

*"Working together to make Lancashire a better place for this and future generations, where hate crime continually reduces and fear of hate crime is not a constraint to daily life".*

The Hate Crime Strategy links with the wider Safer Lancashire Community Safety Agreement and sets out how we will work together to address the Hate Crime priorities for Lancashire. It is owned by the Lancashire Chief Executives Group that brings together representatives from the responsible authorities to set the strategic direction and coordinate partnership activity to tackle crime and disorder. The Hate Crime Strategy is managed and implemented by the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group via annual delivery plans.

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## The Context

Each of the public sector organisations represented on the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group has responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty's general aims, which include reference to hate crime.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and its "Prevent Duty Guidance" have also placed additional responsibilities on local authorities, the police, universities and other public sector organisations that can have implications for their tackling of hate crime and hate incidents.

In 2012 the Government published its strategy to tackle Hate Crime: Challenge It, Report it, Stop it!. The update published in 2014 highlights that victims are still reluctant to report incidents and the importance of continuing to work with partners including the voluntary sector to ensure that victims feel confident to come forward. Understanding the different forms of hate crime and tailoring the response to the victims are highlighted.

The National College of Policing published the National Policing Hate Crime Strategy in May 2014. The Strategy references a wide variety of important national reports highlighting again the under reporting and lack of confidence to report but specifically the significant effect that hate crime can have upon victims.

In October 2015, the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group held an evaluation event to identify what might be done to improve the effectiveness of all agencies' responses to hate crime in Lancashire. Feedback evaluated by a team from the University of Central Lancashire indicated that the position in Lancashire reflects the national context.

## Our Priorities

**To make the people of Lancashire safer by the elimination of Hate Crime and Incidents.**

We will do this by:

Creating a wider awareness and understanding of hate crime and incidents in the community at large.

Improving understanding of hate crime and its impact on victims, witnesses and society.

Improving confidence to report Hate Crimes and Incidents.

There is a wealth of evidence that indicates that hate crime and hate incidents are under-reported and that reporting levels vary across the individual strands,

Improving Confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System is essential for both witnesses and victims to initially report and then navigate the criminal justice process.

## Our Approach

Lancashire benefits from a strong multi-agency commitment to tackling and preventing hate crime in all its forms. Across all the partners there is real sense of energy and commitment to ensuring victims are protected and that perpetrators are brought to justice and encouraged to address their offending behaviour.

The Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group brings together a range of partners from the public and voluntary sectors including Lancashire County Council, District Councils in Lancashire, Lancashire Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service, UCLAN and a range of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations with an involvement in hate crime and cohesion issues across Lancashire.

The Group is overseen by Lancashire Chief Executives Group in addition to reporting within its individual member organisations – e.g. within the County Council the Member Champion for Community Safety and Tackling Hate Crime is regularly updated on its work in addition to other issues.

The Group has committed to developing this three year Hate Crime Strategy and a yearly Delivery Plan which will inform the work of the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group in this area and which will be regularly reviewed and monitored by the Group as part of its work.

## Our Action

An annual hate crime development plan to meet the objectives of this strategy involving a wide group of partners from both statutory and third sector organisations.

**Measuring success:**

A thorough evaluation of the programme's results by the SHCCG, supported by the University of Central Lancashire and reporting to the Lancashire Chief Executives Group

## Related Strategies and Plans

- The Police and Crime Plan
- Lancashire Constabulary Hate Crime Action Plan
- The Safer Lancashire Community Safety Agreement

## Hate Crime:

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on or perception of a person's 'race', religion, sexual orientation, disability or whether a person is or is perceived to be transgender"

