

## **Update on the Hate Crime Strategy for York 2017 - 19**

### **Summary**

1. This report provides an update on the delivery of the current hate crime strategy for York, and provides an outline of the planned work for delivery of a new hate crime strategy for 2017-19.

### **Background**

2. Embracing Diversity: A Hate Crime Strategy for York was approved by the Safer York Partnership Board in 2013 and finishes at the end of 2016. The strategy set out the evidence on which the current strategic aims and priorities were based and provided a plan for how Safer York Partnership (SYP) and its partners could make a meaningful contribution toward building safer and stronger communities.
3. An update on the delivery of the current strategy was presented to this Policy & Scrutiny Committee in March 2016, detailing the work that had been undertaken – see update information at Annex 1.

### **Consultation**

4. Tackling hate crime requires the input and expertise of a range of statutory bodies and voluntary sector organisations. These include North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, the local Universities and Further Education Colleges, as well as voluntary partners such as York Racial Equality Network, Yorkshire MESMAC, York People First, Supporting Victims and the Citizens Advice Bureau.
5. Throughout the period of the 2013-16 Strategy, consultation has been continuous to ensure that:

- The strategy has remained fit for purpose;
  - Specialist expertise has been sought in multi agency problem solving
  - The models of delivery have reflected organisational changes.
6. Looking ahead, prior to the introduction of the new strategy consultation will be carried out with all of the relevant statutory and voluntary agencies.

### **Role of the Community Safety Unit**

7. At the time of writing the current strategy, the community safety team included a full time fixed term funded post of Hate Crime and Prevent Coordinator. However, the post was deleted from the structure following the end of the fixed term funding from the Home Office and a review of the service in 2014.
8. The review led to the establishment of a joint Community Safety Unit staffed by City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police Officers. The introduction of Police Officers into the Community Safety Unit, coupled with the establishment of Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers, increased resources to tackle issues across the city and enabled the Unit to operate more effectively and quickly, for example Police Officers review all anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents across the city on a daily basis.
9. In relation to hate crime, this has provided a much more robust delivery model as responsibility is shared across the whole community safety team and no longer rests with one individual. The focus of the Unit is on risk and vulnerability and is very much a victim centred approach to problem solving. It has also ensured the delivery of a better quality of service to those who report hate crimes, as a result of more robust processes. For example, hate crime incidents are dealt with as part of the vulnerable risk assessment process with daily analysis of incidents reported to both City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police. This ensures that those incidents are either dealt with by the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams or where risk and vulnerability is high, can be managed through the Community Safety Unit.
10. A case management / information sharing system and weekly multi-agency problem solving (MAPS) meetings have also been introduced. Cases are logged on the E-CINS case management system. Hate crime incidents are brought to the MAPS meetings and actions assigned to a range of partners including the Police, schools, and social care teams to

ensure they are tracked and reviewed and information is shared in relation to each case.

11. Examples of cases dealt with through the Community Safety Unit:

- *Ms A reported disability discrimination in relation to her daughter who has learning difficulties. This was taking place at a youth club. This case is being reviewed through the weekly meetings with support to the victim being delivered through the police safer neighbourhood team*
- *It was reported that inflammatory comments had been posted on right wing social media sites involving a school in York. This was dealt with through a combination of requesting Facebook to remove the comments and a package of support to the head teacher, staff and parents of pupils. Additional reassurance patrols were provided by the police safer neighbourhood team at start and end of school day.*
- *A report was received by the unit relating to a homophobic incident involving residents in a privately rented and a council property. Support has been provided to the victim through the Community Safety Unit and a criminal trial is to take place.*
- *A report of disability discrimination was received by the unit in relation to the victim's mental health. Following discussion at MAPS, Together Pathways (Mental health provision working within the community safety unit) are working with the victim to prepare for some mediation with the perpetrator.*

### **Looking Forward to New Hate Crime Strategy for 2017-19**

12. The actions contained within the current strategy have all been delivered and work is now underway to review that strategy, taking into account recommendations made in the North Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Problem Profile Refresh 2015<sup>1</sup> and the structural changes which have taken place within North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council. This coincides with the refresh of the Community Safety Plan and consideration will be given to incorporating the new Hate Crime Strategy for 2016-19 into that document, to reflect the links between hate crime and other areas of the community safety agenda rather than as a separate strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> A protected document not for circulation

13. The new strategy will need to reflect and build upon the improvements for victims across the city detailed in paragraphs 8-10 above. It will also need to reflect the Community Safety Unit's close working with North Yorkshire Police (NYP) in this area, through inclusion of the recommendations within NYP's Hate Crime Problem Profile refresh which they undertook during 2015. This will ensure that victims get a consistent standard of response irrespective of who they report their concerns to.
14. The new strategy needs to be launched in April 2017, to tie in with the new Community Safety Strategy. It will need to reflect the increasing need for all of the organisations to be victim focussed, taking into account vulnerabilities and risk factors in individual cases. The suggested timeline for its introduction is detailed below:

Stage	Date
Hate Crime Strategy Scrutiny Review Task Group Meeting – to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What , if any, changes are required to the strategic aims and objectives</li> <li>• The recommendations within NYP's Hate Crime Problem Profile 2015 Refresh</li> <li>• How to improve the delivery for victims, based on Cllrs knowledge of complaints from their local communities.</li> </ul>	29 November 2016
Task Group Meeting to consider Draft Strategy Document	Mid Dec 2016
Consultation with the public & interested partners	Jan - Feb 2017
Meeting of Task Group to consider Consultation Feedback	End of Feb/Early March 2017
SYP Board to agree draft Strategy	March 2017
Executive Member approval	April 2017

## Council Plan

15. The Hate Crime Strategy relates to the following priorities within the Council Plan:
- A focus on frontline services
  - A council that listens to residents

## Implications & Risk Management

16. **Equalities** – The Hate Crime Strategy fits within the Council’s equalities framework
17. **Crime and Disorder** - The Hate Crime Strategy fits within the remit of the Community Safety Team and is a priority within the Community Safety Plan 2017 -19.
18. There are no financial, HR, Legal, IT, Property or other associated implications.
19. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

## Recommendations

20. Members are asked to consider the content of this report and note both the progress in delivery of the previous strategy and the timescales for the new refreshed document.

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**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** N/A

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Background Papers:

### Annexes:

**Annex A** – Update on Embracing Diversity: A Hate Crime Strategy for York