



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item: TBA

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Report Title: **Hate Crime and Harassment – Progress update**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): N/A

Report of: Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Manager

Authorised by: Sharon Kemp (Assistant Chief Executive PP&C)

Signature *Jean Croot*  
PP SHARON KEMP.

Date *12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2009*

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Information only

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To inform Overview and Scrutiny about the progress made against agreed actions in the Hate Crime and Harassment Strategy 07-08

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 For Members to note the content of this report and the work underway in the borough

Report Authorised by: Jean Croot, Head of Safer Communities Service

Contact Officer: Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Manager

### **3. Background**

3.1 Haringey published a Hate Crime and Harassment Strategy during 07/08 following extensive professional and public consultation and research undertaken by Middlesex University in the borough.

3.2 The key recommendations concerned reporting and the research found the following:

- A lack of knowledge among the general public about where and how to report hate crime
- A low level of belief that an acceptable response would result from reporting hate crime or harassment to the council or police
- Lack of publicity to combat tolerance and raise awareness

3.3 As a result, a multi-agency working group was formed to take the recommended actions forward and oversee progress against an annual action plan.

### **4. Strategic priorities**

4.1 The strategy highlighted 5 principal priorities under the following headings:

- : Improving community cohesion
- : Under-taking long-term prevention
- : Improving intelligence and data
- : Encouraging reporting
- : Responding to hate crime and harassment

### **5. Progress against priorities**

5.1 The specific actions and comments are attached in the current action plan. However, key developments are reported below:

#### Improving community cohesion

5.2 The Head of Policy has been active on the working group and has ensured good information flow between the group and the Haringey Community Cohesion Forum. A community cohesion pledge was agreed by all stakeholders at the last Forum meeting. The Policy Team is currently developing a community engagement framework for the Strategic Partnership and this will help underpin cohesion work.

#### Long-term prevention

5.3 Making in-roads into secondary schools was highlighted as a key action. A hate crime awareness play has been running in 8 such schools in the borough and has been very enthusiastically received by pupils and teachers. The impact of this play will be evaluated with follow-up recommendations.

- 5.4 The Safer Schools Partnership and Police Community Engagement Teams are continuing their work to identify and raise awareness of hate-related bullying among young people.
- 5.5 A new Haringey Domestic and Gender-based violence strategy has been published this year with a balance of prevention, enforcement and support.

#### Improving intelligence and data

- 5.6 Significant improvements have been made in this area. The Council's database has been updated to capture the many complexities of anti-social behaviour, harassment and hate-related incidents. This now forms a more substantive part of the annual strategic assessment than in previous years
- 5.7 The Police have introduced a new flagging system which records exactly what the drivers were for a particular hate crime. This adds meaning to the data capture and will enable partners to monitor trends and changes and respond accordingly.

#### Encouraging reporting

- 5.8 A self and third party reporting system has been agreed to encourage reporting via volunteers and professionals who often receive information directly from victims. This is due to be officially launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009. It will be accompanied by the re-launch of a high-level publicity campaign and details of exactly how to report hate crime. Data from October – June 07/08 suggests shows a 29% increase in reporting over the same period in the previous year.
- 5.9 A drop-in surgery for specific community groups eg LGBT is being piloted with support from the police Community Engagement Team and is due to be reviewed before the end of the financial year.

#### Responding to hate crime and harassment

- 5.10 Haringey has a positive arrest policy and regularly runs Operation Athena days where known suspects are pursued for arrest.
- 5.11 We have worked with CONEL to structure a training course for front-line staff, co-ordinating elements of diffusion tactics and self defence training. An update was not available at the time of writing but will be sought.
- 5.12 A directory of local organisations that offer support to victims and witnesses of hate crime has been published and is available online
- 5.13 A new Borough Manager has joined Haringey to work with Victim Support and she is in the process of agreeing information sharing with key teams such as housing and ASBAT

- 5.14 It has been established that disability-related incidents are significantly under-reported and this will be reviewed as part of a new action plan

Appendices:

Hate crime and harassment strategy 07/08

Hate crime action plan 08/09