

17 February 2022		ITEM: 5
Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee		
Community Safety Partnership Report on Hate Crime		
Wards and communities affected: all	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Strategic Lead: Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Public Realm and Chair of Community Safety Partnership		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report into Hate Crime and Social Media has been requested by the Chair of the Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee. In the Committees role of ensuring that the Council is fulfilling its duties regarding Prevent it is important to acknowledge the links between the prevent agenda and the monitoring and tackling of hate crime.

The College of Policing¹ state that whilst “not all hate crime is linked to extremism and terrorism, but it is likely that a terrorist act will be motivated by hate. The hate may be personal, ideological or the result of manipulation by others and it is important to recognise the links, particularly in respect of intelligence handling.

Many perpetrators of terrorist activity commit less serious hate crimes prior to progressing to more serious offending. Not every hate crime offender will escalate to extremist crime, and the challenge is to identify those with the potential to do so, thereby enabling counter-terrorist colleagues to reduce the risk posed.”

This report provides an insight into the scale of hate crime in Thurrock and the strategies in place to address.

¹ [Hate crime and counter terrorism \(college.police.uk\)](https://college.police.uk)

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That members of the committee, through this report, assure themselves of the response to Hate Crime in Thurrock.

1.2 That members of the committee equip themselves to raise the profile of hate crime within the communities they serve and promote methods of reporting.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Hate Crime is the generic term used to discuss both hate crimes and hate incidents.

Hate Crimes are any crimes perceived by the victim or another person to be motivated by hostility of prejudice.

Hate incidents feel like crimes and often escalate to crimes or can cause tension in the community.

2.2 Hate crime can be motivated by prejudice about the following protected personal characteristics:

- race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality or national origins, including prejudice against Gypsies and Travellers
- religion and belief, including no faith
- transgender or gender identity, transphobia, the resentment or fear of transgender people, transsexuals or transvestites
- sexual orientation, homophobia, the resentment or fear of gay, lesbian and bisexual people
- disability, including sensory, physical, mental impairment or learning difficulties

2.3 Hate crime can take many forms, including:

- threatening behaviour
- assault
- robbery
- damage to property
- inciting others to commit hate crimes
- harassment

2.4 Nationally for the year ending March 2021, there were 124,091 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 9% on the previous year. As in previous years, the majority of hate crimes were racially motivated, accounting for 74% of reported offences.

2.5 Essex has a Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership of which the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a member. The Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018/21 is currently being refreshed.

There are 5 key themes identified within the strategy, which Thurrock has also adopted, to tackle hate crime locally:

1. Understanding hate crime
2. Preventing hate crime
3. Increasing the reporting of hate crime
4. Increasing access to support for victims
5. Improving the operational response to hate crimes

Within the Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25 Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands including Prevent (radicalisation) and Hate Crime as those crimes which not only pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, but also present the greatest opportunity for prevention.

- 2.6 In October the Chair of the Strategic Hate Crime Partnership and the Superintendent who leads on hate crime for the Force announced that there would be a change in the recording of Hate Crime in Essex where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim and that gender based hate crime will now be recorded by Essex Police and an investigation commenced.

They said that this is especially relevant at this current time given the national interest and activity that is taking place around violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls. Essex Police and wider partners are committed to truly understanding the issues faced by women and girls in the county and to do this, Essex Police will be one of the first forces in the UK to start to adopt the recording of sex/gender hate.

This is in line with the National focus in the area of Violence Against Women and Girls where earlier this year, the Minister for Women and Equalities, Baroness Williams recognised the pressing need to identify, record and tackle offending against women.

The Law Commission are currently undertaking a review of hate-based offending.

- 2.7 Locally hate crime has been a priority for the Thurrock CSP since 2011. The current priority for 2021/22 is:
“Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime”

The proposed priority for 2022/23 remains as “**Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime** – including Sex/Gender based hate crime.”

- 2.8 Across Essex there were 5160 Hate Crime Offences (as defined by the Home Office) in the year ending December 2021 compared to 3976 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 30%.

In Thurrock there were 634 Hate Crime incidents in the year ending December 2021 compared to 478 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 33%.

Whilst this percentage increase is in line with Essex it is still high, however this is seen as a positive response by Essex Police and their partners (including Thurrock's 256 hate crime ambassadors) to encourage reporting and to build confidence in our minority communities.

There are no repeat locations or victims and no identified community tensions linked to this increase.

We know from our challenge panels with the transgender community that there is still a long way to go to close the gap in relation to unreported crimes/incidents.

The fact remains that this is an under reported and often hidden crime.

2.9 As part of the Prevent training offer delivered in Thurrock hate crime awareness is also included and the model by The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence (CPRLV), quoted in the SALTO resource pack, used. This categorises violent extremism in four ways articulating the links between violent extremism and hate crime:

1) Left-wing violence, such as violent acts committed by anti-capitalist groups in order to transform political systems. This category can also include violence by animal rights extremists or environmentalist groups.

2) Right-wing violent acts, such as those committed by far-right groups, often referred to as 'neo-Nazi' groups. Such groups are motivated by racism and a desire to defend supposed racial supremacy.

3) Religiously motivated violence, such as violent acts committed by extremist Islamic movements, which often have specific grievances against Western governments in relation to foreign policy.

4) Issue-based violence, such as violence carried out by groups concerned with a single issue – such as, abortion or homosexuality.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Data 2021

Data Source: Hate Crime Officer, Essex Police for West LPA

This data relates to the 12 months ending **31/12/21**.

In Thurrock there were 634 Hate Crime incidents in the year ending December 2021 compared to 478 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 33%.

Hate Crimes by Type:

Hate Crime Type	No of reported crimes
Racial	445
Disability	88
Homophobic	64
Multiple strands	16
Religious	15 (8 Muslim, 3 Jewish, 2 other, 1 Sikh, 1 unknown)
Transgender	5
Alternative sub culture	1

Hate Crime by Wards – Top 10

Ward	No	Ward	No
West Thurrock and South Stifford	93	Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	35
Grays Riverside	79	Tilbury St Chads	34
Aveley & Uplands	75	Grays Thurrock	34
Belhus	49	Chadwell St Mary	31
Ockendon	38	South Chafford	25

All data is based on flags related to hate crime and the amount of reports/incidents it may create.

For example: A person may report a problem with their neighbour who is being verbally abusive, they state it has been going on for some time and is due to their race and religion.

This could generate 2 reports; public order and harassment.

The person stated it was both racially and religiously motivated, meaning both investigations would have race and religion hate tags; therefore this single report would generate 4 incidents when recording data.

Aveley and Uplands had 21 incidents in September, however; 2 incidents involved 8 people amounting to 11 reports of hate crime. A further 2 victims had 2 reports each.

Offence Type:

41% of offences were violence without injury,
35% for Public Order Offences (whereby Individuals accused of rioting, affray, drunk and disorderly behaviour, inciting racial or religious hatred or assaulting emergency workers are all likely to be detained under the Public Order Act 1986)

16% (99) were non crimes, i.e. hate incidents.

There is no breakdown of hate crime/incidents committed on line via social media, however we are aware that anecdotally this is where we are seeing the largest increase in hate crime.

Victims:

35% self-defined their ethnicity as white, followed by 14% Black and 13% Asian. For 18% no ethnicity was recorded, 16% did not state their ethnicity.

54.85% were male, 45.15% were female.

27% were aged 31- 40, 24% aged 41–50 and 18% aged 21–30.

3.2 Activity to address this priority in 2021

- 256 trained ambassadors have made 1,168 contacts from January to September to raise awareness.
- Hate Incident Reporting Centres, of which we have 9, are community venues where individuals can be supported to report hate crimes and incidents, either as a victim or a witness. In 2021 they have taken 7 reports (N.B. due to lockdown restrictions many venues were closed for part of the year).
- National Hate Crime Awareness Week was held between October 9th and 16th October 2021. With the support of our ambassadors this was celebrated with Thurrock Council, Essex Police and other agencies hosting events in Tilbury and Grays Town Centre raising awareness and different ways to report hate crime. There was also a focus on engagement with businesses in Grays. We made use of social media and reported on real case studies of the different strands of hate crime such as Transgender, Disability, Race, Religion and Sexual Orientation.
- Thurrock's Safeguarding Adults Board hosted a pop up event on hate crime in Grays in November as part of Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week.
- Disability hate and mate crime training has been well received across 4 sessions; this is now being offered out to Thurrock colleges and special needs schools.
- A hate and mate crime webinar to promote awareness of this, went out to over 30 different organisations across Essex including some in Thurrock.
- An overview of Hate Crime is included within our Prevent training offer.
- Our Locality Action Groups take referrals where vulnerable people are victims of hate crime and a multi-agency response is required.

3.3 Next Steps

The delivery plan for 22/23 has yet to be drafted, however based on the focus from the Essex Partnership, the recommendations within the draft strategic assessment 2021 and the local knowledge of our hate crime delivery group it is likely to include:

- Continue to encourage reporting, in particular of disability, homophobic, religious and transgender.

- Improve the recording of self-defined ethnicity of victims.
- Monitor Aveley and Uplands for any community tensions in relation to race.
- Promote and monitor the reporting of gender based hate crime, where Essex Police now record Hate Crime where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim.
- Strengthen links to our Traveller communities.
- Continue to develop work with Faith groups, including through the Essex Police Challenge Panel.
- Raising awareness within disability communities in particular working with Thurrock Lifestyle solutions to deliver our Stay Safe programme virtually.
- Raise awareness of how to respond to on line hate crime
- Raise awareness in Care Homes.
- Extend awareness to Businesses outside of Grays.
- Ongoing training and offer to communities to include licensed taxi drivers.
- To act on learnings from the Challenge Panel hosted by the Trans community.

3.4 Community links

Thurrock's Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to Essex Police meets bimonthly and its objectives include:

- Work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.
- Assist in effectively tackling the cause and effects of hate crime.

Hate Crime and Community issues/tensions are standing agenda items.

3.5 Reporting

Hate crime causes fear and confusion. By improving reporting it will help the police understand the extent of hate crime in Thurrock and therefore improve the response. This may prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. Reporting makes a difference to victims, family, friends and the wider community.

Recommendation 16 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry was "The ability to report at locations other than police stations and the ability to report 24 hours a day" and led to the creation of our Hate Incident Reporting Centres.

There are several ways to report hate crime.

- [report hate crime to True Vision online](#)
- [report hate crime to Essex Police online](#)
- report it at a [police station](#)
- report it at a [Hate Incident Reporting Centre](#)
- contact your [local housing officer](#)

- contact [Stop Hate UK](#) who operate a free 24 hour helpline

3.6 Dealing with Online Hate Crime

In order for Essex Police to be able to take action in relation to on line hate crime it is recommended that, in the first instance, the receiver makes the perpetrator aware of the effect that the message has had on them.

They should therefore reply that their email / message etc. has caused offence and that any future correspondence will be sent to the police with a view to prosecution for harassment. An evidence trail should be kept of any correspondence.

Where hate crime on social media is generic rather than directed towards an individual you can report as hate crime direct to the group admin. Any focused on aspects of Thurrock as a community should be raised as a tension to the CSP through member's enquiries or direct to Essex Police.

3.7 Monitoring

Essex Police and the CSP in Thurrock take hate crime extremely seriously and monitor it rigorously.

- Essex Police have a commander call at 9am every day to go through all hate crime incidents, the risks of those and look at whether they have been attended within 24-48 hours and if not they are immediately allocated to an available unit
- The Community Policing Team (CPT) Inspector has to carry out 8 reviews of cases every month and it has now been agreed that they will all be hate crime cases.
- Fortnightly tasking chaired by the CPT Inspector and attended by the CSP Manager highlights hate crime across all strands for the last fortnight.
- Locality Action Groups monthly discuss individual cases where a multi-agency response is required to support the victim. Community tension monitoring is a standing agenda item.
- Our IAG meets bimonthly and the Hate Crime Officer presents the latest hate crime data and any community tensions are discussed.
- Community Tension monitoring and a high level over view of any concerning trends in relation to hate crime is a standing agenda item at the quarterly Prevent Board.
- The quarterly Counter Terrorism Local Profile includes ratio of hate crime to Prevent referrals.
- Our bimonthly CSP Executive receives an overview of hate crime.
- The CSP receives an annual report on this priority.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Scrutiny of the this report and opportunity to ask questions of officers will provide the committee an opportunity to be assured that Thurrock Council, through the CSP, is addressing the issue of hate crime in Thurrock.
- 4.2 Hate Crime is an under reported crime and all community leaders are requested to promote this agenda and be able to signpost residents towards reporting.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Consultation on the Hate Crime Strategy for Essex was through the Strategic Board. Locally we discuss with members of our Independent Advisory Group and the officer led delivery group.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no financial implications arising from this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
Corporate Governance Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on the police and local authorities to work together with key partners and agencies in partnership to formulate and implement local crime reduction strategies.

Under the Act the Council and the Police have joint responsibility for preventing and reducing crime and disorder at a local level. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The recommendations set out in the report provides an opportunity to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities to prevent and reduce hate crime occurring at a local level.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
**Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer**

By its very nature hate crime impacts on all of our diverse communities. The purpose of addressing this crime is to reduce inequalities seen in our communities.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Looked After Children

This report will support members in ensuring that they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

2.4 [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-in-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021)

2.5 [Essex Hate Crime Prevention Strategy 2018-2021 0.pdf](#)

3.5 [Overview | Hate crime | Thurrock Council](#)

9. **Appendices to the report**

N/A

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Public Realm