

INFORMATION NOTE

HATE CRIME STRATEGY

1. The purpose of this report is to update members regarding the recently agreed Hate Crime Strategy.
2. Hate crimes and incidents are taken to mean “any crime or incident where the perpetrator’s hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised”
3. A hate incident refers to “any non-crime incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on or perception of ‘race’, religion, sexual orientation, disability or whether a person is or is perceived to be transgender. A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on or perception of a person’s ‘race’, religion, sexual orientation, disability or whether a person is or is perceived to be transgender”.
4. Hate Crime across the County varies according to each District but it is evident that reported Hate Crime in Fylde is relatively low in comparison to other Districts, however, the rate of increase is significantly high. In the campaigning leading to the referendum on ‘Brexit and since then, there has been a significant increase in racial and religious hate crime.
5. Lancashire has now established a multi-agency Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group which is scheduled to meet on alternate months. Each District Authority has a representative on this group which also consists of several agencies who have direct involvement in hate crime. The meeting is chaired and coordinated by the Lancashire Constabulary.
6. Chief Executives across Lancashire have approved the ‘Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020’ and accompanying this is the ‘Hate Crime Delivery Plan 2017-18’ which will be refreshed annually. (Appendix 1 and 2).
7. Each District has now agreed the two documents and the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group has asked that each Authority nominates the Community Safety Partnership to compile and deliver a local action plan which could combine the three Districts of Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster into the one plan and arrangements are underway.
8. The key to success is to have a partnership approach of which the Council will play a vital part. Fylde Council can evidence how they are delivering ‘Equality and Diversity’ training to officers and ‘on line’ ipool training modules. The Council also have a statutory responsibility under Equality Law which places a general public sector duty on the authority to have regard to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct
 - Advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good relations between defined groups (Equality Act, 2010)
9. Fylde Council have clear policies in regard to both safeguarding procedures for both children and adults and the raising of awareness of the Government ‘Prevent’ strategy has distinct links to Hate Crime.
10. The Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner recently coordinated a Hate Crime Awareness week across Lancashire and a further campaign is scheduled for February 2018. The Hate Crime and Cohesion Group would like to encourage Elected Members to sign up to the campaign and pledge their support alongside Chief Executives and other individuals.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

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