**Disability Consultation Focus Group - 28th April 2022**

A focus group took was hosted by Compass Advocacy Network with members of The Hub social/friendship club for young people aged between 12-18 years old with a learning disability, autism and/or mental health support needs.

The focus group took place on Thursday 28th April 2022 at from 5pm-6.30pm. In attendance was 17 young people and two support workers.

* 12 male and 7 females
* 1 individual was under 13 years old, 12 individuals aged between ages 13-17 years and 6 individuals aged 18
* 6 attendees said they had a disability. All have been referred to the hub due to individual needs.

**Disabilities included:** Autism, eating disorders, Epilepsy, Learning disabilities, ADHD and mental health such as anxiety.

**When asked do you know what a crime is?**

16 participants answered yes and 1 answered no

**When asked why the following examples where given:**

Robbery, Breaking windows, annoying neighbours, hit and run, assault and battery, murder, drug trafficking, graffiti (one commented only if it says something bad if it says something good, they did not think this was a crime)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **I think this is a crime** | **I think this is not a crime** | **I am unsure if this is a crime** |
| People calling someone names because of their disability | 15 answered yes | One person said no | One person was unsure if this is a crime |
| Taking money or possessions without asking | 15 answered yes |  | 2 thought it depended on how much the item was worth ie: small items it was not a crime |
| Hitting, Punching Hairpulling |  |  | Most were unsure with most agreeing it depends:  Depends on if they are from your friend  If they aren’t hard  Might be for Justice |
| Bullying | 6 said yes | 2 said no | 9 asked unsure |
| Online Trolling | 10 said yes | 7 said no | Comments included only if it is a hate crime |
| Blocking access to home/vehicle on purpose | 12 said yes |  | All Others didn’t respond |
| Graffiti | 13 said yes |  | One commented it depends if it says something nice or bad |
| Knocking doors/windows often and on purpose | 10 said yes | 7 said no | Comments: This might be harassment |

**When asked when they feel safe?**

* All 17 said they always feel safe with people they know well
* 15 said they always feel safe when in a crowd and strangers are present
* 9 said they always feel safe when playing online or on social media
* 13 said they always feel safe at school

**Comments about feeling safe and unsafe included:**

* Sometimes people can pretend to be your friend
* If you know someone is bad you feel unsafe
* I didn’t feel safe when I though drugs were close to my house
* If doors are open, I don’t feel safe
* Sometime phone calls can try and get your money
* I feel safe at school but not on the school bus
* I don’t feel safe if people are shouting
* I don’t always feel safe
* If people call me names
* People can pretend they are someone they are not
* I feel safe online because I am only playing the game.
* Among us (computer game) has a quick chat feature
* If someone follows where you went and you doing want them to you don’t feel safe
* If its dark I feel unsafe (Muggers)
* If there are fights
* I feel safe cause I know people
* I feel unsafe if I don’t know people. It is good to know everyone.
* Somethings I see on cartoons makes me feel unsafe. The Simpsons can be a bad influence.
* The duck pond is unsafe. (Riverside park, Ballymoney)

**When asked do you have someone you can always contact if you do not feel safe?**

14 people said yes (3 attendees had left the room at this stage and others didn’t respond)

Comments: The Police, The NHS, my teacher, my brother, family, my mum and dad, The hub leader was named.

**When asked do you know how to report crime?**

Call the police.

Phone 999.

One person said call 101

One person said call 911

**When asked what would help you report a crime?**

* Having someone to help
* If I knew the police
* Can you talk to the police about the cartoons being a bad influence.
* Scared not to be believed
* There is corruption
* A lot of time no one take serious enough the impact of things on people with learning disabilities
* Don’t send me to someone else
* It takes too long

What would help you feel safe in your home and community.

* If I know more people
* More lights
* More police
* House alarms
* More camera to catch people