

POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT

Meeting Date	12 th October 2023
Report Title	Hate Crime Update

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner at info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk.

1. Hate Crime Update

1.1. The Hate Crime team within North Yorkshire Police (NYP) are part of the Partnership Hub and liaise directly with partners including North Yorkshire County Council; York City Council and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that victims receive the appropriate support and after care.

2. Scrutiny

2.1. In the last quarter the Partnership Hub have reviewed 236 hate crimes, this includes reviewing investigation plans, checking crimes are correctly recorded, that strands of diversity are identified, what were/are the safeguarding risks and ensuring referrals to support agencies have happened. This type of scrutiny ensures compliance with national and internal standard for hate crime reporting.

2.2. The agencies and support that are included for referrals include Supporting Victims and other NYP teams, such as Safeguarding or Schools, support with Victim Personal Statement writing, adherence to the Victims Codes of Practice, checking hate crime forms and vulnerability risk assessments are completed, with identification of repeat victims and offenders.

2.3. All crimes remain under review until finalisation, advice and feedback is provided to officers and escalated to supervisors when standards fall below expected level. These reviews have led to an increase in referrals to the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) for consideration of prosecution and sentencing uplift.

3. Victim Care

3.1. NYP have introduced an enhanced response to Hate Crime, which includes cases being discussed at Daily Management Meetings, in the same way as other high impact offences. This is to ensure continuity of victim care and that safeguarding and investigative opportunities are maximised.

- 3.2. Care Packs have been recently introduced, which NYP have sent out over 50 packs to victims so far. Included in these packs are support and signposting information which includes information leaflets from support services and organisations specific to the strand of diversity, Supporting Victims and NYP info about hate crime. These are also available in easy-read format and a variety of languages. A letter from ACC Foskett is also included. (Annex A)
- 3.3. A satisfaction survey has also been introduced which is conducted by volunteers. This is to provide feedback which is then shared with officers in charge and supervisors. The surveys began in June, with 35 attempted calls, 20 been successful and in July, 45 were attempted with 17 successful. It is early days for these so responses are still being collated.

4. Champions

- 4.1. NYP have designated Hate Crime Champions who are subject matter experts to assist colleagues in dealing with reports of hate crime as they do not have capacity to provide CPD (Continuing Professional Development) certification training to all officers and staff.
- 4.2. Funding has been secured to apply to have Hate Crime Awareness and Hate Crime Champions courses accredited by NCFE (*formerly the Northern Council for Further Education, is an awarding organisation and registered educational charity providing qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland*), which will be delivered to coincide with Hate Crime Week.
- 4.3. There are also Community Hate Crime Champions who are members of staff and volunteers from partner organisations who will assist with greater reporting and understanding of hate crime in the community and be better able to help victims and recognise perpetrators. They will understand what hate crime is, how to report it, the importance of reporting, blockages to reporting, support services available to victims.

5. Police, Fire and Crime Panel Training

- 5.1. On the 27th of September 2023, members of the Partnership Hub presented some training to the panel.

6. Hate Crime in North Yorkshire

Recorded Strand/Characteristic	Number
Race	574
Transgender	38
Age Related	2
Disability	116
Misogyny	51
Vulnerable	10
Sexual Orientation	254
Sex Worker	1
Asylum Seeker/Migrant worker	2
Religion	29
Gypsy/Traveller	15
Alternative/Sub-culture	1
Total	1093

District	Number reported
Craven	63
Hambleton	63
Harrogate	178
Richmond	36
Ryedale	55
Scarborough	217
Selby	99
York	378

- 6.1. See table above for reported instances.
- 6.2. The most common type of hate crimes are violent crimes and Public Order Offences, and most violent crimes and PO offences occur in the Night-Time Economy (NTE) in York. The NTE brings a higher proportion of BAME (Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic) people into York. For example, door staff and taxi drivers, these workers are public facing and often come into conflict with members of the public.
- 6.3. Additionally licensed premises must report crimes to the police to uphold the licensing objectives and to provide a duty of care to their staff. Often the hate element of the crime is linked to another offence e.g., assault on door staff or a make off without payment from a taxi. Due to the large student population of York and changing working patterns peaks in the NTE is no longer limited to Friday and Saturday nights.
- 6.4. There were 49 crimes recorded under 'Op Hampshire', which are offences against officers.

7. OPFCC (Office of the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner) Activity

- 7.1. Hate crime is a priority for me and within my Office. The Supporting Victims service, offer support to people who have experienced crimes such as hate crimes with assistance provided by skilled Victim Care Co-ordinators. They are also an Independent Reporting Centre for Hate Crime, providing a 'report and support' service: [I or someone I know is experiencing personal abuse | Supporting Victims | North Yorkshire](#)
- 7.2. My office has commissioned services for victims such as the Independent Victim Advisor service which provides face to face support in the community for victims of crime, such as hate crimes, whether they have made a report to NYP. I have also commissioned Restorative Solutions, who deliver Hate Crime Awareness Courses to offenders as part of the Out of Court Disposal process to address and challenge their offending behaviour and to prevent re-offending.
- 7.3. The North Yorkshire Youth Commission have prioritised discrimination with the aim of encouraging both victims and witnesses of discrimination and hate crime to report their experiences to the Police or independent reporting centres. [North-Yorkshire-Youth-Commission-Final-report-to-Commissioner-Zoe-2022-2023NYCC-Report-2023-final.pdf \(northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](#)

Annex A

Letter from ACC Foscett

Dear XXXXX

Author: Polly Etheridge, D&A Team, Sept 2023

I am writing to you as the Assistant Chief Constable for North Yorkshire Police following your recent report. I want to assure you that we recognise and understand that the effects and impact of hate crime can last for a long time, especially if you have suffered repeatedly.

I was once the victim of a hate crime attack myself many years ago and in a force many miles away from North Yorkshire. I know how I felt at the time, not believing for one moment that the local constabulary would take my report seriously. I do not want that to be the case here in North Yorkshire.

Hate crime is a personal attack on someone simply because of who they are. It can be distressing and confusing, and as such some people find it helps to talk to someone who understands. The information in the pack is intended to offer additional support/information after an incident, or any time after a crime has taken place; this is in addition to the ongoing support you should expect from officers and staff in my organisation.

I want you to be reassured that North Yorkshire Police will listen to you. We will do so in confidence, offer information, practical help, and emotional support, while progressing your investigation.

Victim Care is at the front and centre of our investigations and what this means for you is that you should expect to be kept informed of the progress of the investigation in a timely manner. Details of the officer in charge of your investigation are shown below. It is their responsibility to ensure that you receive a Victim of Crime booklet which offers details on how investigations are progressed, and the opportunities for support should you need it.

However, should you ever feel that our staff have not achieved the standards I have described above, I would urge you to contact the officers who are dedicated to scrutinising our response to hate crime so that they can look to improve the service we deliver on my behalf. We would also welcome positive feedback on our officers/staff and any ideas you may have as to how we can improve our service further.

Finally, may I just add that I am sorry that you have experienced a crime or incident that many people will never have to. I do personally understand the impact of this and you have my assurances that as a force, we will do our best to ensure that we bring offenders to justice.

Sincerely

Elliot Foskett
Assistant Chief Constable
Hatecrime@northyorkshire.police.uk

The officer in charge of your case is:

Incident No: