

***This report format is for scrutiny reports***

**London Borough of Enfield**

**Crime Scrutiny September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021**

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**Subject: Update on the current hate crimes in Enfield**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Keazor**

**Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. *For information*

**Relevance to the Council Plan**

2. Enfield Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Partnership Plan

**Background**

- 3.

**Main Considerations for the Panel**

4. *Hate Crime reports during the current pandemic and challenges*

**Conclusions**

- 5.

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**Appendices**

## **Background:**

Further to the scrutiny function of this board, it is worth noting that the Enfield Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) has given priority to tackling hate crime and has identified it as a key priority within its current partnership plan and has done so for number of years.

Enfield also has separate strategy that looks to tackle all forms of Hate Crime and to support victims of Hate Crime.

Enfield has a long history of working together to challenge hate and discrimination. It was one of the first boroughs in the country to establish a multi-agency partnership for tackling issues around racial hate. The Racial Incident Action Group (RIAG) was set up in Enfield in 1994, in 2006 this evolved into the Enfield Hate Crime Forum (EHCF) incorporating groups that work to tackle all aspects of Hate Crime.

Enfield's Multi Agency model was recommended as a good practice model by the Home Office 'In This Together: Good Practice in Multi-Agency Working' guide as far back as 1999.

The Enfield Hate Crime Forum (EHCF) is a multi-agency group that brings together a number of organisations in the borough to effectively tackle all strands of Hate Crime. It brings together the work of the Council, Metropolitan Police Service, Enfield Racial Equality Council, Enfield Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Network, Enfield Disability Action and Victim Support and other voluntary and community organisations to promote good working practices across agencies.

The current reporting position reflected in the overall performance reports to this meeting show that:

In the twelve months leading up to July 2021, there were 773 Hate Crime offences recorded in Enfield. This is a 20% increase over the same period the previous year where 664 cases were recorded.

This increase however has reduced considerably from a peak of +53% over the last few months and is now tracking a similar pattern to that of anti-social behaviour reports, in so much as the numbers increased dramatically during lockdown and are starting to revert to a more usual level as restrictions are becoming less onerous.

In 2019/20 10% of Hate Crime reported resulted in a sanctioned detection (a positive criminal justice outcome). When the volume of hate crime increased in 2020/21, the sanctioned detection rate also increased to 12%.

In London the sanctioned detection rate rose from 13% in 2019/20 to 14% in 2020/21. The highest proportion of hate crime across both regions is consistently racist and religious offences and majority of the sanctioned detections are for these types of offences.

Historically, summer months have seen higher numbers of Hate Crime reported compared with the winter, probably due to more people gathering outside their homes during warmer months.

The highest number of Hate Crime offences in Enfield in the last 2 years were recorded June 2020, which followed the first ever easing of restrictions in mid May 2020. The following months show a reduction in reporting until December 2020 where another significant rise in Hate Crime numbers were reported, again coinciding with the lifting of restrictions. Though the increase in reporting in December 2020 was a smaller increase.

London as a whole had also seen an overall increase in Hate Crime in the same reporting period. In a similar pattern to Enfield, the highest numbers of offences recorded in the capital in the last 2 years were in June to August 2020, again coinciding with the first easing of restrictions

### **Understanding the reports:**

Racist and Religious Hate Crime continues to be the highest proportion of all the Hate Crime strands. This accounts for an around 88% of all reported Hate Crime in Enfield. The largest reporting reason was verbal assault or verbal altercation followed by neighbour dispute. Other significant categories included malicious communications incidents and physical incidents at around 9% where there was a fight or people being pushed.

Looking at Hate Crime in London, the largest proportion of reports were similarly related to Racist and Religious incidents, accounting for around 85% of all reported Hate Crime in in the capital.

Enfield was then 18th highest in London when 2020/21 offence numbers are arranged in descending order, with Westminster, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth recording the top 3 highest numbers of offences. All but five boroughs in London had recorded an increase in recorded Hate Crime in the last year.

Ethnicity details for victims and perpetrators are not always available, where figures are available the largest recorded cohort of the victims were from the Black African / Caribbean background. Followed by Dark European category. The ethnicity details produced are according to the way they are defined on the police ethnicity code system and people can chose not to declare their ethnicity.

The locations and time of incidents were studied, a number of higher population density wards such as Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Southbury and Ponders End had the highest proportion of the reported incidents. The fewest incidents were reported in Grange, Bush Hill Park and Turkey Street.

The time of incidents is rather varied over the whole day but there are two peak periods that appear to occur between 12:00 and 15:00 and again between 17:00 and 20:00.

## Tackling Hate Crime In Enfield:

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) understands that Hate Crime remains under reported and we need to continue our efforts to tackle Hate Crime in the borough.

The borough has a bi-monthly Case Management Panel (CMP) that uses multi-agency approach to tackling Hate Crime and supporting victims of Hate Crime. The CMP also enables the multi-agency partnership to scrutinise the way the crimes are handled, and the Panel is chaired by a local community representative.

During last year, there has been a focus in ensuring the panel meetings review aspects of the work and will recommence in this multi-agency case management panel from October 2021.

In Enfield we work closely with our community sector partners on tackling hate crime, through the Enfield Hate Crime Forum community organisations play a key role in finding suitable solutions. Over the last few years there have been collaborative training events, publicity campaigns and engagement events held in relation to Hate Crime.

We have also worked with key community partners to enable reporting of Hate Crimes through community centres. We have a number of community based third party reporting sites, with an aim to enable and encourage more people to report hate crimes if they are unable or unwilling to report them to statutory partners.

A number of our community partners who manage third party reporting sites also take part in the Case Management Panel to ensure Hate Crimes cases are fully considered with partners agencies providing additional support if appropriate.

Enfield has regularly supported the National Hate Crime awareness week, which this year is falling on the 9th-16th October. With the majority of information being shared online we have created a number of dedicated online publicity materials to share on digital platforms.

**SAFER ENFIELD**

**CRIME**  
motivated by  
**PREJUDICE**  
is  
**HATE CRIME**

Don't suffer in silence – we  
want you to **REPORT IT** to us.

**Verbal Abuse** **Vandalism** **Bullying** **Threats**  
**Harassment** **Physical Abuse** **Intimidation**

**Please report incidents**  
• Police on 101 • In an emergency call 999 • Enfield Council on 020 8379 4612  
• Via the new Self Evident app available to download on to your phone on Google Play & Apple App Store

No one should be targeted for their Race, Faith, Disability, Sexuality or Transgender Identity.  
Please report all hate crime via True Vision website at [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

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During the past year the way in which we engaged with the communities has changed with almost all contact going through virtual formats, but we were still able to ensure that we were available at the end of the phone and regular contact was made with community and faith organisations.

With the lockdown easing we have been able to visit and attend a number of face to face engagements since July 2021.

We also work closely with the Prevent programme to ensure that those who commit Hate Crimes are not further radicalised by extremist groups to support terrorist ideology. Where appropriate, cases can be further supported by the Prevent programme if there are signs of extremist ideology.

In relation to Hate Crime and to promote cohesion, the Enfield's Prevent Education Officer has offered workshops and assemblies on Hate Crime to both Primary and Secondary schools within the borough. We have created a number of resources including classroom workshops and school assembly materials to take this message to local schools. During the pandemic there were eight specific such resources created to support topical discussions that re relevant to Hate Crime.

The Hate Crime and Online Hate workshops are particularly well received in local schools. The Hate Crime workshops in Primary schools have been particularly well received. Teachers have commented on the good levels of engagement and participation amongst the students. Staff have also been pleasantly surprised at the knowledge and awareness the children already have about issues such as Hate Crime and diversity in their local communities. Students engage well with the workshops and are able to handle the topics with compassion and awareness for classmates. They are also able to link the topics of hate crime and hate speech to the world around them. Since April this year approximately 120 students have accessed Hate Crime workshops, either remotely or in-person. Three secondary and post-16 education providers and one Primary are further booked for upcoming delivery on Hate Crime or Online Hate Crime Workshops for the Autumn term that has just started.

Secondary and SEND school workshops have also received the input well, the students were able to engage well in virtual sessions and apply their Online Hate learning to their apprenticeship workplaces. Students at secondary level are engaged and aware of Hate Crime online with the ability to link intolerance in their community to wider national and international issues. It has also led to additional conversations on conspiracy theory and fake news hats has been of interest during the pandemic with eleven sessions held on such topics since the September 2020 term. These workshops have enabled our younger children to understand "What is a Hate Crime? And How it affects us?" and "how propaganda could be used to influence though processes"

The resources and workshops are designed in a way so that they support school's existing requirements such as promoting equality, supporting the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, as well as the Prevent Duty where schools have a requirement to promote equality and the Fundamental British Values (FBV) of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

Where possible we work with national organisations that work to tackle Hate Crime. There are two organisations worth mentioning, True-Vision ([www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)) works with various police forces and other organisations to encourage more people to report Hate Crime and to provide resources including safety tips and reports on Hate Crime related matters. Stop Hate UK ([www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)) is an organisation that started life soon after the murder of Stephen Lawrence, it continues to provide guidance on tackling Hate Crime and to enable better reporting of incidents.