Hackney: no place for hate

Hackney Council's strategy for tackling hate crime 2018-22

Draft Consultation

January 2018

have your say

Hackney

Hackney is no place for hate

As representatives of Hackney, one of the UK's most diverse boroughs, protecting the right of our residents to live as they choose is one of the most important things we do.

Hackney is a brilliant, diverse place, where people from all backgrounds – different nationalities, religions and sexualities – share streets, schools, parks, community halls, workplaces and, crucially, our common values of tolerance and respect.

In Hackney, we also know what it is to celebrate our diversity. In the past year this has included coming together and celebrating our diversity in the fun-filled Hackney One Carnival, celebrating Black history and culture in the borough with a two-month long season of free events and activities and launching the #hackneylovesyou campaign in response to ongoing Brexit debates.

Our borough is a champion of people from LGBTQI+ backgrounds, who we honoured during Pride week this year by raising the Pride flag above Hackney Town Hall, and who we celebrate as part of our all-year Hackney Pride 365 festival. Our interfaith forum meets regularly to discuss issues affecting the many and varied faiths represented across our borough, and we work hard to protect the rights of disabled people, whose access needs we aimed to highlight and address in our Hackney: an Accessible Place for Everyone campaign last summer.

However, we also know the importance of sending the clear message that Hackney is no place for hate. It is 17 years since the murder of Stephen Lawrence which, following years of tireless campaigning by Doreen and Neville Lawrence, led to important reforms to how the Metropolitan Police investigates hate crimes. We have come a long way since then in terms of how hate crimes are recorded, investigated and responded to – but, as recent events demonstrate, there is still much more to do.

This document sets out our strategy for working with our partners and communities to make sure that Hackney is no place for hate.

Philip Glanville,
Mayor of Hackney

Cllr Caroline Selman,
Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement

Cllr Sade Etti,
Hackney Council No Place for Hate Champion

What is hate crime and why is it a priority in Hackney?

The police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) define hate crime as any criminal offence which the victim, or anyone else, thinks was motivated by "hostility or prejudice" based on one of the following things:

- disability
- race
- religion
- transgender identity
- sexual orientation

Any criminal offence can be a hate crime if the person who commits it wants to harm someone because of one of those five things. For example, if someone hits you, that's likely to be a criminal offence. If they hit you because they don't like your religion, that could be a hate crime, and the judge can impose a tougher sentence under the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

This means that if you believe something is a hate incident it should be recorded that way by the person you are reporting it to. All police forces have to record hate incidents based on the five characteristics listed above.

Not all hate incidents will amount to a criminal offence – but it is still important that they are reported and recorded. This helps build up a clear picture of what is happening in our community so we can take action to prevent situations from happening again or getting worse.

Hate incidents and crime can take many forms including:

- physical attacks such as physical assault
- verbal abuse, harassment and abusive gestures
- criminal damage to property
- offensive graffiti and arson
- threat of attack including offensive letters and abusive or obscene telephone calls
- offensive leaflets and posters
- dumping of rubbish and prohibited items outside homes or through letterboxes
- bullying at school or in the workplace.

There is strong evidence that individuals are more likely to be targets of hate crime if they belong to more than one minority and suffer from multiple discrimination. For example, people with disabilities could be more likely to be victimised if they are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT), and individuals of black and minority ethnicity could be more likely to be the victim of homophobic physical abuse than the LGBT community as a whole.

This strategy explains how Hackney Council will tackle hate crime as part of Hackney's Community Safety Partnership. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body bringing together the following designated members:

- police
- local authority Chief Executive
- fire and rescue
- health
- head of probation service
- elected member responsible for community safety
- other partners on a flexible, as-needs-be basis

The CSP leads on community safety with joint responsibility and works to ensure that we all have a part to play in collective safety and making sure that Hackney is no place for hate.

Why is tackling hate crime important?

Hate incidents and crimes can have a particularly harmful effect on victims, as they seek to attack an intrinsic part of who the victim is, or who they are perceived to be. Hate incidents and crime can compromise the quality of life for both individuals and communities and so are a key priority for the Hackney Community Safety Partnership.

Research shows that hate crime has a disproportionate impact on victims with victims feeling more traumatised by hate crimes than equivalent crimes with no such motivation.[1]

Hate crime context

The two main sources of information on the prevalence of hate crime are police recorded crime and the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

In 2016/17, there were 80,393 offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which one or more hate crime strands were deemed to be a motivating factor. This was an increase of 29 per cent compared with the 62,518 hate crimes recorded in 2015/16, the largest percentage increase seen since the series began in 2011/12.

The number of hate crime offences in 2016/17 recorded for the five centrally monitored strands were as follows:

- 62,685 (78%) were race hate crimes;
- 9,157 (11%) were sexual orientation hate crimes;
- 5,949 (7%) were religious hate crimes;
- 5,558 (7%) were disability hate crimes; and
- 1,248 (2%) were transgender hate crimes.

It is worth noting that hate crime offences can have more than one motivating factor which is why the above numbers sum to more than 80,393 and 100 per cent. [2]

The independent Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)[3] measures crime by asking members of the public about their experience of crime over the last 12 months. It records all types of crimes experienced by people – including those crimes that may not have been reported to the police.

In the sample CSEW survey for hate crime incidents, there were an average of around 222,000 incidents of hate crime each year, which is significantly higher than offences reported to the police. This data shows that incidents of hate crime are under-reported, which is a challenge for the monitoring and response to hate crime nationally and in Hackney.
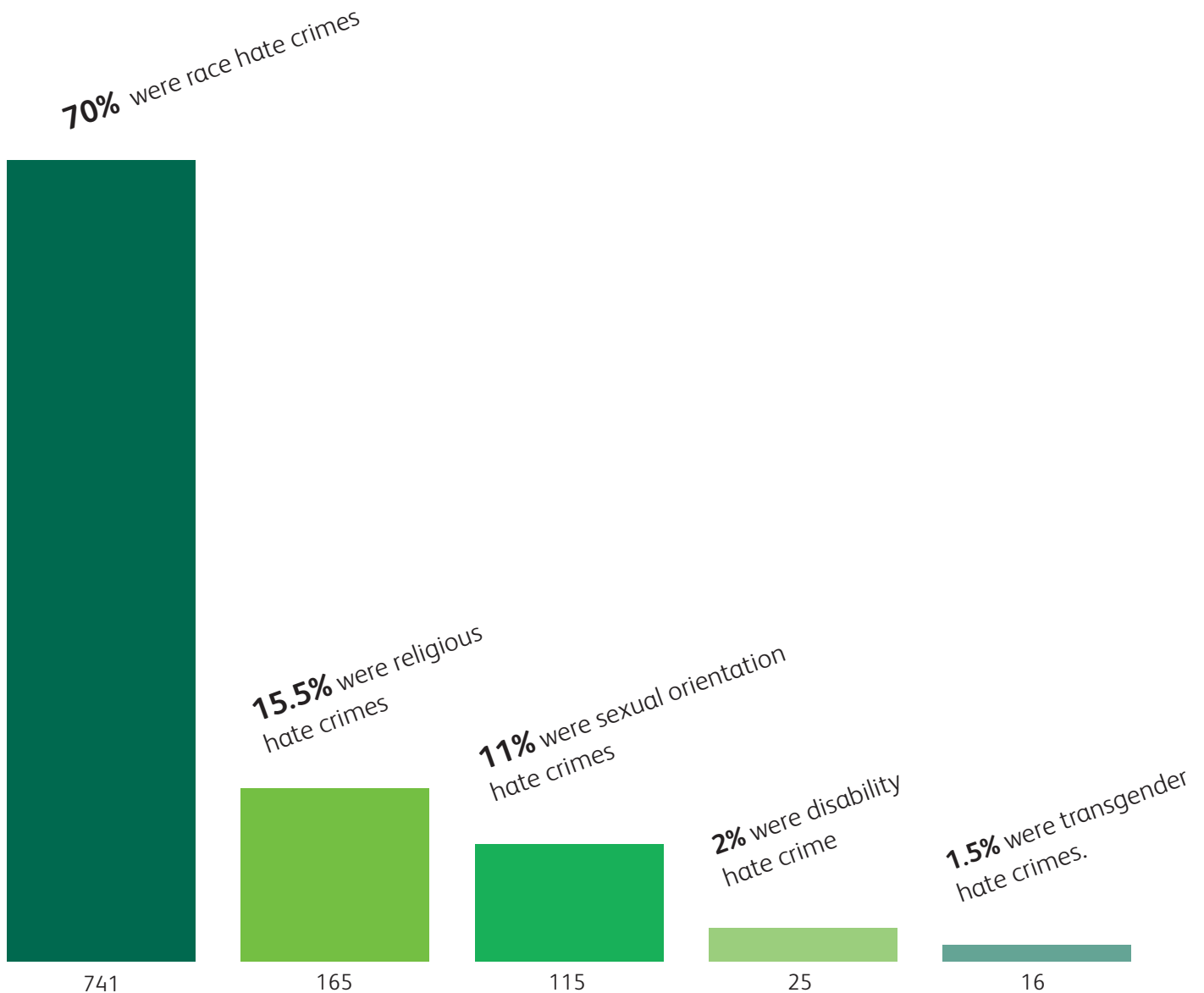
- Hackney's population was estimated at 269,009 people in July 2017 and is likely to exceed 300,000 people by 2027.
- Hackney is a culturally diverse area, with significant Black, 'Other White', Turkish and Kurdish communities. The Charedi Jewish community is concentrated in the North East of the borough and is growing. People from Australia, the US and Western European countries like Spain, France and Italy make up the largest groups who have recently come to live in Hackney from abroad.
- Hackney is a relatively young borough with a quarter of its population under 20. People aged over 60 make up less than 10% of the population.
- Just over a third of Hackney's residents are Christian. This is a lower percentage than the London and England averages. Hackney has significantly more people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths, a higher proportion of people with no religion and a higher proportion of those who did not state a religion than London and England.
- In 2011, 14.5% of Hackney residents said they were disabled or had a long-term limiting illness.
- Nearly nine out of ten Hackney residents say that Hackney is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Hackney's diversity and multiculturalism are the main factors contributing to residents feeling proud of the borough.

Hate crime recorded in Hackney 2016/17

Metropolitan Police Service data indicates that over the past three years the number of recorded hate crimes across London has increased in each monitored category and this is also true in Hackney.[4] Of hate crime recorded in Hackney by the London Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) in 2016/17:

70% were race hate crimes

15.5% were religious hate crimes

11% were sexual orientation hate crimes

2% were disability hate crime

1.5% were transgender hate crimes.

| 741 | 165 | 115 | 25 | 16 |

Again, it is worth noting that hate crime offences can have more than one motivating factor and so it is possible that a single crime may be repeated in more than one of the above categories. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) do not provide a total number for hate crimes in each borough.

Our Approach

In Hackney we are passionate about celebrating our diversity. Our borough is a champion of all people, inclusive of race, faith, disability, sexuality and gender identity. In the past year we have celebrated the Hackney One Carnival, Black History Month, Hackney Pride 365 festival, many faith festivals, and campaigned for better accessibility for disabled people and the rights of EU residents in our #hackneylovesyou campaign in response to ongoing Brexit debates.

Hackney Council's strategy for tackling hate crime is inspired by our celebration of diversity and supports the following Mayoral priorities:

- a campaigning Council that speaks up for Hackney and actively intervenes to protect and promote the well-being of the borough and its citizens
- connecting with Hackney's communities; a visible, engaging, and listening Council, working in partnership with local people to shape services, and promoting community cohesion.

In addition, it reflects the Mayor's commitment as part of the 2016 Mayoral Election to ensure there is 'no place for hate' in Hackney.

This strategy sets out to achieve real and lasting benefits for the people of Hackney, and to do this we have the following objectives:

- building understanding of hate incidents and crime
- building community resilience against extremist beliefs and attitudes
- increasing the reporting of hate incidents and crime
- responding to hate incidents and crime in our communities
- improving support for the victims of hate.

How will we get there?

Our 'no place for hate' commitments for the next four years are:

To build our understanding of hate incidents and crime.

- We will listen to resident's views on hate incidents in the borough through the Council's Annual Survey.
- Our Community Safety Intelligence Hub will continue to collect data to analyse hate crime patterns, hotspots, perpetrators and victim vulnerability so that we can take action to prevent incidents and crime.
- We will work with the Hackney Learning Trust and Young Hackney to ensure that Young People have a clear voice in this process.

To build community resilience against extremist beliefs and attitudes.

- We will support grass roots community cohesion activity in the borough through increased engagement between the Community Safety Team and community partners.

To increase the reporting of hate incidents and crime.

- We will produce a 'no place for hate' reporting leaflet for use by council teams and community partners to promote reporting.
- We will partner with third party reporting services Stop Hate UK and the Community Alliance to Combat Hate (CATCH).

To respond to hate incidents and crime in our community

- We will use our CCTV and enforcement officers to support the police in gathering evidence, tackling hate and prosecuting offenders.
- We will train Hackney Council staff to recognise and respond to any hate crime witnessed in a timely, appropriate and effective manner.
- We will ensure that frontline delivery departments have a consistent and clearly documented protocol for response to hate crime and will work to ensure a "joined up" approach with key partners, including housing providers.

To improve support for victims of hate

- We will increase partnership working with the Victim Support Service, Stop Hate UK and CATCH to offer support and reporting options to victims of hate crime.
- We will ensure that Hackney Council employees are safeguarded against hate crime in the workplace through hate crime awareness training and nominated hate crime awareness champions.

Governance and accountability

Hackney Council's strategy for tackling hate crime will be overseen by the Hackney Community Safety Partnership. The strategy will be supported by an annual action plan which ensures that the reduction of hate incidents and crime is a priority across council departments and in local partnerships.

In addition, the Mayor of Hackney has established an elected member Champion for 'no place for hate'.

What happens next?

The consultation will run from **15 January** until **23 March 2018** and we will publish a report of the findings afterwards. We will use what you tell us to review and improve our strategy, which we will then publish.

How can you take part in the consultation?

- You can complete a questionnaire online at **consultation@hackney.gov.uk**
- Return your completed questionnaire by 23 March 2017 to **Consultation Team, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA**

For more information or to request paper copies of the questionnaire, please:
email: consultation@hackney.gov.uk or
call: 020 83564342

Appendix - Analysis of reported hate crime in Hackney:

It is important to note that all of the analysis below is based on crime that is reported to the police and it's possible that unreported crime might change the analysis.

- Most reported offences occurred following altercations (for example an ejection from a shop, club / bar, or arrest / detention for shoplifting offences). Police officers were also victims of hate crime, particularly in custody following arrest. There are a smaller number of examples of people randomly and without provocation shouting racist and religious abuse in the street in some of the hotspot locations.

- Hotspots for reported hate crime were Stoke Newington (Police Station), retail and commercial locations (e.g. in Dalston and Hackney Central), health facilities (hospital emergency department and mental health units), and Shoreditch.

- One of the hotspot locations was in the vicinity of a mental health support housing unit, and staff in various mental health wards, and A&E are also regularly victimised by patients. In A&E alcohol is a contributory factor, and incidents peak during night time economy hours, which is similar to violence related injuries.

- Alcohol and drugs were also considered to be a contributory factor in Shoreditch, with the night time economy effect also apparent in terms of the hours at which hate crimes were committed. Victims were primarily security guards and door staff at clubs and bars, but there were also incidents where people shouted racist abuse in the street outside licensed premises.

- Hate crime perpetrators cover all ethnic groups and ages and there is no one dominant profile.

- Race hate crimes account for 70 % of recorded hate crime and have shown the most significant rise in Hackney, with recorded crimes increasing by 37 % from 2015/16 to 2016/17. This strand of hate crime affects the highest number of people in Hackney and the widest demographic spread of all five strands.

- Meetings of community partners following the Finsbury Park terrorist attack in June 2017 raised ongoing concerns from Hackney residents around the vulnerability of visibly prominent Muslim and Haredi Jewish communities in the north of the borough, where it is felt that faith hate crime has significantly increased but is under-reported. Mosques and Churches in Hackney have also received a significant volume of hate mail in 2017 and recorded faith hate crime in Hackney showed a rise of 13 % from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

- We recognise that we need to develop increased understanding of the impact of disability, sexual orientation and transgender hate crime in Hackney and are working to establish local partnerships in these areas. All three of these strands of hate crime showed an increase from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

1. *Ignaski P, Lagou S, Hate crimes hurt some more than others: implications for the just sentencing of offenders, Journal of Interpersonal Violence 30(10), 2015: pp 1696-1718, as cited in Action Against Hate – The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime, Home Office, July 2016*

2. *Corcoran H and Smith K, Hate Crime, England and Wales, Home Office, 2015/16*

3. *http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/*

4. *MOPAC Hate Crime Dashboard at https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/ crime % 20/hate-crime-dashboard*