



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Press Release

SANDOWN SUPPORTS NATIONAL HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

SANDOWN Councillors, Broadway Centre users and police officers have stepped out to support the campaign to stop hate crime.

To mark National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which took place from October 9-16, officers from Shanklin Police Station, including PCSO Fiona Hyslop, visited the Broadway Centre in Broadway, Sandown.

They spoke to local residents and Sandown mayor Paddy Lightfoot about what a hate crime is and how to report it, to raise awareness of the issue.

This comes as the Broadway Centre is set to become a Third Party Reporting Centre, which allows victims of hate crime to report incidents without having to speak directly to the police.

PCSO Fiona Hyslop added: 'Sandown residents have been very supportive during a difficult period, and we encourage residents to report incidents immediately, no matter how insignificant they seem.'

'Getting a Third Party Reporting Centre in Sandown means residents have another way they can tell us about hate crimes in way they may feel more comfortable with, rather than calling 101 or reporting to us online, and helps us build an even stronger picture of the issues our communities face.'

'We take every report seriously and we will do all we can to make sure victims feel heard.'

Mr Lightfoot said: 'We fully support the work of Fiona, Ash and the team, and are working to provide a monthly drop-in facility to enable residents to report incidents or discuss concerns with the team, following the success of the Stop Hate Crime Campaign.'

'Local residents are fully aware of the challenges faced locally by the Police, and the Town Council will do all that it can to support initiatives and campaigns that highlight the concerns of the community, and the provision of a drop-in facility would be part of that response.'

In previous years, these are some of the ways people have got involved with National Hate Crime Awareness Week across the country:

- People put their Hands up for Challenging Hate – we were inundated with photos; see the Galleries page to see some of them
- Candlelit vigils were held across the country, including London, Sussex, Devon, Suffolk and Berkshire.
- There was plenty of coverage in the media and a huge campaign on Social Media!

To report a hate crime to the police directly, call 101 or visit the Hampshire Constabulary website.

To report via a third party, visit the True Vision website at <https://www.report-it.org.uk/> or find a list of Third Party Reporting Centres here: <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/taking-action/hatecrime>

ENDS



Pictured, left to right: Mayor Paddy Lightfoot, members of the Police team and users of the Broadway Centre