

Cumbria County Council



Staff and Elected Members Information Sheet:

Hate Crime

Definition – supported by the Safer Cumbria Partnership

'Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person characteristic.'

Statutory Duty

One of the aims of Public Sector Equality Duty under Equality Act 2010 is 'Fostering Good Relations' that means tackling prejudice and promoting understanding among all sections of society.

The Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and victim of race hate crime have an expectation from all the agencies at a local level in Cumbria to tackle hate crime effectively and provide appropriate support for victims. There is a need for a coordinated approach and an effective Multi-agency strategy and action plan to challenge the root causes of racial prejudice, tackle hate crimes, increase reporting and support for victims, and to put effective case and offender management systems in place to stop it.

Where are we in Cumbria?

The Safer Cumbria Partnership; together with AWAZ and the Council's Community Safety Team are working together to provide policy advice and engage underrepresented groups and communities in the development of Cumbria Multi-agency Tackling Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan 2013-15.

Having recently conducted a mapping exercise; it was found that very few organisations have suitable arrangements in place for dealing with hate crimes.

All of the evidence collected suggests that racism is still one of the key challenges BME people and communities in Cumbria experience in a range of ways in their everyday life, and race hate crimes are over 65% of total reported hate crimes across Cumbria in last three years. Often this reality is at worst denied, and at best underestimated.

There is a slight increase in successful prosecutions against the perpetrators of hate crime in Cumbria but "Many perpetrators consider intolerance to be an acceptable part of life and are likely to re-offend.

Multi Agency Action Plan 2013-15:

The action plan is at an early stage of development; workshops are being held at a county level and local Community Safety Partnership will then take the lead.

The Government's Challenge It, Report It, Stop It - The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime Action Plan is being used to structure Cumbria's plan. I will focus on:

Prevention

- Challenging attitudes
- Early Intervention

Increased Reporting and access to support

- Building victim confidence to report a hate crime
- Improving the response to hate crime

Offender Management and tackling offending

- Tackling the root causes of hate crime
- Performance management on delivering actions

For further information please contact:

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