

PAN-LANCASHIRE HATE CRIME STRATEGY

2022 - 2025



FOREWORD

Lancashire has a diverse landscape and a rich history of being home to many diverse communities. It has continued to evolve over the years with new and emerging communities moving here to build new lives. Lancashire shares a strong sense of community value and pride, and this is something we strive to protect. Engaging with our communities and listening to their views and values plays a fundamental role in building trust and legitimacy which is a key priority for all the public authorities in Lancashire.

This strategy sets the tone and direction for a range of public bodies and organisations across Lancashire to collectively address hate crime in all its forms, by educating, promoting, and implementing hate crime legislation through a cohesive partnership approach. The strategy seeks to put victims at the heart of everything we do. Hate crime has a devastating impact on them and their families. It also has the power and potential to divide even the strongest communities. Our aim is to stop hate crime in Lancashire.

We will invite our communities to help us understand how we can build relationships and keep them safe, by having pro-active, honest, and open conversations to better understand their needs. Through working together with these communities, local businesses, and partners, we will ensure Lancashire continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

Everyone should be able to live in our county without fear of being targeted for who they are. It is our aim to ensure that everybody feels safe to be who they are without persecution, judgement, or fear.

This strategy, building on our previous work, will continue to ensure we raise the awareness, knowledge and understanding of hate crime, meet the needs of victims, and fulfil the expectations of our communities. We will listen to victims, offer the right level of support to meet their needs, use restorative approaches appropriately and take robust action to prosecute perpetrators.

The Strategic Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Group was established by Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council to offer governance, collaboration, and lead on the implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy. This group consists of partners from across the county including, Police, local authorities, Lancashire Victim Services and other key stakeholders. This group is our strategic partnership approach to addressing and responding to hate crime across the county.

Addressing Hate Crime in all its forms is key to a safe cohesive and confident society for everyone.



Chris Rowley
Chief Constable
Lancashire Constabulary



Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive
& Director of Resources
Lancashire County Council

INTRODUCTION

Lancashire has a history of diversity, culture, and geography with a population of 1.49m people, covering an area of 1,187 square miles, comprising of industrial towns, popular tourist destinations and scenic rural locations. The county attracts 68m visitors annually with over 59,500 students attending our universities.

This strategy aims to create an environment where difference is celebrated, where communities feel a sense of belonging and where we build a strong alliance to robustly deal with the attitudes and beliefs that lead to the harmful consequences of hate crime. The UK has one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to deal with hate crimes.

This strategy complements legislation by continuously working hard to ensure we build strong communities who have confidence to come forward; where victims are supported; where offenders are brought to justice; and where our communities can continue to live and work safely and harmoniously together.



WHAT IS HATE CRIME?

Hate Crime - Any crime can be prosecuted as a hate crime if the offender has either: demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity; or been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Hate Incident - Any incident where a crime has not been committed, but where it is perceived by the reporting person or any other person that the incident was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on: a person's race or perceived race, any racial group or ethnic background including countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups, a person's religion or perceived religion, any religious group including those who have no faith in a theology, a person's sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, any person's sexual orientation, a person's disability or perceived disability, any disability including physical disability, learning disability and mental health or developmental disorders, a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender, including people who are transsexual, transgender, cross dressers and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but it is equally important that these are reported and recorded by the police.

Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a police officer thought that the incident was hate related.

Crimes based on hostility due to age, gender, or appearance, for example, can also be hate crimes, although they are not part of the five centrally monitored strands.

While hostility can sometimes be defended as being fair debate, police officers will consider the context of the incident, the words or behaviour used, and whether it could reasonably be considered as motivated by hostility to ensure that vulnerable people are kept safe from abuse and harm.

The police, partners or key stakeholders may also consider on an individual basis whether an incident may be dealt with in a way that is less intrusive and may consider signposting to alternative areas of support.

The Hate Crime Strategy links with the wider partnership within Lancashire and brings together representatives from Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Council, Crown Prosecution Services including Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector to set the strategic direction and coordinate a partnership response to address hate crime within the region. The Hate Crime Strategy is managed and implemented by the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group underpinned by a comprehensive delivery plan.

Our Approach

Lancashire benefits from a strong multi-agency commitment to tackling and preventing hate crime in all its forms. Across all the partners there is a real sense of energy and commitment to ensuring victims are protected and that perpetrators are brought to justice and encouraged to address their offending behaviour.

The Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group brings together a range of partners from public and voluntary sectors. These include:

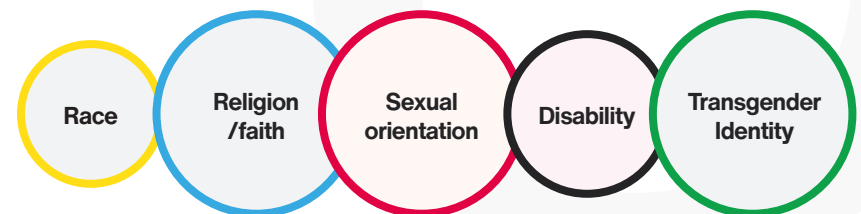
- Lancashire County Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Blackpool Council
- all District and Unitary Councils in Lancashire
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Crown Prosecution Service
- educational institutions
- key public sector organisations
- and voluntary stakeholders across Lancashire

The governance of the group is set within the framework of existing local Crime and Disorder partnerships across the county.

The UK Government has identified a plan for tackling hate crime called 'Action Against Hate'. This was launched in July 2016 and outlined the key priorities in addressing hate crime. The strategy objectives are aligned with the key national objectives:

- > Preventing hate crime
- > Responding to hate in our communities
- > Increasing the reporting of hate crime
- > Improving support for the victims of hate crime
- > Building our understanding of hate crime

This strategy is inclusive of all strands of hate crime encompassed and defined by the legislative framework. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:





THE CONTEXT

The county's key priority areas were shared with the groups representing the protected characteristics (as identified by the Equality Act 2010) of hate crime as part of the consultation undertaken on 9th December 2021. The groups identified key areas of concern they felt needed to be addressed. Stakeholders also identified areas they felt we needed to stay focused on and have played a significant role in the creation of the strategy.

Our Aim

The Hate Crime Strategy 2022 - 2025 has been produced by Lancashire Constabulary and all the local authority councils in Lancashire. The aim of the strategy is to collectively address Lancashire's approach to tackling hate crime in the county.

The purpose of this strategy is to outline the county's hate crime priorities underpinned by a comprehensive delivery plan that has been agreed by key stakeholders and aligned to the following key objectives:



> **Reduction: Preventing hate crime**

We will prevent hate crime by addressing and raising awareness of the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate. We recognise the importance of preventing hate crime and are committed to challenging those attitudes that can lead to discrimination and divisions within our society. Our education system also plays a key role in the prevention of hate crime, and we will continue our commitment to assist and support this work through our education systems.

> **Response: Responding to hate in our communities**

We aim to reduce the number of hate crime incidents, improve detection rates, continue to improve on restorative justice and positive outcomes for victims. We will focus on several settings that have emerged as high-risk environments for hate crime, including public transport, the night-time economy, educational institutions, key occupations, and the internet.

> **Reporting: Increasing the reporting of hate crime**

We will continue to work to make it easier for those affected to report incidents of hate crime including the refresh of third-party reporting centres. To give victims the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously, partners will work together with the police and Crown Prosecution Service to demonstrate success through case studies highlighting successful prosecutions.

> **Reassurance: Improving support for the victims of hate crime**

Research has shown that crimes where hate is the motivation or contributing factor can cause victims greater distress than crimes that do not have a hate element/motivation behind them. We will work with Lancashire Victim Services and other third-party community, faith, and voluntary organisations to ensure victims are provided with timely, appropriate, and effective support, including restorative solutions.

> **Research: Building our understanding of hate crime**

To tackle hate crime, we need to understand the scale and nature of the problem. We will improve our data on hate crime and work with the police, our local authorities, partner organisations and others to improve our analysis and understanding of the drivers of hate crime. This will be through surveys and engagement to analyse community confidence in the systems and processes used to address hate crime.

Hate Crime/Hate Incident Impact

> **Hate crime impacts on all the following areas:**

- **Community Cohesion (local, national, International)**
- **Community Tension (incident/perception/defusing)**
- **Extremism and Terrorism (on-line/radicalisation/act)**
- **Health (victim impact)**
- **Safeguarding (staff)**

> We would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for supporting the development of our Pan-Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2022-2025 and their continued support in addressing and responding to hate crime in Lancashire

- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Blackpool Council
- Burnley Borough Council
- Chorley Council
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Disability Equality North West
- Disability Hate Crime Network
- Fylde Borough Council
- Hyndburn Borough Council
- Lancashire Adult Safeguarding Board
- Lancashire BME Network
- Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Board
- Lancashire Council of Mosques
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire Forum of Faiths
- Lancashire LGBT
- Lancaster City Council
- Lancashire Victim Services
- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Pendle Borough Council
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Preston City Council
- Preston & Western Lancashire REDC
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Rossendale Borough Council
- South Ribble Borough Council
- West Lancashire Borough Council
- Wyre Council

> Educational Institutes

- Blackburn College
- Blackpool & Fylde College
- Blackpool Sixth Form College
- Burnley College
- Cardinal Newman College
- Edge Hill University
- Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Lancaster University
- Myerscough College
- Nelson & Colne College
- Preston College
- Runshaw College
- University of Central Lancashire
- West Lancashire College



Lancashire
County
Council 

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