



PEN PICTURE: I AM ME

I Am Me Scotland is a community charity that works in partnership with Police Scotland to raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime - one of the most under reported crimes in the UK.

Research indicates that many offenders of disability hate incidents are young people. We know that changing attitudes and behaviours is best achieved through empathy and peer learning. It is therefore essential to engage with young people from an early age to encourage acceptance of diversity and empower young people to know how to report concerns in a safe way that does not compromise their personal safety.

I Am Me Scotland has two key initiatives: **I Am Me** and **Keep Safe**.

I Am Me is a suite of resources developed in collaboration with young people and disabled people; this includes the award winning I Am Me film. The film focusses on a young adult who has a learning disability and autism and encourages the audience to acknowledge the effects that disability hate incidents can have on not only an individual, but also the wider community. The resources are designed for use in schools, businesses and communities and are available to download from www.iammescotland.co.uk

Keep Safe is an award winning initiative which was developed in partnership with Police Scotland. The initiative works with local businesses to create a network of 'safer' places for anyone feeling lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. Keep Safe cards are available which details information about the card holder, including any health concerns, communication requirements and who to contact in the event of an emergency. If someone requires assistance, they can enter a Keep Safe place where staff are trained how to assist.

I Am Me Scotland is committed to working with young people to design resources and to discuss new innovative and engaging ways to work. As a result, a Keep Safe Ambassador programme has now been developed, based around a training event delivered by I Am Me and Police Scotland, which trains young people how to recognise and report incidents to the Police.

A new Cine-Bus has recently been converted to enable the charity to deliver training and awareness sessions directly to schools, groups and harder to reach communities. The bus is a mobile cinema unit which doubles as a classroom for delivering lessons and training days.

Children and young people have received the project with enthusiasm and feedback has evidenced that 99% of respondents have enjoyed I Am Me and the sessions have raised their awareness of disability and disability hate crime.

<http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/>