

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE, RUTLAND AND POLICE
STRATEGY STATEMENT FOR TACKLING HATE**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy brings together key organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) including; Leicestershire County Council, the county's seven District and Borough Councils, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Police and Local Health Services in response to hate incidents and hate crime to ensure a consistent approach across the sub region.

2. Background

- 2.2 The Home Office's 'Action Against Hate' report 2016 details:

'A crime that is motivated by hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity can be classed as a hate crime.'

- 2.3 Within LLR we record incidents and crimes against these five categories, as well as including a category for 'any other perceived difference' in order to align with Leicestershire Police's recording of hate. Detailed below are the differences between hate incidents and crimes.

Hate Incident

Any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived disability, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation, transgender.

Some examples of hate incidents:

- A person receives a threatening letter which they feel have been motivated by their disability.
- Someone overhears language they think is racist.
- A person leaving a gay bar, may be verbally abused and perceive it was motivated by homophobia whether or not that person is gay.

Hate Crime

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 actual or perceived disability, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation, transgender.

Some examples of hate crime:

- An offender shouts racist abuse whilst physically assaulting a person
- A Synagogue has swastika's painted on the door and windows smashed.

2.4 Research indicates that hate incidents and hate crimes can cause greater psychological harm than other types of crime with a much greater and longer lasting effect on the victim, victim's family and communities. Leicestershire Police are the lead agency for the investigations of hate crimes, it is important to recognise that no one single agency can effectively tackle hate incidents and crimes alone.

2.5 Whilst great strides have been made in tackling hate incidents and crimes, these continue to be underreported. Findings from the 2012 – 2014 research conducted by Leicester Hate Crime Project highlighted that only a quarter of respondents stated that they had reported their most recent experience of hate crime to the Police.

3. **Our Vision:**

3.1 To ensure that people are aware of how they can report hate incidents and crimes; confident that they will receive appropriate support and advice. We aim to do this by:

- Providing a consistent response across Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County areas.
- Ensuring victims and witness are supported
- Holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour
- Working with partners to provide a coordinated response, to promote community cohesion and respect difference within communities

4. **Themes and Priorities**

4.1 The themes of this Strategy mirror the key themes within the Leicestershire Police and Crime Plan 2017-21, which are:

- To enhance Leicestershire Police's response to hate crime
- To improve user experience and increase satisfaction
- To support and influence the development of effective partnership working and campaigns

- To ensure effective monitoring of performance and baseline
- To capture and review emerging good practice and evidence based policing for hate crime.

4.2 The 2018-21 priorities for this strategy have been identified as:

- Raising awareness
- Improving our response
- Re-assuring & strengthening communities
- Cyber Hate Crime

5. Action Plans

5.1 An LLR Hate Action Plan linked to the key themes and priorities has been developed for 2018-21. The actions within the plan are overarching and broad to meet the needs of our diverse communities across LLR. To address actions within the three year plan, two more targeted plans around communication and under reporting have been developed for 2018-19. Once work has commenced on these action plans we shall begin to develop a plan to focus on community cohesion.

6. Performance Monitoring

- 6.1 Accountability for the monitoring of this strategy and action plan will be held by the LLR Senior Officer Group.
- 6.3 Delivery of the LLR Action Plan will be through the Hate and Prevent Delivery Group.
- 6.4 Update reports on the action plan will be provided to the local Community Safety Partnerships across LLR and via the Senior Officer Group.

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