



Article of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing

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SUBJECT: THE LANCASHIRE HATE CRIME STRATEGY 2017-2020

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

- 1.1 To advise Members that the Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020 has been approved by the Lancashire Public Service Board (formerly the Lancashire Chief Executives Public Sector Group).
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2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The general aims of the Public Sector's Equality Duty, which WLBC has responsibilities under, include a reference to Hate Crime. In addition, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent duty), has placed additional responsibilities on the Council relating to crimes and incidents based on hate.
- 2.2 The Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed the following definitions. A Hate Crime is defined as "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". Similarly a Hate Incident refers to "any non-crime incident which is perceived ... (as previous).
- 2.3 A further general definition, included in the Strategy, is as follows "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".
- 2.4 The Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group is a group which consists of a wide variety of organisations that have responsibilities in relation to, or are affected by/interested in Hate Crime. The group meets quarterly and has

been producing a strategy to cover 2017-2020. At the October meeting of the Public Service Board (which has overall responsibility for Community Safety across Lancashire) the strategy was approved. The approved document is contained at Appendix 1.

3.0 ISSUES FOR WEST LANCASHIRE

- 3.1 The reported number of Hate crimes/Incidents across Lancashire is relatively low and indeed is very low for West Lancashire. However, one of the key pieces of work ongoing and highlighted in the strategy is to increase the reporting of issues motivated by hate. There can be barriers (cultural, historic etc) which prevent victims raising an issue, often there is a lack of awareness that anything can be done. As such, organisations which have people's trust are ideally placed to recognise issues and refer them. The Community Safety team are actively engaged in assisting organisations become "third party reporting" centres. This is where an organisation, which has direct links to a community or localised area, is able to receive and appropriately refer issues to the police. This assists in ensuring victims can access support and hopefully means that perpetrators receive the relevant attention. Having originally had no such reporting centres, after encouragement from the team, Edge Hill University have recently become one, for their students and it is hoped that through the WLCVS, a number of other organisations will follow suite.
- 3.2 The other strands of the action plan relate to preventing hate crime, responding to hate crime in our communities, improving support for the victims of hate crime and building our understanding of hate crime. Within these strands there is work planned in relation to, for example, schools, public transport, taxis and the criminal justice system.
- 3.3 The Council's Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager attends the Lancashire group and will liaise with other managers where appropriate in relation to other opportunities to assist in the delivery of the action plan both in West Lancashire and across Lancashire. Hate crimes/incidents are regularly discussed and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and within the CSP's officer groups, to ensure any incidents and issues arising are identified and reviewed.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategy includes work which should reduce incidents and crimes associated with hate and also reduce the fear of crime.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council in relation to this consultation.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The approval of the strategy by the PSB does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020 (including delivery plan).