

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 February 2014

## Hate Crime Action Plan – update



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### Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director for Children and Adults Services

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#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Hate Crime Action Plan.

#### Background

- 2 In 2011 the Vulnerability Delivery Group commissioned a hate crime problem profile which went on to inform the development of a Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan for County Durham. In line with the recommendations outlined within the problem profile, actions focused on the following objectives:
  - **Prevention:** to prevent hate crime from occurring which includes raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging community cohesion; to ensure campaigns are effective and target the right audience.
  - **Provision:** improve the availability and take up of services for victims which includes improving support available to victims; improve communication/information.
  - **Protection:** increase the safety of victims which includes improving confidence and increasing the reporting of hate crimes; ensuring vulnerable adult victims of hate crime are safeguarded in line with County Durham inter-agency Safeguarding Adults procedures; increasing the number of offences that result in a prosecution; and develop recording mechanisms.
- 3 In November 2012 the first Police and Crime Commissioner was elected for County Durham and Darlington and took up office in the same month. He identified Hate Crime as one of his personal priorities.
- 4 In April 2013 the Police and Crime Commissioner convened a Hate Crime Seminar covering both County Durham and Darlington with the aim of bringing together a range of work covering both areas, identifying services delivery gaps and to improve outcomes for the public.

#### Current Position

- 5 Following the Police and Crime Commissioner Hate Crime Seminar a Joint County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group was established.

- 6 The two strategic vulnerability groups operating in County Durham and Darlington agreed for the Police and Crime Commissioner to take the lead for Hate Crime; to merge action plans and resources; and for new action plans to be developed and coordinated through the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.
- 7 Work on the Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime actions has continued throughout 2011, 2012 and 2013. The majority of actions are complete and a copy of the Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan is attached in Appendix 2. Ongoing actions have been incorporated into the work streams of the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group.
- 8 A new Police and Crime Commissioners Hate Crime Action Plan is in development that covers the following work streams;
  - Accuracy of police recording for hate incidents
  - Satisfaction survey
  - Networks 'Safe places'
  - Support services network
  - Communication strategy
  - Community education – Increased awareness hate incidents
  - Community Hands Project (volunteer support for hate crime victims)
- 9 The County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group is chaired by Chief Superintendent Graham Hall, Durham Constabulary.
- 10 The project manager for the Hate Crime Action Plan work streams is Chief Inspector Colin McGillivray, Durham Constabulary.
- 11 The lead officer from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office is Staff Officer Sukhsham Sahani.
- 12 Partners from the Safe Durham Partnership are contributing to the various work streams as appropriate.
- 13 The Police and Crime Commissioner is hoping to run another Hate Crime Seminar to update stakeholders on progress in May 2014.

## **Recommendations**

- 14 Overview and Scrutiny is recommended to:

Note the progress of the original Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

No implications.

### **Staffing**

No implications

### **Risk**

No risk implications

### **Equality and Diversity**

No implications

### **Accommodation**

No implications

### **Crime and Disorder**

This is the main focus of the report.

### **Human Rights**

No implications

### **Consultation**

No implications

### **Procurement**

No implications

### **Disability Discrimination Act**

No implications

### **Legal Implications**

No implications