

Keeping it safe at DIAL West Cheshire

The disability charity DIAL West Cheshire recently held a crime prevention drop-in morning at their Shopmobility Centre based in Kaleyard's car park, off Frodsham Street in Chester city centre. The charity provides a range of services for disabled people, including daily hire of mobility scooters and wheelchairs as well as the sale, servicing and repair of mobility equipment and independent living aids. Working together with Cheshire Constabulary, the event provided the opportunity to 'security mark' equipment such as mobility scooters, wheelchairs and walking frames, as well as offer advice about crime prevention.

PCSO Paul Downey at Chester Inner LPU was present on the day and security tagged over 25 mobility scooters, powered wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs.

Paul said:

"We were delighted to be able to offer information and advice on the day about securing DIAL West Cheshire's mobility scooters and equipment and also had some of their regular visitors who brought in their own mobility aids."

John Bowden, DIAL Shopmobility Supervisor said:

"Although we haven't had any major issues with thefts, we have been alerted on a couple of occasions about concerns from our customers and we felt this was an excellent opportunity to help protect our own fleet of mobility equipment as well as equipment owned by disabled people in the local community. On behalf of everyone at DIAL West Cheshire we would like to thank Paul for his time"

The charity is also working with the police to help raise awareness of 'Hate Crime'. The DIAL House Disability Rights Centre in Hamilton Place is a Hate Crime Reporting Centre. A Hate Crime is an offence committed against a person or property which is motivated by hostility or prejudice because the victim is seen as being different (eg disabled). It is believed Disability Hate Crime is under reported in Cheshire and DIAL are encouraging disabled people who have been the victim of a hate incident, or who would like further information, to contact the police directly or alternatively approach the charity's friendly staff and volunteers in the strictest of confidence. Please call 01244 345655 or email contactus@dialwestcheshire.org.uk .

DIAL West Cheshire staff and volunteers Phil Edge, Jenny Brown and John Bowden with Shopmobility customer Evelyn Morris and PCSO Paul Downey.
