

MEETING	Decision Making Meeting
DATE	9 March 2021
TITLE OF REPORT	Refresh of the Hate Crime Strategy (2021- 2026)
SUBMITTED BY	Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Strategy, OPCC
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To seek the Commissioner’s approval of the new countywide Hate Crime Strategy
DECISION(S) REQUIRED	To approve the new countywide Hate Crime Strategy
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<i>None</i>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	<i>None identified.</i>
EQUALITIES IMPACTS	No adverse or detrimental impact on any of the identified protected characteristics as this is a strategy supports all protected characteristics.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION EXEMPTION SECTION IF APPLICABLE	<i>Not FOI Exempt</i>

1 Introduction and Background

Since June 2020 the Hate Crime Partnership Board, with representatives from Police, Herts Equality Council, Beacon Victim Care Centre, Herts for Learning, Crown Prosecution Service, County Community Safety Unit (CCSU), Hertfordshire County Council together with the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office, have been working on producing a refreshed five-year countywide Hate Crime Strategy.

In support of the refreshed strategy, a needs assessment was carried out by CCSU in July 2020 and data on recorded Hate Crime and Hate Crime incidents was collected from a wide range of organisations including the voluntary and community sector to understand gaps, barriers and opportunities.

The strategy outlines Hertfordshire’s plans for reducing the harm caused by Hate crime to individuals, families and communities. It takes a whole systems approach, covering the spectrum from prevention to enforcement with a focus on victim support.

The vision is shaped around five key areas:

- **Awareness:** People are aware of what a Hate Crime is.
- **Reporting Crime:** People have the confidence to report Hate Crime.

- **Reporting channels:** People can choose how and where they report Hate Crime.
- **Supporting victims of Hate Crime:** People receive the right support when reporting Hate Crime.
- **Respect:** Hate Crime will be taken seriously and treated sensitively.

2. Consultation

On 18 December 2020, the draft Hate Crime Strategy was published on Hertfordshire's County Council website, distributed to all county boards and a range of community groups, charitable sectors and those known through the key individual networks. The survey was hosted on HCC's website and was posted widely on social media platforms, utilising all the various agencies channels and including a QR code. To ensure the strategy had the best possible opportunity to reach out to all the protected characteristics, an easy read version was produced and this was distributed and used by key agencies to assist in 1:1 discussions with individuals.

The consultation took the form of a 10-minute online survey hosted on HCC's website to capture experiences of Hate Crime and provide the right checks to ensure that the strategy was focusing on the right areas. Over the 8-week consultation period, the survey received over 100 detailed survey responses. It showed that consultees were supportive of the key themes, particularly in relation to raising awareness of what Hate Crime is, recognising that for many people they are unaware that it is a crime and that it can be reported to the police; and police training.

Following the publication of the strategy, action planning workshops are being held in April with a wide range of agencies, groups and individuals from across the protected characteristics and those who responded to the consultation and answered 'Yes' to wishing to participate in delivery planning. The delivery workshops will focus on key areas including commissioning, communications and training to help inform the development of an annual delivery and action plan. The delivery of which will be reported on to the PCC's Community Safety Board.

3 PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

That the PCC approves the final five-year Hate Crime Strategy (2021- 2026)

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Final Strategy



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