



# Hate Crime Policy

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<b>Publication Scheme Y/N</b>	Policy section can be published on Force Website. Procedure should be withheld.
<b>Department of Origin</b>	Investigation
<b>Policy Holder</b>	D/Chief Supt Investigation
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<b>Related Information</b>	<a href="#">Authorised Professional Practice: Major Investigation &amp; Public Protection Call Response Policy</a>  <a href="#">Disability Policy</a> <a href="#">Equality &amp; Diversity Policy</a> <a href="#">Domestic Abuse Policy</a> <a href="#">Threat Management and Threats to Life Policy</a> <a href="#">Equality Act</a> <a href="#">Community Resolution Guidance</a> <a href="#">Hate Crime Operational Guidance 2014</a> <a href="#">Homophobic and Transphobic Crime Toolkit: Good Practice and Lessons Learnt – CPS 2008</a> <a href="#">Galop Hate Crime Report 2016</a> <a href="#">CPS Policy for Prosecuting Homophobic and Transphobic Hate</a> <a href="#">Transphobic Hate Crime Report 2015</a> <a href="#">HASC Hate Crime: Abuse, Hate and Extremism Online</a>
<b>This Version</b>	V7.1 – Created April 2019
<b>Date of next Review</b>	April 2021



**April 2019**

# Policy

## Statement

Merseyside Police is committed to taking effective action against all forms of Hate Crime. All Hate Crime will be dealt with reflecting integrity, equity, justice and courage. It is necessary to take robust action against perpetrators and recognise/support the needs of victims. Working effectively in partnership with the relevant internal and external partner agencies, we can make the lives of Hate Crime victims safer, protect their families and their communities, preventing repeat victimisation and bringing perpetrators to justice.

## Aims

This policy aims to improve the intelligence picture for the proactive tackling of Hate Crime, prevent the commission of Hate offences, promote public reassurance and increase police visibility. Merseyside Police endeavour to ensure that all Hate Crimes/incidents are fully investigated through the Criminal Justice System from the initial reporting to disposal stages. In so doing, the policy aims to ensure that Hate Crimes are successfully investigated and prosecuted, Hate Crime offenders are held accountable for their actions and victims receive the best possible service and support.

The policy is underpinned by procedures designed to provide clear, definitive and unambiguous direction for all those involved in its deployment.

## Objectives

Increase the reporting and recording of Hate Crimes/Incidents for the 5 'monitored strands' of Hate Crime (Disability, Race, Religion and Belief, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) and in addition, offences committed against sex workers.

- a) Increase public confidence and satisfaction in relation to the investigation of Hate Crimes and incidents.
- b) Promote positive outcomes.
- c) Reduce repeat victimisation.
- d) Increase victim/witness confidence and ease of reporting of Hate Incidents/Crimes by promoting alternative reporting methods including the use of third party reporting centres. (Recommendation 16 Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 1999)
- e) Improve community cohesion and confidence across the diverse communities of Merseyside.
- f) Ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are put in place to protect victims, recognising that some hate crime victims may also be adults with 'additional care and support needs', as defined by the Care Act 2014. This is an important consideration, especially in disability Hate Crime cases.

## Application and Scope

The Chief Officer lead for this policy is the Assistant Chief Constable Investigations and Intelligence. This policy will apply to all police officers and police staff involved in the recording / reporting / investigation of Hate Crimes/Incidents.

This policy document sets out principles to help guide decision making and is in some parts quite prescriptive. However, it is vital that officers and staff have the freedom to innovate, exercise discretion and take risk based decisions centred on the needs of the victim and the merits of each case. Non-statutory policies, including College of Policing APP, provide guidance only. They are 'living documents' and it is recognised that there may be a better way of doing this. Accordingly, if staff depart from a policy but are able to give a good rationale for their actions, and have acted with honesty, integrity and professionalism, to make the best decision for the community we serve, they will be trusted and supported. <sup>1</sup>

Since 2006 Merseyside Police has adopted the approach that crimes committed against Sex Workers would be treated as Hate Crime. This recognises the fact that violent and other crimes against sex workers are often shaped by discrimination, attitudes of hostility and prejudice. As such, it requires an approach that encourages Sex Workers to come forward and report crimes in the knowledge that Merseyside Police will take their report seriously and investigate them. The National Hate Crime Guidance (College of Policing 2014) supports the inclusion of non-monitored hate crime groups beyond the five monitored strands. This will require recording on niche as a Hate Crime and the appropriate support being given to that person, in the same way we do for a person subject to any other type of Hate Crime.

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<sup>1</sup> This paragraph inserted 21/06/2016 to emphasise appropriate use of discretion. Updated 08/04/2019. Version number remains unchanged.

## Outcome Evaluation

Progress against specific objectives should be measured on a routine basis. The head of crime/chair of PVP Performance will determine responsibilities and activities involved in measurement. In general terms, success will mean:

- a) All relevant personnel have a shared perspective of the individual responsibilities and the procedures that need to be followed
- b) Satisfaction of Hate Crime victims is increased
- c) Improved quality of Hate Crime investigations through robust and thorough investigation
- d) Improved public trust and confidence in relation to the investigation and reporting of Hate Crime
- e) Improved public confidence in Merseyside Police by demonstrating that the organisation takes the reporting of Hate Incidents and investigation of all Hate Crime extremely seriously
- f) Increase reporting of Hate Crime
- g) Safeguarded victims
- h) Tackling offenders
- i) Solving crime