

REPORT TO: Safer Halton PPB

DATE: 13th November 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Communities

SUBJECT: Halton's Hate Crime Statistics for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2012-13

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Hate Crime statistics for the first and second quarter of this year, as reported to Cheshire Police.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members are asked to note the report, and**
- (2) To agree a more detailed scrutiny discussion at the next meeting.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The attached figures are of those incidents reported to Cheshire Police for April – September 2012.

For some time now, there have been concerns raised about the role of other Partners is helping to reduce incidents of hate crime. The information that is currently supplied to various Boards and Partnership groups are only incidents as reported to the Police and in fact there have been no 3rd party reported incidents for some while.

There is a lot of activity that other Partners undertake that contribute towards making our communities safer and more cohesion, and it is hoped that the reporting of these activities can be included in the contextual part of the Police's reports.

In August 2011 the Equality and Human Rights Commission published their report into Disability Hate Crime, entitled "Hidden in Plain Sight". This has several recommendations, some of which are quite Police specific, whilst others are more about how the Police work with other Partners. The report also talks about how Partners identify and support vulnerable individuals. Picking up on some of the recommendations, it has been suggested that rather than simply have a bunch of numbers come to the various Boards and Partnership groups, that one or two individual cases are picked out and these are taken around the Partnership to encourage discussion around the particular issues, such as information sharing, support, partnership working, and improving the wider community's perception of the issues.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy, legal, resource or financial implications in noting and commenting on this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No funding is required as a result of this report and partners currently work together on hate crime matters within existing resources.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Life for Children and Young People will improve for living in a safer community.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None as yet identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The safeguarding of vulnerable residents, and ensuring they feel safe both in their homes and in their wider communities, is crucial to their health and well-being.

6.3 A Safer Halton

Halton will have stronger and more resilient communities, where residents will feel safer.

6.4 Halton's Urban Renewal

None as yet identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

In order to ensure residents feel safe, Partners need to work together to maintain strong and resilient communities, and the increased awareness of unacceptable low level incidents will hopefully ensure there are no tragic high profiles incidents as have occurred elsewhere in the Country.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The hate crime categories as identified by the Home Office are different than those contained within the Equality Act 1010, however no abuse of any kind is acceptable behaviour and the raising awareness of such issues can help with Halton Borough Council's compliance with the General Duty of the Act.

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

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