

HATE CRIME STRATEGY FOR GATESHEAD 2019-2022

**Gateshead Community
Safety Board**

Working in partnership to make Gateshead a safer place to work, live and visit

Introduction

Gateshead is a diverse borough where people from many different backgrounds live, work and visit. We must all work successfully together to continue to make Gateshead a safe and welcoming place, where everyone can thrive.

The Community Safety Board have worked together to develop this strategy to tackle hate crime and hate incidents in the borough.

These crimes and incidents must not be tolerated and those affected by hate crime should be supported to report such incidents and expect positive action to be taken against perpetrators, whilst also being offered quality emotional and practical support if required. Hate crime can have a significant effect on a person's quality of life and over the past three years we have learnt a lot more about the emotional impact that hate crime can have on individuals and communities.

Hate crime has the potential to increase fear, anxiety and tension which can greatly affect an individual's mental wellbeing. This is not acceptable and through this strategy we aim to promote the fact that Gateshead has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** approach to hate crime and build on the success of the previous Hate Crime strategy.

This strategy contributes to and supports Gateshead Council's vision, 'to make Gateshead a place where everybody thrives'.

Therefore, the overarching aim is to 'deliver cohesive communities where we embrace equality and celebrate difference, where everyone in Gateshead can thrive and live free from prejudice and hostility.'

National Context

This Strategy also reaffirms our commitment to support the Government's National Hate Crime Action Plan 'Action against Hate' (2016-2020, refreshed in 2018) which focuses on five areas for Government and community partners to take to tackle hate crime:

- Preventing hate crime
- Responding to hate crime in our communities
- Increasing the reporting of hate crime
- Improving support for the victims of hate crime
- Building our understanding of hate crime

What is a hate crime?

The Crown Prosecution Service definition of hate crime is 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice on the grounds of race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability & transgender identity or perceived transgender identity'.

Northumbria Police also monitor two additional strands, which are:

- Age
- Gender

Hate incidents can take many forms including:

- Physical attacks such as assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson.
- Threat of attack including offensive letters or language, abusive or obscene telephone calls, intimidation and unfounded, malicious complaints, outing or threat of outing.
- Verbal abuse, insults or harassment - taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes and bullying at school or in the workplace.

National Facts

FACT

In 2017/18, there were 94,098 hate offences recorded by the police across England and Wales

FACT

This is an increase of 17% compared with 2016/17

FACT

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that there are actually 184,000 hate offences taking place each year

Local Facts

FACT

Race hate incidents in our region are the most common type of hate incidents reported

FACT

411 hate crimes were recorded in Gateshead in 2018/19

What have we achieved?

During the period 2016-2019 when the previous Hate Crime Strategy was in place, we achieved a significant amount, including:

- Show Racism the Red Card delivered education workshops to 1795 students across Gateshead
- Creation of an online self-reporting and referral tool on Gateshead Council's website www.gateshead.gov.uk/hatecrime which allows victims, witnesses and third parties to report a hate crime and refer to other agencies
- Hosted two successful hate crime conferences during National Hate Crime Awareness week, including a 'Hate Crime: Experts by Experience' event which saw several local individuals, who have experienced hate crime, sharing their personal stories to raise awareness.
- There are now over 70 Workplace Hate Crime Champions across Gateshead, acting as a first point of contact for employees around hate crime, the different ways to report and advice on the support that is available to victims.
- Supported the development of a Hate Crime Charter in partnership with regional Public Transport Providers. This charter sets out several commitments around training and awareness for staff as well as support for victims of hate crime and incidents.
- Delivered formal hate crime & mate crime awareness training sessions to 194 people
- Worked with Gateshead residents to increase awareness and reporting of hate crime with the disability community through the creation of two short films on the Metro and on the bus which focus on hate crime and mate crime

- Local charity GemArts worked with an artist to create an animation focused on hate crime in partnership with The Gateshead Housing Company's customer-led equality, diversity and inclusion group and Changing Lives Gateshead.
- Supported local charities to raise awareness of racism, hate crime and cultural differences in both primary and secondary schools.
- Began supporting Secondary Schools and Academies with the roll out of Student Hate Crime Champions which will see nominated students acting as a point of contact for victims of hate crime within schools who can also signpost to support services
- Delivered the first ever 'Speed Faithing' event in Gateshead which saw over 50 delegates split in to small groups before sitting down with a range of different faith representatives who provided insights about their faith and culture before answering questions that delegates had.
- The Central Community Engagement Team from Northumbria Police won the Law Enforcement Upstander Award at the 2017 National Hate Crime Awards.
- A member of the Community Safety Team from Gateshead Council won the Crown Prosecution Service Special Award for Supporting Victims/Reporting Hate Crime at the 2018 National Hate Crime Awards.

Themes

We have developed three themes to focus on over the next three years. These themes were developed after consultation with the members of Gateshead Strategic Hate Crime & Tension Monitoring Group and a number of local groups and organisations who we thank for being involved in and contributing to the development of the strategy.

The strategic themes that we will focus on over the next three years are:

- Increasing awareness and reporting of hate crime
- Increasing the uptake of referrals to victim support services
- Hate crime education

Increasing Awareness & Reporting of Hate Crime

Why is it important?

“In 2017/18, there were 94,098 hate offences recorded by the police across England and Wales.” Hate crime, England and Wales, 2017 to 2018 Statistical Bulletin

“The Crime Survey for England and Wales suggests that 184,000 hate crimes are actually committed across England & Wales each year” Hate crime, England and Wales, 2017 to 2018 Statistical Bulletin

THERE IS STILL MORE WE CAN DO!

Objectives

- Ensure that people understand what a hate crime is and are aware of the different ways in which to report it in person, by telephone and online.
- Ensure people know what to expect from Northumbria Police when they are investigating hate crime.
- Work with the communities and groups affected by hate crime, including organisations who support these groups, to improve confidence in reporting and overcome any barriers to reporting.

Increasing the uptake of victim support services

Why is it important?

“Hate crime has a significant emotional and mental health effect on victims in comparison to non-hate crime.

ANGER

68% of hate crime victims report feelings of anger, compared to 57% of non-hate crime victims

FEAR

46% of hate crime victims compared to 14% of non-hate crime victims

ANXIETY/PANIC

28% of hate crime victims compared to 9% of non-hate crime victims

DEPRESSION

25% of hate crime victims compared to 8% of non-hate crime victims”

Paul Giannasi, National Policing Advisor for Hate Crime, 2017

THERE IS STILL MORE WE CAN DO!

Objectives

- Ensure victims of Hate Crime are provided with an enhanced level of support due to the disproportionate impact we know hate crime has on a person’s mental wellbeing
- Raise awareness of Victims First Northumbria and other commissioned victim support services and the support they can provide, both emotionally and practically.
- Work in partnership with those affected by Hate Crime to identify barriers to accessing support services

Hate crime education

Why is it important?

“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” *Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom*

THERE IS STILL MORE WE CAN DO!

Objectives

- Communicate effective and consistent messages to help prevent incidents occurring.
- Deliver targeted education and training programmes to specific groups most at risk of becoming a victim of hate crime and becoming perpetrators.
- Deliver targeted awareness campaigns during key dates such as Hate Crime Awareness Week, working in partnership with those with personal experience of hate crime.

Leaving the European Union

At the time of drafting this strategy, a date for the UK leaving the European Union has yet to be agreed. However, we are aware of the short and long term impact this may have on hate crime, community tensions and community cohesion in Gateshead and across the country.

The Strategic Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group will closely monitor updates related to the withdrawal from the European Union and will continue to engage with local groups and communities to address any concerns and provide reassurance.

Implementation - how we will deliver our strategy

A strategic action plan has also been developed to help the Community Safety Board deliver these objectives. This will be co-ordinated by the Strategic Hate Crime & Tension Monitoring Group on behalf of the Community Safety Board.

The action plan is to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. Members of the Strategic Hate Incident and Tension Monitoring Group will evidence the delivery of the relevant actions and their success which will provide an indication of where further work will be required and key successes will be referenced in the action plan and future hate crime strategies.

Strategic Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group

The Strategic Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group is a multi-agency forum in Gateshead.

The purpose of the group is to develop proactive opportunities to address hate crime in our communities as well as effectively addressing tensions, through intelligence led performance and evidence driven interventions in order to improve local residents' quality of life.

How to report hate crime in Gateshead

If you or someone you know has been affected by hate crime then you can report it in one of the following ways:

By telephone

In an emergency always dial 999.

In other cases you can call the Police on 101.

Or, to report an incident 24 hours a day call Gateshead Council's helpline on 0191 433 2648.

Online

Visit www.northumbria.police.uk and fill in the online form

Visit www.gateshead.gov.uk/hatecrime (this is an online reporting form on Gateshead Council's website)

Visit www.report-it.org.uk (this is True Vision a national third party reporting website)

In person

If you have suffered a hate incident or crime you can also visit a Safe Reporting Centre to report. For information on your nearest one visit www.northumbria.police.uk

Victims First Northumbria

Provides practical and emotional support to help victims of crime across Northumbria, helping them to cope and recover from their experiences.

0800 011 3116

enquiries@victimsfirstnorthumbria.org.uk

www.victimsfirstnorthumbria.org.uk

Advocacy Centre North

Delivers a Hate Crime Advocacy Service to victims of Hate Crime across Northumbria.

0191 235 7013

advocacy@cvsnewcastle.org.uk

www.advocacycentrenorth.org.uk

Who to contact to find out more?

Further information can be found on Gateshead Council's website:
www.gateshead.gov.uk/hatecrime

Alternatively, Community Safety can be contacted:

By letter:

Community Safety Team
Gateshead Council
Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

By telephone:

0191 433 2701
(Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9-5pm)

Northumbria Police - by text message

In a non-emergency situation you can also text 07786 200 814

Other contacts

For people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired

In an emergency, text to 999

In a non-emergency, text to 07786 200 815

In a non-emergency, textphone 18001 101