

## Strategy: Hate Crime

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Date:	2021
Review Date:	2026

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## 1. Background

Broxtowe is a diverse borough where people generally get along and have a strong sense of community. However, like many places, there is a minority of people who may target others based on their identity. There are also some vulnerabilities to extremist views, and narratives in communities around refugees, migration and changing demographics amongst other things which may contribute to prejudice developing.

Hate crime has no place in our society. It affects people based on their race, faith or religion, sexual orientation, transgender or disability. It can disempower victims, destabilise their lives, create fear and weakens community cohesion.

What is striking about this type of crime is the level of under-reporting suggested by current figures. So our strategy aims to raise awareness of hate crime, whilst increasing confidence in the community to report incidents.

We are committed to working with our partners to tackle all forms of crime in our borough. This five-year strategy sets out our commitment to supporting victims of hate crime and holding perpetrators to account. It also focusses on how we will work with partners to prevent hate crime, support victims, and prosecute perpetrators.

Broxtowe Borough Council takes an all-round approach to preventing and tackling all forms of intolerance and hate and we aim to engage all stakeholders who may come into contact with 'intolerance' engaging and equipping them to be active agents against hate crime.

Nottinghamshire recognises the seriousness of Hate Crime in all its forms and its impact on the victim/s and community and has committed to the 'No to hate!' pledge (Appendix 1).

Our strategy for tackling hate crime takes all of the above into account. It is centred on reinforcing and celebrating the boroughs values while at the same time taking a zero tolerance approach to hate crime when it does happen.

The Broxtowe Hate Crime Strategy complements the National Hate Crime Plan published in July 2016, which focuses on five key areas:

1. Preventing hate crime by challenging beliefs and attitudes through education for young people
2. Responding to hate crime with the aim of reducing incidents through security funding and other measures
3. Increasing reporting of hate crime
4. Improving support for victims
5. Building understanding of hate crimes through data collection and analysis.

## 2. Aims

The strategy aims to:

- Prevent hate crime by dealing with the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate crime.
- Respond to hate crime in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crimes and incidents.
- Increase the reporting of hate crime.
- Improve support for the victims of hate crime.
- Build our understanding of hate crime.

## 3. Vision

Our vision is to strengthen the borough by creating a unified and connected community where diversity is valued. We want our borough to be a place that embraces strong and positive relationships between people of all backgrounds and identities. Our borough is a champion of all people, inclusive of race, faith, disability, sexuality and gender identity

## 4. What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime (also known as a bias-motivated crime or bias crime) is a prejudice-motivated crime which occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of their membership (or perceived membership) of a certain social group or race. It is any crime which is perceived, by the victim or anyone else, to be motivated by hostility and prejudice towards a person because of any of the following protective factors:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment or transgender identity
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race or ethnic group
- Religion or belief

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Lifestyle choice

Nottinghamshire Police define a hate crime (including hate incident) as ‘Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.’

Nottinghamshire Police recognised and monitor the below strands of hate crime:

- Race
- Religion/faith
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender-identity
- Misogyny (incidents targeted at women because they’re women)
- Alternative sub-cultures (e.g. goth or emo sub-culture)

These crimes can be against individuals or their property or belongings.

## **5. What form can Hate Crimes take?**

The following can all be considered as a hate crime;

- Physical assault – violence against you such as punching, pinching, spitting, hitting
- Harm or damage to property/belongings - arson, offensive graffiti, damaging cars, throwing litter on your garden
- Threatening attack – Offensive telephone calls, texts, emails or letters, intimidation and untrue malicious complaints

- Verbal abuse – direct offensive language, offensive jokes, offensive posters, bullying at school or workplace
- Bullying via social media through Facebook or twitter.

## 6. How to report a Hate Crime

You can report whether you are a victim, a witness or reporting on behalf on someone else.

We want everyone to feel safe at home, at work or school/college and on the streets of Broxtowe. Only by recording incidents can we build up a complete picture of hate incidents in the area and do something to stop it. If you or someone you know has been the victim of a hate incident, we want to know about it.

We encourage all victims of hate crime to report this by ringing 101 and speaking to Nottinghamshire Police about the incident. They should then arrange for an officer to come and visit you at a time and place you feel most comfortable.

If you're not comfortable speaking to someone directly, you can [make a report online via the True Vision website](#).

Nottinghamshire Police also has the Pegasus scheme which offers a greater number of ways to contact the police and helps individuals who may find the usual ways of reporting a crime difficult. You can either register [online](#) or by filling in an application form, which can be obtained by emailing [pegasus@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pegasus@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk).

## 7. Delivery

The council has developed an action plan (Appendix 2) to deliver the following key themes;

- Raise awareness of hate crime and hate incidents through media campaigns
- Increase confidence amongst victims to report hate crimes or hate incidents through improving responses and building confidence
- Support victims by ensuring they are signposted or referred to support services
- Challenge and re-educate perpetrators through referral to the ASB panel taking enforcement action where possible
- Increase community cohesion and reduce community tensions through targeted events in response to community tensions