Community Partnership Award.

Merseyside Police, St. Vincent's School for Sensory Impairment and Liverpool Hope University

Significant research indicates low participation rates in community activities from amongst visually impaired (VI) young people. In 2017 SCOPE research highlighted two thirds of VI people felt moderately or severely cut off from society whilst simultaneously, two thirds of the public felt uncomfortable when talking to people with disabilities. VI young people (and adults) can be vulnerable and subjected to bullying. There is a need for inclusive practices and community partnerships (UN SDG 17 'partnerships for the goals') to address this position across age ranges and diverse communities.

A Community partnership between Merseyside Police, St. Vincent's school for sensory impairment and Liverpool Hope University is evidenced through the generation of a comic during the Hate Crime week in 2018. The comic frames a significant amount of teaching and learning opportunities supported by Merseyside Police and student teachers which can be delivered at school level using the comic as the medium. This project is developing further with other comics highlighted and featuring community cohesion as attached to the UN SDGS storylines and those 'difficult to have' conversations moving forwards into 2020

The comics have been shared with learning networks for inclusion in Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural Lessons (Citizenship) and are adaptable for different school communities via a surround curriculum and shared online at www.stvin.com .

As a concept, the comics have been shared with student teachers at Liverpool Hope University to use as part of their pre service teaching and learning experience during teaching practice. Placing VI pupils as part of the community through this medium sets the scene for wider inclusive practices breaking down barriers faced by visually impaired young people.