

Hate Crime Update
Corporate Performance Board
23 November 2015

Overview:

August 2014 saw the reforming of the Hate Crime Working Group (HCWG) within North Yorkshire Police (NYP). This was due to recognition that a lot of the good work, progressed by the group previously, had plateaued and there was a need to reinvigorate a number of work streams to ensure a quality service to victims of hate crime.

In May 2015 the HCWG formulated two action plans:

The Hate Crime Support and Provision Action Plan

The four Key aims of this plan are as follows:

- To enhance the confidence of victims of hate crime/incidents to seek support from relevant agencies.
- To ensure that there are suitable gateways for victims of hate crime/incidents to seek support from relevant agencies.
- To ensure that relevant agencies have the required training and skills to be able to deal appropriately with any reported hate crime/incidents.
- To ensure the correct recording of hate crime/incidents.

The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Development Plan

The four Key aims of this plan are as follows:

- To enable NYP to seek community views on policing matters.
- To enable the community to raise community issues to NYP.
- To assist in the dissemination of information to communities.
- To advise and inform NYP on its continuing development to meet community needs.

In addition to the above, two pieces of research have been carried out reporting in the summer of 2015:

EDHR Review – commissioned by DCC Tim Madgwick

This review made twenty three recommendations. A number of these were outside of the hate crime field, but those that are relevant have either added to or reinforced the above action plans.

Understanding Hate Crime in North Yorkshire and the City of York – commissioned by PCC Julia Mulligan

This research made fourteen recommendations. These are currently being reviewed to determine ownership, but as with the EDHR review there are a number that will no doubt either add to or reinforce the HCWG action plans.

Progress to Date:

- The HCWG has expanded its membership to include representation from the OPCC, IAGs and NYCC Community Cohesion teams.
- The HCWG continues to meet bi-monthly to drive the action plans.
- The HCWG reports into the EDHR Board chaired by DCC Madgwick.
- A review of hate crime reporting gateways, such as Third Party Reporting Centres, is under way. This will report in December 2015.
- A review of the structure and how IAGs are utilised is under way. This will report early 2016.
- The 'Safe Places' scheme is being rolled out across North Yorkshire and the City of York. Phase 1 is a soft roll out, which commenced in September 2015, to test the call centre and safe places venues. Phase 2 will look to introduce commercial venues with a full launch planned for early 2016.
- The 'Hidden in Plain Sight' action plan (looking at Disability Hate Crime) has been revisited and a review against current NYP processes is being conducted by Chief Inspector Bowles in the Force Control Room. This review will report back in January 2016.
- The continuing review of the Stop Hate UK Helpline.
- A Hate Crime Communication Strategy has been formulated.
- Key messages at this time are around the introduction of the Stop Hate UK Helpline and Supporting Victims.
- Work is ongoing with regards updating NYPs website and subsequent links to hate crime information.
- A number of training and awareness events have taken place e.g. Disability Hate Crime event in York October '15 and Hate Crime Awareness Week events across the County October '15.

A key indicator as to the progress being made to better support victims of hate crime is the number of reports made to the police. As of the 1st November 2015 this financial year has seen around a 25% increase in reports of hate crime to NYP compared to the same period for the last 4 years. This equates to 30 to 40 more crimes reported. Although numbers still remain small this is a positive trend that now needs to be built on.

Chief Inspector Nick Hunter

North Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Lead