

Hate Crime

Angie Sarchet
Cohesion & Equalities Manager



Hate Crime Definition

Any criminal offence which is committed against a person or property that is motivated by hostility towards someone based on their disability, race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation

ACPO/CPS



Examples of behaviour (1)

- Physical attacks on a person or a place - such as physical assault, damage to home/vehicle, spitting at someone, offensive graffiti, arson, damage to places of worship, vandalising graveyards, acts of terrorism etc
- Threat of attack – e.g. offensive letters, abusive or obscene phone calls, cyber bullying, groups hanging around to intimidate and unfounded malicious complaints.



Examples of behaviour (2)

- Verbal assaults or insults – offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, spitting, dumping of rubbish/excrement outside homes or through letter boxes, bullying in the workplace/at school

Can be experienced by
an individual or a whole community



Why now?

- Complaint from resident/victim 2011
- The 'Hidden in Plain Sight' report (EHRC, 2011)
- Cross-governmental action plan published March 2012
- 'Improving Support for Victims in Thames Valley' report (Victims' Commissioner, May'12)



Challenge It, Stop It, Report It

- Focuses on 3 core issues
 - Preventing hate crime
 - Increasing reporting
 - Improving operational response to hate crimes



Reported Hate Crime in Bucks

For the period 1st April 2011 to 30th April 2012, there were **231** reports of Hate Crime to the police in Buckinghamshire

	Nat.	Survey
89% were racist crimes	67%	33%
6% were based on sexual orientation	10%	15%
4% were religious hate crimes	4%	15%
2% targeted disabled people; and	3%	18%
1% targeted transgender people	0.75%	5%

Hate Crime Summary Tool, Thames Valley Police

In 2010, 48,127 hate crimes were recorded by police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Hate Crime Survey

- Snapshot audit
- Establish people's experience of hate crime and incidents and their views of the services available
- Ran from 14 November 2011 – 6 January 2012
- 257 respondents
- Gender, race and age demographics matched those of the county* and sample is therefore representative of Bucks population in these areas

*Buckinghamshire ACORN Profiler



Findings from Survey

- People reported against 7 strands - race, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender and gender reassignment
- All of the strands, apart from race, showed higher reporting than TVP records (where data available)



Findings from Survey

- Comparison of survey and national data suggests an **under-reporting** issue
- 16% reported they had been a victim of hate crime in the past year (self-selection)
- Top 3 issues reported were:
 - Insults and harassment*
 - Threat of violence*
 - Unwanted sexual contact*
- 75% of incidents occurred between 1-5 times
- 52% in public places
- Only 26% said they reported to any agency



Reasons for Not Reporting

- 55% didn't think the police could or would do anything
- 45% too common to report
- 41% didn't think it would be taken seriously
- 67% didn't know where they could get any support



Hate Crime Survey - Issues

- Good number of responses but sample size not statistically valid
- Compounded by not all respondents answering all questions
- Disproportionately high level of Urban Professional respondents, with other groups under-represented – may not have been exposed to the survey
- Issues re representation of those residents across Bucks more at risk of being a victim of hate crime



Focus Groups

- Focus groups set up across the county
- Proved challenging in terms of engagement
- Feedback – “Do not want to re-live their experiences or do not relate to hate crime”
- 1 to1 sessions offered but unsuccessful
- Planned literature review



What do the findings tell us?

- Bucks has residents who are experiencing hate crime
- Need improvement in identification and reporting
- Need to improve people’s confidence to report
- Need to improve awareness of where to report and the agencies that do exist



Actions going forward

- Literature review
- Mapping exercise to identify local support agencies, provision and any training needs
- Work with districts to monitor, respond and share information
- Review trend data with other authorities
- Public awareness raising to increase reporting and where to go for help
- Partnership awareness raising
- Develop multi-agency training
- Consideration of third party reporting



STOP HATE UK

- Registered charity and social enterprise based in Leeds
- Evolved from the Leeds Racial Harassment Partnership.
- Considerable experience and expertise in supporting victims of Hate Crime
- Provides a fully staffed 24-hour Hate Crime reporting service
- Referral reports to Police, Victim Support and a multi-agency Hate Crime referral point (if in existence) where the caller resides
- If a caller wishes to remain anonymous, referrals to one or all agencies are adjusted accordingly
- £10k / £31k



Safe Places

- LD Partnership Board
- Businesses etc
- Stickers in window
- Pilot in South Bucks (Burnham – June 2012)
- BCC Com Safety funding identified
- Looking to roll it out across the county
- Feel vulnerable not just vulnerable
- Small steering group



And finally ...

- Any questions?
- Anything further wish to see included in draft action plan?
- Are there any operational issues or concerns?
- What is the potential for working together on this?

