

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members  
of the Operational Policing Panel  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Dave Pickard, Assistant Chief Constable  
(Crime Operations)**

**Status: For information**

**Hate Crime Update**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide the Operational Policing Panel with an overview of our current response to incidents of Hate Crime.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

**3. Reasons**

3.1 Hate Incident & Hate Crime definitions

A hate incident is 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.

- 3.2 A hate crime is any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

- 3.3 These definitions absorb the definitions of racist, religiously aggravated, faith, age, sexual orientation, disability, and transphobic incidents, and any other hate crime.

3.4 National and regional issues

There is a spectrum of hate crime, which runs from abuse and harassment through to violent extremism.

3.5 The Cross-Government Action Plan published in early September 2009 explains how Government and agencies will meet the challenge of tackling hate crime over the short to medium term. At the core of the Government's strategy for tackling crime overall is a commitment to addressing those crimes that matter most to the public and to increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system.

3.6 The aim of the action plan 'is to give people the **confidence** to report, **empower** them to report, ensure that people know **how to report** and ensure that **the means to report** are accessible.'

3.7 A secondary aim is to provide greater understanding and address race disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

3.8 A new internet Hate Crime Action Plan will support this framework by making it easier to report such abuse and by improving the effectiveness of responses to it.

3.9 Public sector bodies have an important role to play in preventing hate crime. The new Equality Bill includes an Equality Duty which will mean public sector bodies will have to think about how they can foster good relations between different communities.

3.10 Regionally, the Hate Incident/Crime Group is one of five task groups being convened to deliver the North East Community Cohesion Learning Network's Action Plan. The other four task groups will focus on Community Tension Monitoring, Migration, Cohesion and Schools, and Cohesion and Faiths.

3.11 The aim of the group to improve the way that all types of hate incidents/crimes (disability, homophobic, racist, religious and transphobic) are tackled in local areas by developing and implementing an achievable standard of good practice for local partnerships across the North East.

3.12 At this time the Hate Incident Group is chaired by a representative of the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** and attended by a representative from Cleveland Police amongst other partners.

3.13 This forum will host a North East Regional Hate Crime Master Class and launch its strategy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 at Government Office.

3.14 Incident data summary for February to September 2009

The current levels of hate incidents across the Force for February to September 2009 (with 2008 comparisons) are detailed overleaf:

	<b>09-10</b>	<b>08-09</b>	<b>Change</b>
Hate/Discrimination: Race	302	274	+28
Hate/Discrimination: Transphobic	7	6	+1
Hate/Discrimination: Disability (including Mental Health)	0	0	<>
Hate/Discrimination: Religion / Faith	2	0	+2
Hate/Discrimination: Sexual Orientation	27	43	-16
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>+15</b>

### 3.15 Force wide initiatives

The Diversity Unit have been successful in their bid to become a pilot site for the new Equality Standards for Policing, and will work with NPIA on the implementation of the new standards which incorporate hate crime. This will put Cleveland Police in the best possible position for the HMIC Work Force Inspection in 2010 as outlined in the recent Green paper.

3.16 The Inspector, Communities & Partnerships Unit, CJU has engaged with the Crown Prosecution Service as a member of a force wide Race Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel and a Regional Homophobic/Transphobic Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel. Each panel is assisted by an independent Solicitor and is made up of local community representatives, support groups and other professionals. The panels examine hate crimes from both an investigatory and criminal justice perspective. The panels have been well received in the community, have received positive publicity and are building trust with local people regarding hate crime and how it is dealt with.

3.17 The Community Engagement Officer working within the PREVENT Strategy has been involved in a number of initiatives within the local community. This has involved table top exercises raising awareness of PREVENT issues, liaising with partners and schools, and engaging with young people through sport. All of the initiatives have the common theme of building trust in our diverse communities.

3.18 Initiatives for the future include Operation Nicole and supporting presentations/events that will engage Muslim parents specifically in dialogue with Cleveland Police.

3.19 Cleveland Police are also fully supportive of an NSPCC initiative to safeguard children of asylum seekers and refugees through a programme of education and training delivered in a community setting. Partners include the North East Refugee Service, Teesside University and other local asylum support networks.

## **4 Middlesbrough District**

4.1 Middlesbrough District has been engaging with the private sector, particularly migrant workers and has assisted with training in relation to UK law and hate crime.

- 4.2 On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009, after a dispute over a fare a taxi driver was racially abused by a male in the town centre. He was arrested and subsequently charged. He pleaded guilty at court and as part of a 12 month community order he was restricted from entering or attempting to enter hackney carriages or private hire vehicles for 12 months.
- 4.3 Playing-card size cards with his photograph and details of prohibition in addition to posters are to be printed and the article is to appear in the Middlesbrough News which is distributed to all households.
- 4.4 The levels of hate crime incidents reported in Middlesbrough district are shown below.

<b>Middlesbrough District Hate incidents</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2008</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2009</b>
Race	144	151
Transphobia	6	6
Disability (inc. Mental Health)	0	0
Religion/Faith	0	2
Sexual Orientation	11	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>169</b>

**5 Stockton District**

- 5.1 The Hate Crime Forum is now well established in Stockton with the Hate Crime Reporting Group meeting the third Wednesday of every month. Membership has expanded to include all major housing providers, (Tristar, Endeavour and Tees Valley Housing) as well as the Local Authority Community Cohesion Unit, Local Authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Victim Support. This ensures that any reports to any agencies are captured and dealt with appropriately on a multi-agency basis.
- 5.2 The district has received in excess of £10,000 of funding from various sources to host a terrorism and radicalisation conference aimed at young people, designed to encourage young people to understand and debate issues concerning radicalisation and extremism and promoting community cohesion. This will be a Tees Valley wide conference and will be held in February 2010. The conference will be hosted by Stockton Youth Independent Advisory Group.
- 5.3 The levels of hate crime incidents reported in Stockton district are shown overleaf.

<b>Stockton District Hate incidents</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2008</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2009</b>
Race	61	79
Transphobic	0	1
Disability (inc. Mental Health)	0	0
Religion/Faith	0	0
Sexual Orientation	12	6
Asylum Seeker	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>

## **6 Redcar & Cleveland District**

- 6.1 Redcar & Cleveland are working with the District IAG to increase representation from all communities. They have also begun a series of training and briefing initiatives with front desk staff to raise awareness of disability issues, with the first theme being to improve communication with people with dyslexia.
- 6.2 The District has employed a problem solving multi-agency approach when dealing with an Italian family from the South Bank area who were suffering from harassment.
- 6.3 A Youth IAG is to be formed within the Redcar & Cleveland District. The first meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Prior Pursglove College at Guisborough. It is hoped that the group will have representatives from a wide variety of young people across the District, including those from the BME Community.
- 6.4 The district IAG held in July 2009 involved training in the PREVENT Agenda and members of the group were taken through a table top exercise, the scenario being a terrorist attack in town centre. All members of the group found this to be very informative.
- 6.5 The local Neighbourhood Policing teams for the South Bank area have forged excellent relationships with both the Pakistani and Bangladeshi Mosques and conduct regular visits.
- 6.6 The levels of hate crime incidents reported in Redcar & Cleveland district are shown overleaf.

<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Hate Incidents</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 08</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 09</b>
Race	36	39
Transphobic	0	0
Disability (inc Mental health)	0	0
Religion / Faith	0	0
Sexual orientation	12	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>

## **7 Hartlepool District**

7.1 Hartlepool continues to promote the IAG through Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and this is proving extremely beneficial. In recent weeks a wide variety of groups, including faith groups and disability groups have shown a keen interest in attending the meetings. One key area that has been promoted is identifying the true number of incidents and how they impact upon the community, as well as methods of reporting.

7.2 Discussions have been held in September with a representative of the BME reference group in Hartlepool and the Neighbourhood Safety Inspector. Key amongst this was hate incident reporting and the police response and it is felt this recent discussion will provide an excellent starting point for improving relationships over the next few months

7.3 The levels of hate crime incidents reported in Hartlepool district are shown below.

<b>Hartlepool district Hate Incidents</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2008</b>	<b>Feb - Sept 2009</b>
Race	33	33
Transphobic	0	0
Disability (inc. Mental Health)	0	0
Religion/Faith	0	0
Sexual orientation	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>

## **8. Implications**

### **8.1 Financial**

The Force response operates within existing funding arrangements and therefore there are no major financial implications. The funding arrangements for the Community Engagement Sergeant will be kept under review.

8.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities

The equality impact assessment group has assessed the Force 'Hate Crime & Incidents' policies. The Hate crime policy will be reviewed following the publication of the Hate Crime Manual and the draft Equality Standards.

8.3 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

8.4 Sustainability

The issue of Hate Crime/Incidents forms part of our current policing priorities and are issues that call for continued attention.

8.5 Risk

Due to its very nature and impact it is important that Cleveland Police is responsive to community and individual concerns.

**9. Conclusions**

- 9.1 Hate crime and incidents are key concerns and a continuing focus needs to be maintained. The response to such a problem calls for improved confidence in communicating with the Police and improved initial police intervention together with longer-term solutions involving our partners. This paper has described how this is being achieved.

Sean Price  
Chief Constable