

HATE CRIME

Introduction

1. This report provides an overview on hate reporting and crimes that have been recorded by Cleveland Police and occurred in the borough of Stockton.
2. It is not intended to provide detailed analysis but rather it is a tool to assist with an in depth discussion on this topic which will take place at the Safer Stockton Partnership meeting on 30th October 2018.
3. The statistics used for this report have been obtained from Cleveland Police with comparative data relating to our neighbouring authorities also from the same data source.
4. The report is intended to provide a summary of the work that is undertaken to raise awareness and recognise hate across Stockton.

Definition of Hate crime/incidents

Hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic.

A hate crime or incident could happen to a person because of one of the following issues:

- Racial
- Transgender
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Sexual Orientation

Hate incidents can take a variety of forms, for example:

- verbal abuse, including name calling or offensive jokes towards a person
- harassment
- bullying or intimidation – including children, adults, a victims neighbours or often complete strangers
- physical attacks – from slight injury, including spitting through to physical assaults
- threats of violence –
- online abuse for example on Facebook or Twitter or abusive phone calls
- displaying/circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- harm or damage to things such as your home, pet, vehicle
- graffiti, arson, general ASB towards person or their home
- malicious complaints.

Hate crime - When a hate incident becomes a criminal offence they are known as a hate crime.

Any criminal offence can be a hate crime if it was carried out because of hostility or prejudice based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation.

When an offence is categorised as a hate crime, courts can impose a tougher sentence on the offender under the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Hate crimes can fall into a wide variety of categories from criminal damage and harassment through to more serious offences of violence.

Overview on Hate reports (incidents) and crime

Figure 1 – Number of Hate reports (incidents) and crimes over the most recent five year period

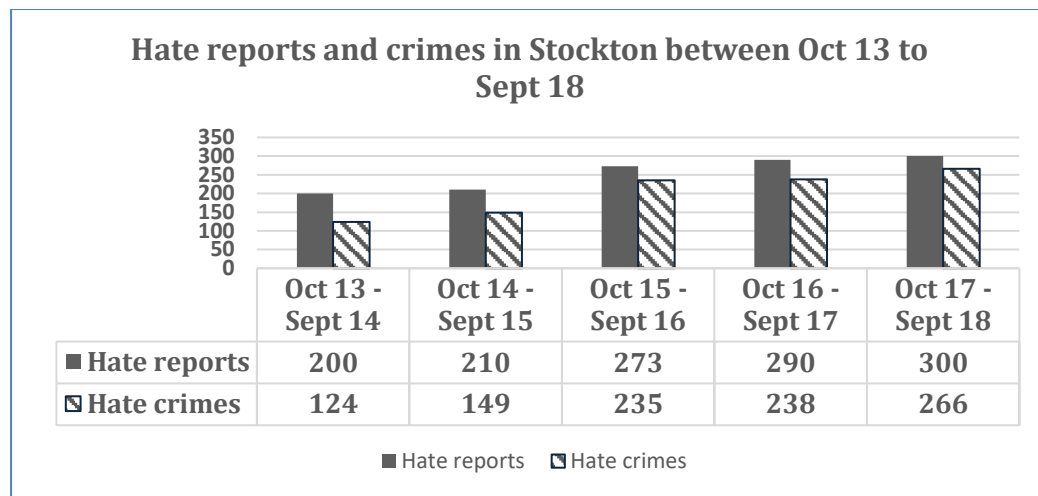


Figure 1 illustrates the number of Hate reports and those which were then recorded as a crime over the most recent five year period – October 14 to September 18.

Over this time period the number of hate reports have risen from 200 at the end of September 2014 to 300, year ending September 2018 (+50%)

Of those reports, the number recorded as a crime increased from 124 to 266 offences, a 114% rise.

In the most recent 12 month period, the number of crimes account for 88% of all reports to the police, and in the year prior to this 82%. This is comparable to only 62% year ending September 2014.

This is partially due to stricter compliance with crime recording both locally and nationally. Alongside this, the increase year on year can be as seen as a positive in that more victims are willing to come forward to report to the police.

The most recent national figures relate to the end of March 2017, with a rise of 29% compared to March 2016. At that time in Stockton, the rise in the number of hate crimes was at a slightly lower rate of 16% (+ 30 crimes).

Incidents recorded by Third Party Reporting Centres and the Civic Enforcement Team at Stockton Borough Council remain low.

Current picture

There have been 300 reports to the police during the current rolling 12 month picture (Oct 18 to Sept 17), comparable to 290 last year. Of these, 266 have been recorded as a crime.

The number of crimes account for 2.4% of total crime, similar to national figures (2%).

An increase in reporting is also evident across the Cleveland Force area, with the exception of Redcar & Cleveland (-15 crimes/-13.6 crimes).

- Stockton (266 crimes/+28 crimes/+11.8%)
- Middlesbrough (389 crimes/+6 crimes/+1.6%)
- Redcar & Cleveland (95 crimes/-15 crimes/-13.6%)
- Hartlepool (144 crimes/+4 crimes/+2.9%)

The number of crimes in Stockton account for 30% of all offences in Cleveland, with the majority (44%) occurring in Middlesbrough.

Strands of Hate reports

There are five strands to hate crime, which are noted in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Hate crimes by strand

Crimes only	Rolling 12 Months			
	12 months ending September 18	12 months ending September 17	Numerical Diff	% Diff
QL1 - Racial	196	177	19	10.7%
QL3 - Transgender	5	12	-7	-58.3%
QL4 - Disability	18	9	9	100%
QL20 - Religion/Belief	9	10	-1	-10%
QL36 - Sexual Orientation	38	30	8	26.7%
Hate Crimes	266	238	28	11.8%

The vast majority of Hate crime continues to fall within the prejudice category of 'racial' (74%), followed by sexual orientation (14%) which is similar across the Cleveland area.

National figures¹ are slightly higher for racial incidents (82%) however similar for sexual orientation (11%).

¹ Home Office Hate crime statistics – 2016/17 (most recent publication)

Transgender identity hate crime is the least commonly recorded offence (2%) -this is also in line with national trends. In the past 12 months there have been five crimes, a reduction from 12 the previous year.

Action taken by Police Forces to improve their compliance with National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) has led to improved recording of crime and had been evident in the rise in crime levels, particularly for violence. A greater awareness of hate crime, and willingness of victims to come forward and report, are the likely factors for the rise in levels.

Categories of crime

Hate crime offences are linked to numerous categories of crime, from lower level offending such as harassment to sexual and violent assaults. Offences which have resulted in more serious harm remain low.

There have been no Hate motivated offences linked to Homicide or manslaughter.

Figure 3 – categories of crime

HMIC Category	% Total crime
Public Order Offences	47.6
Violence Without Injury	19.2
Stalking and Harassment	12.9
Criminal Damage	5.9
Violence With Injury	5.5
Other Sexual Offences	4.8
All Other Theft Offences	1.1
Rape	1.1
Misc Crimes Against Society	0.7
Burglary Residential	0.4
Shoplifting	0.4
Weapons Possession Offences	0.4

Figure 3 provides a snapshot of the categories of crime illustrating that public order offences, which includes several offences types, mainly harassment, are the most common.

Public order offences are often offensive words or disorder, with several being 'victimless' (REGINA) due to the words being spoken not specifically directed towards a person. For example, shouting or chanting hate crime words, graffiti, updates on Facebook etc.

The positive outcome rate for Hate crime offences is 20% and similar across the Force area and above that of the outcome rate for total crime (16.5%).

Demographic data

The location of where an offence has occurred is predominantly in wards where crime and ASB is also high:-

- Stockton Town Centre (25%)
- Mandale & Victoria (15%)
- Newtown (7%)
- Parkfield & Oxbridge (7%)
- Hardwick (6%)

Those in Stockton Town Centre are around the High Street and mainly verbal abuse to wide range of age groups.

Mandale and Victoria ward has a mixture of crime types, mainly directed towards adult victims.

Only small number of crimes have been linked to educational premises with majority occurring close the victims home or as they are out walking in public.

Repeat locations, emerging hotspots and tension indicator locations are noted within the report produced for each of the Joint Action Group meetings (JAG) and the monthly Hate meeting.

Victims

Victims of Hate crime vary in age and sex with younger victims more likely to be victim of verbal abuse and name calling by a perpetrator of a similar age. Ages range from 9 through to 86 years.

During the 12 month period, 15% of all victims were repeats and subject to more than one offence during that time. This includes one victim linked to multiple offences, mainly offences recorded within the disability strand.

Repeat victims of Hate crime are discussed at the monthly multi-agency Hate meeting to ensure that interventions and support have been put in place.

At present there is nothing to suggest any gang cultures emerging in Stockton with regards to Hate crime however victim analysis does highlight that young adults are vulnerable to this type of crime.

The percentage of victims of Hate crimes who are satisfied with the service received by Cleveland Police remains below the lower control limit however this is partially due to the low volume of interviews conducted.

Perpetrators

As with most crime, the majority of perpetrators (70%) are male and linked to various offences. This is a lower percentage than all crime where 80%-85% (dependent on category of crime) are male.

The percentage of young adults (17 years and below) is a lot higher for this type of offence, accounting for 25%. This compares to around 13% of all crime in this age group. The majority are racially offensive words rather than assaults. The majority of these crimes have resulted in the victim declining to prosecute however in some cases the young adults have been given a youth conditional caution.

The number of repeat perpetrators is lower than the repeat victim rate, with less than 10% arrested for two or more offences.

Hate motivation

Statistical information can never give the full picture of Hate crime and in particular why it occurs. The figures show you how many people have reported it but not how they are feeling, how it has affected them or often as to why the perpetrator targeted them.

Visual appearance, such as the colour of a victim's skin, is often the motivation factor for someone being targeted rather than any altercation taking place between the victim and the perpetrator.

For young adults, those committing verbal abuse appear to not be aware of the impact they have had on a victim through the words they are using.

The misuse of alcohol only plays a small part in this type of crime - one in 10 crimes.

Operations/Strategic activity

The paragraphs below provide a summary of the work that continues around tackling, responding and raising awareness of hate crime and incidents within the Borough of Stockton. Whilst all of this work continues we are all mindful that this is still an under reported crime.

Stockton's Hate Crime action plan 2018-19 - SBC, Police and members of Stockton Hate Crime Case Group have developed and delivered a comprehensive programme of work to tackle hate crime. The action plan attached at Appendix one provides details of the work that is ongoing. The RAG rating, indicates the progress that has been made or where further work is required. This is discussed within the Monthly meeting.

Schools - Within Schools SBC have developed a new Guidance for Recognising, **Reporting and Responding to Prejudice Driven Behaviour**. This was launched in September. The guidance Definition, used in the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry, is at the heart of the term prejudice related incident would be: "any incident which is perceived to be prejudice –related by the victim or any other person". This guidance supports the School to monitor, report and respond with positive action, it clearly define Prejudice Driven behaviour for schools and includes a flowchart to demonstrate the process that we expect Schools to follow. (See Appendix 2).

In July 2018 the **Trans Inclusion Policy and Guidance** was launched in schools and colleges and this is the first policy of its kind to be developed in Cleveland and has been welcomed by schools and colleges and to respond and develop its inclusivity. This has been introduced as a working document that can be built upon learning as it is used to improve responses and needs for our young Trans community.

There is a multi-agency partnership approach to awareness of Hate and reporting within schools. Schools lessons are offered by the Council, Police School Liaison Officers and The Early Intervention Coordinator. The sessions offered are all shared between all officers who are responsible for delivery to ensure one consistent message is maintained within classroom settings or assemblies. However, where more targeted sessions on a one to one basis are required this would be delivered over three sessions by the Early Intervention Coordinator.

The PCC funded other supporting programmes to be delivered and offered to all schools across Cleveland such as Show Racism the Red Card and Media Cultured to increase and encourage more inclusive and cohesive communities. Media Culture CIC were provided funding to undertake training with educational providers to equip them with the skills necessary to challenge and tackle extremist attitudes in young people, but very few schools in Stockton have taken this opportunity so far.

The PCC chairs the multi-agency Cleveland Strategic Hate Group and this group meets quarterly to raise awareness and to continue to improve responses to hate across the tees area. The PCC were a key driver in the development of the Third Party Reporting Centres across Cleveland, with 12 in Stockton. There are minimum standards within all so that it shouldn't matter where in Cleveland a report was made, the response would be the same. However as we find generally with reporting of Hate the number of reports is very low and work continues to raise awareness and increase reports.

The Police Communities and Partnerships Team received funding from the PCC to increase capacity and resources for the police to improve on their response to hate. This was the introduction of new officers x2 Hate Crime Investigators, Community Cohesion Coordinator and an Asylum and Refugee Coordinator. The introduction of this team has improved the number of positive prosecutions made and increased the number of hate victims that now take up the offer of support. They have recently trained all new PCs coming into the police force.

They commissioned Victim Care and Advice Service to offer support to all victims of hate, and will of course signpost to more specialised support where possible.

Action around Hate Crime week 15th-19th October 2018

Information Stands

As a part of 'hate crime' awareness week in Stockton the hate crime group deliver a programme packed with activities. SBC had Stockton Central, Thornaby and Billingham libraries included the contact centres with information stands to promote the awareness of hate crime issues, including crime prevention services. The Civic Enforcement and Case Management Team Leader delivered a number of hate crime lessons/ assemblies/ interventions. This has been delivered to in excess of 700 pupils and focused on the following objectives: What is Hate Crime? Motivations of, and highlighted awareness of the protected characteristics of groups under hate crime legislation.

‘Ask a Muslim Event ‘ - As a part of hate crime week Stockton Council, Catalyst, Middlesbrough Council with Islamic Diversity Centre (IDC) hosted a ‘Ask A Muslim’ event this was an opportunity for members of the general public to come along and ask any questions about Islam and Muslims in an open, respectful and honest setting. The event was positively received by the local community, council officers and other professionals.

REACH – Disability Hate Awareness Event – an awareness raising session of what hate is was delivered and targeted to people living with a disability in the community at the ARC. This event was attended by service users and services along with support from the Police and SBC Community to highlight the importance of recognising and how to report hate and the options available.

Show Racism the Red Card campaign – This was another successful campaign, building on previous years to support work for hate crime week. The wear red campaign on Friday 19th October to show our support and raise the awareness of hate crime. Officers, businesses, Community Centres and Schools all took part in the campaign. Photographs were shared on social media using #WRD18, Facebook, twitter and SBC website.

Stockton Successful ‘Hate Crime’ Cases

In Stockton since January this year 2018. Cleveland Police have had a number of ‘Hate Crime’ cases taken to court from Stockton with positive outcomes for the victims. The cases have consisted of racially / religiously aggravated intentional harassment / alarm / distress - words / writing, the use threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaviour to cause harassment and possess an offensive weapon in a public place .

The general outcomes of these cases; have been successfully convicted at court of racially aggravated charges, fines, unpaid work, Imprisonment / restraining orders rehabilitation requirement days, community order (alcohol treatment programme) and compensation. I have attached a successful story that made our local media.

<https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/thug-caught-knife-metal-bar-15087591>