

**HATE CRIME - PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND 3RD PARTY REPORTING CENTRES**

*To:* **Communities and Partnership Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **18th October 2018**

*From:* **Robert Hill, Assistant Director Community Safety-  
Detective Inspector Robin Hall, Hate Crime Lead,  
Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **Not applicable**      *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To provide an overview of Hate Crime, to update on the current partnership arrangements and to seek support for a review of 3rd party reporting centres**

*Recommendation:*

- a) To note recorded hate crime levels and the potential for future rises**
- b) To endorse the partnership approach to further strengthen our response to hate crimes.**
- c) To support the proposal for a review of 3rd party reporting centres, to include the identification of a working group to take this forward.**

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

**1.1** Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity

This can be committed against a person or property.

A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime

**1.2** In 2016/17 nationally, there were 80,393 offences recorded by the police in which one or more hate crime strands were deemed to be a motivating factor. This was an increase of 29 per cent compared 2015/16, the largest percentage increase seen since the series began in 2011/12.

**1.3** The increase is thought to reflect both a genuine rise in hate crime around the time of the European Union (EU) referendum and also due to ongoing improvements in crime recording by the police. The Office for National Statistics have stated that increases in recent years in police recorded violence against the person and public order offences have been driven by improvements in police recording. Around nine in ten hate crime offences recorded by the police are in these two offence groups.

**1.4** Cambridgeshire has reflected national trends, though over the last year we are seeing an overall reduction in the amount of recorded crime, likely owing to a reduction in terrorism activity and less focus on migration:

MONTH	HATE CRIME	
	2017/18	2018/19
APR	91	92
MAY	118	100
JUN	131	76
JUL	105	92
AUG	104	83

SEP	92	
OCT	127	
NOV	69	
DEC	86	
JAN	81	
FEB	70	
MAR	68	

- 1.5** The HMIC has warned of a “real possibility” that Britain’s exit from the European Union next year will see a rise in hate crimes and partnership activity is being focused on measures to counter this.

## **2.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

- 2.1** In 2016 the Home Office launched the Hate Crime Action Plan. This identified 5 key areas and called upon the police and partners to focus activity on these:

- Preventing hate crime
- Responding to hate crime in our communities
- **Increase the reporting of hate crime**
- Improving the support for victims of hate crime
- Building and understanding of hate crime

- 2.2** Cambridgeshire Constabulary conducted a legitimacy review and made a number of recommendations to seek to ensure effective service delivery to victims and to build upon the partnership response.

- 2.3** The Hate Crime Strategic Group, chaired by the Detective Superintendent strategic lead for hate crime, convened in May and is now attended by a range of partners including lead officers from the County Council.

- 2.4** The Hate Crime Tactical lead, a Detective Inspector, chairs the Tactical Hate Crime meeting and monitors countywide activity against the Home Office Hate Crime Action Plan in the five key areas outlined above.

- 2.5** A Police Hate Crime Coordinator works with partners on all five areas of the Home Office Action Plan whilst also reviewing all hate crimes reported in the last seven days

to identify and risk or vulnerability. The coordinator ties in with council officers and the 6 community safety partnerships to help drive joined up activity.

- 2.6** A recent addition has been the Hate Crime External Scrutiny Group comprising volunteers from the local community, largely representatives of groups from protected characteristics, who review an anonymised number of hate crime investigations, along with the Hate Crime Tactical Lead and Hate Crime Coordinator, on a quarterly basis. The group examines the investigative journey of a crime making recommendations, providing feedback and acts as an advisory group around what a good victim service should look like. As a result of the feedback the role of a dedicated Hate Crime Champion PCSO has been formalised and will be in place on both North and South of the county.
- 2.7** Ongoing and daily contact takes place between a range of key partners. Each victim of a reported hate crime is referred to the Victim's Hub to ensure victim's needs are fully met. Regular contact between officers and partners and the Victim's Hub mean that when immediate action needs to be taken, the network is in place. Such an example took place in the last month where a victim was re-housed at short notice thanks to close working between Constabulary and Council Housing teams.
- 2.8** Cambridgeshire County Council now has a nominated head of community resilience and integration who oversees a team of community connectors whose role is to work in support of all community groups to improve cohesion. This is further enhanced by the Assistant Director for Community Safety who takes a lead role in setting strategic partnership direction.
- 2.9** Despite these improved processes, it is recognised that more needs to be done to increase victim confidence and to encourage reporting.

### **3.0 Building Confidence / Reporting Centres**

- 3.1** Hate crime victims are more likely to suffer repeat victimisation, more likely to suffer serious psychological impacts as a result, and less likely than the victims of other crime to be satisfied with the police response.
- 3.2** It is believed that some victims will not seek to confide in the Police owing to a lack of trust / confidence, particularly those from migrant communities. This is often based on personal experiences from their native country where law enforcement agencies may be viewed as corrupt or dismissive.
- 3.3** The home office action plan calls for us to work to increase reporting of hate crime. To achieve this we need to look again at how we engage publicly with vulnerable groups

and victims. This includes looking at where the public can engage with other authorities to seek help, independently from the Police.

**3.4** In 2016, a number of 3rd party reporting centres were set up on non-police premises around the county. However, there was not a co-ordinated response to this and as such they have proven largely unsuccessful. Part of this issue is down to a lack of publication and confusion owing to the high number of locations and lack of training / support given to staff.

**3.5** At present, the following 3rd party reporting centres are in operation:

**Fenland- 22**

**-Wisbech**

- Centre 33 - Young Carers Group
- Citizens Advice
- Job Centre Plus, Wisbech
- FDC One Stop Shop (Wisbech@yourservice shop)
- The Ferry Project
- New Vision Fitness Centre (The Hudson)
- Oasis Centre
- ROSMINI centre
- Town Council
- Fenland Volunteer Centre \*
- March
- Eddies
- FDC Fenland Hall
- FDC One Stop Shop (March@your service shop)
- New Vision Fitness Centre
- Young People March
- Circle Housing\*
- Library (stay safe not TPRC)

\* Not reporting centres per se, but do act as Hate Crime champions

**-Whittlesey**

- Community Hub
- New Vision Fitness Centre (The Manor)
- Town Council

**-Chatteris**

- Chatteris Community Hub

**Huntingdon - Nil**

**South Cambs - Nil**

**East Cambs- Nil**

## **Cambs City - Nil**

### **Peterborough - 6**

- Bayard Place
- Citizens Advice Peterborough
- Cross Keys Housing
- Hyde Housing Group
- PARCA
- PCVS (Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service)

**3.6** A review of Third Party Reporting Centres shows a need to rethink locations and training. To date, not one referral has been passed onto the partnership and it is felt that inconsistent coverage / training and messaging is leading to poor uptake from victims. It is recommended that fewer, but better equipped centres would lead to significant improvement-

### **3.7 Proposal**

- Cambridgeshire County Council takes the lead on identifying one location per operating area, identifying staff to be trained and publicising the new venues.
- The Police Hate Crime Coordinator oversees training of staff and ensure a framework is in place to capture the returns from each venue, allowing their effectiveness to be monitored.
- A small working group is convened to lead this activity and help oversee communications with partners (including district councils)

## **4.0 Implications**

### **4.1 Equality and Diversity Implications**

Evidence indicates that some communities feel isolated and uncertain regarding where to obtain support. Multiple authorities / partners can lead to confusion and a lack of clarity. The County Council can positively influence this by leading work to redefine 3rd party centres and simplify access to service support.

### **4.2 Engagement and Communications Implications**

- We need to carefully manage communications with existing centres and organisations to explain the need for change
- We need to identify the most effective locations to meet the needs of the entire County

- We need to identify and train appropriate officers to support this initiative
- We need to coordinate partnerships to join up messaging and update how all organisations signpost 3rd party support

#### 4.3 Public Health Implications

Improved reporting / accessibility to services is likely to have a positive effect on victims mental well being and safety.

#### 4.4 Financial Implications

Specific locations are yet to be determined, though these will be existing facilities and no financial implications are anticipated. Staff training will be provided by the Police Hate Crime officers at no cost to the County Council.

#### 4.5 Local Member Involvement

The role of Members is key to promoting the new centres and in managing conversations with partners. If supported, a briefing paper will be circulated to County Councillors identifying the new reporting centres and seeking help to implement and promote.

### 5. Other Information

The hate crime partnership is holding a 'Celebration of Cohesion' event on 19<sup>th</sup> October to mark the end of Hate Crime Awareness week. This will be an event with traditional music, dancing, market stalls and talks. This is supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and lead officers, and the invite is extended to members who may wish to attend.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial officer : <b>Martin Wade</b>



<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Officer : <b>Paul White</b>
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Legal Officer: <b>Salma Kantharia/Tolani Baci</b>
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: <b>Adrian Chapman</b>
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer : <b>Vanessa Bismuth</b>
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: <b>Adrian Chapman</b>
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer : <b>Tess Campbell</b>

## Source Documents

## Location

Home Office: Hate Crime, England and Wales 2016 - 2017

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf)

Home Office: Action Against Hate, The  
UK Government plan to tackle hate crime

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/  
system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543679/Action\\_Against  
Hate -  
UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)