

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE –
19 FEBRUARY 2009**

RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION OF HATE CRIME

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members with an update on the Force response to Hate Crime.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report details the findings for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 December 2008 inclusive for Hate Incidents and Crimes reported to Dorset Police. This currently includes all forms of abuse relating to Race, Faith, Homophobia, Transgender, Gender and Disability, defined as:

“Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.”

(ACPO Hate Crime Good Practice and Tactical Guidance, 2005)

- 1.2 Hate Incidents and Crimes are audited for compliance against the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) and the Force Hate Incident and Crime Policy to assess whether the Hate element of an incident has been correctly captured and investigated.
- 1.3 This methodology represents a more robust auditing process and differs from the way Hate Incidents have been monitored in the past.
- 1.4 The data has been collected from searches of the Call Handling System (+CT), Incident Log System (+RI) and the Crime Recording System (+CJS).
- 1.5 Searches on the Crime Recording System:
- Hate Incident Codes: RI:01 (Race-related Incident); HI:01 (Homophobic Incident, this code is also currently used for Trans Incidents); DI:01 (Disability Incident) and FI:01 (Faith-related Incident). These codes are used to record all hate-related reports made to the police, where no criminal offence has been committed.
 - Racially and Religiously Aggravated Crime Codes as determined by the National Crime Recording Standard.
 - Hate Crime/Incident Flags on the Crime Records.

1.6 Searches on the Incident Log System:

- Incidents are audited to ensure that the Hate Qualifier codes are correctly applied to Hate Incidents. The Hate Qualifier is applied to an incident when the victim or any other person perceives the circumstances of an incident to be motivated by prejudice or hate.

1.7 Searches through the Call Handling System:

- The most common Hate-related phrases or words are used to search the call handling system. The purpose is to assess if there are any incidents that have not been captured as Hate-related incidents.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 The table below illustrates the number of Hate crimes reported since 1 April 2008 and shows the figures from each section. The data also shows what proportion of the Force total figures each Division is responsible for.

Recorded Hate Crime - Divisional and Section Profile

| | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | Apr 07 to Dec 07 | Apr 08 to Dec 08 |
| Central Bournemouth | 58 | 46 |
| East Bournemouth | 38 | 37 |
| North Bournemouth | 29 | 27 |
| Poole South | 16 | 26 |
| Poole North | 35 | 33 |
| Bournemouth & Poole Division | 176 | 169 |
| Div as % of Force Total | 76.9% | 65.5% |
| Dorchester | 2 | 7 |
| Bridport | 22 | 32 |
| Weymouth & Portland | 11 | 5 |
| Purbeck | 7 | 9 |
| East Dorset | 3 | 7 |
| North Dorset | 4 | 25 |
| Christchurch | 4 | 4 |
| County Division | 53 | 89 |
| Div as % of Force Total | 23.1% | 34.5% |
| FORCE TOTAL | 229 | 258 |

2.2 The number of Hate Crimes reported for Dorset has had a slight increase. Nationally it is thought that Hate Crime could be as high as 50% under reported and in specific incidents, such as Homophobic Crimes and Disability crimes as research indicates it is much higher. Dorset Police welcomes the

increased reporting, as it would suggest that the public has more confidence in reporting these issues.

- 2.3 The statistics may also suggest more accurate recording of crimes as all supervisors are now given Hate Crime training to help them understand the importance of supporting victims, accuracy and understanding the issues nationally in building trust and confidence in the Police Service by the very actions we take.
- 2.4 The tables below illustrate the number of reported Hate Incidents since 1 April 2007 and shows the figures from each section. These are incidents where there is a perception that it is motivated by prejudice or hate but where there is not a criminal offence.

Recorded Hate Incidents - Divisional and Section Profile

| | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | Apr 07 to Dec 07 | Apr 08 to Dec 08 |
| Central Bournemouth | 38 | 51 |
| East Bournemouth | 47 | 56 |
| North Bournemouth | 32 | 30 |
| Poole South | 14 | 25 |
| Poole North | 30 | 52 |
| Bournemouth & Poole Division | 161 | 214 |
| Div as % of Force Total | 72.5% | 75.4% |
| Dorchester | 9 | 7 |
| Bridport | 23 | 26 |
| Weymouth & Portland | 7 | 8 |
| Purbeck | 12 | 16 |
| East Dorset | 5 | 6 |
| North Dorset | 2 | 6 |
| Christchurch | 3 | 1 |
| County Division | 61 | 70 |
| Div as % of Force Total | 27.5% | 24.6% |
| FORCE TOTAL | 222 | 284 |

- 2.5 The statistics again show an increase in reporting throughout Dorset. Bournemouth and Poole Division being the most significant area for reported Hate Incidents.
- 2.6 As suggested earlier, Hate Crime is an area that is different to other crime areas in that increased levels of reporting are in many ways a positive indicator. It is suggested at the National Hate Crime Conference that nationally, Hate Crime may be under reported to the police by as much as 50%. This is due to victims, faiths, etc. having a lack of trust and confidence

in the police. However, the victims that have actually reported crimes to Dorset Police have not reflected this in the satisfaction surveys.

- 2.7 Dorset Police now has its own online third party reporting system. This can be found on the Dorset Police website that the public has access to www.dorset.police.uk under Crime. From this site the public are able to report a Hate Incident/Crime either in person, on behalf of a third party or even anonymously. This is to ensure we are at the very least understanding the types of incidents that are occurring and gaining the intelligence around these events.
- 2.8 The table below shows that Dorset Police detected 24.9% of all crimes recorded. In relation to Hate Crime the figure increases considerably to 39.5%. As previously reported, investigative standards are high in this area because of the level of scrutiny applied to them and the conscious decision of the Force to provide resources to ensure all avenues of enquiry are followed. This is an important step in instilling confidence in the public that if they report a Hate Incident to Dorset Police it will be treated seriously and investigated thoroughly.

2008/09 - April 2008 to December 2008

| Crime Profile | Crimes | Detections | % Detected |
|---|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Racially/Religiously Agg. Assault | 53 | 14 | 26.4 % |
| Racially/Religiously Agg. Common Assault | 37 | 15 | 40.5 % |
| Racially/Religiously Agg. Criminal Damage | 36 | 10 | 27.8 % |
| Racially/Religiously Agg. Harassment | 132 | 63 | 47.7 % |
| TOTAL | 258 | 102 | 39.5 % |
| Repeat Victims | 62 | | |
| % Repeat Victims | 24.0 % | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL Crime Detection Rate | 38,627 | 9,627 | 24.9% |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

| Incident Profile | Incidents |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Incident - Disability | 15 |
| Incident - Faith | 4 |
| Incident - Homophobic | 52 |
| Incident - Racial | 5 |
| Incident - Racial (Harassment) | 208 |
| TOTAL | 284 |
| Repeat Victims | 25 |
| % Repeat Victims | 8.8 % |

| | |
|--|-------|
| OVERALL Total Crime & Incidents | 542 |
| TOTAL Repeat Victims | 87 |
| % Repeats | 16.1% |

- 2.9 The table above shows that for Hate Crimes and Incidents combined there is a repeat victim percentage of 8.8%. This is considerably less than repeat victimisation, 16.1% for other crimes. This shows a slight increase compared to the last report. This figure should be considered along with satisfaction rates. Research has shown that in general although these individuals are repeat victims of crime, the crimes do not involve repeat offenders.

**Hate Crime User Satisfaction Results
(Discrete Quarterly Results)**

| Hate Crime Victim Satisfaction Results | Very & Completely Satisfied | Satisfied |
|---|--|------------------|
| 4th Qrt 2006/07 | 81.6% | 89.5% |
| 1st Qrt 2007/08 | 71.1% | 81.6% |
| 2nd Qrt 2007/08 | 57.7% | 84.6% |
| 3rd Qrt 2007/08 | 77.8% | 94.4% |
| 4th Qrt 2007/08 | 75.0% | 85.7% |
| 1st Qrt 2008/09 | 76.2% | 85.7% |
| 2nd Qrt 2008/09 | 77.4% | 87.1% |
| 3rd Qrt 2008/09 | 52.6% | 68.4% |
| 4th Qrt 2008/09 | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| 2007/08 Full Yr Result | 70.0% | 85.5% |
| 2008/09 YTD | 71.7% | 82.6% |

| Overall Satisfaction | Very & Completely Satisfied | Satisfied |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1st Qrt 2007/08 | 73.6% | 87.0% |
| 2nd Qrt 2007/08 | 70.6% | 86.9% |
| 3rd Qrt 2007/08 | 68.4% | 83.9% |
| 4th Qrt 2007/08 | 73.3% | 88.7% |
| 1st Qrt 2008/09 | 69.1% | 86.4% |
| 2nd Qrt 2008/09 | 71.6% | 87.5% |
| 3rd Qrt 2008/09 | 71.0% | 87.6% |
| 4th Qrt 2008/09 | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| 2007/08 Full Yr Result | 71.0% | 86.7% |
| 2008/09 YTD | 70.4% | 86.9% |

- 2.10 Overall satisfaction rates of 82.6% for victims of Hate Crime fall in line with the satisfaction rates for the Force of 86.7%; 70.4 % of those victims were either completely or very satisfied.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 This report has outlined the current situation regarding the reporting and recording of Hate related Incidents and Crimes within Dorset Police for the period of 1 April – 30 December 2008.

- 3.2 The majority of Hate Crime continues to be around Racial Harassment related offences.
- 3.3 The detection rate of 39.8% for Hate Crime remains well above the Force average detection rate of 24.9%. The majority of Hate Incidents (Non Crimes) reported are also racially related, 208 in total. The second highest being homophobic with 52 reports and there has been a slight increase in disability reported incidents.
- 3.4 There continues to be significant developments around Hate Crime locally and nationally that will have an impact on how Dorset Police deals with the issue. In Dorset the Divisional Public Protection Departments are now fully functional and each division has a Hate Crime Review Officer. Whilst they will not be investigating every incident, they will be able to provide expert guidance and actively review and scrutinise enquiries. The Detective Inspector, Prevention and Public Protection Bureau will be responsible for the strategic development including policy, procedure and compliance monitoring.
- 3.5 Nationally, there continues to be a focus on the under reporting of Homophobic Crimes and Dorset Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers (LAGLOs) are assisting with building public confidence to increase reporting. There is also a National Focus on Disability Hate Crime and last year's National Hate Crime Conference focused on specific cases that have received media coverage and looked at how reporting can be improved for people with disabilities and learning difficulties.
- 3.6 Dorset Police is currently recording crime to the level and expectation of the Home Office. There are still some forces yet to achieve this. It was identified at the National Hate Crime Conference that there would be efforts to increase crime recording around Hate Crime in respect of Race, Faith, Sexuality and Disability. The Home Office will be looking at providing some guidance on the requirements in the near future.
- 3.7 True Vision was a nationally launched campaign to promote third party reporting and online reporting of Hate Crime. This campaign has been running in Dorset for some years. At a national level the True Vision online reporting has met some technology and staffing difficulties. Dorset Police has therefore launched its own version of third party online reporting for Hate Crime. The site is fully functional and has received a number of reports. With signposting on the Dorset Police website, reports have increased significantly in the last month. Local media reports have also been published in order to increase awareness of the site and encourage reporting.
- 3.8 All Hate Crimes are reviewed by a Hate Crime Officer and quality assured by the Public Protection Detective Inspector. All victims of Hate Crime are contacted and asked to conduct a Public Confidence/Satisfaction Survey. As stated earlier, Dorset currently has 86.3% satisfaction from Hate Crime victims.
- 3.9 Safer Neighbourhood Teams are also conducting follow up enquiries and high visibility patrols to the individuals that are repeat victims of Hate Crime. It is hoped that this will improve public confidence, increase reporting of Hate Crime and, in the long term, reduce the repeat victimisation whilst at the same time bring any offenders responsible for the crimes to justice.

- 3.10 A new training package has been developed for front line supervisors and sergeants in order to get them to recognise the potential difficulties surrounding Hate Crime. The course aims to give officers an understanding of how vulnerable the victim feels and their expectation of the police when they report an incident and incorporates a number of case studies involving Hate related murder victims.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

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