

**KIRKLEES
HATE CRIME
STRATEGY
2022-27**

Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy 2022-27

Dated: August 2022

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1. FOREWORD

Cllr Carole Pattison, Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities

When developing the key strategies within the Kirklees Communities Plan, I was passionate about making sure tackling Hate Crime formed an integral part of our partnership approach to delivering a safer Kirklees.

This Hate Crime strategy builds on the excellent work that has been undertaken in Kirklees over the past 25 years or so to tackle the broad range of offences detailed in this strategy, all of which are motivated and directed by intolerance and hatred.

The last couple of years has seen significant impacts on communities caused by the pandemic and wider instabilities at a national and international level. This has both bonded communities but also has seen examples of blame and targeting of groups which is totally unacceptable.

Reflecting on the last decade, the forms of hate crime have expanded and the ways in which people can experience hate crime has broadened with the online space being increasingly prevalent. It is critical that there is a clear message that hate crime in any form is not acceptable and we tackle hate crime in all its forms with equal vigour and are resolute in our ambition to address it.

This strategy sets out our approach which emphasises the focus on preventing hate incidents happening in the first place but where they do, providing comprehensive support to victims of hate crime and holding perpetrators to account for their actions.

The action plans which will co-ordinate the delivery of this strategy focus on the people and places in which incidents occur and will recognise the need to involve communities and a wide variety of partners in tackling hate crime.

It is vital that we can demonstrate our progress in tackling hate crime. We need to build insight into our understanding of hate crimes to ensure we know can distinguish between an increase in incidents being connected with victim confidence to report incidents as opposed to issues getting worse.

Tackling hate crime is a fundamental element of creating a safer Kirklees which is my overarching priority and passion.



2. DEFINITION OF HATE CRIME

This strategy will use the definition of hate crime in the current national strategy of “any 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”.

Hate crimes might include threats, verbal abuse, graffiti, violence, or damage to property. Crimes can take place within the home, public spaces (including institutes such as hospitals and schools) and increasingly online via social media.

3. THE PREVIOUS KIRKLEES STRATEGY (2017 – 2021)

Tackling Hate Crime Strategy in Kirklees is based on the principle that the best way to tackle hate crime (in whichever form it takes) is to support victims and hold perpetrators to account at the earliest opportunity or better still, prevent it happening in the first place.

Delivery of the previous strategy was based on the following tiered interventions:

- **Prevention** – through general and targeted communications around “hate has no place” and education with young people to promote longer term behavioural change.
- **Early Intervention** – frontline workers are knowledgeable about and committed to providing support and signposting victims to appropriate support services.
- **Specialist Provision** – through developing specialist mechanisms to support victims and interventions to hold perpetrators to account for their actions.

Delivery of the Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy was informed through the analysis of multi-agency intelligence to target locations and groups disproportionately affected and assess the impact of work in this area.

4. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE PICTURE

The latest hate crime report from the Home Office (covering the 12 months to March 2020), show a continued year on year increase in hate crimes recorded by the Police (8% increase on previous year).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that around 47% of hate incidents are reported to the police (which is higher than the 38% for broader crime) and a higher proportion of victims saying they were emotionally affected by the incident compared with more general crimes.

The number of hate crimes recorded in Kirklees (1,352) was 10% (124) higher in 2020/21 than in the previous 12 months. In common with the national picture, there was a significant spike in hate crimes over the pandemic lockdown period.

Breaking Kirklees incidents down by type, the majority continue to be race (70%), the rest recorded as sexual orientation (12%), disability (11%), faith (5%) and transphobic (1%).

Analysis of incidents in Kirklees show a significant proportion of neighbour related incidents (as more people were at home) and an increased number taking place online which has also been widely reported nationally.

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022 - 2027

Tackling hate crime continues to be a key priority within the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan. Work in this area will focus on people, places and partnerships to co-ordinate delivery.

PEOPLE

Perhaps the most important aspect of delivery is focusing on people – both as victims and perpetrators of hate crimes:

- **Victims** – this will focus on all stages of the victim journey (1) coming forward to report incidents, (2) being able to access appropriate support and (3) effective support in moving forward
- **Perpetrators** – education and communication will remain a key element to reiterate the messages that 'Kirklees has no place for hate'. There will also be a mediation to stop incidents escalating and tough legal enforcement to hold people to account.

PLACES

Over the lockdown period, there was an increase in hate crimes occurring at home, often targeted by people known to the victim – a key aspect of the strategy is making sure people live safely in their own homes.

As people start to use public spaces (including town centres, schools and religious establishments), there is a risk that hate crimes in these areas will increase – we will use intelligence to identify and address issues in these spaces.

Increasingly, hate crimes take place in the online space where people might feel less inhibited in giving hate abuse – we will take a strong stance to address the issue of online hate.

PARTNERSHIPS

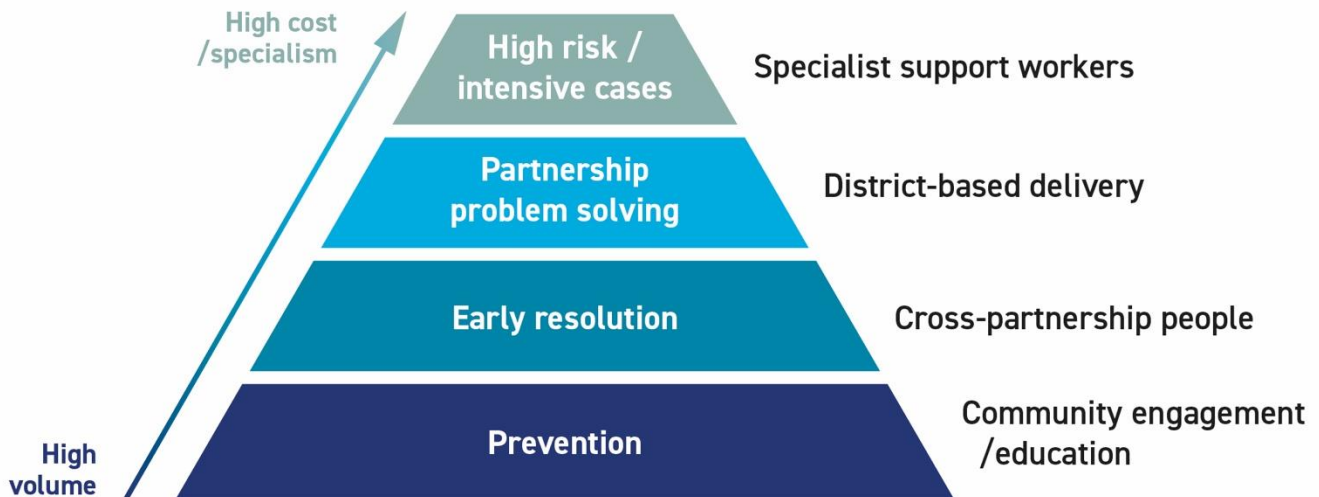
No one agency can tackle hate crime on their own which makes it vital that a wide range of partners and diverse communities are integral to effective delivery.

The Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy will draw on the insight, expertise and passion of partners and local communities to develop effective and innovative approaches to tackling hate crime in the district.

6. METHODS OF DELIVERY

TIERED DELIVERY

Delivery of the themes in the strategy will be based on the principle that the best way to tackle hate crime is to prevent it happening in the first place and where it does occur, to support victims and bring perpetrators to account at the earliest opportunity.



The purpose of this strategy is to provide the broad principles of delivery for hate crime in Kirklees – annual delivery plans will sit under this to achieve these.

A hate crimes operational delivery group will develop annual action plans to turn the strategy into action – both consulting and involving communities in this delivery.

A hate crime strategic group will provide necessary challenge and support to ensure that action plans are on track and any strategic blockages which inhibit delivery are removed.

Progress against agreed impact measures will be reported to the Communities Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide external challenge.

7. KEY THEMES AND PARTNERS

The following are the areas of focus with actions points.

PEOPLE OBJECTIVES

- Improving support for the victims and witnesses of hate crime: Ensuring victims who experience or report a hate crime, will feel validated, listened to and heard.
- Secure justice and help ensure those responsible are brought to justice.
- Promoting the use of restorative justice and community resolutions, including mediation, where prosecutions are unlikely.

PLACES OBJECTIVES

- Responding to and building an understanding of hate crime across communities.
- Engage and educate with education establishments, communities and partners to prevent, recognise and report hate crime.
- Bringing communities and wards together, through a co-ordinated approach which establishes shared goals, values and interests.
- Working together across agencies to provide informed, targeted interventions in hotspots and high prevalence areas.
- A commitment to tackling hate crime online including accountability around social media.

PARTNERS OBJECTIVES

- Increase the reporting of hate crime in Kirklees.
- Improve awareness of hate crime reporting facilities; what they are, where they are and how they can be used.
- Communications and campaign to dispel myths and stereotypes that fuel hate crime.
- Strengthen relationships between police and communities.
- Better understanding the extent and prevalence of misogyny in Kirklees.

8. OUTCOMES MEASURES

- Reduce the number of repeat victims of hate crimes to West Yorkshire Police.
- Increase in the percentage of victims and witnesses that feel supported (compared to the previous year).
- The reporting of hate crime in Kirklees is increased (based upon previous years and in comparison, with similar areas) and above the regional average for hate crime reporting.
- Percentage of individuals trained that feel confident in dealing with a hate crime.
- Increase in the number of hate crime that lead to a criminal conviction (compared to previous years, and in comparison with other West Yorkshire areas).
- Consideration of the use of other options to bring about justice, i.e., Restorative Justice.

9. CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

HOW TO REPORT A HATE CRIME/INCIDENT

If there is a threat to life or a hate incident ongoing: Call [999](tel:999)

Trains and train stations: Report all hate that happens on trains, or at the station, via text to the British Transport Police on [61016](tel:61016)

West Yorkshire Police website: [Hate Crime / Hate Incidents | West Yorkshire Police](#)

Fill in our online form: www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/crime-and-safety/hate-incident-reporting.aspx

You can also report a hate crime at a [hate incident reporting centre](#) where you can speak to a crime representative in confidence and be supported to complete an online report.

You can also visit a [Victim hub](#). Where Safer Kirklees and Victim Support can offer free and confidential advice and support.

