

**SUBJECT: HATE CRIME**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. This report outlines the Force's current position in relation to Hate Crime.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Hate Crime, including calls for service, offences recorded, outcomes and victim satisfaction.

**PRIORITY IN THE POLICING AND CRIME PLAN**

3. Hate crime is a criminal offence, it should not be tolerated in any of its forms, all victims of all hate crime should rightly expect the police and others to take their reports seriously and all partners should work together to ensure that there is a positive outcome for the victim.
  - The PCC and TCC have continued to work together to promote a joint hate crime campaign – new annual campaign October 2016.
  - The PCC has also used his influence to highlight specific areas of hate crime and has spoken at partner events about hate crime including Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, he also spoken out recently about sub culture hate crime.
  - In December 2015 the PCC launched an Extra Ordinary Hate Crime grant Round - The one off grant was available from the Victim Support Services Fund held by the PCC and was specifically for organisations or individuals to support victims of hate crime. 12 successful projects shared £112,732.50. Successful applicants demonstrated the outcome in the Police and Crime Plan that all victims and witnesses were supported across West Yorkshire. The outcome of the projects which concluded on 31 March 2016 will be discussed at a meeting on 26 May 2016.
  - The OPCC are continuing a programme of visits to Force scrutiny panels which deal with the review of hate crime incidents. Feedback on themes/issues from the Scrutiny Groups will be shared with the PCC.
  - The Help for victims website launched by the PCC in October 2014 offers advice and support for victims of crime including hate crime - [www.helpforvictims.co.uk](http://www.helpforvictims.co.uk)
  - The PCC has engaged with a variety of groups who continue to provide advice and support on hate crime, he has also attended community events to provide reassurance and is currently looking into the provision of hate crime support for those where English is not their first language.
  - The PCC continues to support applicants through the safer communities fund to tackle hate crime and community cohesion.

- Meetings have also been held with local MP's, the TCC, WYP district reps, key council colleagues and Tell Mama, the group met to consider:

#### **The policing of hate crimes**

- How to encourage the reporting of incidents, which in spite of the recent rise are still considered to be under-reported.
- How the police prioritise these crimes, including examining response times and the availability of specially trained officers for hate crime incidents.
- The availability of specialist support and aftercare for victims, many of whom may be traumatised.

#### **The community response**

- The availability of safe community spaces, online portals and alternative ways of reporting incidents and finding advice.
- The work that is going on in the community, both proactively and reactively, to encourage cohesion and integration in light of the recent increase in reported crimes.
- What is being done in local schools to combat hate crimes.

#### **The national picture**

- The availability of national funding for areas considered most at risk, including how these areas are identified.
- The existing legislation on hate crimes and whether it is fit for purpose.
- What those in positions of responsibility can do to highlight the issues involved and set positive examples.

The group also discussed the recent Government response to Hate Crime - Action against Hate crime

#### **ATTACHMENT**

- [Chief Constables report – Hate Crime](#) (PDF 276KB)