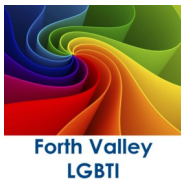


“Stonewall Scotland is delighted that NHS Forth Valley, along with community partner organisations, have today pledged not to be a bystander and stand up against all forms of discrimination. By publicly making this commitment they are sending out a strong and powerful signal that they will work to ensure the people of Forth Valley feel safe and secure at work, at home, at school and in their communities.” Colin Macfarlane, Director, Stonewall Scotland

In Forth Valley, public sector partners are members of the Multi-Agency Hate Response Strategy (MAHRS) group and deal with all reported hate crimes. For further information on the MAHRS Group go to www.stophateincentralscotland.org.uk.

If you wish to report any Hate Incident or Hate Crime you can contact the police on 101 or via www.scotland.police.uk



Tackling Hate Crime with See Me & #NoBystanders Campaign



A Forth Valley partnership approach has pledged to work with [See Me](http://www.seemescotland.org) (www.seemescotland.org) which aims to eliminate any stigma and discrimination associated with mental health issues.

As such, we recognise that people with mental health problems are not a uniform or homogenous group.

Introduction

Our vision is to end mental health stigma and discrimination, enabling people who experience mental health problems to live fulfilled lives.

With partners we have agreed to bring together the 'See Me' and 'No Bystanders' Campaign developed by Stonewall to address the damaging effect and impact that discrimination and negative language can have on people's mental health and well being

What is the No Bystander campaign?

This campaign highlights the damaging effect that discriminatory language can have in our playgrounds, streets and workplaces. It calls on individuals and organisations to commit to challenging bullying and discrimination wherever they see it, and stand up for fairness and kindness.

Why is the campaign important?

99 per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people hear phrases like "that's so gay" being used in a derogatory manner on a daily basis; and 97 per cent hear phrases like "poof" and "dyke" being used in our schools.

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate incidents are serious problems in our country. One in six LGBT people in Scotland experienced discrimination when accessing public services in the last three years, and an estimated 162,000 Scots of working age have witnessed verbal homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying at work. At the same time, two in five people think that employers should be responsible for tackling public prejudice against LGBT people.

"This campaign promotes our continuing zero tolerance approach to discrimination, so that staff can see the support from their colleagues who have made both a personal and professional commitment to challenging bullying and unfair treatment."

Lynn Waddell, Equality and Diversity Manager, NHS Forth Valley

Who is involved?

Representatives from NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council, Forth Valley College, Terence Higgins Trust, Forth Valley LGBTI Development Group, Stonewall Scotland, CSREC and Police Scotland (Forth Division) have signed up to show that we are organisations committed to tackling discrimination in its many forms, including homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

We are calling on individuals and organisations to commit to challenge bullying and discrimination wherever they see it, and stand up for fairness, kindness and in promoting good mental health and wellbeing

How to get involved

The associated social media campaign '#NoBystanders' is also being supported by public sector colleagues in a bid to encourage others to 'take the pledge' and sign up to end discrimination. You can take the pledge at <http://nobystanders.org.uk/> .