



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Serving Hampshire
Isle of Wight
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RESPONSE TO

Hampshire Police and Crime Panel
recommendations:

Hate Crime

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Police and Crime Commissioner's response to Police and Crime Panel recommendations:

a. That the PCC should continue to develop and lead partnership working with other organisations that have a shared interest in addressing hate crime. An initial focus should be to bring partners together to agree a consistent approach in supporting and encouraging victims and witnesses to report incidents of hate crime. Longer term aspirations should seek to enhance community cohesion, through enabling the wider community to identify and understand the impact of hate crime.

The Commissioner is committed to working in partnership to tackle all forms of crime and disorder. This is a stated priority within the Commissioner's, Police and Crime Plan, "To work together to reduce crime, promote public safety and create vibrant and inclusive communities".

The Commissioner has publicly stated his commitment to work with partners and partnerships. Both of which are very important in tackling hate crime however these must remain meaningful, effective and deliver achievable outcomes collectively.

The duty to tackle hate crime is not solely the responsibility of the Commissioner, it is the responsibility of all partners. The Commissioner has led the Hate Crime Working Group with partners for a period of time. One of the Police and Crime Commissioner's current priorities is to continue to encourage all partners to effectively contribute to the work of the Working Group. A more effective outcome could be achieved if strategic intent and resources were dedicated to tackling hate crime collectively. For partnerships to work effectively and efficiently, it is important for all partners to recognise hate crime as a strategic priority, invest resources into tackling it and commit to genuine partnership working where all contribute and deliver.

Working with partners on a 1:1 basis or smaller working groups can at times be just as effective, as working in multi-agency larger partnerships, to achieve desirable aims. The Commissioner is working in partnership with Hampshire County Council's Rights and Diversity Education Team to devise a new reporting tool to be used in all Hampshire secondary schools to capture all forms of hate crime incidents which occur, at present only race and religious/faith hate crimes are recorded. It is hoped that this tool will also be adopted by the other three top tier unitary authorities for use in their secondary schools. Representatives from the other three local education authority areas (the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton) have also been invited. If successfully implemented this would allow for the first time a clear picture of hate crime levels within pan Hampshire and Isle of Wight schools to be determined.

Other examples of current partnership working include working with Restorative Solutions and Hampshire Constabulary to run a pilot restorative intervention programme for hate crime offenders. Working alongside the grass roots led independent third party reporting network set up in Southampton by helping to develop and steer the network towards tackling hate crime.

b. The PCC and his office should devise a coherent action plan, through engagement with partners including town and parish councils, to enhance the

understanding and awareness of hate crime within rural communities. Consideration should be given to helping residents to identify what hate crime is, and how this profile may vary from that seen in urban conurbations. In devising this approach, regard should be paid to the successes of the Good Neighbour Scheme, recently introduced in the IOW.

The Commissioner is grateful that the panel's scrutiny process has highlighted the importance of this issue for rural communities. After reviewing the evidence submitted by rural Town and Parish Councils as well as rural hate crime data provided by Hampshire Constabulary, it is clear that hate crime is a hidden crime in rural areas. A lack of awareness and understanding of what hate crimes are, is reflected in the low level of reporting from within rural areas.

It is important to stress that an incorrect perception within rural areas may exist that hate crimes do not occur in rural areas. We draw this conclusion from past experience based on similar views in relation to the occurrence of domestic violence and abuse in rural areas. Rural communities may mistakenly view hate crime through the lens of race/ethnicity solely. Being unaware of the exact definition and all the personal characteristics which make up hate crime. Within rural communities our partners inform us there are people with disabilities and members of the LGBT community who are, too often suffering in silence. Many of the current national initiatives to tackle hate crime rarely adapt to rural environments, however locally focussed approaches adapted to a rural environment can make a difference.

The Commissioner is keen to work with rural partners to increase the awareness and understanding of hate crime within the rural community. An initial approach to the Association of Hampshire Town and Parish Councils is planned, to explore opportunities to work together and devise plans to help residents identify what a hate crime is and encourage Town and Parish Councils to set up as third party reporting centres.

c. Following his pledge to address hate crime, that the PCC continues to enhance support services for victims. Ongoing consideration should be given to ensuring victims are aware of and able to access the services available, and that regard is given to how best to support those victims targeted as a result of multiple characteristics.

The Commissioner continues to support Victim Support in exploring all opportunities to make victims aware of the Victim Care Service and maximise uptake of its support services. Counsellors working within the Victim Care Service are highly trained and experienced to work with victims presenting with multiple needs. Ensuring victims of hate crime receive the appropriate support services will help their long term recovery.

Promoting the Victim Care Service to all victims of crime is a priority for the Commissioner and his team. An example of this was the recent attendance of staff from Victim Support at a meeting of the independent Southampton third party reporting centre network, to raise awareness of and publicise the Victim Care Service. Very few attendees had heard of the service and were glad to receive information which they intended to signpost any hate crime victims to. As part of the

award of the new contract to Victim Support, improving the promotion of the service was inserted as a condition of the awarded contract.

The expected change in Hampshire Constabulary's policy towards implied consent for victims of hate crime will lead to an increased number of hate crime victims who will be automatically referred to the Victim Care Service. Not every one of those victims will take up the offer of help and support. However the number of those who do is expected to be greater than the current level.

d. That the PCC and his office continue to encourage the growth of third party reporting centres to deliver geographically balanced access pan Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Following evidence received to this review the PCC should seek to enable these centres to be in the heart of the communities they serve and encourage all unitary, district and borough councils to become third party reporting centres.

Since the hate crime scrutiny session in April 2018, the number of third party reporting centres has further increased. The number as of August 2018 is fifty seven an increase of 9 from April and this figure is expected to grow even further by the autumn with an increase expected on the Isle of Wight (following a training session held in July).

The Commissioner will continue to encourage and support the expansion of third party reporting centres. The Commissioner is acutely aware of the need to ensure third party reporting centres are geographically spread and more importantly situated in the heart of diverse communities. However the need to increase the number of third party reporting centres should not be regarded as an end in itself, other means as opportunities to increase reporting (such as through mobile APPs) should also continue to be explored and promoted.

To ensure third party reporting centres do not fail, expanding them should be done gradually, making sure they are well supported and resourced. To ensure they are sustainable they need to be placed in the heart of the communities they intend to serve to succeed. This would support the monitoring and evaluation of them and ease the process of making any timely changes which may be required.

The Commissioner's office is in the process of conducting an evaluation into the impact and success of third party reporting centres, specifically looking at lessons learnt and support provided to third party reporting centres to make them sustainable in the long run. The recommendations of which will be used to help improve the further development and roll out of third party reporting centres.

The Commissioner's office attended a meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Safety Practitioners (Managers) in June 2018 to encourage local authorities to set up third party reporting centres within their areas. The majority of Community Safety managers indicated at the time that increasing the number of third party reporting centres was not a priority for them.

e. Where possible, the PCC and his office should seek to support and encourage schemes which provide education to children and young people focussed on understanding and preventing hate crime. Such schemes should

not only focus on children, but on the family and community environment and look to challenge long seated beliefs that might be promoting harmful attitudes.

The Commissioner is keen to maximise initiatives and opportunities to promote hate crime awareness and education amongst children and young people. The Commissioner's Youth Commission is a key conduit through which access to young people and schools is made easier, to raise awareness to a widest audience of young people possible. The Youth Commission members have delivered a number of talks on hate crime in schools, colleges and youth settings. Hate crime formed part of the Youth Commission's "Big Conversation" survey, popular themes raised within the survey were general awareness of hate crime and difference/equality which will be explored further by the Youth Commission.

From the Youth Commission's big conversation survey, key themes identified by young people for tackling hate crime included greater general awareness of hate crime, consequences of hate crime, education for young people through a focus on differences and equality.

The priority afforded to hate crime initiatives by the Commissioner is demonstrated by his commitment to ensure it remains a commissioning theme. The outcome of the recent smaller Safer Communities Fund bidding round is yet to be made public but a number of bids were submitted by various organisations seeking to work with children, young people and their parents around hate crime awareness and prevention.

As opportunities similar to the Heartstone Odyssey Project arise, the Commissioner will carefully review and examine them to determine whether they can be replicated and rolled out in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight also.

f. Following a lack of evidence received to this review, that the PCC engages with and demonstrates his commitment to preventing anti-Semitic hate crime and that targeted towards those with disabilities.

The Commissioner is grateful to the Police and Crime Panel for helping to identify through its scrutiny an area for improvement. The Commissioner is committed to preventing all forms of hate crime including anti – Semitism. The Commissioner and his office will seek to engage and work alongside the Jewish community of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to tackle anti – Semitic hate crime.

Disability hate crime is acknowledged to be one of the most under reported hate crimes across the country. In 2016 – 17, national figures revealed that nationally police forces in England and Wales recorded 5,558 disability hate crimes¹ whilst the Crime Survey of England and Wales estimated that between 2012 – 15², there were 70,000 disability hate crimes. The Commissioner is determined to increase reporting

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467366/hosb0515.pdf

of disability hate crime and has helped to establish third party reporting centres in Southampton and Portsmouth, within organisations / groups which work with members of the disabled community (Southampton Centre for Independent Living and Portsmouth Disability Forum) and has invested in the Victim Care Service to help support vulnerable victims.

g. That the PCC should, through his role in holding the Chief Constable to account, seek a resolution to concerns raised regarding the initial recording of hate crime incidents and look to bridge any gap in confidence for victims. The PCC should also support the Chief Constable in aligning operation priorities, with his strategic priorities for hate crime and look to encourage the future integration of hate crime into mainstream policing.

The experiences of hate crime victims will be scrutinised by the Commissioner in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary through agreed engagement opportunities such as focus groups, surveys and 1:1 interviews, to ascertain what if anything went wrong for them whilst trying to report/record their hate incident, what lessons can be learnt and how these can be translated into actions to improve the service for victims of hate. Once any learning has been implemented and embedded, the Police and Crime Commissioner will use his powers of scrutiny (e.g. through 1:1's or COMPASS) to challenge the Chief Constable and ensure any improvements in service provision and delivery have led to increased victim confidence. The Commissioner will continue to work in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary through their internal Hate Crime group to improve the initial recording of hate crime and raise victim confidence.

The Panel will recall that Hampshire Constabulary were represented at their “deep dive” scrutiny session and will be alert to the issues raised. As the Panel will be aware, operational responsibility firmly lays with the Chief Constable in relation to identifying operational priorities and the deployment of resources. The Commissioner will continue to work with the Chief Constable to align actions to prevent and tackle hate crime. There is already sufficient synergy in the work, frequent communications and dialogue between officers of the OPCC and Hampshire Constabulary to address hate crime.