

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	PREVENT AND HATE CRIME UPDATE
Date	WEDNESDAY JULY 26 TH , 2023
Author	LIZZIE STARR, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE, OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the panel with an update on the following areas:
 - (a) Current status of political extremism
 - (b) Status of the National review of Prevent.
 - (c) Hate Crime and Hate incidents – Current processes

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that members note on the contents of the report.

Political Extremism

3. The Prevent capability does not have a specific role to monitor political extremism. Prevent sits within broader Counter Terrorism Policing which as part of its intelligence function would collate intelligence pertaining to violent extremism whether politically driven or not.
4. There is a nationally recognised threshold which determines whether information/intelligence including Prevent referrals meets the CT threshold.
 - (a) If information/intelligence meets that threshold then; Prevent along with other options may be engaged to develop intelligence and/or prevent or disrupt that threat.
 - (b) If it does not meet that criteria then there may still be a role for Prevent through engagement and wider stakeholder briefings but the sole ownership of that threat will not sit within the CT network.
5. Horizon scanning around sub TACT threshold activity does occur in region and is being developed further. In addition, the Home Office maintain a unit, the Homeland Security Analysis and Insight Unit that provide assessments on extremist's groups.

Hate Crime and Prevent

6. The Leicestershire Prevent team monitor all Hate Crimes that occur within the Force area. Prevent has an interest in understanding local grievances as a driver for radicalisation and as an indicator as of a potential extremist ideology. The investigation of a hate crime would take precedence over the support and intervention provider by Prevent.

Independent Review of Prevent

7. The IRP is a Home Office Commissioned Report. All 34 recommendations have been accepted by the Government and CTPHQ has committed to work with the Home Office to understand the implications of these recommendations in the context of the review of CONTEST.
8. The recommendations can be grouped into four guiding principles;
 1. Prevent should go back to first principles and reassert its overall objective of stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
 2. Prevent needs to develop expertise and instil better levels of understanding of extremist ideology and radicalisation across the system
 3. Prevent needs to enhance its approach to delivery
 4. Prevent should create processes for responding to disinformation being spread about the scheme. Prevent should encourage public trust by improving transparency and establishing better oversight of how the strategy is implemented

Leicestershire Police Hate Crime Strategy

9. The Force's vision is to create a tolerant society where differences are accepted, valued and celebrated within our communities, in order to make Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland safer places to live, work and visit.

Themes and Priorities

10. The 2021-23 priorities for this strategy are:
 - (a) Raising awareness
 - (b) Improving our response; identifying, and responding to emerging issues
 - (c) Re-assuring, strengthening and educating communities

Action Plans

11. Hate Action Plans will be locally driven by partners to ensure actions are fit for purpose and link appropriately to the key themes and priorities based on local need.
12. An LLR Communication Plan sets out the partnership approach for promoting national campaigns and raising awareness to encourage people to report hate incidents.
13. Leicestershire Police Action plan is managed day to day by the Hate Crime Inspector and Chief Inspector. A highlight report and updated actions are fed to the Strategic Partnership Board.

Performance Monitoring

14. Accountability for the monitoring of this strategy and progress against local action plans will be held by the Strategic Partnership Board Executive and the Strategic Partnership Board.
15. Delivery of the LLR Action Plan will be through the Hate and Prevent Delivery Group. Update reports on the local action plan will be provided to the appropriate local Community Safety Partnerships across LLR and via the Senior Officer Group.
16. Trends are identified on a weekly basis by the National Community Tension Team which is circulated to the relevant police personal.

Emerging issues

17. The Governments statutory Code of Practice on the recoding and Retention of Personal data in relation to Non- Crime Hate incidents (“the Code”) will come into effect on the 3 June 2023. The Code introduces additional safeguards to protect freedom of expression and raises the threshold at which personal data may be recorded on a non-crime incident (NCHI) record. The College has developed Authorised Professional Practice (APP) to support the code, and a range of resources to help forces implement the provisions of the code. Learning material has been provided by the College to help embed these changes and the team are in communication with the College to ensure these changes are managed efficiently.

Leicestershire Hate Crime and Hate incidents – Current processes

18. The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (2020) provides a broad and inclusive definition, which can and has been translated differently across UK police forces:

“Any hate crime and/or incident is where the perpetrator’s hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised. A victim does not have to be a member of the group; in fact, anyone who is perceived to be or associated with an identifiable group of people could be a victim of a hate crime or non-crime hate incident.”
19. Across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, a crime that is motivated by hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or transgender identity can be classed as a hate crime. These are the five nationally agreed categories for Hate Crime.
20. Incidents and crimes are recorded against these five categories, as well as including a category for ‘any other perceived difference’ to align with Leicestershire Police’s recording of hate. Detailed below are the differences between hate incidents and crimes:
 - (a) Hate Incident - any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice.
 - (b) Hate Crime - any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice.
21. The five strands of monitored hate crime are the minimum categories that police officers and staff must record and flag. There are, however, other groups and individuals who may be targeted due to their personal characteristics.

22. In addition to the above Leicestershire Police also record alternative sub-culture related and other hate incidents and hate crimes as two additional categories.

- (a) **Alternative sub-culture:** Alternative sub-culture means a discernible group that is characterised by a strong sense of collective identity and a set of group-specific values and tastes that typically centre on distinctive style/clothing, make-up, body art and music preferences. Those involved usually stand out in the sense that their distinctiveness is discernible both to fellow participants and to those outside the group.
- (b) Groups that typically place themselves under the umbrella of 'alternative' include Goths, Emos, Punks, Metallers and some variants of hippie and dance culture although this list is not exhaustive.
- (c) **Others:** Where a victim has been targeted for any other identifiable reason for example misogyny, street drinkers, sex workers, age, body size, political view or being a member of the armed forces.

23. The Force's approach is that that positive action against any behaviour that is motivated by prejudice or hostility towards any identifiable group in society relating to Hate Crime and Hate incidents will be taken.

24. Officers within the Force have been provided with clear direction that if a power of arrest exists and the suspect is both identifiable and can be located, then an arrest should be considered at the earliest practicable opportunity if appropriate.

Resourcing

25. The force has specialist and dedicated resources to ensure that they fulfil their commitment to dealing with the victims of hate crime and incidents.

26. This includes:

- (a) Hate Crime Officer – this role is to support victims of hate crime, offer victim services, review all hate crime incidents as well as participate in a number of independent advisory groups, scrutiny panels and partnership boards for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- (b) Hate Crime SGT (dedicated role)
- (c) Hate Crime Inspector (50% dedicated role)
- (d) Hate Crime Analytical Support
- (e) Hate Crime Inspector (portfolio responsibility)
- (f) Hate Crime Superintendent (portfolio responsibility)
- (g) Each of the forces Neighbourhood Policing Areas has their own SPoC, they are in place to identify hate crime offending themes by reviewing trends and data to identify repeat offenders, victims and locations and feed this information to the Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors.

27. The strategic focus on Hate Crime and Hate incidents is delivered through the joint and shared Strategy which brings together key organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) including; Leicestershire County Council, the county's seven District and Borough Councils, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Police, LLR Health Services and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service in response to hate incidents and hate crimes, to ensure a consistent approach across the sub region.

Leicestershire Hate Crime and Hate incident processes:

28. The process of the flow of how a hate incident/crime has been dealt with by Leicestershire Police from first report is under review. People can now report hate incidents to partners as an option, and the flow may change after 25 July when there will be a facilitated discovery session with key stakeholders. This will shape the Hate Crime Campaign and feed into the overall strategy. The output will be ready for Hate Crime Awareness Week later in the year.

Implications

Finance: No financial implications

Legal: None

Equality Impact Assessment: There is a national requirement to record hate crime incidents and crimes against the agreed categories,

Risks and Impact: None

List of Attachments / Appendices

None

Persons to Contact

Lizzie Starr – Director of Governance and Performance

Elizabeth.Starr8921@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk