

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

20 MARCH 2020

UPDATE: THE LLR HATE ACTION PLAN FOR TACKLING HATE

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress made against the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Hate Action Plan 2018 - 21. The report also highlights the 12 month trend on reported hate incident and crimes and the promotional work undertaken during the National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW) October 2019, across LLR in partnership with Leicestershire Police.

Background

2. In December 2018 the LSCSB endorsed the 'LLR Strategy Statement for Tackling Hate' and the accompanying communications strategy. The aim being to promote a consistent approach across partners in tackling hate, both by reducing incidents and increasing reporting. This would be achieved by raising awareness and providing a better response to individual cases. Our continued vision is to create a tolerant society where differences are accepted and valued within our communities and to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer places to live, work and visit.
3. The definition of hate incident and hate crime was adopted by LSCSB in 2018, including the themes and priorities for the LLR Hate Action Plan 2018-21, which mirror those of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21, as outlined in Appendix A. Due to the nature of hate incidents no single agency can work alone in tackling hate incidents and crimes. Partners have worked collaboratively to ensure people are made aware of how, when, where and who to report hate incidents and crimes, via campaigns and promotional work.

Achievements

Training Pack

4. A training pack to raise awareness as to what we mean by hate incidents and crimes and where and how to get help and support has been developed and is being used by all partners. This training pack ensures a consistent message is being delivered across the county and is being used to raise general awareness amongst local businesses and local Hate Reporting Centres (HRC).
5. A target was set for district and borough partners to identify a minimum of 5 local employers and to establish local champions within these businesses to help promote awareness about reporting hate. This action is ongoing and being progressed by partners.

District and Borough partners have also reviewed and checked if their local HRC are fit for purpose by identifying if these centres require further awareness training amongst their staff.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week Activity

6. During the 2019 National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW), all partners successfully used the Joint Community Safety On-line Calendar for publicising local events and activities that were taking place to promote hate awareness including other relevant campaign events. This joint calendar has been a great success and will continue to be used by all partners in promoting and sharing key events and campaigns.
7. All partners have been collating their own directory of key contacts to assist in reaching out within the community. The approach aims to help boost publicity and awareness when campaigning or distributing publicity material locally.
8. During the NHCAW a joined-up approach was taken with all main Libraries across the county and Melton Borough Council to promote and run a competition titled 'Respect and Kindness, Not Hate'. This competition was in the form of a card that tasked participants to undertake a number of positive activities within their community. It was open to everyone but was particularly aimed at children aged between 4 – 12 years. A number of entries were submitted by people with learning disabilities. The competition took place during the month of October, in total 10 entries were received, and a random prize draw took places with 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions receiving a gift voucher sourced from local business.
9. To ensure consistency in communication during the NCHAW a social media pack was produced by Leicestershire County Council in collaboration with the Police and shared with all partners. This publicity ran from 11th – 20th October. Analysis from the media coverage highlighted that over 185 thousand people were reached across facebook and twitter. This is a huge reach considering the number of posts submitted, which included seven on facebook and seven on twitter. Sixty-four people liked one message that promoted an image, which indicated that images draw people in. In summary coverage is always better when using twitter than facebook and that overall the take up on social media was good.

'Stamp It Out' Campaign

10. The Police led on refreshing and relaunching the partnership led 'Stamp It Out' project. 'Stamp It Out' brings together different partners and organisations who are committed to challenging, tackling and stamping out hate within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, proactively working together to encourage the reporting of hate crime and incidents. This work involved re-creating and updating the posters and leaflet and refreshing the website. The relaunch of the new content coincided with National Hate Crime Awareness week in 2019. This was very much a partnership

approach and the County Council, District and Boroughs (and the City Council) were all asked for feedback prior to these being publicised.

11. There is now a library of 46 different posters available (previously there were 12 posters) and a toolkit of digital media. Both will shortly be made available to all partners, community groups, organisations, educational establishments and interested parties, content can be utilised across all social media platforms and compliment and 'bring to life' the existing posters.
12. The digital posters are already being used in a number of schools and have been shared with community groups via WhatsApp and distributed to their members. The aim being to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encouraging reporting.

Hate Crime Survey

13. A Hate Crime Survey was commissioned by the Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel and Leicestershire Police ran the survey from July 2019 to the end of September 2019. There was a good response to the survey from across LLR both via the survey monkey link which was shared on social media, in paper format via locality groups and community links and through interaction at community events using iPads to complete via Survey Monkey. In total 550 returns were received, and findings show a near 50/50 split between those who had been a victim of a hate crime and those who had not.
14. During analysis it was noted that many questions had not been answered by respondents and consideration will be given to how questions are worded in any future surveys.
15. It was encouraging to note that the majority of respondents said that they would report incidents to the Police. Focusing on raising awareness of hate crime reporting mechanisms and how to report hate crime will continue and more community engagement and education awareness sessions are planned for 2020.

Other Initiatives

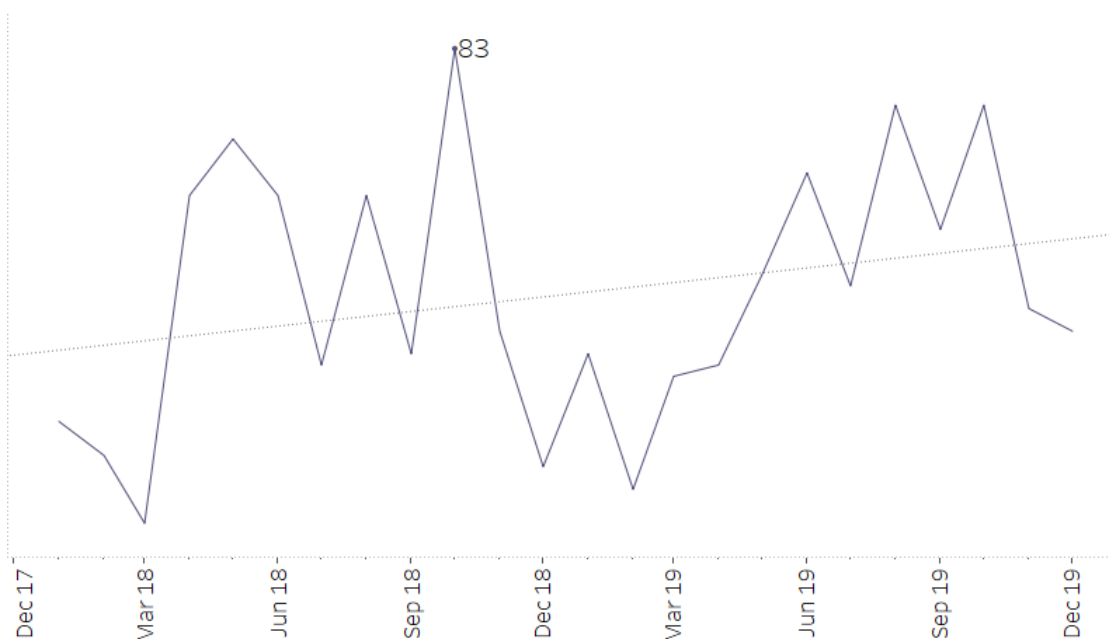
16. All partners are aware of the community portal set up by the police, and regular reminders are issued to all partners, to share local information on issues of community tension. Additionally, under our prevent duty all local authorities complete the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profiling (CTLP) questionnaire. The last CTLP was submitted by all partners for end of 2019.
17. Victim First have engaged with police stations and have been involved in community events across the county. Their aim being to promote awareness of victim support services they offer. They have also used social media to access a greater reach of people.

18. All Joint Action Groups (JAGS) across the county have hate and prevent as part of their agenda as good practice to ensure any relevant issue is flagged or discussed, if required.

Trend over the last 12 months on Reported Hate Crime and Incidents in Leicestershire County

Levels of hate crime and incidents

19. For the period January 2019 to December 2019 there were 747 hate crimes and incidents recorded by the police and on SENTINEL. This is higher than the previous year of 721. The chart below shows monthly levels of hate crimes and incidents over a two-year period. There is a slight increasing trend with levels higher during the summer months and lower during the winter months. There was a spike in Hate crimes and Incidents in October 2018 with 83 reports.
20. Diagram 1. Monthly hate crime and incident levels across Leicestershire for the period January 2018 to December 2019.



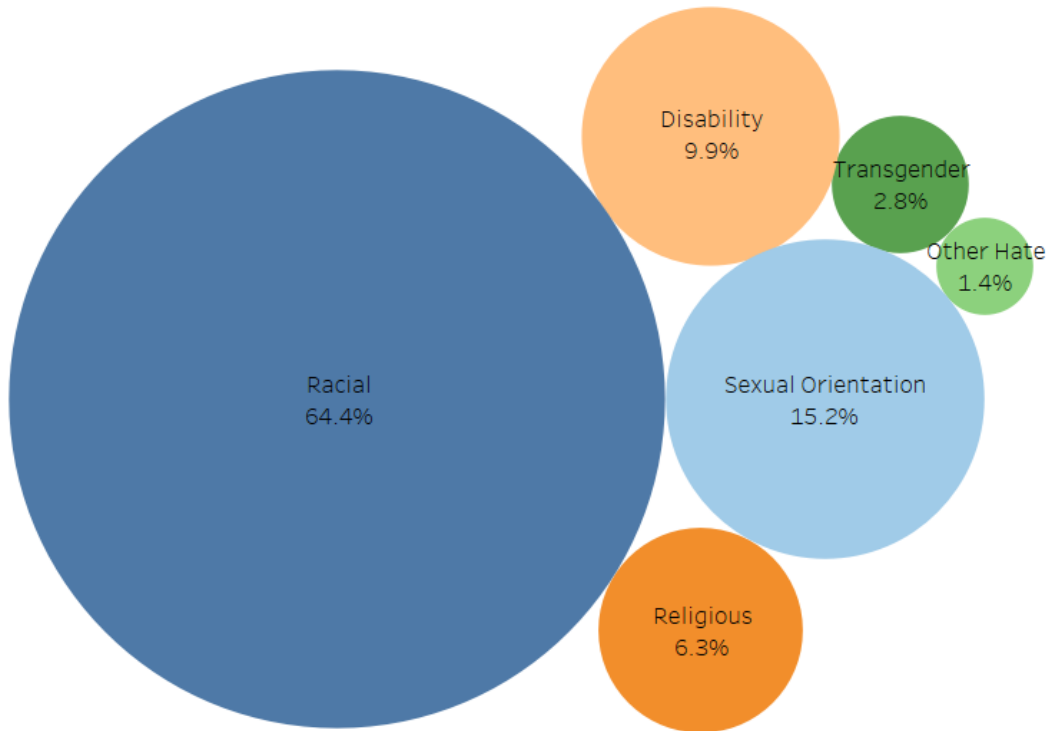
Source: Police Crimsec4 and SENTINEL case management system

Types of Hate crime and incidents

21. The types of hate crime recorded by the police fall into 6 main categories: Racial, Religious, Sexual Orientation, Disability, Transgender and Other. Diagram 2 shows the proportion of hate crimes reported in each category. One incident of hate may be classified as more than one type, for example Racial and Religious. The diagram below shows that in the last year 64% of all types were Racial and 15.2% were

because of a person’s sexual orientation. The proportions are similar to the national picture.

22. Diagram 2: Types of hate crimes and incidents reported across Leicestershire in the last 12 months. (source: Police Crimsec4 and SENTINEL case management system).

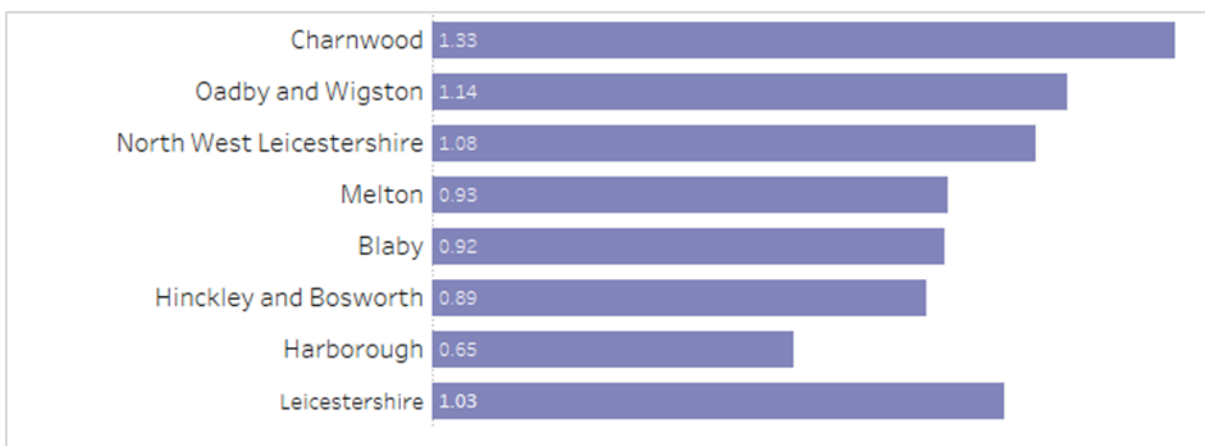


Source: Police Crimsec4 and SENTINEL case management system

Locations of hate crimes and incidents

23. When comparing Reported Hate Crime and Incidents across Leicestershire, Harborough has the lowest rate and Charnwood has the highest rate per 1000 population.

24. Diagram 3: Hate reporting by district (rate per 1000 population).



Source: Police Crimsec4

25. Areas with the highest levels of reported hate are mainly in town centres and retail parks. Diagram 4 below shows the top 12 areas in Leicestershire for reported hate.

Diagram 4: Areas with the highest levels of reported hate by lower super output area. (rates per 1000 population).



Source: Police Crimsec4

26. More information on reported hate across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland can be found on LSR Online at <https://www.lsr-online.org/crime-and-community-safety.html>

Recommendations

27. It is recommended that the Board:
- (a) Notes the achievements and progress made against the Hate Action Plan;
 - (b) Note the trend in figures presented on reported hate crimes and incidents over the last 12 months.

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APPENDIX A

Definition of Hate Incident and Hate Crime

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.'

Within LLR we record incidents and crimes against these five categories, as well as including a category for 'any other perceived difference' 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.

Some examples of hate incidents:

- A person is bullied or intimidated and perceives this behaviour as being motivated because of their disability.
- A person is experiencing rubbish being thrown into their garden and their driveway being blocked with parked cars and perceives that it is motivated by homophobia.

Hate Crime - any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice.

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.

Themes and Priorities

The themes and priorities of the Hate Strategy mirror the key themes within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 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.

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

- Raising awareness
- Improving our response, identifying and responding to emerging issues
- Re-assuring, strengthening and educating communities.