

# Public Document Pack



## Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 6.30 p.m.  
The Bridge Suite, Halton Stadium,  
Widnes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Victoria Begg	Labour
Councillor Laura Bevan	Labour
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Angela McInerney	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Andrea Wall	Labour

*Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 511 8059 or e-mail  
[gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk](mailto:gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk) for further information.  
The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 14 September 2021*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>	<b>5 - 7</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES</b>	
<b>4. PRESENTATION FROM ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION STOP HATE, SPEAK OUT</b>	<b>8 - 50</b>
<b>5. MODERN SLAVERY &amp; HUMAN TRAFFICKING - GOVERNANCE &amp; SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN HALTON</b>	<b>51 - 63</b>
<b>6. HEARTSTONE ODYSSEY BOOK FESTIVAL</b>	<b>64 - 73</b>
<b>7. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE</b>	<b>74 - 78</b>
<b>8. COMMUNITY TRIGGER UPDATE</b>	<b>79 - 84</b>

*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

**SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 held remotely*

Present: Councillors Thompson (Chair), N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), Baker, E. Cargill, Dourley, V. Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan and Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino, G. Ferguson, S. Ashcroft and M. Cotgreave

Also in attendance: One member of the press

**ITEM DEALT WITH  
UNDER DUTIES  
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Chair made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cheshire Police budget for 2021/2022 had been agreed and the Police Force was one of the 10 lowest precepts in the country; and</li> <li>• The Cheshire Chief Constable was due to retire in the Spring 2021. The new Chief Constable would be announced shortly.</li> </ul>	
SAF22 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
SAF23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no questions had been received.</p>	
SAF24 EMERGENCY PLANNING	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team during 2019-2020.</p>	

Members received a presentation which highlighted the Teams statutory duties to comply with the following legislation:

- the Civil Contingencies Act 2004;
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015; and
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996

Members noted that Halton had a number of Emergency Plans in place with the aim to ensure resilience. These Plans were regularly updated and tested. The Board was advised of examples of local risks, details of the exercises that took place at COMAH sites in the Borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work the Emergency Planning Team carried out with partner agencies, both within Cheshire and cross border and as part of Cheshire Resilience Forum.

Details of the role of the Team supporting the Authority's response to Covid-19 internally and externally alongside partner agencies was also noted.

Arising from the discussion, the following issues were raised and it was agreed that a written response would be provided to the Board:

- Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones raised a question regarding the main water pipeline which travels from Wales to Merseyside and a possible threat from terrorism;
- Cllr Thompson asked for further information regarding the plans for the decommissioning of the Fiddlers Ferry Site; and
- Cllr Thompson raised a question regarding gas monitoring in the quarry area of Weston Village.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### SAF25 COVID 19 - UPDATED WORKING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the range of services that Halton Community Safety Partnership had put in place during the Covid-19 Pandemic to support the community. The report provided an update on:

- Widnes and Runcorn Policing;

- Operation Pandas – an internal major response stood up by Cheshire Police which covered the response, management and coordination of all aspects of Coronavirus;
- School Liaison work;
- Domestic Abuse services, raising awareness, press releases, webchat, refuge facilities and MARAC meetings;
- Licensing issues;
- ASB Victim and Witness Support Services;
- Counter Terrorism and Channel Policing during lockdown; and
- Digital Safety resources during Covid-19

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF26 CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE - HOUGH GREEN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the new crime reduction initiative that would be taking place in the Hough Green area in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following a community survey of 3200 homes, carried out by the Police and the Community Safety Partnership, the Crime Reduction Officer had designed a project to improve the environment. This included, better lighting/CCTV, litter picking, fly tipping removal, landscaping and encouragement of community engagement to create local pride in the area.

As part of the improvements, a doorbell CCTV project that would provide coverage of hard to monitor areas around the Arley Drive/Cherry Sutton estates was proposed and a number of homes identified. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed funding, match funded by the local authority and the bells would be fitted by Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF27 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board received an update report on the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic and sexual violence. It was noted that the new Halton Domestic Abuse Service, integrated family model had been awarded to WHAG, a specialist domestic abuse

provider. The new model would focus on the whole family and would provide support services and advocacy to adult victims, children affected by domestic abuse and support services would be offered to those who harm.

The new service began operations in Halton on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Further information would be sent to Board Members to attend a future lunch and learning session.

In addition, further reports would be submitted to a future Board meeting on the Public Protection Unit and on the 'Engage' initiative.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.*

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 15 June 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

**SUBJECT:** Public Question Time

**WARD(s):** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
  - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
  - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
  - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
  - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
    - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
    - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
    - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chair will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.



**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>Safer Halton</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Presentation from Anthony Walker Foundation: STOP HATE, SPEAK OUT</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** To inform Board Members of the Hate Crime presentation which will be delivered by the Anthony Walker Foundation.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** 1. Board Members are asked to note the contents of the presentation and agree Halton's participation in the project.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1** The Anthony Walker Foundation's new initiative is called Stop Hate, Speak Out, and is aimed at tackling and preventing racial and religious motivated hate in the Liverpool City Region.

This project consists of:

- A new hate crime reporting tool,
- A youth-led digital marketing campaign, and
- The delivery of a host of education and training opportunities to raise knowledge and confidence when tackling hate.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS and RISK ANALYSIS**

- 4.1** There are no financial implications for the Council as the project is fully funded by The Department for Housing, Community and Local Government, and no risks have been identified.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

This project is about working with young people to eliminate hate and negative attitudes towards those who may be different. Parts of it are youth led and will encourage their involvement and ownership of the project.

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None Identified

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None Identified

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

This project will contribute towards building safer and more cohesive communities for all of Halton's residents.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None Identified

**6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**6.1** This project will help the Council meet its statutory requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping to eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment, and foster positive relationships across those with a protected characteristic and those without.

[speakoutstophate.com](http://speakoutstophate.com)



ANTHONY WALKER  
FOUNDATION

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**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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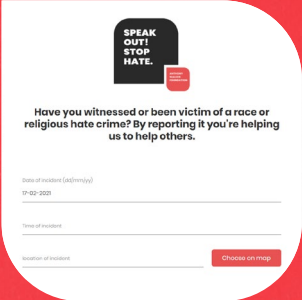
The Anthony Walker Foundation presents: **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** A vital new initiative to tackle and prevent **racially and religiously** motivated hate in the Liverpool City Region.

Our **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** project consists of:

- A new hate crime reporting tool
- a youth-led digital marketing campaign,
- and the delivery of a host of education and training opportunities to raise knowledge and confidence when tackling hate crime.



## The Tool.



**SPEAK OUT! STOP HATE.**

Have you witnessed or been victim of a race or religious hate crime? By reporting it you're helping us to help others.

Date of incident (dd/mm/yy)  
17-02-2021

Time of incident

Location of incident Choose on map

You can access it via our website  
[www.speakoutstophate.com](http://www.speakoutstophate.com)

In the last 5 years, the Anthony Walker Foundation has worked with nearly **40,000** young people through educational and outreach programmes; supported nearly **5,000** people who have experienced **hate crime**; and has engaged with thousands of community members in a bid to build safer, stronger and more thriving communities.

The **Speak Out! Stop Hate. tool** builds on this work. It is an accessible and visible reporting mechanism and data-analysis platform, providing real-time reports to combat **hate crime** across the Liverpool City Region.

## Young-people led campaign.

The young people led digital marketing campaign aims to raise awareness of discriminatory behaviours, educate people on the subject and encourage the reporting of **hate crime** across our region.



## **Education and training.**

**Our Speak Out! Stop Hate** training accompanies the **hate crime** tool and supports communities and professionals to **report hate crime** while providing improved awareness/ understanding of consequences/ impact of **hate crime** from participants, and support transformation of prejudicial views, ignorance and faulty perceptions and beliefs.



**Book a place on our Speak Out! Stop Hate. Train the Trainer or Young people's sessions now.**

**Speak Out! Stop Hate. with us!**



# Anthony Walker Foundation Support Services.



The Anthony Walker Foundation saw a 126% increase in people accessing support across Merseyside in 2020. **Hate crime on Merseyside is a serious concern and poses a threat to cohesive and strong local communities.**

Our experience tells us many incidents are not reported to the police and/or any other agencies.

There are a number of reasons why this may be the case, the most common reason being the victim believed that the police would not or could not do much about it. Whether an incident is reported to the police or not, the Foundation and all partners are encouraging individuals affected by **hate crime** to tell someone.

Merseyside has a range of support agencies such as AWF, Armistead, Victim Support and others that can offer assistance without sharing personal details if that is the wish of the person. Local authorities can also provide help as well as housing offices, One Stop Shops and Citizens Advice Bureaus.

The message we, along with other partners, emphasise is that unless an individual tells someone that a **hate crime** has taken place it is difficult to stop the offending behaviour. We want you to **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** with us.

You can do this by reporting hate crime you experience or witness happening to someone else via our tool.

Merseyside Police has dedicated officers whose role is to respond and investigate all forms of **hate crime**.

- To report an incident to Merseyside Police Call **101**.
- In an emergency always call **999**.
- To report or access support from AWF go to **[www.speakoutstophate.com](http://www.speakoutstophate.com)** or call at **0151 237 3974**.



**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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For more information on the tool  
and training events please see  
[speakoutstophate.com](http://speakoutstophate.com) ,  
[anthonywalkerfoundation.com](http://anthonywalkerfoundation.com)  
or call at 0151 237 3974.

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The project is funded through the Race and Faith Grant scheme run by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government.



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## **SPEAK OUT! STOP HATE.**

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The Anthony Walker Foundation presents: **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** A vital new initiative to tackle and prevent **racially and religiously motivated hate** in the Liverpool City Region.

Our **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** project consists of:

- A new hate crime **reporting tool**,
- a **youth-led digital marketing campaign**,
- and the delivery of a host of **education and training** opportunities to raise knowledge and confidence when tackling **hate crime**.

### **The tool.**

In the last 5 years, the Anthony Walker Foundation has worked with nearly **40,000** young people through educational and outreach programmes; supported nearly **5,000** people who have experienced hate crime; and has engaged with thousands of community members in a bid to build safer, stronger and more thriving communities.

The **Speak Out! Stop Hate.** tool builds on this work. It is an accessible and visible reporting mechanism and data-analysis platform, providing real-time reports to combat **hate crime** across the Liverpool City Region.

You can access it via our website  
[www.speakoutstophate.com](http://www.speakoutstophate.com)



Ministry of Housing,  
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## **Young-people led campaign.**

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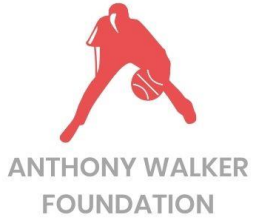
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Our experience tells us many incidents are not reported to the police and/ or any other agencies. There are a number of reasons why this may be the case, the most common reason being the victim believed that the police would not or could not do much about it. Whether an incident is reported to the police or not, the Foundation and all partners are encouraging individuals affected by hate crime to tell someone.

For more information on the tool and training events please see [speakoutstophate.com](https://speakoutstophate.com) or [anthonywalkerfoundation.com](https://anthonywalkerfoundation.com)



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**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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Anthony's  
Legacy

ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION  
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN  
COMBAT  
HATE CRIME.**

speakoutstophate.com

**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION



"Whether it's reporting offences, responding effectively to those experiencing hate crime, or putting measures and resources in place to prevent hate crime, **we can all collectively contribute to making our communities safer for all.**"

**Dominique Walker**  
Vice chair at the Anthony Walker Foundation



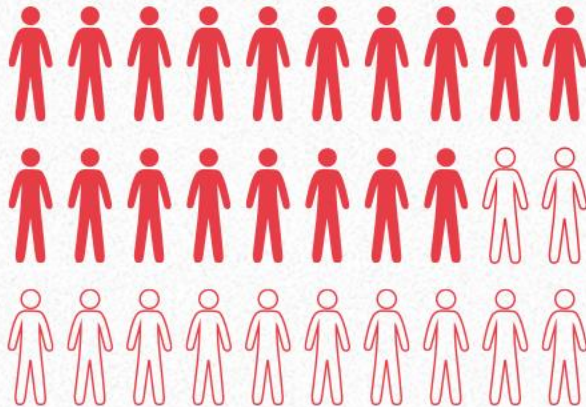


# Hate Crime Statistics

According to Police reports in England and Wales.

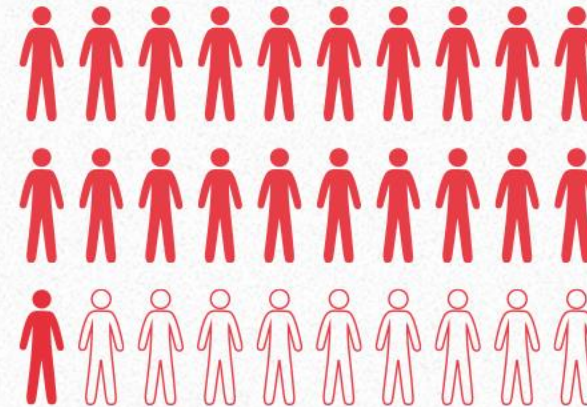


**97,446**  
hate crimes in  
March 2019



**105,090**  
hate crimes in  
March 2020

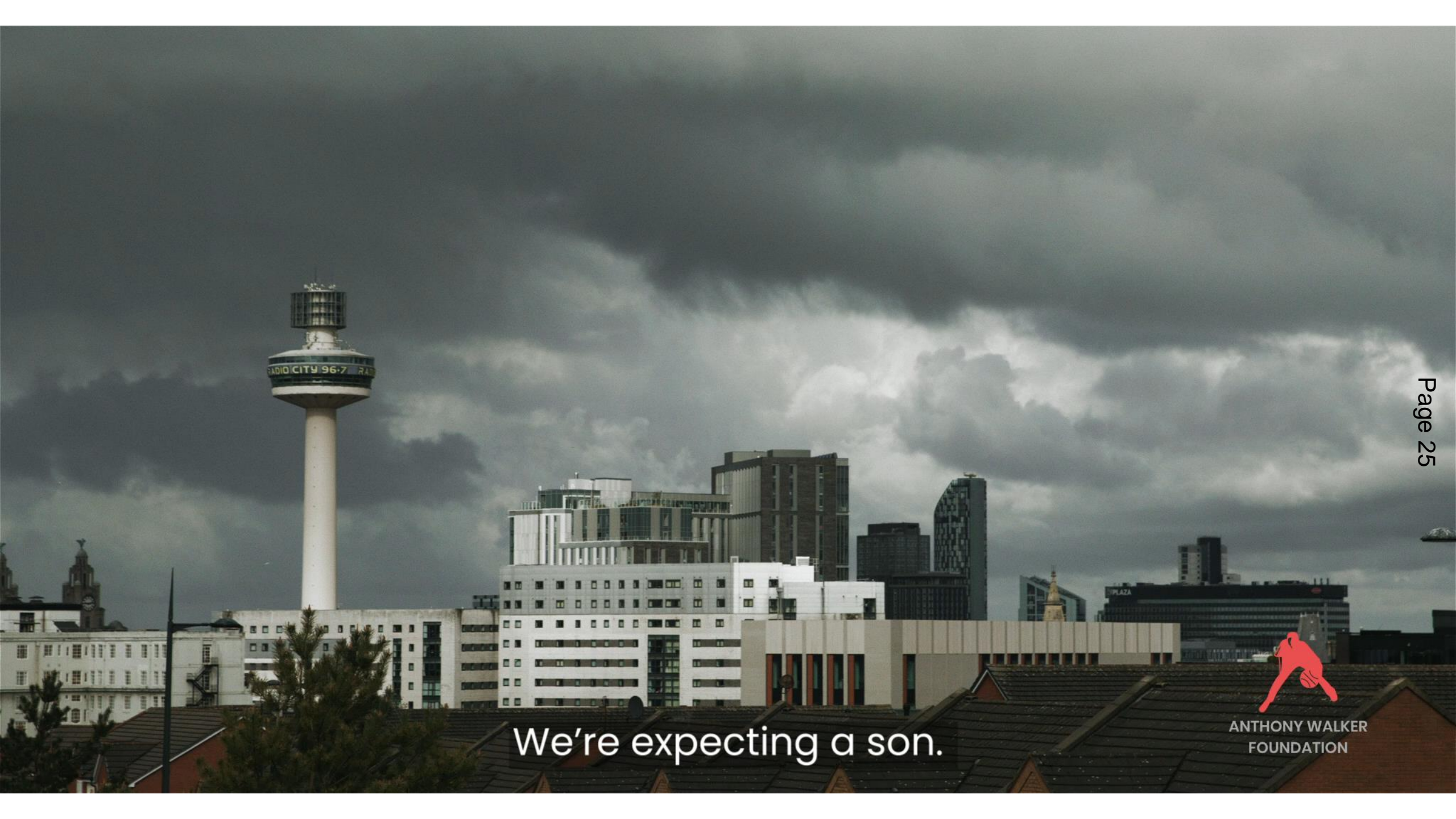
**+8%**



In 2020, the **Anthony Walker Foundation** saw a **126% increase** in people accessing support compared to the previous year, across Merseyside.

**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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FOUNDATION**



We're expecting a son.



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# Speak Out! Stop Hate.

---

The Anthony Walker Foundation presents, ***Speak Out! Stop Hate.*** a vital new initiative to tackle and prevent racially and religiously discriminatory behaviour and those acting against others because of their race or faith.

Our ***Speak Out! Stop Hate.*** Project consists of:

- a new hate crime reporting tool
- a young people led digital marketing campaign
- the delivery of a host of education and training opportunities to raise knowledge and confidence when tackling hate crime in the Liverpool City Region.

**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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# The young people

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The young people led digital marketing campaign aim is to raise awareness of discriminatory behaviours, educates people on the subject and encourages the reporting of hate crime across our region.

The group will learn from experts in strategy, creative, digital and campaigns, and meet with leaders from a diverse spectrum of specialisms that will help them tackle their challenge and prepare them for a future career.



# The young people Client Challenge 1

---

Create a digital marketing campaign that will raise awareness of discriminatory behaviours, educate people on the race and religious hate crime and encourages the reporting of hate crime across the Liverpool City region using the **SPEAK OUT! STOP HATE** tool.





**WHAT IF EVERYONE  
AT ANFIELD WAS A  
VICTIM OF VERBAL OR  
PHYSICAL ASSAULT?**

Police in England and Wales recorded  
76,070 racist hate crimes in 2019/20

Anfield Stadium has  
a capacity of 53,394 people.



**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**



**WHAT IF EVERYONE  
INSIDE ST GEORGE'S HALL  
WAS A VICTIM OF VERBAL  
OR PHYSICAL ASSAULT?**

In 2020, the Anthony Walker Foundation  
had 1,309 referrals for race and  
faith-based hate crimes.

St George's Hall has  
a capacity of 800 people



**SPEAK  
OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**



# The young people Client Challenge 2

---

**To amplify the Speak Out! Stop Hate. Campaign to users from across Liverpool City Region, particularly in Wirral, Halton, Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens. To raise awareness and promote of AWF training and reporting tool.**

## Outputs

Increase awareness of AWF campaign, reporting tool and training:

- 50-100 people reached through primary research in 5 LCR boroughs
- Build relationships with businesses who will benefit from AWF training
- Increase campaign reach through team campaign
- Final AWF event that will bring together key stakeholders





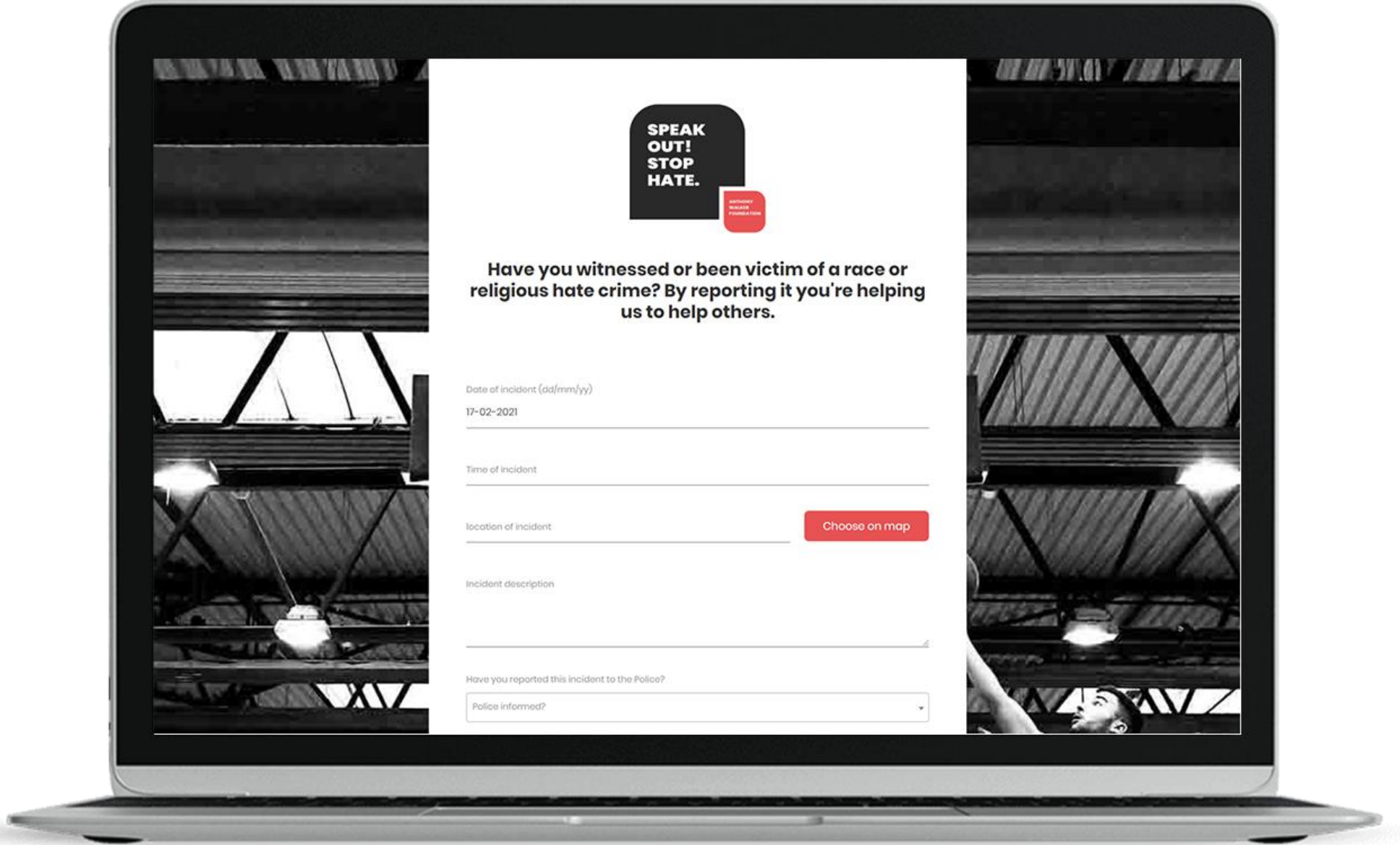
# The tool

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The *Speak Out! Stop Hate.* tool is an accessible and visible reporting platform and data-analysis that provides real-time reports and insight that informs remedy/intervention to combat hate crime.

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OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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# The training

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The free training accompanies the hate crime tool and support communities and professionals to report hate crime while providing improved awareness/understanding of consequences/impact of hate crime from participants and support transformation of prejudicial views, ignorance and faulty perceptions and beliefs.

It includes a toolkit to facilitate sessions for young people in your communities.

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# *Speak Out! Stop Hate.* Training and education sessions

- **27 Train the Trainer** Sessions for professionals delivered between March and May 2021

**27<sup>th</sup> May is on Eventbrite**

**300** professionals trained (224)

- **50** sessions for young people groups delivered between April and May

**1000** young people access Speak Out! Stop Hate. Sessions (825)

Contact [Natalie.denny@anthonywalkerfoundation.com](mailto:Natalie.denny@anthonywalkerfoundation.com) to book

# Who is the training for?

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This training programme is for experienced trainers / facilitators, with some knowledge and skills in facilitating hate crime and anti-racism workshops.

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OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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WALKER  
FOUNDATION**

# What is the training for?

This training and toolkit provides information and practical guidance on preparing professionals who may be involved in facilitating hate crime and anti-racism interventions around our ***Speak Out! Stop Hate***. Campaign to young people. It will help them plan, deliver and evaluate these sessions to the learning outcomes provided.

# How to use the toolkit

The toolkit is intended to be a flexible resource to introduce the ***Speak Out! Stop Hate.*** Campaign and tool. You can use sections of the toolkit to support existing learning programmes or activities which you currently deliver, or plan specific programmes depending on local or individual needs.

The content is broken down into three units:

1. **An Introduction to *Speak Out! Stop Hate.***
2. **Awareness and Understanding**
3. **Challenging and Transforming**

Each unit has an aim, learning outcomes, suggested pre-unit preparation, suggested session plans with activities and delivery times, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and references with links to supporting material. You can deliver the units as three separate sessions or combine.

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OUT!  
STOP  
HATE.**

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STOP  
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 Ministry of Housing  
Communities &  
Local Government



# Campaign Imagery





Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

# TOGETHER, WE CAN COMBAT HATE CRIME.

[speakoutstophate.com](https://speakoutstophate.com)

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STOP  
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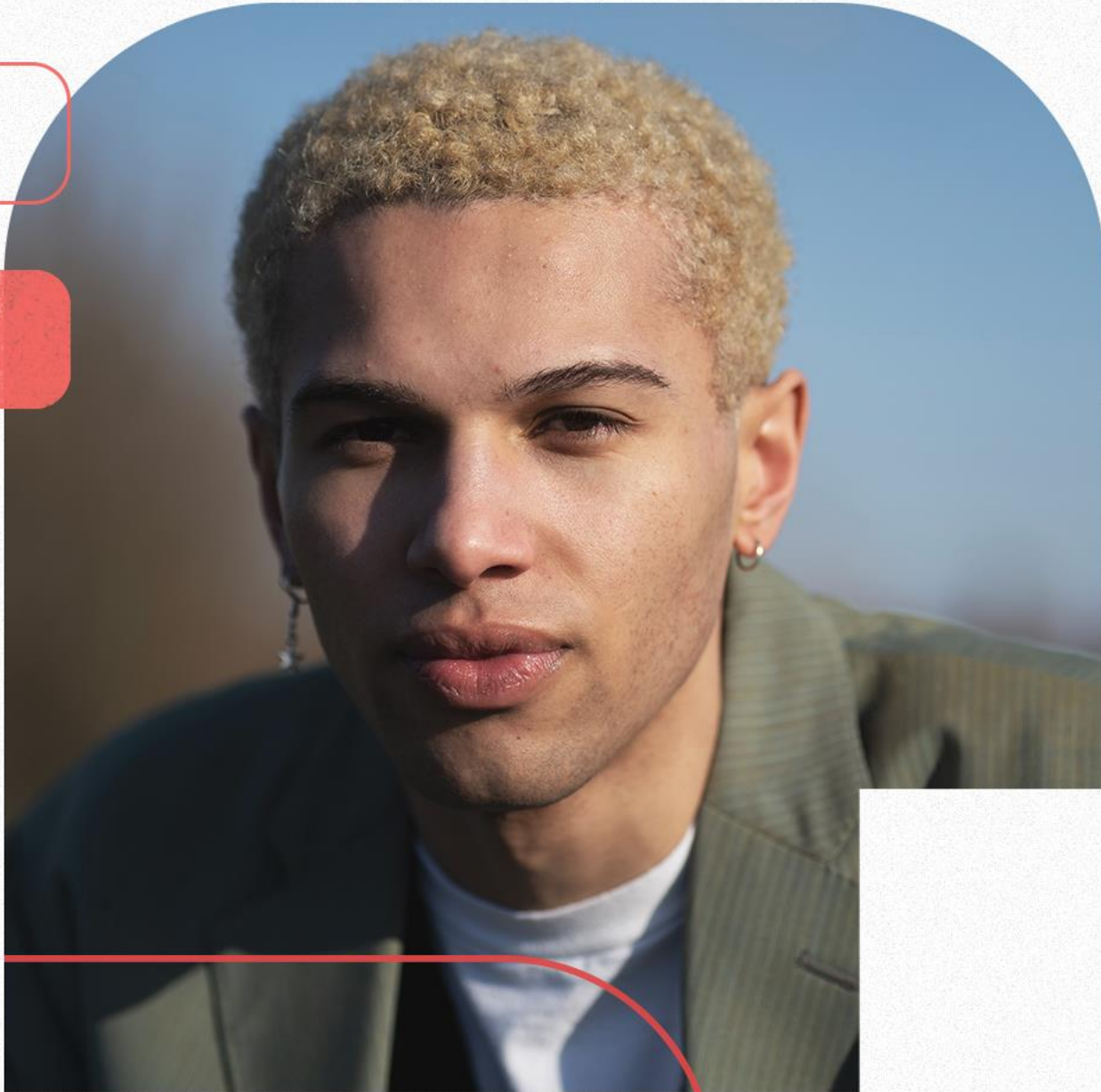
# MAYBE YOU AREN'T A VICTIM, BUT HAVE YOU BEEN A WITNESS?

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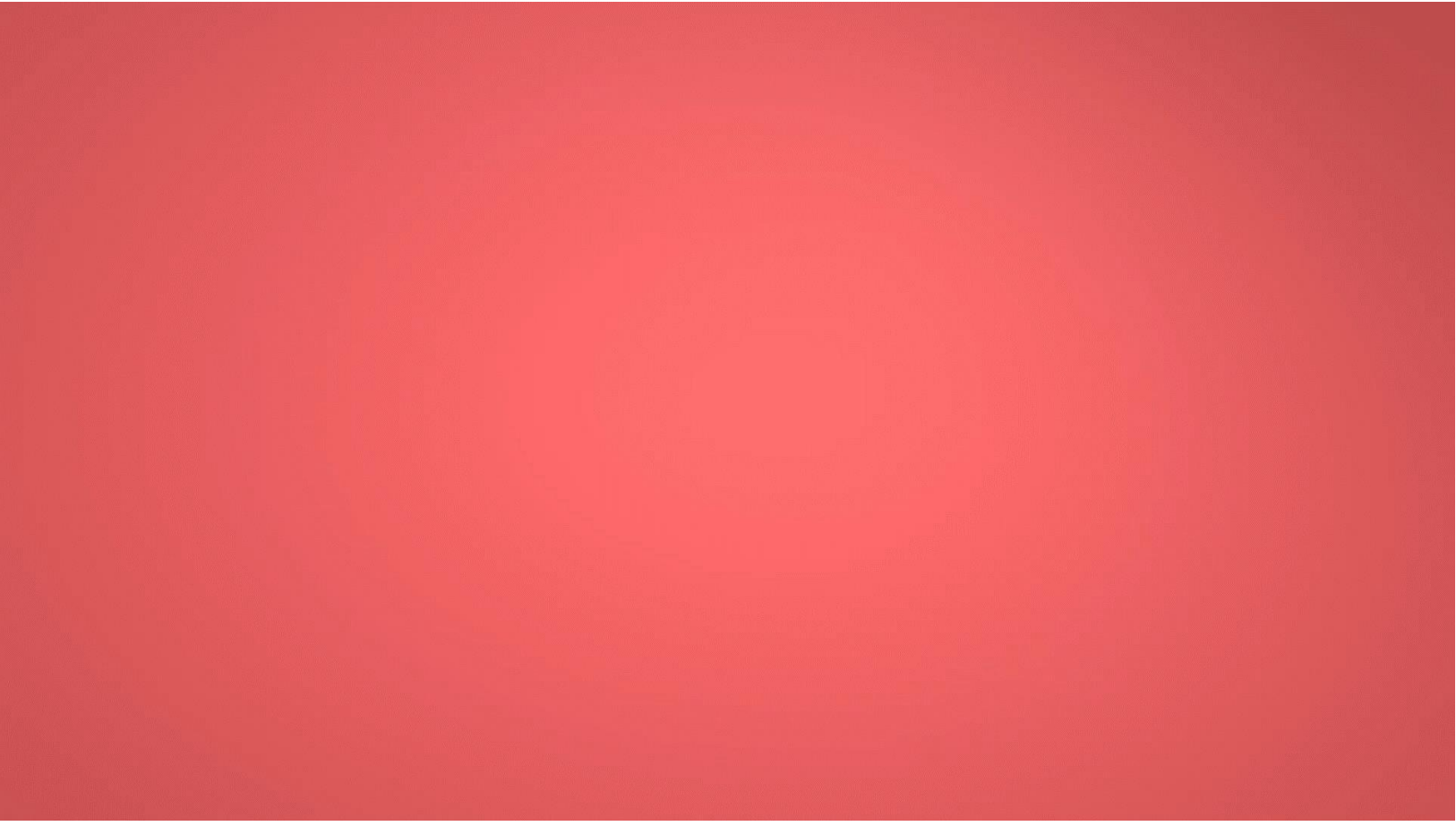


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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – Governance and Support Arrangements in Halton</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Board Members about current arrangements within the Council to meet its requirements under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and its review/changes in 2019/20.
- 1.2 To inform Board Members of current arrangements in Halton to support victims of Modern Slavery (MS) and Human Trafficking (HT).
- 1.3 To inform Board Members of activity happening on a Pan-Cheshire footprint.
- 1.4 To inform Board Members of the Council's Transparency Statement which has been refreshed for 2021-2022.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Board Members are asked to note the report's contents.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The term 'Modern Slavery' captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to:
  - sexual exploitation
  - domestic servitude
  - forced labour
  - criminal exploitation (including County Lines)
  - other forms of exploitation: organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.
- 3.2 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidated all offences relating to trafficking and slavery. Its key areas include:

- two new civil orders to prevent modern slavery
- an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- provision for the support and protection of modern slavery victims
- the requirement for certain commercial businesses to produce transparency statements

3.3 Following a review of the Act in 2019, and a period of consultation in 2020, the Government has brought in some changes. The final report is 150 pages long with 80 recommendations. (Links provided below to reports.)

3.4 Whilst many of the recommendations relate to central government activity and the role of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, there are several that relate to procurement within the public sector, and the support and protection of victims.

3.5 This report pulls together the different strands of activity across Halton and Cheshire, to show how we are meeting our responsibilities.

#### **4.0 Halton Specific Activities**

##### **4.1 Transparency Statement**

The Council, at its meeting held on 17 October 2017, passed a Motion that supported the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. That Motion, amongst other things, committed the Council to publishing annually, its own Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.

Section 54 of the Act was brought into force on 29 October 2015 and requires commercial organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £36m to produce a modern slavery statement for each financial year.

One of the new recommendations is that this should now apply to public sector organisations. In fact Halton Borough Council has had a Statement since 2018 published on our website. There are over 140 Councils across the Country who have done the same thing.

The Modern Slavery Act does not dictate what a statement must include or how it should be structured. It does, however, provide a non-exhaustive list of information that the employer's slavery and human trafficking statement might include, such as:

- its structure, business and supply chains;
- its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
- its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
- the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
- its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is

- not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate; the training about slavery and human trafficking available to staff

Halton's Transparency Statement is attached as appendix 1, and once approved by the Council's Executive Board, will be published on its website. It is understood that the Cabinet Office will soon be writing to public sector organisations inviting them to register their statements on its Registry List – which Halton will look to do with the support of the Executive Board.

#### 4.2 Victim Support Pathways/Protocols

The 'duty to notify' provision for specified public authorities is set out in the Modern Slavery Act. From 1 November 2015, local authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

Only First Responders (this includes local authorities and police) can refer into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which is the process by which potential victims of modern slavery, including human trafficking, are identified – be they adults or children.

Home Office staff within UK Visas and Immigration, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement (amongst other agencies) are also required, as a matter of Home Office policy, to comply with the duty to notify.

The Duty to Notify, using the NRM is mandatory even if the victim wishes to remain anonymous and does not want to access specialist support. The Duty to Notify only applies to Adults, as any young person under the age of 18 should automatically be referred to NRM.

Across Cheshire colleagues are working together to produce a dedicated adult victim care pathway to ensure a consistent approach across the sub-region (there is already one in place for Children – although it does need to be refreshed as it is slightly out of date). Data is released on a calendar basis and for 2020, in Halton there was only one NRM referral, for a child under the age of 17. This is extremely low for a local authority area – and we are asking why is this? Is there an expectation that all being referred to Police to make the referral into the NRM? Discussions are ongoing to understand and improve the reporting. During 2020, according to Government statistics, Cheshire Police investigated a total of 78 cases (51 adults 18+, 25 children 17 and under, and 2 unknowns).

Officers will follow the protocol and engage with Partners to ensure victims are supported in the best possible way.

#### 4.3 Procurement and Supply Chains

Officers within the Council's Procurement Team have been reviewing procedures to ensure compliance as follows:-

- The Tender process for the Council complies with Cabinet Office guidance by means of using the Standard Qualification Questionnaire (SQ) for the selection process. HBC has actually gone further and extended the standard wording provided in the guidance to include full reference to section 54 Transparency in Supply Chains Provision (TISC) of the Act. This makes it clearer for potential suppliers to understand that it is not the contract that is the trigger for their annual statement but in fact their total turnover value of £36 million.
- Procurement colleagues are currently reviewing the Council's Social Value Framework looking to improve the way HBC captures Themes, Opportunities and Measures. They will be looking at including Modern Slavery into the framework and terms and conditions for new contracts.
- Arrangements are in place through various groups and networks to share best practice and knowledge in regard to Modern Slavery across the LCR Procurement Leads and the wider region.

There have been no reported incidents of slavery within the Council's supply chains. It should be noted that to undertake full monitoring and assessment of all the Council's supply chain (over 10,000 suppliers), would be a massive task, extremely resource intensive and would not be achievable at present.

The Local Authority also commissions and contracts with a number of providers and will ensure that the above recommendations are incorporated into local activity to ensure compliance with the Act as appropriate, if this falls outside the normal procurement arrangements.

However, it is felt by officers involved that the arrangements currently in place are proportionate and HBC has gone further than just meeting the mandatory requirements. A full review of our approach should we become aware of instances of modern slavery in our supply chains is an action to take in the future.

The MSAT is a modern slavery risk identification and management tool developed by the Cabinet Office. This tool has been designed to help public sector organisations work in partnership with suppliers to improve protections and reduce the risk of exploitation of workers in their supply chains. It also aims to help public sector organisations understand where there may be risks of modern slavery in the supply chains of goods and services they have procured. Public sector organisations are encouraged to use the MSAT with existing suppliers and procurement colleagues will be signposting suppliers to the toolkit.

Officers involved in managing contracts or regulatory functions (e.g. Trading Standards) are probably best placed to identify potential modern



slavery situations, and it's been suggested that the best way to raise awareness of the issue wider is to develop or source an e-learning package.

Work is ongoing with Procurement colleagues to develop a signposting document which will sit on the Council's procurement pages of the external website. This will provide links to various websites, including the MSAT.

#### 4.4 Strategic Focus

There is a Halton MS Group but it is mainly used to disseminate information and collect data on referrals and victim support, and case studies. The low numbers don't justify a group meeting for meeting's sake. This group includes internal colleagues along with external Partners such as CCG, DWP, CAB, VCA, social landlords and the Chamber of Commerce.

Following a presentation to the Safer Halton Partnership Board in July 2018 it was agreed that overall responsibility for MS and HT would sit within Community Safety and that the Housing Solutions Manager would be the Single Point of Contact for victims, supported by the Community Safety Manager and the Council's Partnership Officer. This doesn't mean that these officers will deal with every victim but when a victim or potential victim is identified by frontline colleagues – these are the officers who can be contacted for advice, guidance and further signposting.

If a member of the public is concerned about a potential victim – there is information on the Council's website about how and where to report.

It is usually colleagues from Social Services who do the assessments and referrals, and would normally notify the Police if they have any concerns. The same applies for colleagues within Trading Standards and Enforcement.

#### 4.5 Monitoring and Accountability

There are no performance indicators in business plans. However the Pan-Cheshire Contextual Safeguarding Strategic sub group is currently reviewing the data set it uses and NRM referrals are included in the drafts. But there is no mention of the Duty to Notify. And whilst the draft indicator sits with the Police, some discussion would be helpful to understand the local authority role and identifying who does what within a victim care pathway.

Below is a link to the victim care pathway used in Cleveland – and work has been started to create a similar document for Cheshire:-

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Victim-Pathway-2020-V6.pdf>

There have been previous attempts to provide quarterly updates to the Safer Halton Partnership, however as the numbers were so low – this wasn't practical, although officers do provide briefings upon request or when there have been changes in legislation. This has included reports to Safer Halton PPB, along with a presentation from the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA). A suggestion is to use the Home Office NRM quarterly stats as a starting point – or to get quarterly data from the Police (discussions are ongoing with the Community Safety analyst).

The performance information from the safeguarding boards will also now be shared with the Cheshire Anti Slavery Strategic Partnership (CASSP) on a quarterly basis. This could also be shared with the Safer Halton Partnership.

The Government produces NRM data on a quarterly and annual basis, across police and local authority areas, looking age, nationalities and types of exploitation. However, the data doesn't really provide an "on the ground" picture of what is happening across the patch.

### **5.0 HALTON'S PAN-CHESHIRE ROLE**

5.1 Since 2016, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, there had been, working across Cheshire an Anti-Slavery Network, bringing together key Partners. Supported by an Independent Chair, who is a well-respected expert in the field, this network had worked towards developing training packages, ensuring clear victim pathways, and sharing best practice. This had ensured a consistent approach across Cheshire to support vulnerable victims.

In late 2019 it was agreed that the four local authorities in the Cheshire Sub-Region and the PCC would fund the Cheshire Anti-Slavery Network (CASN) for two years with a joint funding pot of a one off contribution of £4,000 each, totalling £20,000. Whilst this was a considerable reduction in funding than previously available, it was agreed that it would be possible to continue with the Network in a different format.

The current pan-Cheshire governance structure has the modern slavery agenda sitting under the Harmful Practices Sub-Group of the Pan Cheshire Protecting Vulnerable People Board (PVP).

Following a review of this sub-group it was agreed that it should be a 12 month task and finish group, working towards ensuring other more traditional Harmful Practices (such as Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and FGM) would be embedded across other groups. It was felt that due to the low numbers, as highlighted by data, this was a better use of resources as opposed to a dedicated group.

With that in mind, in early 2020, the Sub-Regional Leadership Board agreed to the creation of a strategic partnership to focus on Modern Slavery, which would provide direction and scrutiny for the operational

Network. It was agreed that the Cheshire Anti-Slavery Strategic Partnership (CASSP) would report to the PVP Board, and be chaired by the Chief Executive of Halton who is currently the Chair of the PVP Board.

This group has only met twice due to the pandemic but is starting to understand the picture across Cheshire and confirming what it's role will be.

Eventually a regular briefing, as per the attached Cleveland one, will be prepared on a quarterly basis for Cheshire (see appendix 2).

## 5.2 Operation Paddington

Operation Paddington was a multi-agency week of action planned in response to concerns regarding the increased number of migrants being located after Inland Clandestine Incidents across Cheshire. Individuals and families have been seen turning up on the roadside claiming to have been dropped off by Lorries/ other vehicles or persons being discovered hiding inside. There have also been recent incidents of migrants being found in the back of refrigerated vehicles who have only been discovered due to noises being heard when they have been trying to escape when they have become fearful of becoming seriously unwell.

There has also been an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (spontaneous arrivals as opposed to those who are placed in Cheshire through the National Transfer Scheme from Kent and Portsmouth councils) – e.g. Warrington currently have 20 UASC and 15 UASC care leavers.

The presence of the Inland Boarder at Appleton Thorn potentially increases the number of migrants who will be found in the County, most likely drop off points continuing to be existing hotspots. The presence of established organized crime groups causes concern as there is potential for these groups to target the vulnerable and to increase trafficking networks, drawing vulnerable migrants into criminal exploitation.

Following the week of activity, two separate funding applications were submitted to the Cheshire Resilience Forum to support the four Cheshire Local Authorities to respond to anticipated increased demand for adult and children's safeguarding services to respond to individuals at risk of exploitation as a result of trafficking and organized crime, including Modern Slavery and those who seek asylum. A total of £78k has been awarded and plans are currently being drawn up on how best to use this welcomed resource.

It has recently been agreed to develop a Pan-Cheshire All Age Exploitation Strategy, which will encompass modern slavery amongst other safeguarding elements. Halton is involved in developing this piece of work.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS and RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 Whilst there is no direct financial implications for the Council – at the moment, it should be noted that the Act does introduce tougher penalties and sentencing rules, alongside a tough asset recovery regime, and if any profits made through slavery and/or human trafficking are identified – these can be seized and used to compensate victims.

And if victim numbers were to suddenly increase – this will impact on current resources, particularly around safeguarding budgets.

With regards to risk – there are a number of reputational risks that should be considered going forward, particularly in relation to the Council's supply chain. This supply chain has a potentially global reach and there may be many links in the chain which could potentially be involved in modern slavery and which would be almost impossible to monitor in their entirety. The Council can only realistically concentrate its resources on ensuring that an immediate (Tier 1) supplier does not support modern slavery, and through its contracts ensure that our supply chain is free from modern slavery.

A further risk is that there would be consequences if an LA does not comply with its obligations under the Act ie duty to notify. For example a lawyer may sue the LA if they fail to identify a potential victim of trafficking (PVoT), and complete and NRM or Duty To Notify form (Dtn) and the person then goes on to be further exploited

If a Commercial organisation covered by the Act fails to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for a particular financial year the Secretary of State may seek an injunction through the High Court requiring the organisation to comply. Failure to comply with the injunction could constitute contempt of a court order, which is punishable by an unlimited fine. The reputational damage from the publicity this would attract could also be damaging.

And although the new changes will ensure public sector organisations need to produce a Transparency Statement, it's unclear what enforcement is in place. The LGA is also chasing the Government for clarification of the reporting requirements and the new online registry.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 The Modern Slavery Act has implications for the Health and Children and Young People priority in relation to issues relating to safeguarding.
- 7.2 The Act has implications for the Employment, Learning and Skills priority in relation to ensuring safe recruitment and fair pay and employment practices across the borough.

7.3 The Act has implications for the Safer Halton priority in relation to the direct combatting of slavery and human trafficking.

7.4 The Act has implications for Corporate Effectiveness and Business Efficiency in relation to ensuring that the Council's supply chain is free from modern slavery and exploitation.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Halton Borough Council is committed to ensuring that it provides an environment with equality of opportunity that is free of discrimination, unfair or unlawful treatment. As such it fully supports the aims of the Modern Slavery Act and this is reflected through the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.

## **9.0 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Appendix 1: Halton Borough Council's Transparency Statement

Appendix 2 : Cleveland Briefing

Link to Government's final report on the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-final-report>

Link to the Government's response to final report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act>

Link to a Council's Guide to the Act:

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12%20Modern%20slavery\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12%20Modern%20slavery_WEB.pdf)

Link to Counsellor's Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery:

<https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1318/2247-councillors-guide-on-modern-slavery-final.pdf>

**Halton Borough Council Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement**

Modern Slavery is a crime, and an abuse of human rights. The Modern Slavery Act became law on 26 March 2015. It is designed to tackle the offences of 'slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour' and 'human trafficking'.

The Act contains a '**Transparency in Supply Chains Clause**' (54) which aims to encourage businesses to be more transparent about what they are doing and increase their accountability for any slavery & human trafficking within their business and their supply chain(s).

Under this clause organisations with:

- a turnover of £36 million or more
- Supplies goods and/or services

**MUST** prepare and publish a 'Slavery & Human Trafficking' statement **each financial year**.

Modern slavery includes:

- Forced labour; Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence.
- Debt bondage; Victims are forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they will never be able to.
- Sexual exploitation; Victims are forced to perform non-consensual or abusive sexual acts against their will, such as prostitution, escort work and pornography. Adults are coerced often under the threat of force, or another penalty.
- Criminal exploitation; Often controlled and maltreated, victims are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick pocketing against their will.
- Domestic servitude: Victims are forced to carry out housework and domestic chores with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy often sleeping where they work.

Halton Borough Council supports the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This statement sets out the Council's actions to understand the potential modern slavery risks related to its business and the steps it has put in place to ensure that no slavery or human trafficking takes place in its own business or through its supply chains.

The Council provides a wide range of statutory and discretionary services for its residents, businesses, visitors and wider public and consequently purchases a wide range of goods and services from third party suppliers.

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. And whilst there is currently no legal obligation for the Council to produce this Transparency Statement – we do so as a sign of our commitment.

### **Council Constitution**

The Council's Constitution sets out a range of policies and procedures relating to officer and member codes of conduct, as well as policies and standing orders relating to procurement and whistleblowing. The Constitution is reviewed on an annual basis.

<http://councillors.halton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=649&MId=5870&Ver=4&info=1>

### **Policies and Processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking**

The Council reviews its policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure they remain compliant and fit for purpose. The following policies and procedures are considered to be key in meeting the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

### **Safeguarding**

The Council embraces its responsibility to develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures to safeguard the welfare of children and 'adults at risk' of abuse, harassment, neglect or exploitation. A wide range of training relating to the safeguarding of both children and adults is also available.

The Council works within multi-agency partnerships, such as the Halton Safeguarding Children Board and the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board to protect and safeguard people.

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/PDF/safeguard/Safeguardguidance.pdf>

<http://haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/>

## **Procurement**

The Council procures goods and services from various suppliers and this is governed by our procurement strategy.

Halton Borough Council operates a fair and open competition by following transparent and auditable procedures in all of its tendering and contracting activity. It aims to provide a wide range of businesses with a variety of commercial opportunities by publishing all its opportunities in excess of £1,000. To trade with the Council businesses need to register on the North West e tendering portal [The Chest](#).

Suppliers will also be signposted to the Cabinet Office's Modern Slavery Assessment Tool.

Further information about the Council's Procurement practices can be found here: <https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/business/doingbusinesswithus/doing-business-with-us.aspx>

## **Recruitment**

The Council's recruitment processes are transparent and reviewed regularly. They include robust procedures for vetting new employees, which ensures they are able to confirm their identities and qualifications, and they are paid directly into an appropriate, personal bank account. To comply with the Asylum, Immigration and Nationality Act 2006, all prospective employees are asked to supply evidence of their eligibility to work in the UK. References are also requested and followed up.

## **Agency Workers**

The Council uses only reputable employment agencies to source labour. The Council does this by using the Matrix Agency interface. Matrix checks the practices of any new agency it is using before accepting workers from that agency. Their Modern Slavery Statement can be found here: <http://www.matrix-scm.com/modern-slavery-act/>

## **Pay**

The Council operates a Job Evaluation Scheme to ensure that all employees are paid fairly and equitably. As part of its commitment to being a good employer, the Council has also extended its payment of the National Living Wage to all employees, not solely those over the age of 25.

## **Employee Code of Conduct**

The Council's Employee Code of Conduct makes clear to both employees the actions and behaviours expected of them when representing the Council. The Council strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour and breaches are investigated



## **Whistleblowing**

The Council encourages all its employees, contractors and other business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities or to the supply chains of the Council. The Council's whistleblowing policy is designed to make it easy for employees to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation and is published on the staff intranet.

## **Members' Code of Conduct and Ethical Framework**

The Council expects all Councillors to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct and behaviour. All Councillors are required to abide by a formal Code of Conduct. Breaches are investigated by the Monitoring Officer. Further details of this are contained within the Council's Constitution, which is reviewed on an annual basis

## **Councillors' Declarations of Interests**

The Council requires all Councillors to record and declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other disclosable interests.

## **Due diligence processes and steps taken to assess and manage the risk of modern slavery in Halton Borough Council's business and supply chain**

In November 2016, the Cabinet Office introduced the Supplier Selection Questionnaire, which should be used in all tenders over the EU thresholds; this requires suppliers to declare any involvement in modern slavery.

The Council has included reference to the Act as a mandatory gateway – Pass/Fail question into all of the relevant tendering documents that are published as part of the procurement process for both above and below EU Threshold.

## **Training about slavery and human trafficking**

The Council provides training in safeguarding for staff and partners involved in person centred services, and also provides training sessions on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Halton Borough Council is a member of a number of equality networks and actively work through these to raise awareness of the issues associated with modern slavery and human trafficking, and disseminate information accordingly.

Review Date: 22-04-21

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** To inform Board Members of the Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival and to seek their approval for Halton's participation in the project.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** 1. Board Members are asked to note the report's contents and agree Halton's participation in the project.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1** Heartstone is seeking to work with local authorities across the North West region beyond Lancashire to participate in a new Book Festival taking shape in November this year. They are currently engaging with all the local authorities in the Liverpool City Region.

Attached as appendix 1 is a detailed briefing about the project including a financial breakdown.

Currently the requested match is £2,200 and it has been agreed, by the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) to use monies from years 2-5 of the Home Office sponsored resettled refugee pot, and the SHP is asking the PPB to support this decision.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS and RISK ANALYSIS**

- 4.1** There are no identified financial or risk implications for the Council. The Home Office is clear that whilst in year 1 of the refugees' journey there are

required outcomes, with relevant monitoring arrangements in place: in years 2-5 they are more relaxed about how the funds are spent as long as it helps to support the continuing integration journey of the refugees.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

This project is about working with young people to eliminate hate and negative attitudes towards those who may be different. This will work towards a safer and more cohesive community for all of Halton's residents.

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None Identified

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None Identified

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

This project is about working with young people to eliminate hate and negative attitudes towards those who may be different. This will work towards a safer and more cohesive community for all of Halton's residents.

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None Identified

**6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**6.1** This project will help the Council meet its statutory requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping to eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment, and foster positive relationships across those with a protected characteristic and those without.

# The Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival and Story Circles in Halton

## Introduction

Heartstone is seeking to work with local authorities across the North West region beyond Lancashire to participate in a new Book Festival taking shape in November this year. The festival, detailed further below, is centred on The Heartstone Odyssey, a fictional story, an adventure story in its own right which also tackles the issues of prejudice/intolerance/hate for age group, 9-12, (cutting across top two years primary and first year secondary, the key transition years). Its deeper thread makes it just as appealing for many adults as well. This project thus far has been funded and led from Lancashire through the support of the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, several Deputy Lieutenants, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC) and Preston & West Lancashire Racial Equality and Diversity Council (PWLREDC). Following the successful online event staged on March 19<sup>th</sup> by Heartstone, partnering with PWLREDC to mark the UN International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Heartstone business sponsors have now provided additional matchfunding for projects in local authorities beyond Lancashire, particularly those in the surrounding NW Region, to help bring their participation in what has been recognised as a timely new concept, covering priority issues and with particular relevance as the country starts to come out of the pandemic.

**HEARTSTONE** is a non-profit organisation which produces story - fiction, photodocumentary, history - presented through exhibitions, events, publications and online. All Heartstone stories have an underlying message - to see past prejudice and stereotypes and recognise a common human experience. The Story Circle project, which follows main events, reaches children in the age group 9-12 and uses The Heartstone Odyssey and a linked set of exhibition images and historical engravings as a vehicle to generate discussion and debate. As well as supporting victims, challenging perpetrators and raising awareness of all aspects of intolerance and hate, the process brings people together who would otherwise not meet, building inclusion and cohesion, helping to reduce isolation, and builds both literacy and critical thinking for the age group. You will be able to find out more about Heartstone at website: [www.heartstonechandra.com](http://www.heartstonechandra.com) and Heartstone Story Circles at the following link: <http://heartstonechandra.com/projects/heartstone-education-projects/anti-hate-crime/> Heartstone has no political or religious affiliation and has been funded through national and local government, numerous charities and trusts and corporate sponsors.

## The Book Festival

This is being shaped as a 3-day online event to include actors – including Sir Derek Jacobi, Heartstone’s Patron, and other well known names from the world of theatre, artists and other creative inputs together with historians/curators from north west and UK Museums, as well as Heartstone’s international partners such as Rosa Parks Museum, Alabama, our Native American partners, those based in India and Singapore and others.

A section will be devoted to the contributions from each area participating and the event provides an opportunity for the children and staff involved in the new authorities to connect with our global partners, including world-class practitioners, and be part of a national event with the purpose of challenging intolerance/hate, building inclusion and community cohesion in an innovative way, thus further helping to reduce isolation and build contact.

## The Halton Project

Matchfunding is in place to support **3 Story Circles** in Halton with the purpose of ensuring there will be a presence from these authorities at the Book Festival. These can be placed in either primary or secondary schools, or associated libraries. A Story Circle is based on a class group of children ie. around 30, who will reach out to (1) the rest of the school and (2) the surrounding community.

### What will be achieved

The focus in this project is participation in the Book Festival through the Story Circle, which will:

- help support young victims, challenge perpetrators and raise awareness of all forms of intolerance and hate;
- help children become better readers, writers, communicators and critical thinkers;
- empower, raise self-esteem and confidence, build resilience
- reduce isolation, build contact

It will also give children and staff working with them a simple, sustainable, innovative and creative practical tool to deal with hate incidents and hate crime. The Story Circle creates a 'safe space' in which uncomfortable/difficult ideas can be voiced, where positive interventions can be worked out. The project helps children build a greater understanding of the world around them, and a stimulus to break away from learned behaviour thus leading to long term impact.

The project is unique and complementary to other approaches as it is **child-led**, with an uplifting fantasy story as its main resource, The Heartstone Odyssey, together with photodocumentary connecting with the current day and historical images related to the north west linked to the period covered in the story, the early 1800's. The three story inputs allow exploration of the issues from a number of directions, including seeing history from different perspectives during a key historical period, the early 1800's, which saw significant social change and includes the Industrial Revolution, European colonial expansion and the abolition of slavery.

### Requirement from schools/libraries for Heartstone Story Circles

The minimum requirement from the schools/libraries is that they will:

1. ensure teachers/librarians/police officers/community officers leading or supporting the Story Circles participate in a 2 ½ hour introductory training session, delivered online as either a single session or 2 shorter sessions;
2. Undertake the project which will involve:
  - (1) reading the book, using the photos and historical images in the Story Circle pack as the stimulus to generate discussion/debate on the issues raised with the children;
  - (2) create artwork presenting the ideas, thoughts, feelings expressed by the children for presentation at the Book Festival taking shape in November 2021, taking shape as a 3-day online event AND
  - (3) for presentation in a finale exhibition in the authority at the end of the Spring term 2022 when the work will be displayed - online or live if this becomes possible by that time - and provide a mechanism to further promote the project across the authority.

The work produced will also form an exhibition for presentation in the school itself to reach the whole school and surrounding community, making each school a community hub for this project.

## **Curriculum connections for schools, role of libraries and time required**

In schools, the project can be delivered as part of the English curriculum eg, many schools use the book as their class reader for the two terms of the project, but this initiative also impacts on mental health and wellbeing, under which heading it has been supported in several areas, including Scotland. There are no set rules and most schools tend to deliver the project in around 50 minutes-1 hour each week in a range of different ways to suit each individual setting, flexibility being an important factor in a Covid-recovery period. The optimum time to see the changes described as above is two terms. A project starting in September would therefore conclude at the end of the spring term. However, the project is designed to bring benefit from whatever time is given to it. It takes time for old ideas to be challenged and new ideas to embed – the more time given therefore, the better.

The project is child-led and thus reflects their own experiences and the changes seen take shape because of this approach. This means advance preparation is minimal – there are no lesson plans, what happens in each session depends on the children in that group as discussion is led by them with staff ensuring the pace is sufficient and key points they want to see raised are covered in each session using the story as the ‘vehicle’. This is not a workshop approach. Heartstone trains the adult staff to deliver this and then supports them so that the concept is sustainable.

If libraries are leading the project, they may wish to do this through supporting Story Circles in schools they are linked with, with a librarian or library assistant reading the book and using the other story input with the participating children as a weekly **online** input. Libraries and local museums have a further role – they will have access to documents and artefacts bringing the local historical angle to the period covered in the story to complement the historical engravings the groups receive in their packs from Heartstone.

## **Introductory training session**

Training will be delivered by Sitakumari, Director of Heartstone, as a single 2 ½ hour online videoconference session, or split into two equal sessions, at the end of the summer term or beginning autumn term for the teachers/librarians/other professionals leading the project. This will be **‘by invitation’** only for the participating groups. Zoom or Teams are the preferred options although schools can also join by telephone conference. Schools therefore do not need to leave their own venues to participate. A timetable for the project will be set at this session.

## **The Story Circle pack**

Prior to the training session, by June, participating schools/libraries will receive their Story Circle pack including:

- a class set of 30 books + Discussion Topics
- photodocumentary exhibition resource
- a set of historical engravings
- Charters Pack and Art ideas

**THE STORY CIRCLE PACKS WILL REMAIN WITH THE SCHOOLS/LIBRARIES AT THE END OF THE PROJECT TO ENSURE FUTURE GROUPS CAN PARTICIPATE OVER SEVERAL YEARS. IT IS A SUSTAINABLE PROJECT.**

## **Continued support**

Over the period of the project from June 2021 to Spring 2022, Heartstone will be running monthly follow-up interactive support sessions, also via Teams/Zoom, for participating schools/libraries, in which participants will be able ask questions and share work. Each session will include a guest presenter and a guest teacher from another area alongside Sitakumari, who will lead the session.

Storytelling videos with Sitakumari in her role as the Indian dancer/storyteller for use with the children and providing additional storytelling guidance for Story Circle leaders will also be supplied over the course of the project. This brings another culturally diverse component into the project.

In addition, schools/libraries can book 1-1 support sessions with Sitakumari by telephone conference call through the Heartstone office, over the period of the project.

## **Local Contact Point**

The authority will need to nominate one link officer who will maintain contact with the 3 participating groups and with Heartstone. This is not a major task as the project is run by the groups themselves. The link officer's role will be to:

1. ensure all the lead teachers/librarians and others involved in the project attend the videoconference introductory training session;
2. follow-up at regular intervals by email with the Story Circles to check the project is progressing and relay any issues needing to be addressed back to Heartstone;
3. share dates/times of the monthly support sessions and if possible, lead an online 'sharing' session at intervals themselves;
4. ensure artwork and other items created through the project to be used for the Book Festival are forwarded to Heartstone and make sure the items are posted online for a local finale (if live events still remain difficult by Spring 2022).

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Over the period of the project, Heartstone will maintain contact with the local contact point to keep an eye on progress and help address any queries or issues arising.

The items produced for the Book Festival and a finale report from each of the 3 locations at the end of the project will be used for evaluation.

## **Summary of outcomes and outputs**

This project is:

- tackling the subject of prejudice/intolerance/hate - challenging perpetrators, supporting victims, raising awareness using a child-centred approach with a particularly important age group – 9-12, the transition years;
- helping children define the meaning of the term 'hate crime' and 'hate incident'- what it is, how it manifests itself – micro-aggression, name-calling, physical abuse, online hate, graffiti – what you can do if you see it happening and who is there to support you;
- reaching **all** communities through an uplifting story about winning against the odds;
- dealing with all types of intolerance, building empathy and understanding;
- bringing families from different cultural and socioeconomic groups together in a new way;
- building contact, reducing isolation;
- building resilience – for potential victims against the effects of prejudice/hate, for potential perpetrators against messages of hate they are seeing/hearing from wider society and older peers;
- building literacy, discussion/debating and presentation skills, self-esteem/confidence;
- building understanding of identity and being proud of yourself - who you are and where you live;

- positive, exciting and inspirational (see attached document with photos/quotes/statements from other Story Circles and website);
- sustainable allowing successive generation of children to participate.

In schools, it does not need extra time as it can be incorporated into the curriculum.

At this time, as the UK is starting to come out of the pandemic, the project has a further relevance in the context of facilitating recovery:

- it will help areas address educational attainment, particularly literacy, when children have been away from school for a substantial period of time;
- it will help children who have been particularly affected by online hate, which has been noted to have increased substantially over the period of the pandemic – many incidents are going unreported and this project will assist children who are living with hate to feel safe enough to talk about incidents which are taking place, to build resilience and help build practical strategies;
- it will help social development, including reducing isolation and increasing contact through the process of discussion/debate and through those they will be in touch with, helping to build new relationships with people who can assist eg. police officers;
- it will deal with other issues eg. bereavement, which are covered in The Heartstone Odyssey through the fantasy story, a normal part of growing up but sadly exacerbated for some as a result of the impact of Covid-19.

The project will reach initially approx. 100 children in the first Story Circle programme, directly, and 600 through the exhibition outreach in the 3 locations. It will then reach out across Halton as events staged, including the Book Festival, are online, thus allowing involvement of every school, library and community group in the authority. Follow-on Story Circle projects beyond the first programme in the identified schools/libraries will reach similar numbers with no additional funding required.

### **Local publicity**

This project provides multiple opportunities for local publicity from the outset – to highlight the involvement of the children and the authority in a project proactively tackling these issues, building literacy and in a Book Festival which has the components and contributors described.

Projects which successfully tackle prejudice/intolerance at this particularly vulnerable and impressionable age group which are also positive, uplifting and inspirational are rare, hence the endorsement and support from the Home Office and Police for the initiative which led to the initial House of Commons event in 2016 from which this current Story Circle project has followed. This project in addition reaches significant numbers through its sustainability. It upskills existing staff and provides a practical positive intervention which is permanently in place at the end of the project.

We hope we can involve Halton in The Heartstone Odyssey Book Festival as described, which is providing a special opportunity to bring an exciting positive event, on timely, high priority and relevant issues, with inclusion, cohesion, cultural diversity and challenging hate at its heart, with the ability to reach all the children, their families and the adults who work with them across the authority.

### **Acknowledgement of support**

We will be able to acknowledge support through:

- use of logos at the Book Festival
- all media press releases
- on Heartstone's website



## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

### 3-Story Circle programme

#### Expenditure:

3 Story Circles @ £600 £1,800

Each Story Circle pack includes:

- 30 copies of The Heartstone Odyssey book @ £10=£300
- 15 images exhibition photoset - £150
- Historical engravings to connect with local area - £100
- Story Captions, Discussion Notes - £50

Training / support – contribution £ 400

(for 2-hour introductory training session, monthly  
Online support sessions, 1-1 sessions if required,  
Provision of storytelling videos from online events  
over 6-months of project)

\*Management/administration of project, all office  
costs, origination of material (photoassignments,  
access to photolibrary, caption research/writing,  
book production), balance costs of training + support £2,200  
(to matchfund Story Circles)

**TOTAL £4,400**

#### Income:

\*Heartstone sponsors £2,200

**BALANCE TO RAISE: £2,200**



Above: Sitakumari, principal dancer/storyteller for Heartstone – pose: 'reading a story'. She will bring the mudras (hand gestures) and drama components, to augment the storytelling training provided in this project.



Above: Artwork by Mario Kkounnous, UCLan – the elephant Spirit of the Land carrying the broken fragments of the Heartstone north to the Himalayas surrounded by mice, the central Heartstone Odyssey fantasy characters, with lanterns. UCLan are supporting the project through their digital animation dept led by Mario and his prizewinning students.



**REPORT TO:** Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources  
**POERFOLIO:** Community Safety  
**SUBJECT:** Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence  
**WARDS:** All

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board in relation to the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That members of the Board:**

- i) **Consider and comment on any aspect of this report.**

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1 Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, enacted 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Domestic abuse victims and their children are to receive more support under a new Act.**

Royal Assent has been given to a new Domestic Abuse Bill. This means councils across England now have a legal duty to provide what may be life-saving support such as therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children.

Halton Borough Council has received a share of the £125 million national pot to fund the new duty, including commissioning additional vital support services for victims and improving links between existing local services.

The Act gives those who are homeless as a result of domestic abuse priority need for accommodation secured by the council, helping to ensure victims do not remain with their abuser for fear of not having a roof over their head.

Domestic abuse is everyone's business and what is needed now, more than ever, is to ensure anyone experiencing domestic abuse is aware of the support available.

The new Act is expected to formally come into effect this summer and will provide protection for victims, and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators, including:

- A lifetime social tenancy if they need to flee their current home to escape abuse and they will be granted a new council tenancy – ensuring they have a safe and stable home to rebuild their lives.
- Introducing for the first time an all-purpose legal definition of domestic abuse, which includes emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse as well as physical abuse.
- Establishing in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and setting out the Commissioner's functions and powers.
- Banning perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.

For more information visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

If you are a victim of domestic abuse or know someone who is and would like to access help, support or advice please contact Halton Domestic Abuse provided by WHAG offering both emotional and practical integrated services to victims, children and young people affected by domestic abuse as well as those who harm, on 0300 111 247

### **What happens behind closed doors doesn't need to stay there...**

To access free support tips and advice please use this link :  
<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>

## **3.2 Domestic Abuse Accommodation Duty**

Halton Borough Council have been identified as a Tier one local authority and has been awarded £326,878 in order to support our local delivery of safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse.

As a Tier 1 Local Authority we are required to appoint a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. Halton Domestic Abuse Forum will:

- **Assess the need** for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross border support.
- **Prepare and publish strategies** for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
- **Give effect to strategies by making commissioning/de-commissioning decisions to meet the support needs of victims and their children.**
- **Monitor and evaluate local delivery of the strategy.**
- **Report back to Central Government; expected to include:**
  - Reporting on local delivery – setting out how the functions have been executed under the new duty (including reporting on strategy, as well as how partnership working has been approached working across key agencies and across neighbouring areas;

- Evidence that adequate needs assessments have been undertaken;
- Evidence that local strategies are in place and working effectively;
- Evidence that local commissioning decisions have been informed by needs assessments and that there is adequate suitable provision;
- An evaluation of the impact of decisions locally including service delivery outcomes;
- Evidence on spend and feedback on delivery, including challenges faced and best practice.

### **3.3 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Covid Funding**

Halton Borough have received confirmation from the Office of the PCC that a bid for additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates across Cheshire has been approved. HBC are awaiting final details but it essentially it means that we will fund two extra 2 IDVA posts here in Halton for a two year period to respond to the ongoing challenges of responding to need as a consequence of the pandemic.

## **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications contained within this report.

### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

The majority of the provisions in the Act will be brought into force by commencement regulations, once the necessary preparatory work has been completed, for example, the making of court rules or the issue of guidance.

It is expected that most of the provisions in the Act will come into force during 2021/22.

The new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order will be piloted before being implemented throughout England and Wales.

The Act will:

- Create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse.
- Establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers.
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order.
- Place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are

- eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- Clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims.
- Extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- Extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the “revenge porn” offence) to cover threats to disclose such material.
- Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.
- Clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death.
- Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences.
- Provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.
- Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody.
- Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing.
- Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance.
- Ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy.
- Prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- Provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes.

### 5.1 **A Healthy Halton**

To remove barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnership to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

Examples:

1. Preventable cause of death
2. Preventable cause of infant mortality
3. Preventable cause of mental health
4. Preventable cases presenting at A & E

### 5.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on employment. Among employed women who suffered domestic abuse in the last year 21% took

time off work and a further 2% lost their jobs (Walby and Allen 2004). The impact of Covid linked to unemployment, furlough programs and redundancies and extended periods being locked down in abusive relationships is yet to be understood.

To maximise an individuals potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services assisting victims to develop better financial management skills and to address debt through appropriate sign posting.

### **5.3 Children and Young People in Halton**

Children and young people in Halton are emotionally, physically and sexually healthy and Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities. For example, ensuring homes are healthy safe environments through offering support to parents and providing access for aftercare support for victims of sexual violence whether a child or young person.

### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms. For example, through ensuring adult victims have access to protective and supportive measures reduces the level of domestic incidents and the subsequent impact on the environment with regards to crime and ASB.

### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

These are contained within the report.

### **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Domestic Abuse Bill Policy Equality Statement Demonstrating Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904500/ANNEX\\_B- Policy\\_Equality\\_Statement- Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Bill\\_July- FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904500/ANNEX_B- Policy_Equality_Statement- Domestic_Abuse_Bill_July- FINAL.pdf)

### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Community Safety
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Trigger Update
<b>WARDS:</b>	Borough wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board on the amendments to the current Community Trigger scheme.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) **the report and action plan be noted; and**
- 2) **The Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Community Trigger across Halton**

The Community Trigger element of the Home Offices Reform of anti-social behaviour powers initially was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Updated guidance was published in respect of Community Trigger in January 2021. This document outlines how the Safer Halton Partnership will be dealing with requests/applications for the Community Trigger within Halton.

- 3.2 This process will be managed for Halton within the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) and will be under regular review through close working arrangements in place with the Managers of each of the Safer Partnerships across the Cheshire Sub Region.

As a result of the amendments to the guidance, there will be a formal press release with information on the Trigger and who to contact to for further

information within Halton Council with a similar message from Cheshire Constabulary and The Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

#### **4.0 Trigger thresholds:**

- 4.1 It is proposed with agreement from the SHP board that the threshold to be met in order for a Trigger application to be accepted as;
- A complainant has reported the same problem **3 or more times in the past 6 months** to the Council, Police or their Landlord and no or inappropriate action has been taken in line with the relevant agencies policy and procedure.

In addition to this, the application process would not be able to continue under the following circumstances:

- If someone has reported Anti-Social Behaviour and received a service but the problems and the investigation are on-going;  
*They will be advised to contact the agency they are working with to tell them what is happening*
- If someone has reported Anti-Social Behaviour and received a service but they're unhappy with the service received or action taken;  
*They will be advised to submit a complaint under the agency's complaints procedures*
- If there is already a formal complaint with the relevant agency/agencies underway with reference to the incidents that have been reported.

#### **5.0 Trigger process:**

- 5.1 Guidance will be available to members of the public, agencies and Elected Members on the Council's Website. This outlines the Trigger, what it is for, how to apply and also what can be expected following an application. A link to the application form is also provided.

Consultation will be started with the main Registered Social Providers with reference to putting information on their websites about the Trigger, directing anyone who would like to apply for the Trigger to the Halton webpage. It is anticipated that information on the Trigger will also be included on the registered social landlords newsletters/bulletin's.

The Manager responsible for Community Safety will receive all applications for a Community Trigger and will then liaise with the relevant agencies in order to test the threshold and gather further information in order to progress the application.

A "SPOC" (Specialised Point of Contact) across Halton will be identified for each agency. Initial SPOC's have already been agreed and identified by some of the

agencies who we believe will be key partners in the “trigger” applications and resolutions.

There will be an identified SPOC whom will investigate any reported incidents on the trigger application and forward to the Community Safety Manager. There will also be a SPOC (who may be the same contact) for attending any Local Problem Solving group if the trigger application requires this action.

The table below will show the anticipated identified SPOC’s once the consultation has concluded and those agencies who we are currently liaising with.

As Safer Halton Partnership will be the centre referral point for application for the trigger, formal approval of the process is needed from SHP board. Reporting of the trigger process will be submitted to SHP board periodically along with regular reviews across the sub-region.

<b>All Trigger applications/enquiries to go to Community Safety Manager:</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>SPOC for incident and case research on trigger applications</b>	<b>SPOC for review of trigger meeting/Local Problem solving group</b>
Police		TBC
Environmental Health (also representing licensing and other relevant depts.)		
Halton Housing	TBC	TBC
Plus Dane Housing	TBC	TBC
Other registered Providers	TBC	TBC
Halton ASB Team	Equivalent area ASB Co-ordinator	
Youth Offending/Youth Engagement Service	TBC	
Clinical Commissioning Group (Health)	TBC	TBC
Probation	TBC	TBC

**Timescales**

- Case Review Officer will request case information from **SPOCS by email with COMMUNITY TRIGGER REQUEST** as the subject within **3 working days** of receipt of completed Trigger Application
- Spocs will be given **7 working days** from receipt of request to return to information to Case Review Officer

- Case Review Officer will write to applicant within **15 working days** from receipt of Trigger request to respond to applicant with decision
- If Trigger **not met** case can be referred to local Problem Solving Group for discussion, action planning and relevant contact with applicant (where applicable).
- If Trigger **not met** and case is not referred to Local Problem Solving Group the applicant should be referred back to the agency dealing with their original complaint via the spocs below.
- If Trigger **is met** then panel should be convened (refer to Community Safety to convene a panel)
- If Trigger is met but further information is required before panel can be convened, spocs should be re-contacted and given **10 working days (or 15 working days for complex cases as determined by the Case Review Officer)** to return further information.
- Panel should be convened and formal review concluded within **60 working days** from receipt of original application and applicant informed of findings by ASB Case Review Officer.
- Applicants can **appeal** decision if trigger **not met**. ASB Case Review Officer will forward to Community Safety Manager for independent review of decision by sub-regional Colleagues
- Where the trigger **is met** and full review takes place the applicant can **appeal** the decision. Case review officer will inform the community safety manager for independent review by sub-regional colleagues.
- **Appeals must be submitted within 20 working days** of notification of decision on Trigger being met or outcome of review.
- ASB Case Review Officer review or **Independent Review must take place within 15 working days of** receipt of appeal.

## 6.0 Appeals:

### 6.1 Threshold not met:

If an applicant appeals the decision that the threshold has not been met, this will go back to the Community Safety Manager to review and the final decision will be with them. Even through the trigger has not been met, the partnership will do it's best to see if there is any way that the application can be given assistance with their issue (consideration will be given for referral to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team for instance).

#### Trigger outcome appeal:

If the Trigger threshold has been met, but the outcome of the review is appealed, this must be done in writing, this will go to an "Independent Scrutiny Officer" within a neighbouring Cheshire Area responsible for Community Safety. Outcomes of this will then be sent to the applicant and the decision will be final.

The table below details those individuals whom will be responsible for Cheshire area independent reviews on appeal:

<b>Appeals against application not meeting trigger threshold – final decision lies with the Partnerships manager responsible for Community Safety</b>		
<b>Appeals against Trigger application review (for those applications which meet the threshold);</b>		
Independent Scrutiny Officer Cheshire East	Richard Christopherson	Locality Manager - Community Safety
Independent Scrutiny Officer Chester and West	Michelle Nicholson	Community Safety Manager
Independent Scrutiny Officer Warrington	Theresa Whitfield	Warrington Community Safety Partnership Manager
Independent Scrutiny Officer Halton	Mike Andrews	Community Safety Manager Safer Halton Partnership

- The trigger thresholds have been agreed following discussions with Partnership Managers across the Sub Region based previous experience of Trigger applications received following the introduction of Triggers in 2014.
- Following the amendments to the guidance Partnership Managers across the Sub Region have agreed to continue with the management of applications received though should an increase in applications prove evident this will impact on the resource capability and will require review.

The Safer Halton Partnership will monitor and review the Trigger process to include the following information

- How many requests made
  - Which did not hit the trigger criteria
  - Which did hit the criteria
  - Which went to review
- Which received recommended further action where the trigger was not met.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The process outlined will be managed within the existing budgets of each of the partner organisations. Resolution of complaints should improve the efficiency of the overall process.

## **9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **9.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

### **10.0 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**None**

### **11.0 A Healthy Halton**

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

### **12.0 A Safer Halton**

- 12.1 The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

### **13.0 Halton's Urban Renewal**

- 13.1 **None**

## **14.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 14.1 **None**

## **15.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 15.1 **None at present**

## **16.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 16.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.