



Report to Safer & Stronger Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

13th February 2020

Report of: **Maxine Stavrianakos, Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support Service.**

Subject: **Hate Crime**

Author of Report: **Maxine Stavrianakos, Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support Service.**

Summary:

The report will update Members of the Committee on work carried out by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in relation to Hate Crime in Sheffield.

The report will provide detail of the work carried out by the Community Safety Partnership to address Hate Crime in the City in particular concentrating on:

- The work of the Partnership Hate Crime Coordinator for Sheffield
- The Establishment of a Hate Crime Priority Group answering to the Community Safety Partnership.
- South Yorkshire Police Update and Hate Aggravated Offence Data

In addition the report will provide Members of the Committee with details and statistics relating to Hate Crime figures recorded in Sheffield and South Yorkshire overall.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report for information.

Background Papers.

The report refers to information gained from:

- Police Data covering the National Picture and Sheffield
- Stop Hate UK Data covering Quarter 2 in Sheffield
- Crime Survey for England and Wales / Office for National Statistics.

Category of Report: OPEN (please specify)

Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support Service

Hate Crime

1. Introduction/Context

1.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee set up a cross-party group to review hate crime and hate incidents occurring in Sheffield. The group agreed to concentrate efforts on: To understand the different ways hate crime is reported in Sheffield and to increase awareness of Hate Crime in Sheffield.

1.2 This report will provide members with an update on what is currently being carried out via partnership working to address hate crime and hate incidents in Sheffield. The report provides members with an overview of the current national picture in relation to Hate Crime and an overview of Hate Crime reported in Sheffield.

2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc.

2.1 The main body of the report will cover the following areas:

- Community Safety Partnership Hate Crime Coordinators Update
- Hate Crime Reporting – National Update / Sheffield Update
- Community Safety Partnership - Hate Crime Priority Group Update

2.2 Community Safety Partnership - Hate Crime Coordinator

The Partnership Hate Crime Coordinator is now in post and has access to both South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Councils Computer Systems. On a daily basis both of these systems are interrogated by the coordinator in order to identify the following:

- Any trends in hate crime reported in the previous 24hrs in Sheffield
- To identify any emerging community tensions within Sheffield that is Hate Crime Motivated.
- To identify repeat victims, locations or suspects relating to Hate Crime within Sheffield.

- To have an awareness of Hate Crime issues throughout South Yorkshire

In addition to daily monitoring of Hate Crime in Sheffield the Hate Crime Coordinator is tasked with producing weekly and monthly written reports. These reports are vital in determining how best to utilise resources and address current issues in a timely and appropriate manner.

One of the main objectives of the Hate Crime Coordinator has been to raise awareness and to develop a better understanding of Hate Crime and how it affects our communities here in Sheffield.

To date this year the coordinator has organised and carried out over fifty hate crime initiatives in Sheffield with various organisations. These events have been in the way of hate training sessions to professionals, hate awareness raising events and attendance in school assemblies to educate students how hate crime is committed and the effects of hate on victims, families and Communities.

The coordinator has been influential in creating and developing the Hate Crime Priority Group during 2019.

Ongoing Work

Sheffield Hate Crime Community Reporting Centre's

During 2020 the partnership coordinator will ascertain the current position of all centres and ensure that those that are still in place have the correct support and appropriate Hate Crime Training to ensure all reports are correctly recorded and investigated appropriately.

South Yorkshire Police are currently reviewing their internal processes in relation to Hate Crime and Hate Crime Incidents that are directly reported to them. The police hate crime working group are keen to ensure that a quick, timely and adequate response to all Hate Crime is implemented to ensure victims are seen rapidly following an incident.

The coordinator is commencing work with partners in developing Sheffield Safer Places Scheme. This scheme will identify specific locations throughout Sheffield where those who are vulnerable are more likely to attend and openly discuss Hate Incidents. The plan is for this to be in place by October 2020.

2.3 Hate Crime Reporting / Methods of Reporting

- 2.3.1 Sheffield Community Safety Partnership has provided funding to Stop Hate UK to provide the hate crime reporting line in Sheffield during 2019 (0800 158 1625).

In summary the Helpline during quarter two and three of 2019/20 have received a total of 31 contacts in Sheffield. Six of those contacts have reported Hate Crimes where the motivations were **Disability, Gender identity, Race, Sexual Orientation and Other** aspects of personal

identity. The callers reported being subjected to **Verbal Abuse and Threatening Behaviour**. Average length of call being 10 mins.

This year over 64% of contacts have been made into the helpline outside during normal working hours. The number of reports made to Stop Hate UK since being commissioned in 2017 has steadily increased.

The recommendation going forward would be to continue the funding to Stop Hate UK. The rationale to continue the funding is that not all crimes/incidents of Hate are reported directly to the police by those affected. Therefore, this data will capture numerical information that may not be reported via the police. Therefore, a comparison of reported Hate Crime over a specific period of time can be undertaken.

2.3.2 **National Hate Crime Reporting – The Bigger Picture**

The most recent Home Office release of Hate Crime in England and Wales (2018/19)¹ shows a continued increase in the number of hate crimes recorded by police in comparison to previous years.

In 2018/19, there were over 100,000 hate crimes recorded in England and Wales, showing a +10% increase on the previous year (approximately 94,000 offences). Year on year increases in hate crimes recorded have been observed, and figures have more than doubled since 2012/13 (approximately 42,000 to over 100,000 offences in six years).

Increases over the last five years are likely to have been driven by crime recording improvements by the police. However, growing awareness of what constitutes a hate crime may also have impacted on the number of recorded offences. Short term genuine rises in hate crime recorded have also been noticed following terrorist attacks and events such as the EU Referendum in 2016.

Nationally, around three quarters of offences (76%, approximately 78,000) were race hate crimes. Around 12% of these incidents were flagged with more than one motivating factor, which were most commonly race and religion.

Nationally, the most commonly targeted religion in hate incidents flagged as motivated by religion was against Muslims (47%). Offences against Jewish people accounted for around 18% of religious hate crimes.

2.3.3 Reported Hate Crime South Yorkshire - Sheffield

There have been 1356 hate offences committed in Sheffield in the current 12 month period (Jan 19 to Dec 19). This accounts for 45 % of the Force's total.

Over the last 12 months Sheffield has seen a 7% increase in **Hate Crimes** offences. This equates to a 6% increase in crimes compared to the previous 12 month Period and a 10% increase in non-crimes.

Looking at this in comparison to the last quarter there has been a 10% decrease. However, for the same quarter last year there has been an increase in numbers.

Over the last 12 months the volume of **non-crimes** has remained relatively stable with a recent peak in March 19.

In the last 12 months 68% of **Hate Crimes** had a factor of race, 14% of a Sexual Orientation, 8% of disability, 6% of religion and 5% transgender.

Of the **non-crimes** 60% had a race factor, 16% of sexual orientation, 10% of disability, 7 % religion and 7% transgender.

Out of a total of 84 religiously aggravated hate offences committed in the last twelve months, 54 had a perceived religion of Muslim, 12 were Christian, 9 were Jewish, 8 were unknown and there was 1 Other recorded.

Online Hate Crime and Incidents

A total of 72 hate offences occurred during this period with the cyber-crime flag, this accounts for 5% of the total. Volumes in this area have increased for hate offences compared to the previous 12 month period approx. by approx 36%.

Victim and Offender Profiles

Data shows that crime can have a multitude of aggravating factors and victims may be counted within the totals of numerous strands of hate.

Summary Victims

- 54% of victims of hate aggravated offenders in the current period were male.
- 41% of victims were of unknown ethnicity, 26% of White – North European ethnicity, 14% Asian, 11% Black, 3% Middle Eastern, 2% White – South European, 2% South – East Asian.
- Of those with a DOB recorded age range from 0 to 82 years with an average of 36

Summary Offenders

- 64% of suspects/ accused of hate aggravated crimes in Sheffield were male
- 44% of suspects/accused were of Unknown ethnicity, 43% White – North European, 85 Asian, 4% Black, 1% White – South European
- Of those with a DOB age ranges from 0 to 81 with an average of 34 years.

Outcomes in Sheffield

In the previous period 32% of cases had a disposal of no suspect identified, investigation complete.

26% had a named suspect and evidence but the victim did not support police action and 10% had a named suspect but lack of evidence. 16% had no suspect because the victim declined or was unable to support the police. A charge or summons was given in 10% of cases, and 12% of cases had an Action Taken Disposal.

Comparing the above with the previous 12 month period there has been an increase in the proportion with a named suspect and evidence but a victim who does not support and in the proportion where no suspect was identified as the victim declined was unable to support. There has also been an increase in the proportion where the suspect was identified following investigation.

In the 12 months to December 2019, the percentage with no suspect identified –victim declined/unable to support was significantly higher in Sheffield than in Barnsley.

Whole of South Yorkshire Data

There were 2602 Hate Crimes and 330 Hate Incidents recorded by South Yorkshire Police during the year period Jan 2018 – Dec 18 making a total of 2932 during this period overall.

88% (2602) of these were crimes and 12% (330) were recorded non-crimes.

During the same period of Jan 19 – Dec19 recorded crime in South Yorkshire was 2727 Hate Crimes and 399 Hate Incidents making an overall total of 3126.

These recorded figs show the following for 2019

- 87% (2727) of the total are Hate Crimes an increase of 125
- 13% (399) of the total are Hate Crime Incidents an increase of 69

A total increase of 194 report of Hate incidents.

Where hate was flagged as motivated by religious hatred, the most commonly perceived religion recorded was Muslim. Hate incidents

against perceived Christian, Jewish and Other/Unknown religious beliefs were also recorded.

South Yorkshire Police are making an added investment in staffing with reference to Hate Crime and one further officer will be concentrating on Hate Crime starting early in 2020.

Police Initiatives

South Yorkshire Police have recently introduced some internal changes in how Hate Incidents / Crimes are dealt with once reported.

The changes recently made now include a consistent daily check of all reported incidents received within the last 24 hours by senior officers.

This new process results in a fast track response and ensures a rapid and timely attendance to contact the victim / witnesses and immediately commence enquiries and investigation that greatly increases the possibility of a positive outcome.

The police have recently introduced a regular internal meeting Chaired at a Senior Level to ensure some internal scrutiny measures around Hate Crime are monitored and appropriate action taken if required as well as a medium for identifying best practice.

The first meeting has now taken place and a number of Hate Incidents / Crimes have been scrutinised and discussed in depth to ensure appropriate responses have been applied and where appropriate operational amendments and lessons learned have evolved for the police and partners. Sheffield City Council is well represented at this meeting.

The police have noticed that there has been an increase in Satisfaction Levels received from those who have reported a Hate Crime / Hate Incident.

2.3.4 Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales is unaffected by changes in police recording practices and less likely to be affected by victim willingness to report. However, due to a lower proportion of the population having experienced a hate crime, survey years have to be combined to give a large enough dataset for analysis. This means short term trends cannot be analysed.

In contrast to the police recorded data, the Crime Survey appears to show a decrease in hate incidents experienced by adults (aged 16+) between the 2007/08/09 and 2015/16/17/18 surveys. This decrease has fallen from over 307,000 incidents to 184,000 (-40%).

2.3.5 **Reporting Hate Crime in Sheffield**

Anyone can be a victim of Hate. Hate Crime or incidents can take place anywhere and at any time. Victims or witnesses can report via:

- Call 101 for non-emergency / 999 in an emergency
- If person reporting is deaf or hard of hearing or speech impaired text **18001 101** or SMS **07786 220 220**
- Visit or contact a local Hate Crime Reporting Centre
- Online Reporting via website True Vision or Stop Hate Crime UK

Further guidance can be found on Sheffield City Centre Website and also on southyorks.police.uk/hatehurts.

2.4 **Hate Crime Priority Group**

The Hate Crime Priority Group is in place and functioning.

The group reports directly into Sheffield Community Safety Partnership.

The group have met three times since their inception.

Chair is still developing membership.

The group aims and objectives are:

- To Develop a Citywide Strategy for Hate Crime
- To respond to any gaps in relation to Hate Crime Victim and Community Provision
- Create an Action Plan relating to Hate Crime / Incidents
- Work in Partnership to address all Emerging Trends relating to Hate Crime in Sheffield and to carry out Community Consultation in relation to Hate Crime in Sheffield.

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- 3.1 The people of Sheffield will see that hate crime and hate crime incidents are being addressed in full partnership across the whole of the City. The work of the Hate Crime Coordinator is far reaching throughout Sheffield and this will only grow in the coming months / years ahead. The ongoing work of the Priority Group will involve more integration of members from numerous communities and community consultation will be a main driver for this group. The methods of reporting hate crime is still developing with the overall aim of gaining the communities confidence in reporting all aspects of Hate Crime.

4. **Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and
- To provide feedback / members viewpoint relating to Hate Crime