

# Hate Crime Strategy

2021 – 2026

There is no place for Hate Crime in Hertfordshire.  
Everyone has the right to be safe and live without fear.

**Hate Crime. Don't ignore it. Report it.**

Don't ignore  
**HATE**  
**REPORT IT**

# What is Hate Crime?

Hate Crimes can spread messages of fear to our communities causing mistrust and have a lasting impact, both physically and emotionally, to individuals and families throughout our county. The experience of living with this fear must not be underestimated.

**Nationally, Hate Crime is monitored under five strands and is defined as:**

‘Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated because of hostility or prejudice towards their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity’.<sup>1</sup>

**A Hate incident is defined as:**

Any incident that does not constitute a criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity’

**It is vital to recognise that everyone must work together effectively to tackle Hate Crime.**

# Hate Crime Strategy

This strategy outlines Hertfordshire's plans for reducing the harm caused by Hate Crime to individuals, families and communities.

It has been informed by Hertfordshire Hate Crime Analysis 2020, Hertfordshire Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020<sup>2</sup> and the Action Against Hate action plan, 2016.<sup>3</sup>

The strategy will be supported by an annual delivery plan, to be overseen by the Hate Crime Partnership Board and delivered through working groups as required.

The strategy and delivery plan will take a whole system approach, from prevention to enforcement with a focus on victim support. The approach of Prevention First<sup>4</sup> is key when working in partnership.

## The general principles of this strategy and delivery plan;

- Deliver successful outcomes through effective partnership working, including the sharing of good quality data and information.
- The voice of affected communities will be heard in order to deliver change.
- The delivery plan will be actively monitored and reported on annually, considering emerging and local trends.

<sup>2</sup> Hertfordshire Hate Crime Strategy, 2017-20, accessed 7/10/20 <https://www.hertscommissioner.org/fluidcms/files/files/pdf/Hate-Crime/HateCrimeStrategyforHertfordshire2017-20.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Action Against Hate – The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime, Home Office, Accessed 7/10/20 <https://tinyurl.com/y5232vhs>

<sup>4</sup> Prevention First is the Constabulary's approach to prevention, ensuring that preventing people becoming victims is at the heart of Policing in Hertfordshire.

# What do we know about Hate Crime?

Hertfordshire's Hate Crime Strategy is central to reducing harm:

- Nationally, we know that Hate Crime is under reported.
- Nationally, Hate Crime has risen by 8% in the year 2019/20 when compared to 2018/19.
- Reflected nationally, Transgender offences make up the smallest proportion of Hate Crime.
- The majority of recorded hate offences are Race Hate crimes and account for 1207 offences, 73.9% in Hertfordshire.
- There has been an increase in Hate Crime referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service, in the year 2020/21 when compared with 2019/20.
- 12% of offences had a criminal justice (CJ) outcome applied across the reporting period.

It should be noted that variations in reported data may reflect a number of events that are taking place in the community. For example, an increase in Hate Crimes and Incidents may in fact be due to:

- Increased public awareness.
- Increase in training around Hate Crime and Hate Incidents for professionals.
- Improved public confidence in reporting Hate Crimes and Incidents
- Local, National and International events – including but not limited to, European Union Referendum, terror attacks and the Black Lives Matter movement.

# What are we going to do?

In Hertfordshire, we will work together to achieve the following priority objectives, which will apply to both Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents.

- **People are aware of what a Hate Crime is.**
- **People have the confidence to report Hate Crime.**
- **People can choose how and where they report Hate Crime.**
- **People receive the right support when reporting Hate Crime.**
- **Hate Crime will be taken seriously and treated sensitively.**

# How will we make this happen?

Accountability at the highest level in Hertfordshire lies with the Community Safety Board. The delivery of the objectives will be the responsibility of designated working groups accountable to the Hate Crime Partnership Board, which reports to the Community Safety Board.

The Hate Crime Partnership Board has representatives from Hertfordshire Equality Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Police, Crown Prosecution Service, The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Beacon and other victim services.

Working groups will be used to deliver the actions on all five strands within the action plan and ensure engagement with affected communities and community groups.

All priority objectives should be considered long term across the whole of Hertfordshire.

# Our Vision and Objectives

Objectives	How will we measure the success
<b>1. People are aware of what a Hate Crime is.</b>	Number of awareness campaigns delivered.
<b>2. People have the confidence to report Hate Crime.</b>	Recorded Hate Crime data
<b>3. People can choose how and where they report Hate Crime.</b>	Numbers of reports of Hate Crime via a third party.
<b>4. People receive the right support when reporting Hate Crime.</b>	Numbers of referrals for support
<b>5. Hate Crime will be taken seriously and treated sensitively.</b>	Numbers of convictions for Hate Crime (CPS data)

If you require help with accessing this strategy in a different format (including Easy Read and alternative languages) please visit: <https://www.hertsagainsthate.org/herts-against-hate.aspx>