

01 HATE INCIDENTS / CRIMES

Hate incidents and crimes hurt and can be very frightening for the person subjected to them. They directly strike at who a person is, their community and their way of life and can be committed against a person or a property. People have often suffered abuse and hostility all their lives, just because of who they are. A frequent way of managing this is 'self-editing' where they hide their true self from others in daily life to avoid any conflict.

Incidents and crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards their disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity are classified as hate incidents or crimes. This briefing is here to remind you of our responsibility to the victims of hate incidents/crimes so that we can make people safe and help them feel safe. Hate incidents and crimes are being committed every day across all force areas and yet research tells us that over 60% are never reported to the Police.

02 WHAT IS A HATE INCIDENT / CRIME

Hate incident is defined as:

Any incident, which does not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hostility

Hate Crime is defined as:

Any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hostility."

03 OUR DUTY

It is essential that we all understand that whilst the nature of the hate incident may not grade high on the criminal framework of offences, victims of hate incidents or crimes have often experienced this hostility and behaviours for long periods and contacting the police is a significant step for them due to fears of recrimination and them not being taken seriously.

Hate Incidents and Crimes if not dealt with appropriately have the potential to rapidly escalate for both for the victim and the community and could cause severe damage to public confidence.

04 PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Our consistent, competent and compassionate approach to victims and communities will improve;

- people's awareness of what should not be tolerated – hate incidents and crimes
- peoples confidence to report hate incident's and crimes
- peoples confidence in the criminal justice system

This in turn will lead to increased trust and confidence within our communities in our ability to understand their issues and deal with them effectively.

Most victims of hate incident's and crimes just want it to STOP.

07 GUIDANCE

DO – take all reports of hate incidents and crimes seriously. The victim impact will be significant even though the incident may appear minor.

DO – take positive action to make the offending behaviour STOP. It doesn't only have to be the victim that reports Hate Crimes/ Incidents. If YOU witness it YOU can report it too.

DON'T – assume it is someone else's problem. We ALL have a responsibility to fight Hate Crime.

06 WAYS TO REPORT

Positive action to make the behaviour STOP and victim care/support is vital.

There are various ways to report hate crimes and incidents:

- In an emergency always call 999. For all other reports please call 101.
- Lancashire Constabulary Website lancashire.police.uk
- True Vision report-it.org.uk
- Via Third party Reporting Centre (TPRC). For full list of centres across Lancashire please refer to Lancashire Constabulary website.

05 DID YOU KNOW

- Approximately 1.5 million people live in Lancashire
- Our estimated BME population is 10%
- The national LGBT population is estimated at 5%.
- The national disability is estimated at population 11%
- We recorded 107,368 crimes in the last 12 months
- Less than 1% (1042) of the total crimes were recorded as hate crimes
- The CPS has over an 80% successful conviction rate at court for hate crime in Lancashire

Further information

Hate crime information is available on Lancashire Constabulary Website or contact your organisations Equality & Diversity department.



Support for victims of hate crime is provided by Lancashire Victim Services and offers advice, information, practical and emotional support and will provide this service even if the police have not been contacted.

Call them on 0300 323 0085, via e-mail at info@lancashirevictimservices.org or visit their website: www.lancashirevictimservices.org