



# HATE HURTS

South Yorkshire Police

## Strategy For Tackling Hate Crime

2019—2021



# 1. Definition

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The College of Police Hate Crime Operational Guidance defines hate crime and non-crime hate incidents as:

*“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice, based upon one or more identifying factors.”*



*“A non-crime hate incident is any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice, based upon one or more identifying factors.”*



Identifying factors include but are not limited to:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or Beliefs
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity

## 2. Strategic Context

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*“Hate Crime has a significant impact on both individuals and communities. The impact when a victim is targeted because of who they are, rather than randomly, can be significantly increased. Being a victim of such behaviour can leave people feeling victimised and isolated.”*

In 2007, Home Office Partners agreed to monitor hate crime in the areas of:

- Disability
- Gender Identity
- Race
- Religion and Belief
- Sexual Orientation

In July 2016, HM Government published its action plan ‘Action Against Hate—the UK Government’s plan for tackling hate crime’, urging cross-governmental action to prevent and respond to hate crime. In October 2018, HM Government published an update on what has been achieved, entitled ‘Action Against Hate—Two Years On’.

In 2014, the College of Policing published their Hate Crime Strategy and Hate Crime Operational Guidance. It is anticipated that the Operational Guidance will be updated in 2019/20.

More recently, the Government published the ‘Online Harms White Paper’ which recognises the ever increasing threat of online crime, including hate crime.

Following calls for a review of hate crime legislation over the last few years, in October 2018 the Law Commission announced their review into hate crime which is still ongoing.

All of the documents can be accessed here by clicking on the images below.



## 3. National and Local Picture

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### National

Reported hate crime and non-crime hate incidents have been steadily increasing over a number of years, however hate crimes reported to both Police and hate crime monitoring organisations has increased dramatically since 2016. This increase appears to be attributable to the EU Referendum campaign and vote, UK based and international terrorist incidents and global politics as well as greater victim confidence and improved crime recording.

Below is the most recent data for Police recorded hate crime nationally.

Hate crime strand	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Race	35,944	35,845	37,575	42,862	49,419	62,685	71,251
Religion	1,618	1,572	2,264	3,293	4,400	5,949	8,336
Sexual orientation	4,345	4,241	4,588	5,591	7,194	9,157	11,638
Disability	1,748	1,911	2,020	2,515	3,629	5,558	7,226
Transgender	313	364	559	607	858	1,248	1,651
Total number of motivating factors	43,968	43,933	47,006	54,868	65,500	84,597	100,102
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>42,255</b>	<b>44,577</b>	<b>52,465</b>	<b>62,518</b>	<b>80,393</b>	<b>94,098</b>

*Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.  
See Bulletin Table 2 for detailed footnotes.*

The combined 2015/16 to 2017/18 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that there were around 184,000 incidents of hate crime a year. This estimate is 40% lower than the 307,000 incidents a year estimated by the 2007/08 and 2008/09 combined CSEW.

These figures are taken from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin on Hate Crime published in October 2018. The full document can be accessed [here](#).

### Local

Reported hate crime and non-crime hate incidents in SYP has largely followed the national picture over the last 6 years. However, the last financial year's data shows a slowing down in the increase in reported hate crime and a significant decrease in non-crime hate incidents.

In terms of the monitored strands, crimes and incidents with a racially aggravating factor continue to be the most common across the force, representing over 70% of all hate crime. However, efforts to raise awareness amongst other under-represented groups has resulted in large increases in reported hate crime from these groups.

The below table shows the local picture of recorded hate crime and non-crime hate incidents across all monitored strands.

	Crime	Non-Crime	Total
Apr 14—Mar 15	771	827	1598
Apr 15—Mar 16	1001	695	1696
Apr 16—Mar 17	1630	860	2490
Apr 17—Mar 18	2302	506	2808
Apr 18—Mar 19	2617	354	2971

Despite the increase, it is recognised that hate crime is still vastly under-reported, therefore, all increases are welcomed as it enables us to better understand and tackle hate crime as well as being indicative of greater confidence amongst victims to report. However, we are acutely aware of the anxiety and fear felt by under-represented communities and ensure that, through daily and weekly monitoring of hate crime, we respond appropriately to all reports and consider the wider community impact.

*“Working with our partners and communities, we will seek to prevent hate crime, to increase trust and confidence of communities that fear they may be targeted by such crime and to identify and prosecute those that commit such crimes.”*



## 5. To Achieve Our Strategic Aim:

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### 1. We will work with our partners and communities to prevent hate crime

- We will initiate and participate in events to raise awareness, to promote community cohesion and prevent hate crime
- We will work with schools, faith and community groups, as well as local and national working groups, to raise awareness and look at innovative ways to challenge attitudes
- We will monitor hate crime, identify emerging trends and intelligence and take proactive steps to disrupt and prevent escalation
- We will demonstrate that Police will take robust action in relation to hate crime



### 2. We will listen to our communities and, with our partners, build trust and confidence in order to increase reporting of hate crime

- We will engage with communities and professionals to build trust and confidence and increase reporting of hate crime
- We will listen and act on feedback from victims and communities
- We will continue to promote a variety of reporting mechanisms, such as True Vision and online reporting
- We will seek to ensure that our Independent Advisory Groups have representatives from affected groups
- We will work with our third party reporting centres to ensure that they feel confident and equipped to perform this role
- We will signpost victims to local and national support groups
- We will seek to improve accessibility to information for victims and community groups



**3. We will robustly and effectively respond to and investigate hate crime, support victims and seek appropriate outcomes for offenders**

- We will ensure staff are provided with regular training on hate crime/incidents
- We will monitor hate crime to ensure appropriate investigation, safeguarding, signposting and offender management
- We will review hate crime to identify repeat victims and suspects, trends and take proactive steps to disrupt/prosecute
- We will improve the use of Victim Personal and Community Impact statements
- We will work with CPS to improve outcomes and ensure sentence uplifts are maximised

**4. We will ensure that there are effective internal and partnership governance structures in place to continually seek improvements in our response to hate crime**

- Through multi-agency hate crime scrutiny panels, local trends and issues will be dealt with and improvements identified
- We will analyse data to identify and better understand trends to improve our response
- We will audit recording of crimes and flagging of hate crime and online activity
- We will link in with national and regional colleagues to identify good practice



## 6. Delivery, Governance & Accountability

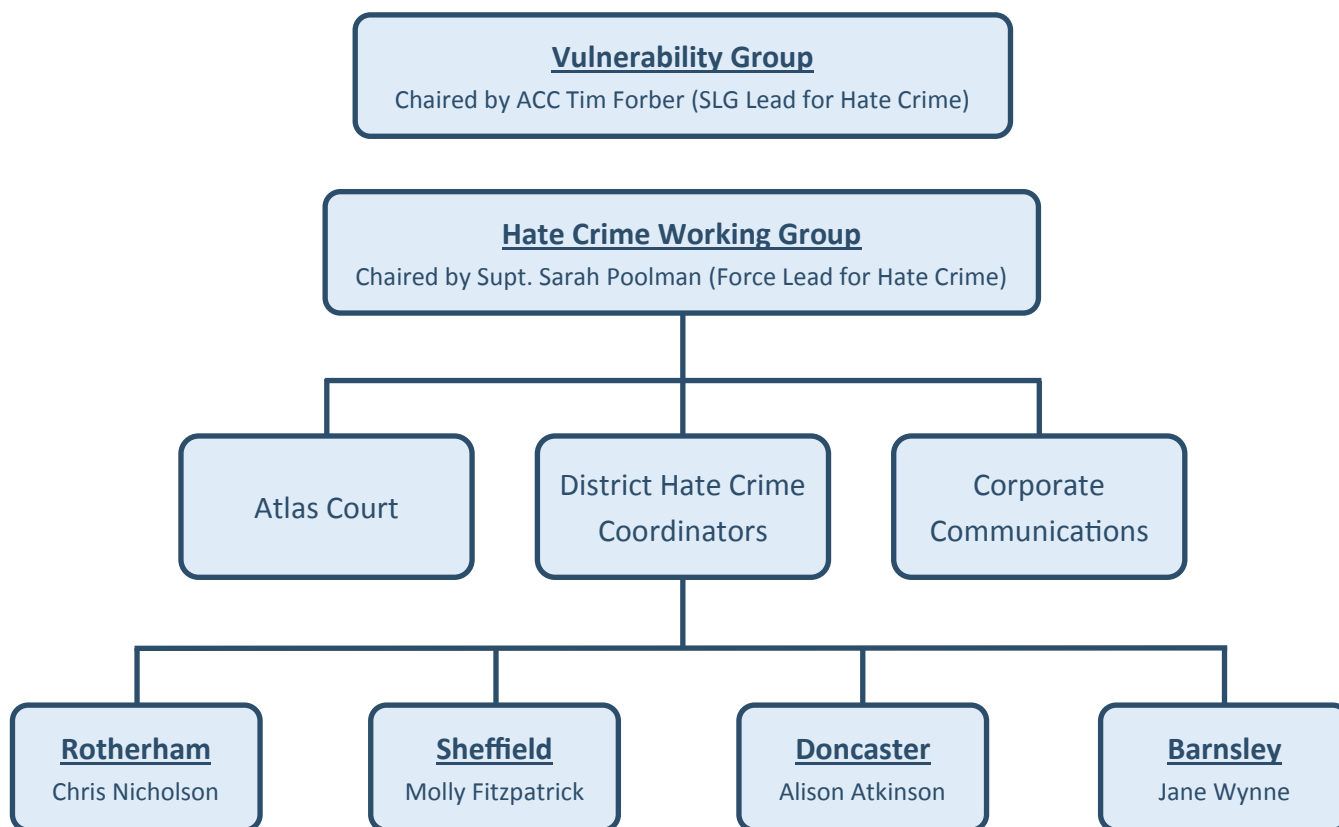
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### Delivery

To deliver the Hate Crime Strategy, each district works alongside our partners from the Local Authority. In addition to this, the Police and Local Authority consult and engage with other partners through Multi-Agency Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels.

Multi-Agency Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels are made up of representatives from numerous Community Groups and the purpose of the panel is to review and scrutinise hate crimes and our response to them.

### Governance



### Accountability

**Locally:** Through SYP's Vulnerability Group and the PCC's Public Accountability Board.

**Nationally:** The Force Hate Crime Lead chairs the North East Hate Crime Policing Forum and feeds into the National Working Group on Hate Crime.





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Strategy signed by

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***ACC Tim Forber***

For review in July 2021