

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety**HATE CRIME POLICY**1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for a revised Hate Crime Policy.

2. Recommendation

The Policy Overview Working Group RECOMMENDS to Cabinet that the revised Hate Crime Policy be approved.

3. Detail

Every year, tens of thousands of people in Britain suffer prejudice because of their identity or perceived 'difference'. This can include acts of physical violence, as well as forms of harassment such as being spat at, being called an abusive name and being threatened. Hate crime is a criminal offence and affects all kinds of people from all walks of life. It can cause enormous damage to victims, to their families and friends and to wider communities.

A hate crime is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.'

In 2021/22 there were 155,841 hate crimes recorded by the Police in England and Wales, an increase of 26% from year ending March 2021. There were 109,843 race hate crimes, 8,730 religious hate crimes, 26,152 sexual orientation hate crimes, 14,242 disability hate crimes and 4,355 transgender hate crimes.

There were annual increases in all five strands of hate crime, ranging from 19% for race hate crimes to 56% for transgender hate crimes. Government research suggests the upward trend in hate crime, seen in recent years is likely to have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the Police; there have been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and terrorist attacks.

It is uncertain the extent to which the increases seen this year continue the pattern of improvements in Police recording or represent a real increase in hate crime; the rise seen in the latest year may also have been affected by the lower levels of crime recorded in year ending March 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions; trends may also differ by strand as some crime types have been more affected by improvements in recording practices than others.

In Broxtowe in 2022/23 there were 71 hate crimes recorded compared to 99 in 2021/22 a reduction of 28%.

It is possible for one hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which are recorded as a separate hate crime for each factor and that some hate crimes involve more than one victim which is recorded as a separate hate crime for each victim.

This policy sets out the Council's commitment to tackling hate crime and hate incidents and how it will support this through its decision making, service delivery and by the actions it will develop to implement the policy.

A copy of the policy is attached at Appendix 1, a change table at Appendix 2 and an Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 3.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, it is important to note by having a Hate Crime policy in place will build awareness, increase confidence in reporting and ensure correct procedures are followed.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

No Comments

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows.

No comments

8. Climate Change Implications

The Climate Change comments were as follows:

No comments

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

No comments

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a change to policy / a new policy an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

11. Background Papers

Nil