

Report on Hate Crime Strategy for York 2017 - 19

Summary

1. This report provides information in support of this Hate Crime Strategy Scrutiny Review together with 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 – see Annex A. 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's action plan was presented to the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee in March 2016. This was followed by a further update at the last meeting of the Committee in November 2016 (see Annex B) together with an overview of the role of the Community Safety Unit.
4. As a result of the information provided, the Committee agreed the remit of this review should be to:
 - i. To identify what if any changes are required to the strategic aims and objectives, taking account of the recommendations within NYP's Hate Crime Problem Profile 2015 Refresh and other evidence
 - ii. To identify how to improve the delivery for victims based on Cllrs knowledge of complaints from their local communities.
 - iii. Consider how best to educate and influence children and young people across the city to reduce hate crime in the future.

Consultation

5. Tackling hate crime is a priority for a wide range of council services such as Children's Services, Adult Safeguarding and Housing. It also relies on 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.
6. 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.
7. Prior to the introduction of the new strategy, consultation will be carried out with all of the relevant statutory and voluntary agencies as detailed in the table at paragraph 12 below.

Information Gathered

8. i) Changes Required to Current Aims & Priorities
In considering whether the current aims and priorities are still appropriate for inclusion in the new strategy for 2017-19, the Task Group will need to consider the available evidence. Attached at Annex C is the latest statistics from the Community Safety Unit. The Task Group will also need to take account of the recommendations made in the North Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Problem Profile Refresh 2015¹ and the structural changes which have taken place within North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council.
9. Furthermore, in order to better reflect the links between hate crime and other areas of the community safety agenda, consideration should be given to whether the new Hate Crime Strategy for 2017-19 should be incorporated into the council's refreshed Community Safety Plan rather than it being a separate strategy.

¹ This is a protected document provided by NYP and not for general circulation. Hard Copies will be provided at the meeting for Members to view.

10. ii) Improvements for Victims

The new strategy will need to reflect and build upon the improvements for victims across the city detailed in the update report to Scrutiny in November 2016. 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. In order to inform this review, the Task Group will be asked to share their local knowledge of complaints from their local communities at this meeting.

11. iii) Reducing Future Hate Crime through Education

At the meeting held in November 2016, the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee expressed an interest in investigating how schools might be encouraged to work with children and young people to inform their consideration of the effects of hate crime and encourage more tolerance and understanding within the city's future population. The Community Safety Unit has been looking at whether this may be achievable through conversations with officers in Education and will report back at this meeting.

Timeframe for Scrutiny Review & New Strategy

12. 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">• What, if any, changes are required to the strategic aims and objectives.• The recommendations within NYP's Hate Crime Problem Profile 2015 Refresh.• How to improve the delivery for victims, based on Cllrs knowledge of complaints from their local communities.	7 December 2016

Task Group Meeting to consider Draft Strategy Document	Early Jan 2017
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

13. 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

14. **Equalities** – The Hate Crime Strategy fits within the Council’s equalities framework
15. **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.
16. There are no financial, HR, Legal, IT, Property or other associated implications.
17. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to:
- Consider the content of this report and its annexes
 - Note the timeframe for producing the new 2017-19 Hate Crime Strategy
 - Provide Feedback to inform the three objectives identified as the remit for this review, as shown at paragraph 4 above, and the ongoing work to renew the Strategy.

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Report Approved



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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 – Embracing Diversity: A Hate Crime Strategy for York

Annex B – Latest Update on Current Strategy

Annex C – Hate Crime Statistics