

Q&A
11 October 2012

Questions from Mike Linfoot

- 1. Race Equality in Preston have not answered or helped with any of my racist issues. The police have still not answered our racist incident over 4 months ago. I feel racist abuse against gypsy and travellers seems to be accepted.**

The Council's Head of Governance responded:

It was inappropriate for the Police to discuss specific matters publicly in this forum. However, they will be happy to meet separately to discuss and respond.

- 2. Chorley Still does not have any accommodation suitable for traditional caravan dwelling Romany Gypsies. The Council have suggested that instead my family and I should go and live in Wigan. If shops in Chorley had no disabled access, would they suggest disabled people go and live in Wigan?**

Performance Improvement Officer responded:

If a shop in Chorley had no disabled access we would encourage them to make 'reasonable adjustments' in line with the recommendations of the Equality Act 2010.

Question from Nicola Hartley

- 1. Although race-hate crimes get reported, policing is not encouraging anonymous reporting to enable true statistics. Reports aren't being followed up by police. Can we promote this and have a dedicated team in Chorley to deal with the issues and feedback case studies with a view to eradicating race hate crime (not good enough running this from Preston).**

Jeanette Hickey from Lancashire Constabulary responded:

Please be assured that every Hate Incident and Crime that is reported to Lancashire Police does get recorded and investigated

accordingly and that we have extremely robust policies and practices in place to ensure and quality assure this process. In terms of 3rd party and anonymous reporting they are positively encouraged and over the last couple of years there have been many Hate Crime reporting sessions run with numerous partner agencies and the voluntary sector. These include Chorley Library, Citizens Advice Bureau, Young People's service, every Chorley Housing Provider, NHS Chorley Hospital, CVS and many more. We regularly receive reports via our website.

With regard to a dedicated team in Chorley, the type referred to is the Preston and West Lancashire Racial Equality Council which is a fantastic Lottery Funded initiative who do a great deal of Partnership work with Lancashire Constabulary in this area. I can only agree it would be brilliant if such an organisation existed in Chorley and would support the Borough or LCC in any bid to bring such an organisation here.

Question from Lynn Pawson, Triple D Nursing and Home Care Ltd

- 1. What opportunities are there for private sector home care agencies to held escorting clients to activities and being able to attend what is on offer.**

Lancashire County Council is responsible for social care provision and will be able to advise you in more detail.

- 2. How can we access clients not in social services remit ie private clients to help with home care duties ie shopping, laundry etc.**

Lancashire County Council is responsible for social care provision.

The link takes you to the website which provides contact details and more information.

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/social-services/contact/index.asp>

Question for Judith Daniels

- 1. How do the dog control orders affect guide dog owners? We really need a list of places, in the Chorley area, where we can safely free run our dogs. As you can imagine our dogs do have a lot of exercise when they are working, but at least once a fortnight they need to run off the lead and play games with us, for their wellbeing. This needs to be in a safe place away from where we work them, also being mindful that we use public transport.**

Lesley Miller, the Environment and Neighbourhoods Manager advised:

Dog control orders are not designed to be prohibitive to anyone exercising their pets or assistance dogs in a responsible way. Dogs can safely run free in any parks or open spaces and are only required to be on the lead on the highway, in the cemeteries and on the main pathways of Astley Park. Dogs are excluded from the children's play areas at any time and the sports pitches when matches are on. Details for our parks and open spaces can be found on the Council's website www.chorley.gov.uk

- 2. What about the walled garden? Are they supposed to be on a lead in there? I am asking this because I walk my guide dog in there on his harness and would not expect to find a loose dog coming up to me and interfering with my guide dog.**

I can confirm that the walled garden should be included as an area where dogs should be on a lead.

We have ordered some permanent signs and one will be put in this area when they arrive.