

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 JANUARY 2019

**REPORT OF CRIME AND
DISORDER SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Access, Communities and Community Safety – Councillor Steve Nelson

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HATE CRIME

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Crime and Disorder Select Committee findings and recommendations following the Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime.

2. Recommendations

(1) That the Stockton Hate Crime Group be recommended to incorporate the following actions into the Hate Crime Action Plan:

(a) targeted awareness raising and promotion of the support available for:

- groups with protected characteristics (in particular disability, LGBT)
- frontline staff
- younger men
- schools, colleges and universities

(b) encouraging reporting through:

- greater publicity for successful prosecutions
- the development of an on-line form, which would enable users to report hate crime from any location
- reviewing the role and profile of Third Party Reporting Centres in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- working towards reducing the barriers to reporting

(c) recruiting and developing capacity of community advocates;

(d) continuing to scrutinise hate crime incidents and their classifications;

(e) reviewing the impact of the Prejudice Driven Behaviour Policy and Trans-Inclusion Policy and Guidance for schools in 12 months;

(f) continue to review the membership of the Stockton Hate Crime Group to ensure representation from all key stakeholders and groups.

- (2) That Stockton schools be encouraged to take advantage of the range of awareness raising and support packages available.
- (3) That the Council continue to recognise and support the important work of Show Racism the Red Card.
- (4) That a letter be sent to Stockton MPs to seek their support in calling for further research into how best to tackle online hate speech.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2017/18.

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

The attached report presents the Crime and Disorder Select Committee findings and recommendations following the Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Stockton Hate Crime Group be recommended to incorporate the following actions into the Hate Crime Action Plan:
 - (a) targeted awareness raising and promotion of the support available for:
 - groups with protected characteristics (in particular disability, LGBT)
 - frontline staff
 - younger men
 - schools, colleges and universities
 - (b) encouraging reporting through:
 - greater publicity for successful prosecutions
 - the development of an on-line form, which would enable users to report hate crime from any location
 - reviewing the role and profile of Third Party Reporting Centres in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - working towards reducing the barriers to reporting
 - (c) recruiting and developing capacity of community advocates;
 - (d) continuing to scrutinise hate crime incidents and their classifications;
 - (e) reviewing the impact of the Prejudice Driven Behaviour Policy and Trans-Inclusion Policy and Guidance for schools in 12 months;
 - (f) continue to review the membership of the Stockton Hate Crime Group to ensure representation from all key stakeholders and groups.
- (2) That Stockton schools be encouraged to take advantage of the range of awareness raising and support packages available.

- (3) That the Council continue to recognise and support the important work of Show Racism the Red Card.
- (4) That a letter be sent to Stockton MPs to seek their support in calling for further research into how best to tackle online hate speech.

DETAIL

- 1 This report presents Cabinet with the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime. The overall aim of the review was to increase awareness and understanding for hate crime issues, seek to build confidence within communities and increase reporting. The review also explored restorative justice programmes and partnership working arrangements.
- 2 The Committee explored the following key lines of enquiry:
 - What measures and processes do SBC and its partners have in place to raise awareness amongst key agencies and the wider communities to identify and tackle hate crime?
 - How well are the key agencies working together?
 - How do we measure the effectiveness of activities to raise awareness and provide support?
 - Do we benchmark performance?
 - Are the current priorities and measures in the Hate Crime Action Plan appropriate?
 - How hate crime is recorded and what are the reasons for under-reporting?
 - What is the reported incidence of hate crime in the Borough compared with other areas and is there correlation with numbers of minority groups?
 - What support is needed to encourage victims to report incidences of hate crime?
 - What is the impact of hate crime?
 - What is the role and impact of social media?
 - Why do hate crimes occur and how can hate crime be prevented?
 - What is third party reporting?
- 3 The Committee has taken evidence from Community Safety, Cleveland Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Catalyst, Victim Support, Third Party Reporting Centres and a wide range of support organisations.

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4. The recommendations seek to raise awareness of Hate Crime and increase reporting.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. Legal implications are set out within the Select Committee report. Activities to tackle hate crime would need to be delivered within existing resources.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

7. The review supports the following Council Plan Policy Priorities:

- **Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention**, particularly those people in

our communities who are subject to, or at risk of harm, people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and those who are financially excluded or whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

and contributes to the following Council Plan 2017-2020 key objectives:

- Continue to work with other key agencies, using collaborative working and joined up approaches to tackle the changing demands of crime
- Continue to develop awareness and understanding around the development of stronger and cohesive communities

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. The Committee have received evidence as set out in the final report of the Select Committee.

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None