

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE – 4 MARCH 2010

UPDATE REPORT ON THE RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION OF HATE CRIME

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members with an update on the current national and local position in relation to hate crime and incidents of reported prejudice.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The report covers the period 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009 inclusive and addresses reported hate incidents and crimes.

A Hate Crime is defined as:

“Any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

A Hate Incident is defined as:

“Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

(ACPO Hate Crime Good Practice and Tactical Guidance, 2005)

- 1.2 Hate incidents and crimes are audited for compliance against the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) and the Force Hate Incident and Crime Policy to assess whether the prejudice element of an incident has been correctly captured and investigated.

2. THE NATIONAL POSITION

- 2.1 National figures for hate crime indicate that race hate crimes are by far the highest of all hate crimes, followed by sexual orientation, faith, disability and transphobic. This is consistent with the position in Dorset.

- 2.2 The ACPO Hate Crime Good Practice and Tactical Guidance document is currently subject to review. It is anticipated that the final document will be available to forces in April. Initial feedback indicates that this will give more clarity on some aspects of hate crime not covered previously eg disability, transgender, gypsies and travellers and asylum seekers thus reflecting the focus within the national Hate Crime – Cross Government Action Plan.

3. THE NATIONAL HATE CRIME CROSS GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 The document “Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protection the Public: An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008–11” committed the Government to producing a dedicated cross government strategy to assist local partners in developing their responses to hate crime.
- 3.2 The Action Plan has been developed to set out the strategic actions that the Government will take on a short to medium term basis to tackle hate crime and support hate crime victims.
- 3.3 The Action Plan will contribute towards the overarching objective of improving public confidence in the criminal justice system and to the achieving of the Police Service Agreement (PSA) 23 – to make communities safer and PSA 24 – to deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public.
- 3.4 The objectives are to:
- 1) Increase victim and community confidence in the criminal justice system
 - 2) Prevent hate crimes occurring or escalating in seriousness
 - 3) Improve access to and take up of victim support
- 3.5 Chapter 2 focuses on reasons identified for under reporting, processes to improve levels of reporting and identifies that improved efforts are needed to support particular communities who appear to have been disproportionately affected by hate crime:
- Transgender people
 - Gypsy and Traveller communities
 - Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 - Disabled People
- 3.6 The Diversity Development Manager based in the Community Engagement Department has highlighted the plan and strategic issues relating to under reporting with the Strategic Multi Agency Partnerships so that these can be incorporated in the development work ongoing.

4. THE LOCAL POSITION

- 4.1 The table below details the statistics for the Force in relation to all reported hate crimes and incidents, and repeat victims for the period 1 April to 31 December 2009.

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
OVERALL Total Crime & Incidents	549	510	-39	-7.1%
TOTAL Repeat Victims	86	88	2	2.3%
% Repeats	15.7%	17.3%		

- 4.2 There is a slight overall decrease in reported hate crimes and incidents across the Force. Data for this reporting period shows a decrease of 7.1% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09.

- 4.3 There is a slight overall increase in the number of repeat victims across the Force. Data for this reporting period shows an increase of 2.3% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09.

Hate Crime

- 4.4. Below are the statistics for the Force in relation to reported hate crime for the period 1 April to 31 December 2009.

Recorded Hate Crime – Divisional and Section Profile

Bournemouth & Poole	2008/09	2009/10	Change	%
	Apr 08 to Dec 08	Apr 09 to Dec 09		Change
Central Bmth	47	31	-16	-34.0%
East Bmth	35	27	-8	-22.9%
North Bmth	38	36	-2	-5.3%
Poole South	29	17	-12	-41.4%
Poole North	24	23	-1	-4.2%
Bmth & Poole Division	173	134	-39	-22.5%
Div as % of Force Total	66.5%	63.2%		

County	2008/09	2009/10	Change	%
	Apr 08 to Dec 08	Apr 09 to Dec 09		Change
Dorchester	7	8	1	14.3%
Bridport	4	8	4	100.0%
Weymouth & Portland	31	30	-1	-3.2%
Purbeck	5	3	-2	-40.0%
East Dorset	9	12	3	33.3%
North Dorset	7	5	-2	-28.6%
Christchurch	24	12	-12	-50.0%
County Division	87	78	-9	-10.3%
Div as % of Force Total	33.5%	36.8%		

FORCE TOTAL	260	212	-48	-18.5%
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- 4.5 There continues to be a slight overall decrease in reported hate crime across the Force. Data for this reporting period shows a decrease of 18.5% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09. The most significant percentage decreases being in the Poole South section (- 41.4%) and Christchurch section (- 50%).

Detection Rates

- 4.6 The next chart shows the detection rate for hate crime and gives a breakdown of the types of prejudice crimes reported. Included are the previous year's charts for comparison.

Crime Profile: April – December 2008 and 2009

April 2008 to December 2008

April 2009 to December 2009

Crime Profile	Crimes	Detections	% Detected	Crimes	Detections	% Detected
Racially/Religiously Agg. Assault	51	14	27.5 %	30	9	30.0 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Common Assault	40	15	37.5 %	27	7	25.9 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Criminal Damage	34	11	32.4 %	37	7	18.9 %
Racially/Religiously Agg. Harassment	135	63	46.7 %	118	61	51.7 %
TOTAL	260	103	39.6 %	212	84	39.6 %
Repeat Victims	62			54		
% Repeat Victims	23.8 %			25.5 %		

TOTAL Crime Detection Rate	38,533	9,592	24.9%	37,450	8,661	23.1%
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- 4.7 It is of note that the detection rate has remained constant and that the number of repeat victims of hate crimes has decreased, although this is an increase in percentage terms when comparing with the same period in 2008/09.

Hate Incidents

- 4.8 The table below details the statistics for the Force in relation to all reported hate incidents, and repeat victims for the period 1 April to 31 December 2009.

Incident Profile	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
	Incidents	Incidents		
Incident - Disability	16	13	-3	-18.8%
Incident - Faith	4	8	4	100.0%
Incident - Homophobic	55	68	13	23.6%
Incident - Racial	5	7	2	40.0%
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	209	202	-7	-3.3%
TOTAL	289	298	9	3.1%
Repeat Victims	24	34	10	41.7%
% Repeat Victims	8.3 %	11.4 %		

- 4.9 There is a slight overall increase in reported hate incidents across the Force. Data for this reporting period shows an increase of 3.1% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09. When reviewing the types of hate incidents reported it is of note that those relating to disability have decreased during this reporting period. It is also of note that the number of repeat victims has increased.
- 4.10 There is overall an increase in the number of repeat victims across the Force. Data for this reporting period shows an increase of 41.7% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09. This percentage increase refers to ten individuals.
- 4.11 Hate crimes and incidents are reviewed on a daily basis by the divisional Information Management Units. This monitoring identifies those crimes and incidents that are ongoing or involve repeat victims. For those crimes and incidents that are ongoing, a more in depth analysis will be undertaken to identify hotspots and trends. Crimes

and incidents involving repeat victims are forwarded to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team in the first instance for contact to be made to gain further detail and identify an appropriate Force response.

- 4.12 The next chart shows a breakdown of reported hate incidents. These are incidents reported to the police that do not meet the criteria of a criminal offence but are reported due to a belief it was committed due to prejudice or hate.

Recorded Hate Incidents – Divisional and Section Profile

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	%
	Apr 08 to Dec 08	Apr 09 to Dec 09		Change
Central Bmth	52	64	12	23.1%
East Bmth	51	37	-14	-27.5%
North Bmth	59	55	-4	-6.8%
Poole South	29	29	0	0.0%
Poole North	26	23	-3	-11.5%
Bmth & Poole Division	217	208	-9	-4.1%
Div as % of Force Total	75.1%	69.8%		

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	%
	Apr 08 to Dec 08	Apr 09 to Dec 09		Change
Dorchester	8	13	5	62.5%
Bridport	1	3	2	200.0%
Weymouth & Portland	27	27	0	0.0%
Purbeck	8	3	-5	-62.5%
East Dorset	16	17	1	6.3%
North Dorset	6	14	8	133.3%
Christchurch	6	13	7	116.7%
County Division	72	90	8	11.1%
Div as % of Force Total	24.9%	30.2%		
FORCE TOTAL	289	298	9	3.1%

- 4.13 There has been a slight increase of 3.1% in the reporting of hate incidents when making comparison with the same period in 2008/09. The majority of incidents reported are within the Bournemouth and Poole Division with Bournemouth Central showing a significant increase 23.1%. Within the County Division the sections showing a significant increase in the number of reports are North Dorset (133%) and Christchurch (116.7%). The most significant percentage decreases being in the East Bournemouth section (- 27.5%) and Purbeck section (- 62.5%).

- 4.14 When looking at the data in further detail, it can be seen in the table below in Bournemouth Central the largest percentage increase has been in relation to faith related incidents. However there has been a decrease in the number of disability related incidents reported.

Bournemouth Central

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
Incident - Disability	3	1	-2	-66.7%
Incident - Faith	1	4	3	300.0%
Incident - Homophobic	13	19	6	46.2%
Incident - Racial	35	39	4	11.4%
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	0	1	1	-
TOTAL	52	64	12	23.1%

- 4.15 In North Dorset it can be seen that there has been an increase in the reporting of homophobic and racial incidents, but there continues to be no incidents relating to disability or faith reported.

North Dorset

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
Incident - Disability	0	1	1	-
Incident - Faith	0	0	0	-
Incident - Homophobic	1	3	2	200.0%
Incident - Racial	5	10	5	100.0%
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	6	14	8	133.3%

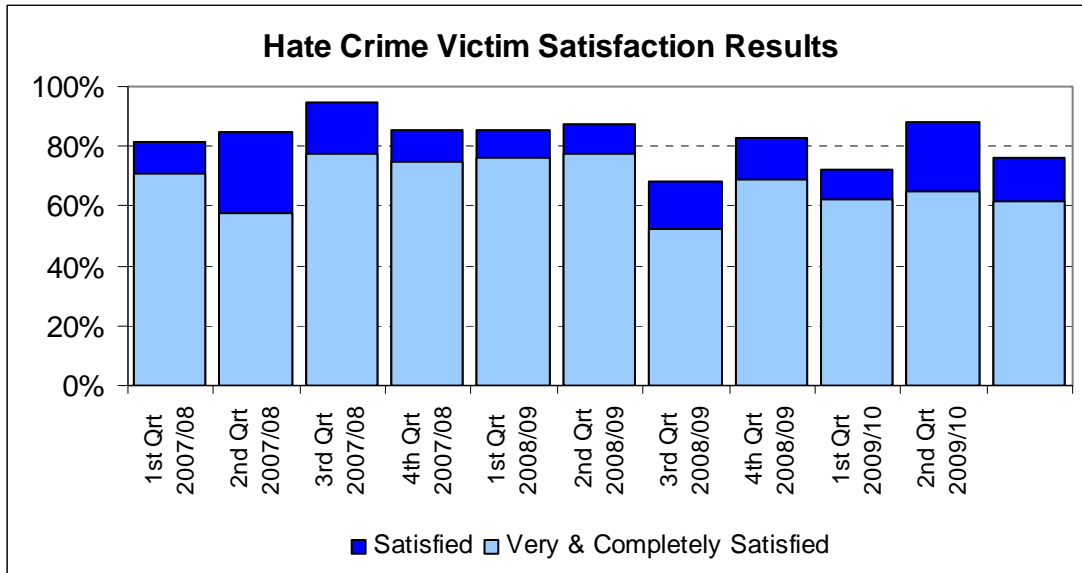
- 4.16 In Christchurch it can be seen that there has been an increase in the reporting of homophobic and racial incidents, but that there continues to be no incidents relating to disability or faith reported. It has been identified through local analysis that the rise in racial incidents has related to international students. The Force has in place a Good Practice Manual for International Students that is distributed to all language schools giving practical advice on personal safety.

Christchurch

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% Change
Incident - Disability	0	0	0	-
Incident - Faith	0	0	0	-
Incident - Homophobic	1	2	1	100.0%
Incident - Racial	5	11	6	120.0%
Incident - Racial (Harassment)	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	6	13	7	116.7%

Victim Satisfaction

4.17 Victim satisfaction rates are measured in relation to all victims of crime and the charts below show the satisfaction rates of both victims of race hate crime and the overall rates of victim satisfaction.



4.18 Overall satisfaction rates have remained just over 80% for the Force with just under 70% of victims being very or completely satisfied with the service they have received. However, there is a very slight decrease in satisfaction when making comparison with the second quarter of 2009/10 but this is also reflected for the third quarter in previous years' satisfaction rates.

4.19 Victim satisfaction levels continue to be monitored by a number of other methods such as questionnaires, Crown Prosecution Service Independent Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel, multi agency meetings such as Prejudice Free and Hate Crime Review Officers contacting the victim directly and asking how individuals felt regarding the service they received and how they had been treated.

5. INTERNAL MONITORING OF HATE CRIME

- 5.1 Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers work with statutory and non-statutory agencies in order to support vulnerable groups and encourage the reporting of hate crime.
- 5.2 The Force website offers an on-line feedback facility for general feedback and for those who are victims or know of someone who is a victim of crime. This will enable the Force to identify feedback in relation to all hate incidents and crimes and address key issues of concern. To date there has been no feedback received in relation to hate crime. The key issues identified from the feedback received relate to traffic issues, which coincide with the “No Excuses” project. Monitoring of feedback will take place on a monthly basis and any issues in relation to hate crime will be forwarded to the Diversity Development Manager for review.
- 5.3 At present a marketing plan is being prepared to publicise the online feedback facility. This will include external media such as e-newsletters, minority publications, Independent Advisory Group (IAG) members and contact group members.

6. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 6.1 The Diversity Development Manager now sits on the two Prejudice Free Hate Crime Groups. Work is underway to revise the reporting forms for both self reporting and reporting at an alternative centre (third party reporting). In addition a review of alternative reporting centres to identify appropriate venues is being undertaken. It is anticipated that a launch of the new systems will take place in the Spring.
- 6.2 The Head of Youth based in the Community Engagement Department is working with partners to ensure that a joined up approach in relation to the reporting and recording of hate crimes and incidents is supported by schools. A strategic partnership has been established by Dorset County Council to further develop reporting and recording processes linked to the National Hate Crime Cross Government Action Plan.
- 6.3 Schools have a mandatory requirement to report racist incidents. All three local authorities have a reporting system through designated members in Children's Services. The Head of Youth will be linking in with the three anti-bullying groups.
- 6.4 The Safe Schools and Communities Team's (SSCTs) activities (which cover all types of bullying, not specifically hate crime related), offer INSET training on dealing with Cyber-bullying as well as providing Cyber-bullying education to students. They also provide Restorative Justice training and interventions to deal with bullying behaviours.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 There continues to be a slight decrease in reported hate crime across the Force, with the most significant decrease in the Bournemouth Central area. Data for this reporting period shows a decrease of 18.5% in comparison with the same period in 2008/09. The most significant percentage decreases being in the Poole South section (- 41.4%) and Christchurch section (- 50%).
- 7.2 There has been a slight increase in the reporting of hate incidents when making comparison with the same period in 2008/09. The majority of incidents reported are within the Bournemouth and Poole Division with Bournemouth Central showing a

significant increase relating to reported faith and homophobic incidents. In the County Division the most significant increase in reporting is within North Dorset and Christchurch sections relating to an increase in reported homophobic and racial incidents.

- 7.3 The detection rate has remained constant and that the number of repeat victims has decreased when comparing with the same period 2008/09.
- 7.4 Overall satisfaction rates have remained just over 80% for the Force, with just under 70% of victims being very or completely satisfied with the service they have received.
- 7.5 Work is progressing with statutory and non-statutory partners to enhance the current arrangements for third party and self reporting. It is anticipated that the new systems will be launched in the Spring with a focus on building trust and confidence.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report

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