

Fear and Bullying in Dorset Survey Results March 2012

The image shows a woman with short, white hair, wearing a green and white striped sweater, sitting at a desk and smiling while looking at a laptop. To the right of the woman is the logo for "TeamAD100". The logo consists of the word "Team" in black, "AD" in blue, and "100" in red. Below the logo, the text "You can count on our experience" is written in black, with "count" in red. Underneath that, "Survey and consultation service" is written in black, followed by four black dots. At the bottom of the image is a blue button with a white border and rounded corners, containing the text "Click here to give us your views" in white.

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Introduction

Access Dorset represents disabled people, older people, carers and other users of support. We are frequently asked what our members think about issues and local services. We want to make sure that we represent disabled and older people's views accurately, which is why we have launched our new exciting scheme, **Team AD100**

Team AD100 invites 100 or more people to provide a representative group that can be canvassed for their views and opinions throughout the year. This is done through a number of straightforward surveys conducted online (or by post/telephone if that is more accessible). We always share the results of surveys with **Team AD100** members so that they can see the difference that they are making.

We share the results of **Team AD100** surveys with Councils, the NHS, the Police, Housing Associations and businesses to help them to improve services for disabled people. We also want to raise general awareness of these important issues through the media

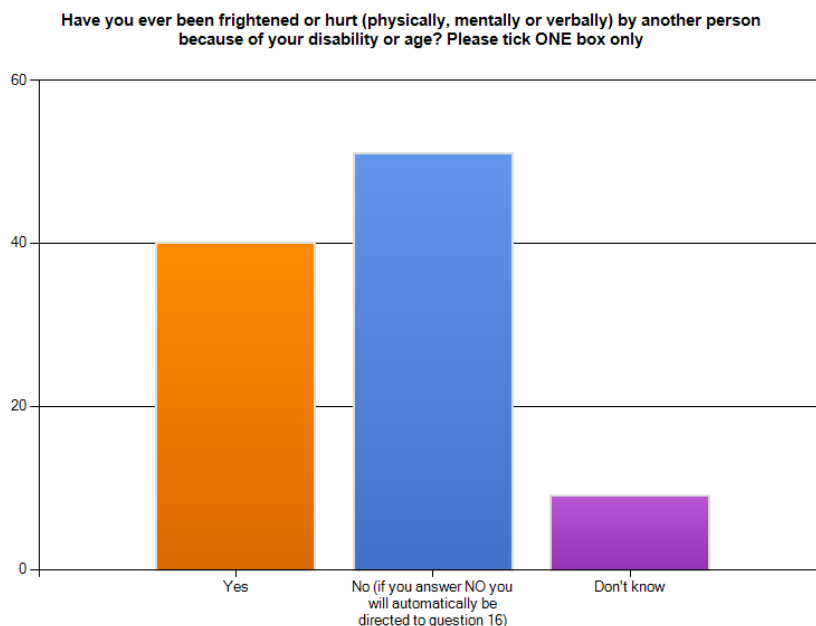
Access Dorset is a partnership of 17 user led organisations and is a disability hate crime reporting centre for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

Hate Crime thrives on fear, vulnerability and isolation and has become a nationally recognised issue, particularly after Fiona Pilkington, 38, killed herself and her disabled daughter, Francessca Hardwick, 18, in 2007 after enduring years of abuse from youths.

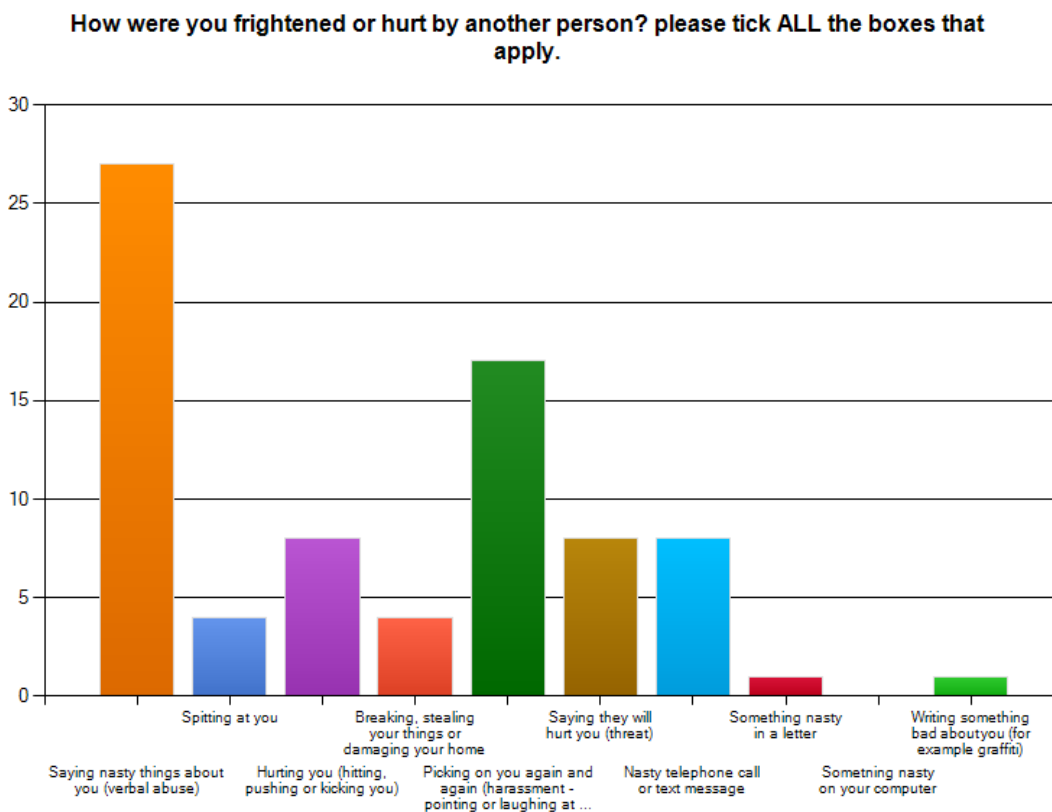
We wanted to better understand the level of fear, bullying and hate crime in Dorset and to establish the extent to which those affected are reporting these incidents. Between February and March we carried out our first **Team AD100** survey and 101 people responded.

Survey Results: Fear and Bullying in Dorset

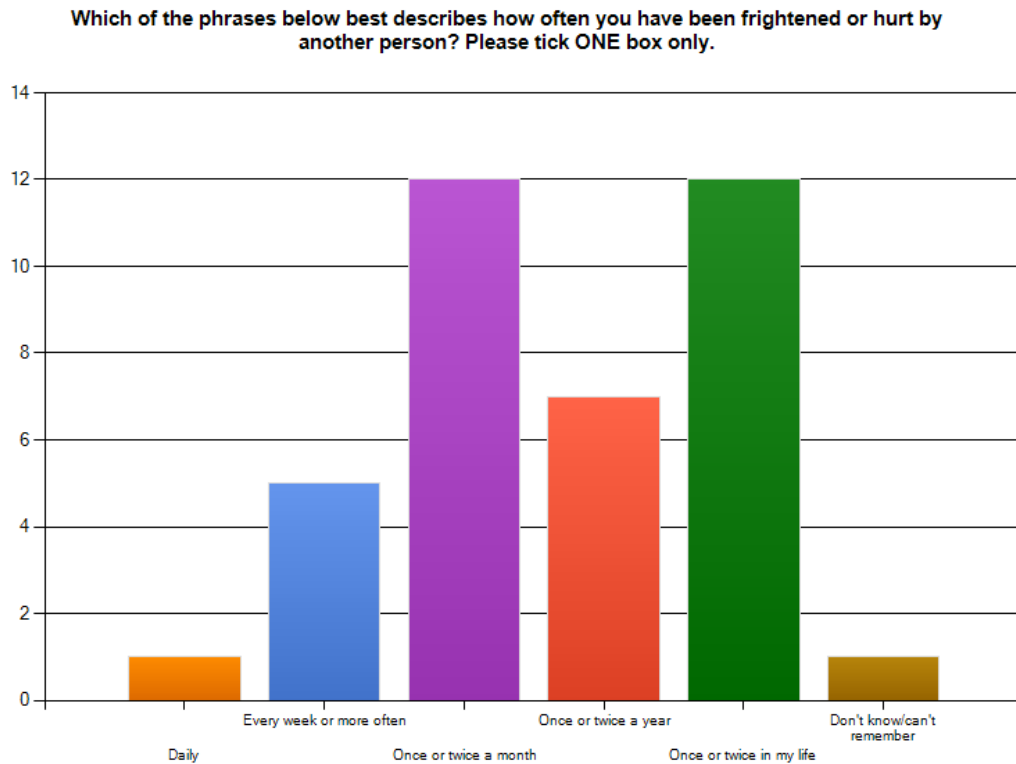
1. Of 101 people who responded to the survey, 40 had been frightened or hurt by another person because of their disability or age.



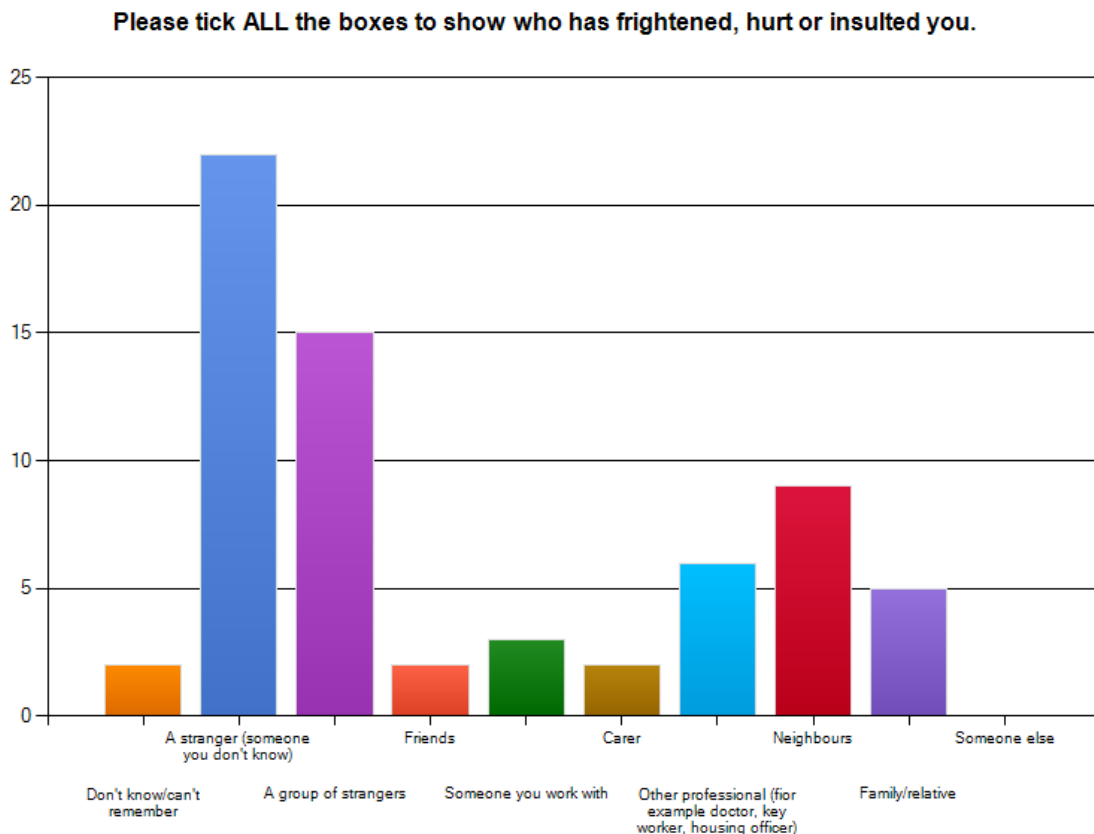
2. Of those people, 27 had been verbally abused, 17 had been harassed and 8 people physically hurt. Others had been threatened and 4 had been spat at.



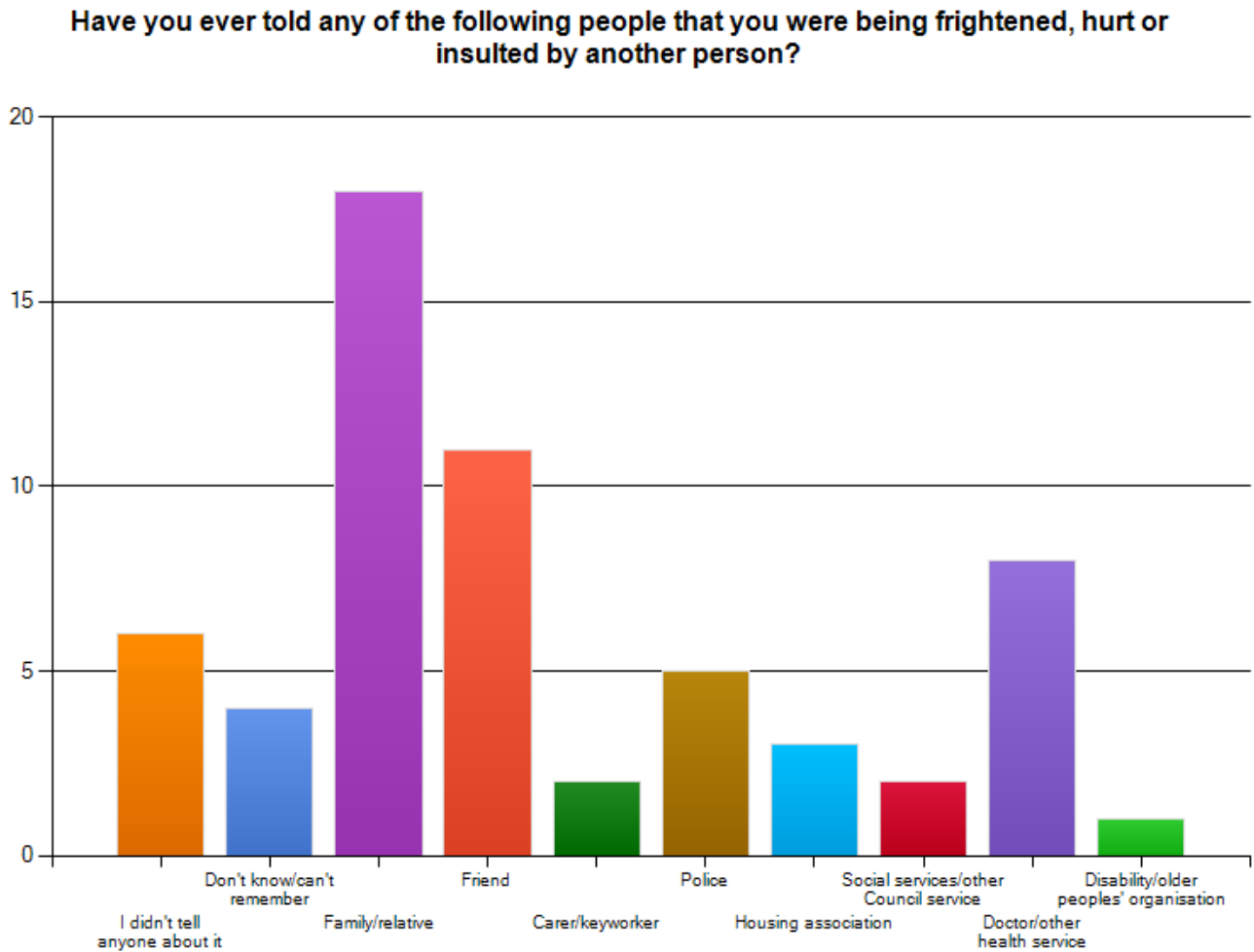
3. For many disabled and older people these are not isolated events. 12 people reported some form of abuse happening once or twice a month and 5 people reported incidents every week.



4. The majority of perpetrators were strangers, groups of strangers or neighbours. Worryingly 6 people said the perpetrators were professionals.



5. The majority of those affected tell family or friends about what happened, but few report incidents to the police.



6. What word or phrase best describes how you felt when you were frightened or hurt by another person?

Each of these statements were made by individuals:

- Worthless
- terrified
- upset
- scared
- worthless
- alone
- Disempowered
- calling the disabled person a spastic and laughing at him , he felt angry as he was unable to communicate with them and tell them to leave him alone, I think he felt very vulnerable
- Disempowered
- upset and disturbed
- very scared and abused
- worried
- helpless
- Worthless and terrified. Was in a domestic violence marriage and this brought on lots of flashbacks and stress which made disability worse.

- Flabbergasted and totally disbelieving that people could have such ignorance on disability.
- Ashamed and worthless also scared.
- Sick, angry, and scared
- humiliated
- upset, shocked and helpless
- Angry and Disgusted
- angry
- intimidated
- vulnerable
- terrified. by the fact that the very people i thought i could turn to were actually involved with a criminal element of society.
- hurt and sad
- vulnerable
- insignificant worthless
- Terrified
- very frightened and helpless

7. Additional Comments Made

- Police were not helpful
- There is a lack of consideration of my needs when I am out and about.
- Its good to know that the Police want us to report all incidents but they need to be seen to be doing something real and effective about it.
- Most often is the sly comments from youngsters on the street that frightens my residents and pouts them off going out. will not ne left alone know because of the silly comments that were actually quite harmful. not sure this would be worth reporting to the police as what could they do with a bit of name calling?
- I find it despicable and wrong
- Police were not as helpful as they could be. They blamed cps
- Reported to the Doctor about issues with other health care professionals and happy with the action the doctor has taken
- I have been occasionally intimidated by groups of youths deliberately not moving out of the way on the pavement when I walk towards them. Stepping off the kerb is hazardous for me as my balance is poor, so for the last 21 years I have made a point of NEVER taking the easy route and walking round them in the road. Depending on the situation, sometimes I have attempted to be friendly and engage them in some mild banter, but at others I have ploughed steadfastly on my way and so far (mercifully) they have always let me through. My gait attracts attention as walking is so difficult for me anyway, and this attracts catcalls and derision from some young people gathered together in numbers, but this I have to live with it -- it is unfortunate but harmless.
- Having a social worker, or a person i could trust would be a great help.
- I think police could be more helpful
- I think people who do these hate crimes should experience the disability themselves then they wouldnt do it.

- My impression is not one that would be adversely critical of society at large, although I believe that there many older people who do experience bullying tactics, especially when the perpetrators believe that they have 'soft options' before them. For me, as a 1½-legged-plus-stick ambulant, I find trhe people go out of their way to be polite, considerate and helpful. Doors are held for longer than usual; my person is skirted to allow free passage; things I drop are picked up for me to save my bending; supermarket trolleys are moved to one side by other shoppers to allow me to pass with my trolley (used as a zimmer-frame!)... There is no end to people's kindnesses - I am even helped to raise my leg over high steps. Where I am sure that bullying of the aged exists is in the regions of officialdom and beaurocracy, as well as in the small-time cowboy activity. In each of these areas it is thought that the aged are a push-over and can be manipulated, conned and easy-pickings. In my view, no undertaking should be charged in contract without the second proven signature of a friend or relative trusted and nominated by the aged person. I close with a (funny?) story. Some time ago I was pushing a friend around in a wheelchair in Milton Keynes Shopping Mall. I said to her: 'Just watch this!' I deliberately knocked lightly into the back of someone's legs. The individual turned round sharply, ready to make harsh verbal disgust, plus inconvenience and personal affliction, clearly understood. However, at the sight of the wheelchair, the attitude changed immediately and the individual apologised to us! In persuit of experiment I have replicated this situation many times, always with the same result. I was the con. man; but individuals all showed concern and understanding. It demonstrated, nevertheless, that people at heart are well-meaning and respectful. However, it reamins my lifelong view that in order to gain respect, one has to show respect. Older people must not hide behind their frailties; they must interact positively - with a smile!
- I would say it is very difficult to get anybody interested when you want to report anything.
- Need a system that empowers vulnerable people and a help line system that is not necessarily internet based but flexible and confidential
- I could not get across what happened to me n a believable way with any proper proof, so they were not prepared to take me seriously enough.
- Fortunately I have not had direct first hand experience of bullying/hate crime to either myself or any other person. However, I think that all steps should be taken to prevent such occurencies.
- Just a feeling of helplessness at times, at people's lack of understanding of what a disability is and how it can demoralise the person who feels inadequate.
- They are despicable.
- Glad that disability is now regarded as a hate crime
- I am aware that Poole Borough council are currently collecting info regarding these types of crime so that they may decide useful support and a simple reporting system.
- MY TOWN COUNCIL DO NOTHING FOR THE OLDER/LESS MOBILE BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE MY OIUTSPOKEN VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT
- After the incident with teenagers I walked on faster as I was afraid of them running after me and hurting me so I continued along the road where i fell over my White cane and sprand or

twisted my ankle which was in pain for weeks but i did not go to see the doctor as I thought there was nothing else he/she could do for me apart from what I did for myself at the time. When I fell over the gentleman around the corner from me came out and looked at the ankle but did not see anything broken so this kind wife took me back home around the corner and I then tried lots of cold things and painkillers to comfort the pain and ease the swelling. I felt unable to go out on my own for years and now I am learning to get independent again by going out with a Rehab Officer from Bournemouth Social Services and it is working well because I now have a long can wiht a ball on the end which gives me lots of confidence when out and about on my own and also when i am with somebody else.

- The initial response was very swift and thorough, however, the case file was passed on to another officer who I only spoke to on the phone. The initial momentum was lost and I felt that the second officer was not interested in the case and let it slip so that there was no positive outcome. I felt helpless and let down.
- The police responded very positively and took my concerns seriously.
- On a train once I was 'hassed', told the guard but was going off duty not interested so had to sit through it until my stop. It was over the sitting arrangements and priority disabled wheelchair space and sitting.
- I don't think disability hate crime is taken seriously. It is the same thing with everything else, benefits, care etc, disabled people are expected to put up and shut up.
- I think its more common than many people realise
- Very little is done

To join **Team AD100** please contact us at:

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