

**London Borough of Enfield
Equalities Board**

Meeting Date 19th October 2022

Subject: Promote safer and stronger communities by encouraging the reporting of hate crimes and reducing repeat incidents.
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gina Needs
Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou
Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of Hate Crime reported and some examples of the Partnership work in place to tackle this. Additionally, to consider any risks or opportunities in achieving future improvements in tackling this crime.

Proposal(s)

2. The Equalities Board is requested to note the update

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. To provide current figures and note emerging opportunities

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. Safe Healthy Confident Communities

Background

5. a) Definition.

Hate crime is 'any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.' Their characteristic includes disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and trans identity.

Tackling Hate Crime is a Priority within the new Community Safety Partnership (Safer and Stronger Communities Board) Plan 2022-25, which is currently being finalised.

- b) Volume and trends.

The figures below are the latest available at time of writing and show the various categories of Hate Crime and their respective changes.

Please note that this information reflects reported crime. The reporting of Hate Crime is actively encouraged.

Hate Crime Strand	Enfield		%	London		% Change
	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021	Sept 2021 - Aug 2022		Sept 2020 - Aug 2021	Sept 2021 - Aug 2022	
Racist and Religious Hate Crime Offences	637	678	6.4%	21813	21837	0.1%
Homophobic Hate Crime Offences	63	95	50.8%	3196	3832	19.9%
Disability Hate Crime Offences	15	12	-20.0%	600	603	0.5%
Transgender Hate Crime Offences	9	9	0.0%	351	417	18.8%

Hate Crime increased by 9.7% in the year ending August 2022 recording 794 offences, compared with 724 the previous year i.e. 70 more offences were recorded in Enfield.

The highest number of offences in the last 2 years was recorded in June 2022, with 85 offences were recorded in that month alone. When June 2022 is now compared to June 2021, there is a difference of 34 more offences recorded in June 2022.

Over the last 12 months numbers reached their highest levels in both March 2022 (n=83), June 2022 (n=85) and July 2022 (n=84). This is the largest increase of hate crime offences in Enfield since February 2022 when 44 offences were recorded.

Racist and religious Hate Crime formed the majority of such crime reported in the borough, followed by homophobic crime. Although much lower numbers, homophobic crime increased by 50.8% in the borough, also rising in London by 19.9%.

In London there were 26,689 offences recorded throughout 2021/22 compared with 25,960 in 2020/21.

In Enfield, the highest proportion of hate crime recorded was racist and religious in its nature. In the capital, this portion of hate crime recorded increase of 6.4. Homophobic hate crime increased by 50.8%, however, disability hate crime reduced by 20% and Transgender hate Crime remained the same.

Hate Crime, similarly to Anti-Social Behaviour, rose significantly during lock down periods by over 50% at some points.

In June 2019 (prior to lockdown) the figures reflected 104 incidents in just one month) and by June 2021 it was still 5.5% higher than the previous 12 rolling months. The category that increased by the greatest amount was racist hate crime.

Actions taken in response to reported crime

Locally in Enfield we have a panel that meets every two months to discuss reported cases of Hate Crime. The panel, which is made up of statutory partners and local community organisations ensures a victim centred approach is given to each case and that the best possible outcome for the victim is achieved.

The panel reviews reported cases of homophobic, disability, transphobic and faith hate crime. Race hate crimes are divided into a prioritised model and those deemed priority are heard at the panel.

Prioritisation criteria include- any repeat victims, any physical violence and any incidences which are most appropriate for a multi-agency intervention.

The panel may also escalate cases to the Hate Crime Forum who oversee Hate Crime interventions in Enfield.

The Hate Crime Forum is also responsible for provision of training for professionals including community organisations as part of the action plan delivery.

Working with the Enfield Hate Crime Forum, we have specific targets to reduce and take action on repeat victimisation, not just on an individual but where there could be community groups that are repeatedly victimised.

The council and the police are required to present current reporting trends and analysis of hate crime to the forum. This enable the forum to challenge partners on performance if significant gaps are noticed.

From the last in-depth analysis in April 22, the largest proportion of reported hate crime was verbal abuse (59%) with nearly one third of hate crime reports arising from neighbour disputes. Reports of online hate crime and telephone related incidents are increasing with 9% of cases having an online or telephone element. Cases of physical violence (pushing or fights) accounted for 7% of the reports.

Ethnicity details are not always available, but from those that are available the largest suspects were white European followed by Afro Caribbean.

Regarding Victims, Afro Caribbean were the most affected victim group followed by white European.

This information is subject to caveat in that there are large missing elements in the data.

A large number of homophobic offences continue to be around the use of language and especially with neighbour disputes. Where there isn't any evidence that either neighbour belongs to that protected group. We had no homophobic crime reported that resulted in a physical violence towards a person in the recent casework management panel.

We have had a period of decreasing numbers of disability hate crime reported to services.

To understand this further and support victims, all homophobic and disability hate crimes along with faith crimes are scrutinised by the borough's case management panel. A multi-agency panel lead by community sector representative, currently the chair of Enfield LGBT network.

Hate crime numbers are often under reported, hence the need to empower more people to report hate crime. Especially those from transgender victims and disabled victims who experience hate crime. Due to improvements in the way crimes are recorded, we do believe more numbers of racist incidents are recorded by the police systems than before.

The largest amount of reports is still reported direct to the police, but an increasing amount is being reported online to the police. The council also has a reporting mechanism available via telephone and also through council website at www.enfield.gov.uk/hatecrime

Lastly there are four community based third party reporting sites receiving minimal reports but where volunteers are able to assist with on line reporting to the police which is often a valuable service.

Additional Partnership Actions

Encourage reporting and build community confidence by:

- Supporting campaigns around improving Hate Crime reporting. National Hate Crime Awareness week which this year fell on the 8th 15th October, LGBT History Month in February and Black History Month in October.
- Support third party reporting and carry out a yearly refresh on training to local centres
- Improve reporting mechanisms and publicise new ways of reporting such as online and mobile reporting.
- Targeted outreach is carried out with over 800 students having received anti-hate crime related workshops in the last year (21-22)
- Support the multi-agency case management panel, encourage local community organisations to take part and hold local partners to account.
- Yearly analysis of Hate crime to better understand causes and seek solutions
- Work with the Home Office Prevent service to ensure extremist activity is identified and appropriately managed
- We also work with our educational establishments to encourage young people to think deeply about issues of multi-culturalism and mutual acceptance and about the need to report incidents and seek help early so partners can work together to support victims.
- Work with other council departments to encourage staff to report incidents to the police.

6. Main Considerations for the Council

- Note the report and the changes in numbers of reported Hate Crime.
- Continue to encourage sharing information with staff within the organisation on how to report.
- Continue to encourage dialogue about multiculturalism and tolerance and engagement with national and local events- such as Black History Month.

Request that the Hate Crime Forum on behalf of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board

- Consider outcomes following new legislation such as the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and any potential changes impacting Hate Crime
- Consider any local opportunities resulting from work in the On-Line -Safety Bill
- Monitor the impact of cost of living on crime including Hate Crime
- Be aware of lessons and concerns from around the UK

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

N/A