

## E.A.C.H. report

In 2006 Surrey Police commissioned the charity EACH to conduct research into the underreporting of homophobic crime within the Surrey police area. This research was based upon the Force's concern that many homophobic hate crimes were not being reported to the police in Surrey and it was hoped that this independent research would present the Force with ideas as to how it might improve trust and confidence within gay men and women so that they may feel able to report such crimes.

Surrey Police treats all crimes motivated by hate very seriously and wishes to encourage all victims of such crime to report it so that a clear message can be sent to perpetrators that hate crime in Surrey will not be tolerated.

In October 2006 the EACH report was received by the Force. It was disappointing that the research work was only able to reach a small number of people who agreed to participate in the survey. However based on the findings of the survey, the co-operation, advice and guidance of Gay Surrey (who have worked closely with the police to help deal with homophobic crimes occurring at particular locations within Surrey) as well as the support received from SPpectrum (the Surrey Police Gay and Lesbian support group) the Force has developed an action plan which it hopes will improve trust and confidence in the police from those who are gay.

The key areas of development are:

- The Force will review the way it deals with reports of homophobic crime and provide clear expectations to our staff. We will consult with local Gay Groups in this process
- We will review our training needs in respect of officers who deal with homophobic crime.
- We will target perpetrators of hate crime where we have intelligence or evidence to be able to do so
- We will appoint lesbian and gay liaison officers (LAGLO's) on each of our Divisions
- We will continually undertake analysis of homophobic crime to build profiles of victims and perpetrators. This will inform future practice and policing.
- We will include homophobia in any future prevention of hate crime campaigns which the Force runs.
- We will continue to work closely with organisations that represent gay persons, such as Gay Surrey, to improve trust and confidence in policing.