

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12th JUNE 2014

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Housing and Community Safety – Lead Cabinet Member – **Councillor Steve Nelson**
Access and Communities – Lead Cabinet Member – **Councillor David Coleman**

HATE CRIME REPORT

1. Summary

‘Empowering People to Tackle Hate Crime’ (2010) identified a lack of action being taken to tackle disability and Hate Crime and has suggested ways to improve services. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recommended that those leading on Hate Crime incorporate these findings into their work. The Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner is leading on this work across Tees and it is an operational priority for Cleveland Police. This report provides information to Cabinet on the proposed approach to hate crime in Stockton as a result of changes introduced to improve hate crime reporting across Tees.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Receive this report and note its content.
- b) Endorse the approach agreed by the Safer Stockton Partnership to Hate Crime in Stockton outlined in paragraphs 15 -19.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report contains the findings and recommendations of the Tees Wide Hate Crime Group.

4. Members’ Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council’s code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of

the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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SUMMARY

'Empowering People to Tackle Hate Crime' (2010) identified a lack of action being taken to tackle disability and Hate Crime and has suggested ways to improve services. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recommended that those leading on Hate Crime incorporate these findings into their work. The Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner is leading on this work across Tees and it is an operational priority for Cleveland Police. This report provides information to Cabinet on the proposed approach to hate crime in Stockton as a result of changes introduced to improve hate crime reporting across Tees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

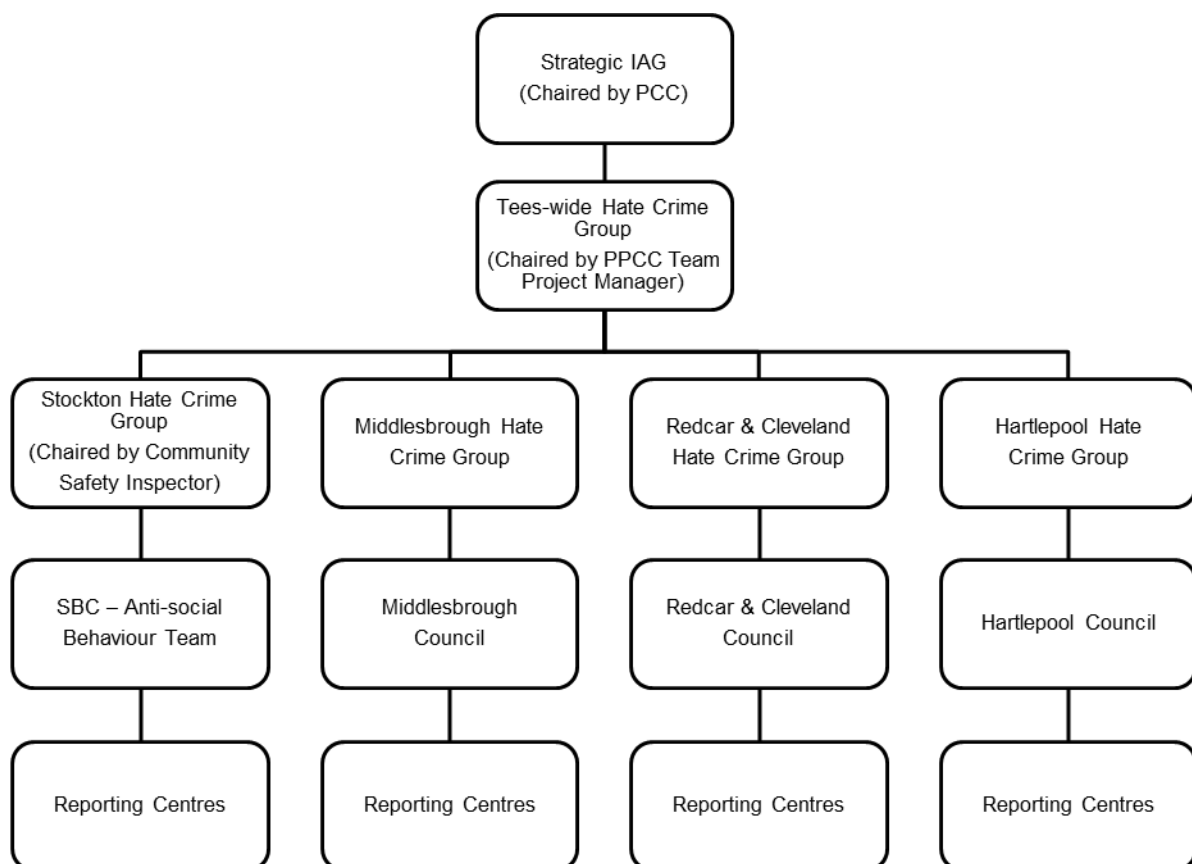
It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Receive this report and note its content.
- b) Endorse the approach agreed by the Safer Stockton Partnership to Hate Crime in Stockton outlined in paragraphs 15 -19.

DETAIL

1. According to Home Office national figures for 2011-12 there were 43,738 hate crimes recorded by the police. It showed that Hate crime against vulnerable groups is on the rise. Of those hate crimes recorded, 82% were race-related, 10% were related to sexual orientation, 4% were religiously motivated and 4% were recorded as disability hate crimes. The Equalities and Human Rights Commission defines Hate Crime as any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by an offender's hatred of someone because of their:
 - Race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality or national origins
 - Religion
 - Gender or gender identity
 - Sexual orientation
 - Disability

2. The national picture shows that a significant amount of Hate Crime is still unreported, especially related to disability. In Oct 2013 a national Bill was put forward in Parliament which requires Police Forces to register hate crime committed against people with learning disabilities as well as other forms of disability. In 2012 recently a piece of research 'Manifesto for change' on the safety and security of disabled people conducted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that violence and hostility is a daily experience for some disabled people.
3. The high levels of Hate Crime still being unreported is reflected across the country and has been identified as a priority for the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This has led to some changes being made to the current Hate Crime system across Tees.
4. At the present time across Tees each of the four local authorities have different methods of reporting, recording and promoting services in relation to Hate Crime incidents. In an effort to bring this together and have a co-ordinated approach to Hate Crime, a Tees Wide 'Hate Crime' group has been established. This has been co-ordinated from the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner's office and has membership of key leads from each of the local authorities and Cleveland Police. It is chaired by the Project Manager from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office. As a result there will be a uniform 'Don't tolerate hate' logo for Hate Crime across the Tees Valley, see Appendix 1.
5. Each Borough will work under the umbrella of the Tees Wide Hate Crime Group but will be required to develop its own approach to address hate crime at a local level.
6. Below shows the current structure for overseeing hate crime across Tees:



CURRENT APPROACH IN STOCKTON

7. There is an established multi-agency 'Hate Crime' group in Stockton which is made up of key representatives from Cleveland Police, SBC Diversity Team, SBC Community Safety, SBC Housing Section, Tri-star, Endeavour and Tees Valley Housing, , Stockton District

Advice and Information Service and CESC. This group is chaired by the Community Safety Inspector from Cleveland Police and reports into the Safer Stockton Partnership.

8. All incidents are reported at reporting centres, listed in paragraph 9, and are sent as they occur to the Stockton Anti-Social behaviour Team who log all incidences onto the FLARE recording system. The SBC group meets monthly to look at Hate Crime cases and develops action plans for each case. The group also looks into monitoring cases that have been reported through the telephone reporting line. This information is shared and discussed regionally at the Tees Wide Hate Crime group and fed into the Tees Valley SIAG (Strategic Independent Advisory Group) which is led by the Police and now chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
9. Currently there are six reporting centres across the Borough;
 - Stockton District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS) Bath Lane Stockton
 - Municipal Buildings, Stockton Council
 - Billingham Town Council Office, 1 Chapel Road, Billingham
 - Stockton Library
 - Billingham Library, Bedale Avenue
 - Thornaby Central Library, Town Centre, Thornaby
 - Thornaby Library, Westbury Street, Thornaby (recently relocated)

CURRENT PICTURE OF HATE CRIME IN STOCKTON

10. The Hate Crime figures for Stockton have followed a similar pattern to the national with race being the main reason for hate crime as shown below:

All Incidents Crimes	April 2013 - December 2013 (%)	April 2012 - December 2012 (%)
Racial	130 (76)	144 (88)
Transgender	4 (2)	2 (1)
Disability	5 (3)	5 (4)
Religion/Belief	17 (10)	7 (4)
Sexual Orientation	16 (9)	5 (3)
All Hate Incidents*	172	163

11. The table shows that the number of race related Hate Crimes in Stockton have gone down compared to the previous year. There has been an increase in the number of sexual orientation related and religion related Hate Crime. The level of Hate Crime related to disability has stayed the same, again reflecting the national picture. Cleveland Police data (April 2012 – 2013) for all authorities can be found in Appendix 2.

12. Across Tees the disability data is not currently broken down any further by the types of disability, but this will be incorporated in the new approach to dealing with Hate Crime. At present the definition is quite broad. Under the new approach an improved definition will be given allowing for disability Hate Crime to be recorded by sub-headings presenting a clearer picture on disability related Hate Crime.
13. In November 2013 the results of a mystery shopping exercise carried out in reporting centres across Tees highlighted a need to effectively train staff and raise awareness of hate crime and reporting procedures amongst key staff. . The results of this mystery shopping exercise and the recommendations from it have been incorporated into a Tees Wide Hate Crime Operational priority.
14. Whilst key staff had previously been trained on how to deal with hate crime incidents (taking reports, logging information and explaining the processes) this training was carried out in 2009.

NEXT STEPS

15. As part of the refreshed SBC approach the Stockton Hate Crime group recommend **four** key` reporting centres :
 - Stockton Central Library
 - Stockton District Advice and Information Service, Bath Lane
 - Thornaby Central Library and Customer Service Centre
 - Roseberry Billingham Library (Billingham Centre Library and Customer Service Centre, when it goes live)

The rationale is that they are central, are the centres that most Hate Crimes are reported and have private rooms for reporting 'Hate Crime'. All direct reporting centres will receive training on the correct procedures for reporting and recording hate crime.

16. In addition Stockton Hate Crime Group will increase the reach of awareness of Hate Crime by having 48 centres across the Borough (See Appendix 3) that have information on how and where to report incidents, ensuring links are made with the Safe Place in Tees Scheme. These sites and their related organisations will be offered a basic level of awareness raising /training and posters and publicity material, provided via the Tees Wide Hate Crime Group.
17. In addition to providing training for the **four** reporting centres it is proposed to provide refresher training for key staffing groups including the Anti-social Behaviour Team, Customer Services, Housing and Security Centre and CESC staff as these staff groups are those who will be more likely to deal with the victims of Hate Crime. This will allow for the inclusion of changes made to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and will take into account any changes that have occurred in staffing.
18. Stockton Hate Crime Group will use the disability sub-headings that Tees Wide Hate Crime Group recommends in our reporting to ensure consistency across Tees.
19. Stockton Hate Crime Group will support the Tees Wide 'Hate Crime' campaign which sees Police and partners:
 - Working with key organisations to raise awareness of reporting hate crime e.g. those working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

- Providing educational lessons in schools on hate crime issues including those committed via social networks and the importance of internet safety when dealing with hate crime delivered over social media.
- Co-ordinating the reporting of hate crime incidents across Tees.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. The actions are to be met through existing services and budgets and /or secured external funding.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

21. There are no legal implications at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

22. This review of 'Hate Crime' within the Borough has a low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

23. Not applicable.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

24. This report is a progress report on previously agreed recommendations and commitments and is therefore not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

25. N/A

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Education related? No

Background Papers

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors Not ward specific

Property No property implications