



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Community and cross-sector approach to tackle hate crime
Author (including organisation):	Mark Parry Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	28 October 2020
Purpose:	oversight / information and discussion (delete as appropriate)

1. Executive Summary

To update the Health and Wellbeing board on progress against the theme in the One City plan: 2020 One City Plan – An updated community and cross-sector approach to tackle hate crime has been adopted across the city to help agencies coordinate prevention activities and reduce hate crime.

2. Purpose of the Paper

To update the Board on the work of the Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime (SPAHC). Outline its history and to inform the Board of the work carried out by the Bristol City Council funded service - Bristol Hate Crime & Discrimination Service (BHC&DS). We are seeking support from the Board for continuation of the BHC&DS grant funding through the Council's Impact fund or alternative funding opportunities and support the continued development of SPAHC

3. Background and evidence base

The One City Plan objective: *Our strong communities will be formed of resilient and independent people. Our people will live healthier for longer and live happier lives in Bristol.*

Since 2009 Bristol City Council has coordinated the Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime (SPAHC). SPAHC has continued to meet to the present day. Its remit has evolved over time following the introduction of Equalities Act in 2010 and updated legislation. A 'hate crime' can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying as well as damage to property. The perpetrator can also be a friend a carer or an acquaintance who exploits their relationship with the victim for financial gain and/or some other criminal purpose. The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviours where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity. These aspects of a person's identity are known as 'protected characteristics'.

What has we been doing to support victims of Hate Crime and what do we continue to do to work towards in support of victims and challenge those who commit hate crime in the city?

- SPAHC meets quarterly each year and is made up of partner agencies working in Bristol and includes membership from the Police, BCC Housing & Estates, Avon Fire Service Crown Prosecution Service, Probation Services, BHCDS partners, other housing providers, adult social care, NHS Bristol etc.
- SPAHC workplan is refreshed every year and is set for three-years. The former, Safer Bristol Partnership and SPAHC previously developed a strategic hate crime assessment and action plan until a few years ago when it was replaced with a joint OPCC and Bristol Crime Plan.
- A Hate Crime case review panel (CRP) sits fortnightly to review any high-risk cases and to discuss other options of safeguarding or additional involvement to support victims and to reduce impact of hate crime. The CRP also undertakes additional work to identify perpetrators and interventions to reduce hate crime.
- In April 2013, Safer Bristol Partnership grant funded four local community organisations for three years to form a collaboration partnership to deliver a community-based hate crime support service to victims of hate crimes in the city. Bristol Hate Crime Services (BHCS) were subsequently born. Previously to this arrangement, BCC grant funded three community-based organisations on an ad hoc basis, to offer support to victims of hate crime covering strands of protected characteristics

including race, disability and sexual orientation (LGBT). Partners were SARI, Brandon Trust, LGBT Bristol and Bristol Mind.

- In July 2017 an enhanced partnership was formed building on the previous hate crime service with an expanded remit to include discrimination services and restorative justice practices as part of the expanded collaboration. The partners of the current service are: SARI, Off the Record (OTR) replacing LGBT Bristol very recently, Brandon Trust, Bristol Mind, Bristol Law Centre and Community Resolve. Bristol City Council fund this new service for four years from the Impact fund. The current grant funding is due to end on 31st March 2021.

It is evident that being a victim of crime can result in significant psychological and emotional harm for individual who experience it. The impact can be particularly damaging when acts of violence and/or aggression are directed towards a person because of who they are or how they appear. An [academic research](#) review in 2006 'A systematic review of empirical research on self-reported racism and health' by Yin Paradies highlights the more someone feels targeted by racist actions and behaviours, the greater the damage to their mental health. This includes an increased likelihood to develop chronic depression, anxiety and/or psychological disorders. There is also evidence of detrimental physical health effects for those who experience hate crime, such as obesity and cardiovascular problems. Citizens who experience hate crime and incidents can suffer from stress, feelings of anger and distress for far longer than a crime that is unrelated to their personal characteristics.

Survivors are also more likely to feel more vulnerable after the experience and see the world as more dangerous, unpredictable and hostile. Increased isolation and possible withdrawal from community activities and a reduction in resilience also feature as a result of continued hate crime victimisation.

4. Community engagement

- Bristol City Council and Bristol Public Health will be undertaking a hate crime needs assessment from November 2020.
- Avon and Somerset Police are currently undertaking a Bristol Hate Crime problem profile and the results of this will be used to refresh the current SPAHC action plan.
- Provider forums are delivered four times a year with each session covering a chosen hate crime topic. For example, as part of the national hate crime awareness week in October 2019, BHCDS held an event to discuss disablist hate crime and mate crime. Other topics discussed have been based on LGBTQ+, racist and religious hate crimes. These sessions were used to up-skill community members and staff from community organisations so they can gain a better understanding of hate crime and the support services that are available assist then in signposting those in need of support.
- National Hate Crime Awareness Week runs in October each year and SPAHC, BHCDS and other agencies collaborate to deliver a range of information and activities to raise the awareness of hate crime.
- A 'Hidden Voices' day occurs every two years when victims of hate crime are encouraged to share their stories and experiences and explore how organisations have supported them. They also reflect on how partner agencies like the Police, the NHS, the CPS and council services, can improve their service delivery to victims of hate crime.

5. Recommendations

- To support the development of the hate crime needs assessment.
- To offer access to professionals for advice when working with high risk and complex hate crime cases that feature either victims or perpetrators with mental health problems.
- To support with efforts to secure future funding to enable the continuation of services for victims of hate crime in Bristol.
- To support SPAHC with attendance of professionals from health and wellbeing services in the city.

6. City Benefits

- A more cohesive city.
- Vibrant and diverse communities across the whole of the city rather than pockets that exist now.

- A more caring and supportive community with people looking out for one another.
- Builds more resilient and stronger independent people.
- People will live healthier for longer and live happier lives in Bristol.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

N/A

8. Appendices

The following data is taken from the Community Safety survey for England and Wales 2018 to 2019. Since 2011-2012 Hate Crimes have more than doubled

- 103,379 Hate Crimes recorded by Police
- 78, 991/ 76% Race Hate (up 11%)
- 14,491/ 14% Sexual Orientation (up 25%)
- 8,566/ 8% Religious based (up 3%)
- 8,256/ 8% Disablist (up 14%)
- 2,333/ 2% Transgender (up 37%)

Avon and Somerset Police 2018-2019 (Bristol)

- 1782 – total Hate Crimes
- 96 – Disability (6%)
- 145 – Gender (9%)
- 1176 – Race (77%)
- 81 – Religion (5%)
- 192 - Sexual Orientation (12%)
- 27 – Transphobic (2%)
- 255 – Other