

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

**REPORT OF:** Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

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## **Summary**

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be presented with an update in relation to how hate crime and tension monitoring is being tackled within Gateshead (including an overview of the local Hate Crime Strategy and details of actions undertaken locally to help support victims and prevent further incidents from occurring). It will also highlight the latest hate crime performance figures as well as providing examples of how we are engaging with local communities, residents and groups to raise awareness.

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## **Background**

As a reminder for members, we have a strong approach to tackling hate crime within Gateshead and have a proactive response to dealing with community-related tensions. Partners worked together to develop a robust Hate Crime Strategy, which was approved by Community Safety Board back in April 2016, and included a wealth of actions around three key themes:

- Reporting Hate Crime
- Case Management
- Prevention through Education

The strategy is underpinned by a detailed multi-agency Action Plan which sets out the activities that will be undertaken by the partnership to address hate crime over the forthcoming twelve-months. It is complemented by a local Community Tensions Framework which provides details of how we respond to tensions and community-related issues experienced within the Borough.

We also have a Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group which is a multi-agency forum that meets on a bi-monthly basis and is chaired by the Sergeant from the Community Engagement Team at Northumbria Police. This group oversees the delivery of the Hate Crime Strategy and the Action Plan.

## **Presentation**

The presentation will provide members with a further update in relation to how hate crime being tackled within Gateshead and will focus on:

- Providing a national, regional and local context around hate crime;
- Working with local communities/groups to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of hate crime;
- Examples of how we have worked in partnership to respond to hate crime and community tensions;
- Overview of actions identified at regional Hate Crime Conference organised by Community Safety and Northumbria Police Community Engagement Team (as part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2017).

- Highlight the future focus and planned projects of the Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group over the next 12 months.

**Recommendation**

Committee are asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the presentation/report;
- (ii) Comment on and scrutinise the approaches undertaken locally to address hate crime and
- (iii) Agree to receive further updates at a future Committee.

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