

TITLE OF REPORT:	Increasing the Reporting of Hate Crime and Educating Communities on Differences
REPORT OF:	Steven Kelly, Community Safety Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team – Development, Transport and Public Protection

Summary

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be presented with an update in relation to the approach to encouraging the reporting of hate crime and educating communities in Gateshead. It will also highlight the latest hate crime performance figures as well as providing examples of how we are engaging with local communities to raise awareness of different cultures.

1. Background

- 1.1 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
- 1.2 The strategy is underpinned by a detailed multi-agency Action Plan, which is reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis, sets out the activities that will be undertaken by the partnership to address hate crime over the forthcoming twelve-months. It is complemented by the Community Tensions Framework which provides details of how we respond to tensions and community-related issues experienced within the Borough.
- 1.3 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 Central Community Engagement Team at Northumbria Police. This Group oversees the delivery of the Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan.

2. Performance 2018/19

- 2.1 The table in Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of hate-related crimes and incidents reported in Gateshead between April and December 2018.
- 2.2 Recorded hate incidents across the borough increased by 17% when compared to the same period in 2017. There have been 351 incidents reported, 50 more than at this point last year. The low numbers reported in April 2018 are reflected across the country but reports since May 2018 have returned to levels more akin to those we would expect to see reported in Gateshead. All strands of hate crime have increased in 2018/19, the biggest percentage increases noted in disability and transphobic-related hate crime.

3. Progress

3.1 Some of the key activities carried in Gateshead in the last twelve-months relating to encouraging the reporting of hate crime, educating communities and raising awareness of differences amongst individuals include:

- The creation of an online self-reporting and referral tool on Gateshead Council's website allows victims, witnesses and third parties to report a hate crime and refer to other agencies (including Northumbria Police and Victims First Northumbria) using a simple form.
- Hosted and co-ordinated 'Hate Crime: Experts by Experience' event during National Hate Crime Awareness Week which saw several local individuals, who have experienced hate crime, sharing their personal stories to raise awareness, whilst also using this as a platform to encourage the reporting of hate crime and accessing support.
- Some of the individuals who spoke at the 'Experts by Experience' event were also recorded by Northumbria Police talking about their personal experience of hate crime. These recordings were done anonymously and have since been shared via social media. They will also be used in training delivered by several organisations, including Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police.
- Over 70 Workplace Hate Crime Champions across Gateshead are now in place, acting as a first point of contact for employees and customers around hate crime, the different ways to report and advice on the support that is available to victims.
- A Hate Crime Charter has been developed in partnership with Gateshead Council, The Community Engagement Team and regional Public Transport Providers (Nexus, Tyne and Wear Metro, Go North East, Stagecoach and Arriva). This followed work with Workplace Hate Crime Champions and conversation with customers. This Charter sets out several commitments around training and awareness for staff as well as support for victims of hate crime.
- The Community Safety and Community Engagement Teams regularly engage with community groups, peer support groups and drop in's representing the different strands of hate crime to raise awareness and discuss the barriers to be reporting their concerns.
- Providing regular training sessions for council staff and partners linked with Hate Crime Awareness and Hate Crime – all of which have been well received.
- Delivered Hate Crime Awareness refresher training to current Safe Reporting Centres. Now focusing on recruiting additional, suitable Safe Reporting Centres across Gateshead for victims, witnesses and third parties to report hate crime and access support.
- Built-up excellent working relationships with local groups representing the various strands of Hate Crime, with a focus on previously under reported

strands – Disability and Gender Identity. This has resulted in an increase in reporting from these strands.

- One example of the way in which we have increased awareness and reporting with the disability community was through the creation of two short films on the Metro and on the Bus which focus on Hate Crime and Mate Crime.
- Local charity GemArts have worked with an artist called Tommy Anderson as well as The Gateshead Housing Company and their BME and Disability Forum to create an animation focused on Mate Crime. The animation was created to raise awareness for tenants and the wider community, especially as the role out of Universal Credit can see tenants with increased money, leading them to be targets for exploitation.
- Supported Local organisations including GemArts and Humankind's Challenging Youth Racism team with work to raise awareness of racism and hate crime and cultural differences in both primary and secondary schools.
- Began delivering Hate Crime Awareness training to Pastoral Leads and Senior Leadership Teams within secondary schools and academies across Gateshead.
- Supporting secondary schools and academies with the roll out of Student Hate Crime Champions which will see nominated students acting as a point of contact for victims of hate crime within schools who can also signpost to support services.
- The Community Safety and Community Engagement Teams have supported Victims First Northumbria with a bid to the Home Office Community Projects Fund. The bid focuses on the development of a Human Library, with people filmed talking about their personal experience of hate crime. This resource can then be used in training across many different arenas.
- Delivered the first ever 'Speed Faithing' event in Gateshead which saw over 50 delegates split in to small groups before sitting down with a host of different faith representatives who explained about their faith and culture before answering questions that delegates had. The faiths represented were Islam, Sikhism, Roman Catholic, Baha'I, Judaism, Church of England and Zoroastrian. Further events are planned for 2019.
- Supported Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service with the roll out of their Home Office funded website called Conversation not Confrontation (CnotC), which includes information and tools for people to challenge those within the community, or using their facilities who are expressing specific views or ideologies which could constitute a hate crime.
- During Refugee Week we utilised social media to share myth-busting examples to educate our indigenous communities around various aspects of life as a refugee.

- Set up a Task and Finish Group to focus on increasing access to support for victims of hate crime. This group has achieved its initial goal of increasing referrals to VictimsFirst Northumbria by 10%.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Committee are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report;
- Comment on and scrutinise the approaches undertaken to encourage the reporting of hate crime, educate communities and raise awareness of differences amongst groups;

Contact: Steven Kelly

Ext: 0191 433 2701

Appendix 1 –

Recorded Hate Crime in Gateshead (April to December 2018)

	April-December 2017	April-December 2018	Diff (n)	Diff (%)	% of 2017	% of 2018
Disability	17	46	29	170.6	5.6	13.1
Homophobic	34	36	2	5.9	11.3	10.3
Racist	203	207	4	2.0	67.4	59.0
Religious	54	60	6	11.1	17.9	17.1
Transphobic	8	11	3	37.5	2.7	3.1
Other	0	5	5	-	0.0	1.4
Total Incidents	301	351	50	16.6	-	-

Please note, incidents could include more than one form of abuse therefore the figures identified above do not add up to the total number of incidents