

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

**Hate Crime Strategy**

**2017-2021**

**Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)**

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| **1** | **Name of the ‘policy’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘policy’ is to equality.** | **Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2021**  The Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2021 outlines the partnership approach and service offer in relation to tackling hate crime. It explains the partnership’s strategic vision, sets out the hate crime agenda in a national and local context, details our partnership services and structures, provides data and consultation feedback, details outcomes and key objectives and a supporting delivery plan.  The Community Safety Service who have driven the development of this partnership strategy is based within the Adults, Health and Well-Being Directorate and has responsibilities for both strategy and service delivery aimed at reducing crime and disorder. The team operates as part of the statutory Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), working closely with a number of key partners in a collective effort to reduce Crime and Disorder across all our communities.  The principal aim of the Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2021 is to aspire to achieve a borough where hate crimes and incidents are recognised as unacceptable, and people live safe and happy lives free from targeting and abuse. The strategy sets out an approach to provide access and support to anyone experiencing hate crime, to enable them to feel safe and confident, and to address the behaviour of any identified perpetrators. |
| **2** | **Service area responsible for completing this statement.** | Community Safety Team  Rachael Long  Crime and Safer Doncaster Theme Manager  Tel: 01302 737469  Email: Rachael.Long@doncaster.gov.uk |
| **3** | **Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.** | **Protected user groups as defined by the Equalities Act**  Age, Disability, Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief, Maternity and Pregnancy, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership.  **Current provision**  By its very nature, the hate crime agenda exists to support those individuals who may be targeted due to one or more of their protected characteristics. The current service and those additional services reflected within the strategy are available to all communities.  **Equalities Analysis**  The consultation opportunity which informed this strategy was available to all communities to enable them to share their thoughts and experiences. The intention of the partnership hate crime service offer reflected within the strategy is to ensure it remains clearly focused on the needs of hate crime victims, to ensure the partnership fully understands their specific needs and to ensure those are fed into relevant services and commissioned pieces of work. Therefore the views of these groups have been particularly sought during strategy consultation and development in a variety of forms e.g. online, face to face consultations, focus groups. A summary of the consultation findings is displayed as an appendices to the strategy.  **Data**  As a partnership, we have access to a range of hate crime data. Our predominant data source continues to be provided by South Yorkshire Police. In addition to police reported crimes and incidents, the Council manages a number of third party reporting locations where victims can also choose to report. As a further option, the Council also offers 24/7 telephone and on-line hate crime reporting. Data sources are created from each of these reporting options.  At a national level, the strategy incorporates statistical information across the 5 strands of hate crime (race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability) in addition to local data for comparison. The strategy explores Doncaster’s service offer against LGA recommended practice and details the prevalence of hate crimes and incidents across Doncaster, mapped against the location of our reporting centres.  Doncaster enjoys a wealth of established and robust multi-agency processes, all of which are victim-centred. These mechanisms (as reflected within the strategy) are utilised to facilitate the provision of effective, joined-up services for hate crime victims. The hate crime services offered within Doncaster are designed to support and include individuals from all protected characteristics. It is not anticipated that any of the approaches outlined within the strategy will negatively or disproportionately impact on any protected group. |
| **4** | **Summary of the consultation / engagement activities** | **Consultation on the strategy and service offer has taken place with the following**:  In order to better understand our communities and help to frame the content of the new strategy, a public consultation period was held during August 2016. This consultation period encompassed a number of methods to obtain feedback, including face-to-face engagement sessions, the use of social media, focus groups and an on-line survey.  The consultation period saw a positive return of 177 responses to the questions asked, which centred around a victim’s understanding of hate crime, their previous experiences, any barriers to reporting and the services they would like to see.  The public consultation responses provided some interesting and reassuring findings. It is reassuring to note that those recommendations highlighted by the Local Government Association in relation to good practice are already embedded within Doncaster’s hate crime service provision. For example, we operate third party reporting centres, we have an established training programme for a variety of audiences and we have a highly established, partnership framework in place to effectively manage hate crime cases.  Whilst highlighting and confirming the positive and advanced nature of Doncaster’s existing hate crime services, the public consultation has also highlighted some areas where we intend to make future changes and/or improvements to the way we deliver our services, including (but not exhaustive) to:   * The implementation of a 24/7 telephone reporting line and the availability of an on-line reporting form for hate crime – to provide 24hour access to reporting mechanisms; * The re-instigation of a Police Independent Advisory Group which encompasses hate crime, and further representation at a regional level at Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels by the Crime and Community Safety Theme Manager; * Improved communication with communities about what hate crime is and our services; * The implementation of restorative justice measures for hate crime cases wherever appropriate; * Establishing closer links with social care and education colleagues in the delivery of the hate crime agenda; * The provision of interpretation services to those victims where language is a barrier to reporting hate crime. |
| **5** | **Real Consideration:**  **Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used** | Local evidence and findings show that levels of reported hate crime in Doncaster has fluctuated over the past two years. Rates of offences in Doncaster are the lowest in South Yorkshire and the area is well below that of its ‘most similar group’ average. The majority of recorded hate crime offences in Doncaster continue to be racially aggravated. More than 79% fall within the category of Violence Against the Person.  The Town Centre records the highest volume of reported hate crime, with males accounting for 66% of hate crime victims, most aged between 20 and 44 years. Saturday’s record the lowest levels of offending, Sunday evening’s record the highest number of reports. Where recorded, taxi drivers and retailers are the most commonly targeted.  Council Third Party Reporting Centres continue to receive a steady number of reports. The highest concentration of these reporting locations is in the vicinity of the town centre in order to reflect the highest prevalence of hate crime within this area.  In developing this new strategy, we have looked at our current service provision alongside consideration of the barriers and difficulties that victims may face when coming forward to report hate crime. The feedback has been used to shape the accompanying delivery plan attached to the strategy, where we outline what we will do in response to the consultation findings. Further detail regarding the survey results are displayed as an appendices within the strategy document.  **Key Findings:**  **Awareness and Communication**  Feedback highlighted that, whilst knowledge levels was largely good regarding hate crime amongst those consulted, there was an ongoing need to continue to educate and raise awareness of this agenda and how to report and access services, including challenging those common misconceptions regarding difference and culture. It is our commitment to increase the amount of hate crime information available in the public domain to better inform communities regarding the services we provide as a partnership. It is also our commitment to further improve our customer feedback mechanisms to ensure victims are fully informed of progress as their case develops and to improve public confidence. The Delivery Plan identifies actions to be taken in respect of hate crime awareness and communication.  **Reporting**  Some respondents identified that communities need to have more confidence in agencies in order to report hate crimes and incidents. Some respondents were unaware of the services available and therefore hadn’t reported due to this. The Partnership continues to offer a wide variety of reporting services as detailed within this strategy, including third party reporting centres, on-line reporting and a dedicated telephone line. The Delivery Plan identifies further actions to be taken in respect of hate crime reporting mechanisms.  **Priorities and Future Focus**  Feedback highlighted some preferences regarding future service provision to tackle hate crime. These included improved victim support and feedback, increased awareness regarding hate crime, easy and accessible reporting services, counselling / mediation services and a focus on early intervention. A key contributory factor identified from our consultation was the lack of understanding and ignorance which fuels hate crimes and incidents. Building cohesive and resilient communities where hate crime and discrimination are not tolerated was therefore a prominent factor from our consultation. The connections between hate crime and on-line targeting was also made. Highlighted within the Delivery Plan are details of the work to be undertaken to respond to these identified priorities.  The framework to deliver the hate crime strategy 2017-2021 will operate within existing, robustly tested multi-agency mechanisms, which already take into account the individual requirements of victims, many of whom are vulnerable with complex needs, to ensure fair, accessible treatment and services. |
| **6** | **Decision Making** | For many years, Doncaster has identified hate crime as a priority for the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP). The strategic management of hate crime is located within the Anti-Social Behaviour Theme Group of the partnership structure. Whilst this strategy is owned by the SSDP, on behalf of Team Doncaster, it is important that all the strategic partnerships in Doncaster have due regard for and contribute to the delivery of this strategy. Hate Crime cuts across the agenda of all partnerships, including its alignment to the Doncaster Equalities and Inclusion Plan via Equality Objective 4 – to reduce the number of hate crime offences which cover a number of protected characteristics. Some partnerships are more clearly linked than others, but all must play a role in delivering the strategy.  It is important that the Mayor and Cabinet understand the need to continue providing a hate crime service across Doncaster and where changes are made that they do not impact adversely on any group with protected characteristics. The proposed hate crime strategy 2017-2021 does not negatively impact any individual group. By its very nature, the hate crime agenda exists to support those individuals who may be targeted due to one or more of their protected characteristics. The current service and those additional services reflected within the strategy are available to all communities.  The DMBC Senior Leadership Team and Portfolio Holder have been made aware of due regard considerations through:   * Regular briefing updates reporting on strategy development and consultation findings; * Opportunity to provide input and comment on the content of the strategy document.   The SSDP will continue to be updated regarding progress throughout the life of the strategy. |
| **7** | **Monitoring and Review** | The delivery plan for the hate crime strategy 2017-2021 will be monitored through reports/updates provided within the Team Doncaster Structure, namely;   * Regular reports to the Anti Social Behaviour Theme Group; * Reports to the SSDP Priorities, Performance and Outcomes Group; * Internal DMBC Performance Management indicators. |
| **8** | **Sign off and approval for publication** |  |