



## Report to Safer and Stronger Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 8 March 2018

**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, Housing and Neighbourhoods Service

### Summary:

The report will update Members of the Committee on recent work to address and raise awareness of hate crime and hate incidents. Following the recent Task Group on hate crime, and while a dedicated post is currently being recruited to, the Safer Communities Partnership has been working to raise awareness and improve the reporting experience for those affected.

**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	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<b>x</b>
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

Note the report for information

### Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

**Category of Report:** OPEN (please specify)

# **Report of the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods Service**

## **Hate Crime**

### **1. Introduction/Context**

- 1.1 In September 2016, the Safer Stronger Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee undertook a task and finish cross-party review of hate crime. The group agreed to look at: *To understand the different ways hate crime can be reported in Sheffield, identifying things that are working well and any areas where improvements could be made.*
- 1.2 The task group made a number of recommendations, some of which have been implemented. Others are longer-term and require a co-ordinated partnership effort to embed more action on hate crime into mainstream activity. This report will provide members with an update on what is currently being done to tackle hate crime and hate incidents in Sheffield. The report is structured around the main areas in which members of the task group made their recommendations, to make it easier for members to identify progress.

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

- 2.1 The task group made recommendations in the following areas:

- Raising awareness and building understanding
- Reporting
- Partnership working
- Improving our understanding

These recommendations will be driven forward by the Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership. Recruitment to the post of Hate Crime Co-ordinator is currently underway, with interviews scheduled to take place in mid-March 2018. This post will be responsible for bringing together both the Council and the Police's response to hate crime. Recruitment to the post has been delayed due to the withdrawal of the original successful candidate in November 2017.

#### **2.2 Raising awareness and building understanding**

- 2.2.1 The Safer Communities Partnership has funded social media messages led by Sheffield City Council to raise awareness of hate crime during Hate Crime Awareness Week (16 October 2017) and the week commencing 22 December 2017. The messages took the form of short adverts displayed on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat), promoting the message that hate crime and hate incidents can take many forms and raising awareness that they can and should be reported. The adverts also contained a click through link so that anyone affected could report via Stop Hate UK. The adverts generated discussion online and analysis of them will be possible, to inform future Partnership communications campaigns on hate crime, including the messages that reached the widest audience, were engaged with and in which geographical areas of Sheffield.

2.2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner, along with South Yorkshire Police and the Safer Communities Partnership, have supported the launch of the *Know The Line* campaign to tackle street sexual harassment. The Safer Communities Partnership will look at ways to further support the campaign in the coming months.

### 2.3 Reporting

2.3.1 The Safer Communities Partnership has provided funding to Stop Hate UK to provide the hate crime reporting line in Sheffield during 2017/18 and 2018/19 (0800 158 1625). There is further work to do to promote the existence of the line and to further raise awareness of hate crime in general.

2.3.2 The number of calls to the line has so far been low, although is increasing slowly as more awareness is raised. The Safer Communities Partnership is monitoring call levels and working to raise awareness further in 2018/19.

### 2.4 Partnership Working

2.4.1 Training has been delivered to the new SYP Neighbourhood Policing Teams, to ensure all new staff structures are aware of partnership working to tackle hate crime, use of third party reporting mechanisms including the Stop Hate UK reporting line. Awareness training has also been given to door staff registered with the Security Industry Authority, to ensure any hate crimes or incidents witnessed by door staff at licensed premises are identified and reported appropriately.

2.4.2 The Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel continues to meet monthly to discuss anonymised hate crime cases and identify any learning or improvements. One recent recommendation has been to request all police officers to record as much information as possible when dealing with a hate crime or incident, to ensure it is dealt with most effectively and allow for a meaningful scrutiny process.

### 2.5 Improving our Understanding

2.5.1 The Cabinet Member wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the inclusion of gender motivated hate crime as a category (misogyny and misandry). South Yorkshire Police are awaiting national force guidance from the College of Policing regarding this area of recording, to ensure consistency.

## **3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?**

3.1 The people of Sheffield will see the profile of hate crime and hate incidents raised over the coming months. It is hoped that communities and affected individuals will better be able to identify when they have experienced hate crime and understand how they can report it, even if they do not wish to directly contact the police.

## **4. Recommendation**

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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