



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Diane Owens,  
Policy & Improvement Officer  
**Tel:** 0114 27 35065

**Report of:** *Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee*

**Report to:** *Cabinet*

**Date of Decision:** *Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

**Subject:** *Hate Crime Task Group Report*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-

Yes  No

- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000
- Affects 2 or more Wards



Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to?

Cross cutting:

- Community Services and Libraries
- Housing
- Children, Young People & Families

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?

Yes  No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? *(Insert reference number)*

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes  No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

*"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."*

**Purpose of Report:**

The Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee undertook an in depth piece of work around hate crime. This was done through a cross party Task Group. The work focussed on the reporting of hate crime and the Task Group has now produced its final report.

Drawing on their findings the report outlines a set of recommendations which aim to;

- raise awareness and build understanding of hate crime,
- increase the reporting of hate crime,
- support partnership working arrangements, and
- improve the data we have available in the city

This Cabinet report presents the Scrutiny Committee's report to Cabinet (Appendix A).

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Thank the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its work on hate crime.
2. Note the Hate Crime Task Group Report that is attached as Appendix A to this report.
3. Agree that an initial joint response from the Cabinet Members for Community Services and Libraries, Housing, and Children, Young People & Families is provided to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee's July 2017 meeting.
4. Agree that a further report to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee on progress on implementing the recommendations be provided to the Committee by December 2017.

**Background Papers:**

Appendix A: Hate Crime Task Group Report

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Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	<b>Finance:</b> Pauline Wood, Finance Manager
	<b>Legal:</b> Andrea Simpson, Solicitor
<b>Equalities:</b> Adele Robinson, Social Justice and Inclusion Manager	
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b> <i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b> <i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Diane Owens
	<b>Job Title:</b> Policy & Improvement Officer
<b>Date:</b> 6/4/2017	

## 1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Public awareness and understanding of hate crime has increased in recent years, as have levels of reporting. However, data suggest that it is still significantly underreported. Members were aware of public concern around this issue and following a number of discussions at Full Council, at its meeting in September 2016 the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a cross party Task Group to look at hate crime in more depth.

1.2 Following initial discussions around some of the issues involved, and a recognition that there was also work being led by other groups and organisations in the city, including the Equality Hub Network, the Group agreed to focus on the reporting of hate crime.

1.3 The cross party Task Group was made up of eight members and was led by the Committee Chair Cllr Tony Damms. The review was carried out between September 2016 and January 2017.

1.4 The Task Group wanted to understand the different ways hate crime can be reported in the city to identify things that were working well and any areas for improvement.

1.5 The Group used a range of approaches to gather data for their review, including desk top research, evidence gathering sessions and events and workshops.

1.6 This report presents the Scrutiny Committee's report to Cabinet. It requests a joint response from the relevant Cabinet Members, for Community Services and Libraries, Housing, and Children, Young People & Families, on the recommendations made in the Hate Crime Task Group report for the Committee's July 2017 meeting, and a further report to the Committee updating on progress by December 2017.

### 1.7 Hate Crime Task Group Report

Drawing on what the Task Group found and heard the report makes recommendations across the following four areas:

#### 1. In Order To Raise Awareness And Build Understanding

1.1 *In order to raise awareness and build understanding promoting community cohesion and raising awareness around hate crime becomes a key communications campaign for the Council for 2017.*

This should include the Council Communications Team working alongside the Police Communications Team and the Equality Hub Networks Hate Crime Working Group to co-produce clear and accessible materials, taking into consideration consistent information and branding and to include:

- A clear definition of a hate crime and a hate incident
- Information on how to report and what happens when you make a report, including the support available at all stages

- 1.2 In order to raise awareness **a citywide anti-hate crime campaign is undertaken** including information in widely used public places such as supermarkets, restaurants and public transport, this should include ongoing effective promotion of routes for independent reporting, including the Fearless website, which enables anonymous reporting for young people. We may be able to learn lessons from the “Hate Hurts” campaign undertaken in West Yorkshire.
- 1.3 In order to challenge negative perceptions and address underreporting within specific target groups, **targeted campaigns are undertaken, particularly for groups that are known to underreport** and to include specific work to engage with families and carers of disabled people. Including working with the Equality Hub Network on the best ways to engage with people and deliver meaningful messages
- 1.4 In order to ensure an effective approach to communications and promotion (as outlined above) **the Council works with partners to secure funding of £10,000 to enable sufficient communications resource** (staff time / materials / online resources) to deliver the recommendations.

## 2. Reporting

- 2.1 In order to provide an effective and co-ordinated approach for people who do not wish to contact the Police directly, **Sheffield Council, as part of the Sheffield Community Safety Partnership, fund the piloting of an independent 24/7 hate crime reporting line** (to ideally include phone, web chat, online and email), this approach should be piloted for 3 years (recognising funding may be subject to annual agreement) and should provide regular performance reports to the Sheffield Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership and the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee. The likely cost for this service is around £10,000 per year for Sheffield. To reinforce its independence the service should have its own branding.
- 2.2 In order to provide a more effective and easy route to independent reporting, *Sheffield Council and the Police (in partnership with existing Third Party Reporting Centres) and in light of the introduction of a proposed independent 24/7 hate crime reporting line (recommendation 2.1) consider adopting the approach of having third party referral centres that signpost people to the 24/7 hate crime reporting line (as opposed to reporting centres)*, we could learn lessons from Merseyside who adopted this approach a number of years ago
- 2.3 In order to raise awareness of *independent reporting (see recommendation 2.1) the 24/7 hate crime reporting line service is actively promoted with frontline staff in the Council and the Police (and other relevant organisations e.g. SYPTE) and appropriate*

*training and accessible contact information is provided (e.g. business cards)*

### 3. Partnership Working

- 3.1 In order to ensure effective partnership working in the city, ***consideration be given to broadening membership of the Citywide Multi-Agency Hate Crime Group, to include South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) to help engage them in discussions around tackling incidents on public transport, particularly on bus services***
- 3.2 In order to increase staff awareness and understanding, ***the City Centre Ambassadors are given training on hate crime, including awareness raising (hate incidents / crimes) and reporting, including the independent 24/7 hate crime reporting line (if introduced)***
- 3.3 In order to support continued partnerships and close working with communities ***the Council and the Police continue to work closely with the Equality Hub Network, including co-production of awareness raising materials and also exploring other possibilities for co-production, such as training around disability and hate crime awareness***
- 3.4 In order to support effective partnership working and awareness raising with young people, ***the Council and Police work with the young people and youth workers leading on the Fearless campaign, including exploring options for joint working around awareness raising, especially in local schools***

### 4. Improving Our Understanding

- 4.1 In order to increase our understanding of city centre incidents, ***the City Centre Ambassadors pilot the recording of any hate incidents / crimes that they are made aware of over a 6 month period and report this data to the Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership***
- 4.2 In order to improve data capture and recording across all protected characteristics, and in line with the Council Motion agreed in March 2015 ***the committee requests that the Cabinet Member write to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the inclusion of gender (misogyny and misandry) as a category of hate crime***
- 4.3 In order to improve data capture and improve our understanding of hate crime ***the committee requests that the Cabinet Member write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask that consideration be given to further changes to the South Yorkshire Police recording systems to enable the capture of more detailed equalities monitoring data including the use of the four identified sub categories for disability (learning, physical, sensory and mental).***

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?**

2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan has a priority theme of "*Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities*" which includes a specific commitment to "*work to improve levels of reporting in areas such as hate crime and domestic abuse*". This work also connects to the commitment within the priority theme of "*An In Touch Organisation*" to "*gather information and feedback, to design how we deliver our services*".

2.2 The recommendations outlined in the Hate Crime Task Group Report aim to raise awareness and build understanding of hate crime, increase the reporting of hate crime, support partnership working arrangements, and improve the data we have available in the city.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

3.1 The Task Group gathered evidence through a variety of activities, as detailed in its report, which informed the findings and recommendations.

3.2 The outcome of the Hate Crime Task Group Report will be determined by the response to the report from the relevant Cabinet Members and any subsequent implementation they choose to carry out. Any actions taken or decisions made would include consideration of any appropriate consultation activity.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications**

4.1.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In carrying out our functions we must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons with a protected characteristic and those without

Protected characteristics under the Act include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

4.1.2 The Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement was updated in 2014. The statement includes a set of commitments, including "*Creating an environment for our staff and the people of Sheffield*" that "*promotes fairness, equality, diversity and inclusion*" and "*where intimidation, discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation is actively prevented and opposed*".

4.1.3 The set of recommendations outlined in the Hate Crime Task Group Report stand to have positive implications in terms of equalities. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation. Any actions taken or decisions made would include consideration of any equalities implications including completion of equality impact assessments (EIA's) to fully explore and understand the implications for people with different protected characteristics.

#### 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 The Committee is very aware of the financial context in which the Council and partner agencies are now operating. Although some of the recommendations in the report relate to small amounts of new or additional expenditure, others focus on how the Council can make better use of its existing resources.

4.2.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation. This would include any financial and commercial implications.

#### 4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the legal implications of any proposal would be fully considered at that time.

4.3.2 Under the Local Government Act 2000 section 21, clause 2(b.) there is an explicit power for Scrutiny committees to make reports or recommendations to the Executive.

#### 4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 As a number of the recommendations in the Hate Crime Task Group Report relate to the work of the Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership Board, the Committee also plan to share the report with the Partnership Board during May 2017.



## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to do nothing with the Task Group Report. However, given the time and effort spent by the Task Group and contributions to the work from external organisations this is not deemed a viable option.

5.2. An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to respond to the Committee's report over a much longer timescale. However, the Scrutiny Committee would welcome a fast response to its recommendations. The Committee believes a report to its July 2017 meeting strikes an appropriate balance between speed and allowing sufficient time for Cabinet Members and officers to consider the recommendations in the Hate Crime Task Group report

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 In order to make it clear to the Scrutiny Committee what actions the Council is committing to, the Committee requests a joint response report to its Hate Crime Task Group Report.

6.2 To enable the Committee to scrutinise progress made in implementing the recommendations the Committee requests a further report back on implementation.

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