

Hate Crime Strategy

for the Bradford District
2017 – 2020



Foreword



Bradford is a district of diversity, of geography, history, politics, race and culture. It is this cultural diversity that makes Bradford such an interesting and rewarding place to live, work and play.

My priority as the senior police officer in Bradford is continue to build safe, inclusive communities which respect the different experiences of gender, culture, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and disability.

As the police we are guided by our code of ethics and its key principles of fairness, respect, honesty and accountability to the people we serve. We take seriously our responsibility to investigate crimes of hate; identifying and educating offenders through both punitive and restorative processes. We also safeguard victims and work with agencies such as Restorative Solutions and Victim Support to protect those who have experienced crime of hate. I take these responsibilities seriously and recognise the importance of working with both communities and partners to build confidence in the Police response.

Chief Superintendent Scott Bisset
District Commander; Bradford



Bradford Hate Crime Alliance is committed to tackling hate crime across our district over the next three years and beyond. Those who commit hate crimes attack the fundamental values that underpin our diverse society including acceptance and respect for others.

We will continue to work with all our partners and stakeholders, including our local communities and we will build on the work that we have already been

undertaking. Our work on increasing and enhancing pathways to reporting of incidents will continue. We will also continue to support all victims of hate crime and help to deal effectively with perpetrators.

All forms of hate continue to have a massive impact upon victims and on the quality of people's lives but by working together we can continue to effectively tackle hate crime in our district. Only by working together can we help to build a district where people can live, work and play together. This strategy and the work that will be undertaken will help us work towards achieving that goal.

Dr Martin Baines QPM
Chair – Bradford Hate Crime Alliance



I believe that every member of our community should feel safe and free from verbal, physical or emotional attack - wherever they live, learn, work or play in this District. I particularly welcome the new strategy for 2017-2020 as it provides a framework that

we can all follow and support.

Current global circumstances mean that we face particular challenges that can generate the conditions in which hate crime can grow. Many countries are accommodating large numbers of refugees. In addition, global terrorists as well as far right extremists seek to create fear and mistrust among us. We must work even harder to build community cohesion and not fall prey to the forces that seek to divide us.

Councillor Abdul Jabar
Safer and Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder



Introduction

The Hate Crime Strategy 2017 - 2020 is the second to be produced by Bradford Council and its partners. The aim of the strategy is to support and highlight Bradford's approach to addressing hate crime in the district.

The purpose of this strategy is to outline the district's hate crime priorities and establish a plan that has been agreed by key stakeholders.

The district's previous key priority areas were shared with the groups representing the protected

characteristics (as identified by the Equalities Act 2010) of hate crime as part of the consultation. The groups identified key areas of concern they felt needed to be addressed. People also identified areas they felt we needed to stay focused on, such as hate crime related to extremism.

They also played a significant role in the creation of the strategy, attending events and activities to share their thoughts ensuring we captured levels of hate that some groups faced.



Action against hate

The UK Government has identified a plan for tackling hate crime, over the coming months and years. The plan, simply called Action against hate – a plan for tackling hate crime, was launched in July 2016 and outlined the key priorities in addressing hate crime. The objectives in this strategy are similar to the objectives we have been working towards in the Bradford Hate Crime Strategy 2013-16. Therefore, this revised local strategy is aligned with the national objectives:

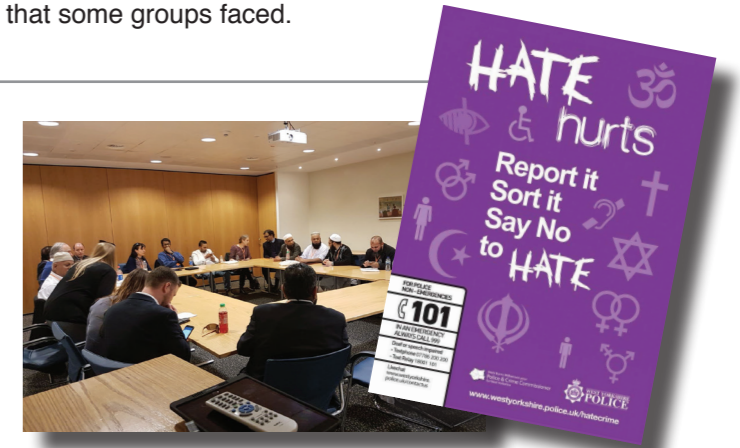
1. Preventing hate crime
2. Responding to hate in our communities
3. Increasing the reporting of hate crime
4. Improving support for the victims of hate crime
5. Building our understanding of hate crime

Preventing hate crime

We will prevent hate crime by dealing with the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate. We recognise the importance of preventing hate crime and are committed to challenging those attitudes that can lead to discrimination and divisions within our society.

Responding to hate in our communities

We aim to reduce the number of hate crime incidents. We will focus on a number of settings that have emerged as high risk environments for hate crime, including public transport, the night-time economy and the internet.



Increasing the reporting of hate crime

We will continue to work to make it easier for those affected to report incidents of hate crime including through third party reporting centres. To give victims the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously, we will work with the police and Crown Prosecution Service to publicise successes in prosecuting hate crime.

Improving support for the victims of hate crime

Research has shown that hate crimes cause victims greater distress than similar crimes without the same motivation. We will work to ensure victims are provided with timely, appropriate and effective support, including restorative solutions.

Building our understanding of hate crime

In order to tackle hate crime, we need to understand the scale and nature of the problem. We will improve the data on hate crime and work with academics and others to improve our analysis and understanding of the drivers of hate crime.

The Strategic Hate Crime Management Group (SMG)

The Strategic Hate Crime Management Group was established by Bradford Hate Crime Alliance to lead the implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy. The group is now led by Bradford Council and acts as the critical friend to the strategic objectives of the Hate Crime Strategy. Consisting of partners from across the district including, Police, Bradford Hate Crime Alliance, Bradford Council, Victim Support and the Restorative Practice Team, the group is a sounding board for addressing hate crime across the district.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA)

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance is commissioned to undertake specific work relating to the strategy including the establishment of Hate Crime Reporting Centres, training and developing hate crime reporting centre staff, responding to incidents, providing advice and guidance to victims and identifying ways in which hate crimes can be better reported.

The Hate Crime Case Management Group

The Hate Crime Case Management Group was developed to support approaches to addressing hate crime with victims on occasions attending and presenting their issues. The group is a partnership made up of key agencies from across the district.

Hatred and extremism

Different forms of extremism can lead to the most abhorrent form of hate crime. Terrorist attacks in London and Manchester and the murder of a sitting member of Parliament in neighbouring Birstall have reminded us all where extreme hatred can lead. Terrorists aim to create fear, hatred and division and this strategy must contribute to initiatives that contribute towards this never becoming the case.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance has conducted research into Islamophobia in the District. The key findings indicated Islamophobia and the local Muslim population believe it is on the increase. The research recommended greater efforts to tackle the issue of segregated communities and measures that increase interaction between Bradford's diverse communities.



Bradford Council has commissioned BHCA to develop measures which build on the research recommendations.

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance has established the **Community Support Project** providing a community-led response to those vulnerable to an extremist narrative. The programme provides mentoring, support and education to a range of individuals.



What is Hate Crime?

Hate Crime is any criminal offence or anti-social incident that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon the victim's disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Hate crime can take many forms including:

- Physical attacks such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson
- Threat of attack, including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate. It also covers unfounded malicious complaints or verbal abuse, and
- Insults or harassment such as, taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

The working definition for hate crime was nationally agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service Together they provided the following definitions for hate motivation, hate incidents and hate crimes

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.



Hate motivation

Hate crimes and incidents are any crime or incident where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised. Whilst this is a broad and inclusive definition, a victim does not have to be a member of the group, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

Hate incidents

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

Violence is the most common offence category across all strands, 75% of all race hate incidents were recorded as violence.

Hate crimes

Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but those that do become hate crimes.

It is important to recognise that there is no specific offence of 'hate crime' in criminal law. Rather, there are existing offences committed against a person, which may include threats, physical assault, harassment and damage to property. There are also offences which may not be directed at individuals such as incitement to violence or incitement to hatred. When such offences are motivated by hostility or prejudice as outlined in the hate crime definition, they are categorised as hate crime which influences how the offence is investigated and prosecuted.

Uplifting of hate crime sentences

If the crime committed can be shown to be motivated by hate, the courts can impose an additional 50% uplift on any sentence handed down.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) reviews each hate crime case referred by the police. Where there is evidence, the CPS looks to prosecute these as hate crimes and apply for increased sentences. The CPS also provides information, assistance and support to victims and prosecution witnesses.



Hate crime data

In England and Wales over 2015-16 there were 15,442 cases prosecuted for hate crime, the highest ever recorded. The conviction rate for this period is high, at 83.2%.

There were 1,411 Hate incidents recorded by the police across the Bradford district during the period 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2016. This is a 12% increase from 1,260 incidents recorded in the same period in the previous year.

There are strong indicators that a significant part of this increase is due to changes in crime recording standards and changes in legislation regarding repeat

offences. Therefore, it is difficult to identify a definitive figure to illustrate actual changes in hate crime compositions.

Despite having one of the lowest increases in the region, the District has the joint highest rates of hate crime at 2.7 per thousand of population.



District:	Number of Hate Incidents Jan - Dec 2016	Mid 2015 Population	Rate per 1,000	% increase in Hate incidents Jan-Dec 2016
Bradford	1411	531176	2.7	12%
Calderdale	494	208402	2.4	36%
Kirklees	1089	434321	2.5	31%
Leeds	2119	774060	2.7	30%
Wakefield	573	333759	1.7	39%
West Yorkshire	5686	2281718	2.5	

Source: West Yorkshire Police's Hate Information Report 2017

The vast majority of hate incidents are related to race (79% of all incidents between Jan-Dec 2016). Sexual orientation hate incidents account for 9% of the total, 6% are faith-related incidents, 4% for disability, and 2% are transphobic incidents.

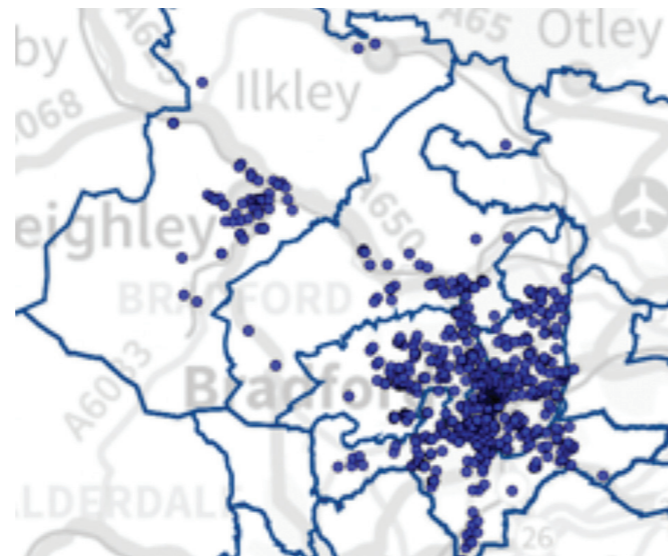
The majority of race hate crimes involve violence (around 74%) and most victims of race hate crime are male (58%).

The highest number of victims record their ethnicity as Asian (49%) with 36% white and 9% black.

Improvements in data management and data analysis are crucial to improving our understanding of the impact of hate crime on specific groups. By exploring ways in which we can break down information we can significantly improve the way we tackle hate crime incidents and support victims.

Hate crime has increased the most in Bradford city centre (which remains the key hotspot area) and the least in the Bradford West constituency.

The map shows central Bradford as being a hate crime hotspot in 2015-16.



Hotspot map showing Bradford District Hate Crime 2015-16



So what do people want?

Hate crime strategy consultations were undertaken with people from the protected characteristic groups. Each group was given the opportunity to explore the hate crime strategy and objectives from previous years and asked to comment on what they would like to see in the new strategy. Many of the objectives were shared between groups with some very clear overlaps. Others were specific to each protected characteristic group. It was very evident that people are concerned about the levels of hate crime and want to work in partnership to tackle it.



Raising awareness of hate crimes and hate crime incidents was a key priority for all groups. People felt there needs to be greater awareness through training, education, publicity and frank open discussions, taking place in spaces where people felt safe and able to raise their concerns. People wanted to be able to report incidents in places where they felt most comfortable and at ease.

All groups requested **improvements in responses to victims of hate crime and support**. People are keen to see improvements in supporting victims of hate crimes, by the police in particular. People felt that the time taken to attend a victim can often lead to a lack of confidence in the system, ultimately leading to under-reporting. It is not always clear what support is available to victims, which can result in a poor take-up of support services.

Groups are keen to **introduce a joint five strand protected characteristic working group** to understand and develop common support needs and to build resilience amongst people. It is hoped this would develop a signed agreement between partners and groups which would become a charter for tackling hate crime in the district. This would also form part of an action plan.

Each protected characteristic group has been consulted to identify specific issues relating to their community. Questions were posed to the group about priorities for their particular community of interest. The key points were noted and have been included in this strategy. Elements of these key points will be addressed through the hate crime action plan.

Key priorities of the consulted protected characteristic groups

Faith

1. Increase engagement with Muslim women groups as high risk targeted group.
2. Establish a multi-faith engagement group for better liaison/ understanding with all faith groups regarding countering faith hate.
3. Develop a joint charter statement from faith communities pledging to eradicate hate in our communities.
4. Improve communication with outlying places of worship to develop a counter message against extremism.
5. Increased hate crime awareness training for ministers / imams and staff relating to hate and how to support victims of hate.
6. Investigation and mapping out of faith hate crimes and improved understanding of faith hate crime recorded data.



Lesbian/gay/bi-sexual

1. Safeguard LGB people so they are not targeted where they live.
2. Tackle homophobic bullying in schools, colleges and universities.
3. Increase the effectiveness of security in public places to create safe environments with zero tolerance to hate crime.
4. Increase confidence in the criminal justice system, police, victim support services, and court staff.
5. Improve the response to trans hate crime through the West Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel.
6. Reduce the incidence of online bullying.

Race:

1. Develop a specific engagement with EU, asylum and refugee communities to increase awareness of hate crime.
2. Improve responses to victims of hate crime.
3. Increase hate awareness through education using Stand Up, Speak Out, Make a Difference programme in schools.
4. Improve race awareness and impact on victims through training for local authority staff and police officers.
5. Improve understanding of data analysis from all partners regards race and faith.



Disability

1. Increase awareness of disability hate crime on public transport.
2. Increasing awareness of mate crime.
3. Work with BMDC, NHS and other public bodies to provide every disability registered person with a hate crime awareness pack.
4. Improve better response and support for repeat victimisation.
5. Train frontline police officers on disability hate crime.
6. Develop online counter narrative for on line hate.
7. Increase hate crime awareness amongst young people.
8. Develop a joint funding bid strategy with all five strands to tackle all hate crime.
9. Increase training for frontline support staff.

Transgender Identity

1. Safeguard trans people so they are not targeted where they live.
2. Tackle transphobic bullying in schools.
3. Increase the effectiveness of security in public places and create safe environments with zero tolerance to hate crime.
4. Increase confidence in the criminal justice system, police, victim support services, and court staff.
5. Utilise the resilience within the trans community towards hate.
6. Reduce the incidence of online bullying.

Hate Crime reporting centres

For more information on either of these programmes contact
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Bradford

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