing a small research project with Criminology academics at Nottingham Trent University.

The research will entail a longitudinal study of people's day to day experiences of hate crime. At present, we are discussing this opportunity with teams at Waymarks to trial a small group of participants.

We hope the research will deepen the understanding of how hate crime is experienced and understood by people with learning disabilities and autism, to improve understanding amongst the police, prosecutors and judges and influence - if necessary - a change in law.

APPG Hate Crime

We are engaging with the newly formed APPG for Hate Crime and are due to meet the Chair of the APPG, Paula Sherriff MP, in May.

The APPG will be a useful platform to make parliamentarians aware of the #ImWithSam campaign. We will aim to present to the APPG in a future meeting on the issue of hate crime legislation. This might be in partnership with representatives from other targeted groups.

International Hate Crime Conference

At the end of May, Mark will attend an international hate crime conference in Toronto. The [International Network for Hate Studies](#) brings together leading academics and policymakers from across the world to focus on hate crime.

Mark is attending to deliver a presentation and then a workshop in partnership with Paul Giannasi, Head of the UK Cross-Government Hate Crime Programme, and Joanna Perry, Senior Research Officer for the [Facing Facts](#) initiative.

Beyond these key opportunities, we continue to promote awareness of #ImWithSam and collaborate on with other organisations, including projects with Stop Hate UK and the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities.

In the coming year we will continue to push for legislative change and use parliamentary activity to lobby for this as well as keeping learning disability and autism hate crime in the news agenda.

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Proving life can get better

Dimensions provides evidence-based, outcomes-focused support including sector leading positive behaviour support for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs. We help the people we support to be actively involved in their communities.



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