

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 17 October 2022

#### Title: North Tyneside Hate Crime Policy Statement

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<b>Portfolio(s):</b>	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>
Inclusion, Employment and Skills	Cllr Hannah Johnson
Community Safety and Public Protection	Cllr Carole Burdis
Finance and Resources	Cllr Martin Rankin

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**Report from Service Area:**

**Corporate Strategy and Customer Service**

**Responsible Officer:**

**Jacqueline Laughton  
Assistant Chief Executive**

**(Tel: (0191) 643  
5724)**

**Wards affected:**

**All Wards**

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## **PART 1**

### **1.1 Executive Summary**

As part of the Authority's ongoing programme of work in relation to reducing inequality, eliminating discrimination and promoting inclusion, the Authority has produced a Hate Crime Policy Statement ("the Policy Statement") which Cabinet is being asked to approve.

As well as the Policy Statement, this report also provides information in relation to both hate crime and hate incidents. It highlights the prevalence of hate crime in North Tyneside and the impact this has, both on those who experience it and on the wider community. It also explains how the Policy Statement will contribute to the delivery of the Authority's Equality and Diversity Policy and through work with partners in the Safer North Tyneside Partnership.

### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet

(a) approves the Hate Crime Policy Statement contained at Appendix 1 of the report

(b) authorises the Assistant Chief Executive to periodically review the Hate Crime Policy Statement and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Employment and Skills the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Director of Public Health and

Director of Resources to make amendments to the Policy Statement as considered appropriate.

### **1.3 Forward Plan:**

Twenty-eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report relates to several priorities in the 2021-25 Our North Tyneside Plan regarding both a secure North Tyneside and a caring North Tyneside.

The policy statement supports the commitments made by the Authority in its Equality and Diversity Policy, the latest version of which was approved by Cabinet in February 2021.

The Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024 includes a priority to co-ordinate and support work to safeguard people in the community, including around hate crime.

### **1.5 Information**

#### **1.5.1 Hate Crime and Hate Incident Context**

A hate crime is any criminal offence perceived by the victim or someone else to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's protected characteristic of

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

Additionally, whilst not recognised nationally, Northumbria Police also records crimes based on gender or age as hate crimes.

A hate incident is any incident that is perceived by the victim or someone else to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on one of the above perceived characteristics, but which may not constitute a criminal offence or result in a conviction.

Reports of hate crimes have been increasing year on year, both locally and nationally. In North Tyneside there has been a significant increase in the number of reported hate crimes between 2015/2016 and 2021/2022. The increase is partially due to an increased awareness of the need to report hate crimes and improvements in reporting practices. The rates of hate incidents are much harder to accurately record but these have also been on the increase.

In 2021, North Tyneside had 404 reported hate crimes. In North Tyneside, the most reported hate crimes are race related.

### 1.5.2 The Impact of Hate Crime and Incidents

Anyone can be a victim of a hate crime or hate incident and the consequences can be severe. Each individual's response to a hate crime or incident can be different but they may feel humiliated, embarrassed, angry or no longer safe in their home or area. Hate crimes and incidents do not just impact on the victim. The victim's family and friends can also be negatively impacted by the crime or incident. Those who have not directly experienced the crime or incident can also experience fear and trauma. Communities who share the protected characteristic of the victim can feel the impact on a member of their community, even when there is not direct connection with the victim.

Whilst an individual crime or incident can be traumatic, the risks of severe distress and long-term effects are increased with repeated incidents. The after effects of hate crime and incidents can lead to permanent damage, creating a climate of fear, preventing people from living normal lives and may sometimes lead to death.

### 1.5.3 Commitment to Equality and Diversity in Relation to Hate Crime

The Authority's Equality and Diversity Policy makes clear the Authority's commitment to stand against discrimination, victimisation, and harassment. The Policy Statement on hate crime set out in Appendix 1 of this report contributes to the delivery of the Authority's equality objectives as approved by Cabinet in February 2021.

Through its Embedding Equality programme, the Authority has ensured that, internally, there is a clear focus on promoting equality and inclusion and eliminating all forms of discrimination. The Policy Statement is part of this programme.

In 2021, the Authority took part in Hate Crime Awareness Week, signposting what support and resources were available to people. Building on this work the Authority will take part in Hate Crime Awareness Week again this year.

Externally, tackling hate crime is a priority of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership of which the Authority is a statutory partner and key member.

### 1.5.4 Working with Communities and Partners

Externally, the Authority works in partnership with others on matters in relation to equality and diversity including through the Safer North Tyneside Partnership which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection (regarding crime and anti-social behaviour related matters including hate crime) and the Community Tension Monitoring Group.

Since 2020, the Authority has been working with its Ethnic Diversity Community Taskforce which is chaired by the Elected Mayor. The Taskforce has identified hate crime as one of its key priorities for action.

## 1.6 **Next Steps**

Subject to approval by Cabinet, the Hate Crime Policy Statement at Appendix 1 of the report will be published and implemented. The Policy Statement will be kept under review and amended if necessary following consultation with Cabinet Members. Internally, the

Policy Statement will be reflected in the development of a Dignity and Respect at Work Policy and associated procedure. The Policy Statement will also inform the future work of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership.

## **1.7 Decision options**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Cabinet approves the Hate Crime Policy Statement and the authorisation set out in paragraph 1.2(b).

### Option 2

Cabinet does not approve the Hate Crime Policy Statement.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.8 Reasons for recommended option**

This would provide a clear way forward for a refreshed approach to tackling hate crime both within the Authority and externally in partnership with others.

## **1.9 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Council Draft Hate Crime Policy Statement

## **1.10 Contact officers:**

Jackie Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive, (0191) 643 5724

Anne Foreman, Policy and Performance Manager, Corporate Strategy, 0191 643 2225

Jessica Madden, Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy, 0191 643 1597

David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Finance Team, 0191 643 7027

## **1.11 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

(1) Equality and Diversity Policy- <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Policy%20-%20January%202021.pdf>

(2) Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025  
<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1241/our-north-tyneside-plan>

(3) EIA North Tyneside Hate Crime Policy Statement  
<https://democracy.northtyneside.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?ID=307&RPID=1254189>

- (4) Hate Crime Statistics <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/about-us/publications-and-documents/accessing-information/disclosure-log/crime-statistics/hate-crime-statistics-54222/>
- (5) Crown Prosecution Service Notes on Hate Crime <https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/hate-crime>
- (6) Safer North Tyneside Strategy <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/SNT%20Strategy%2019-24%20FINAL.pdf>

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications directly arising from the report.

### **2.2 Legal**

The adoption of a Hate Crime Policy Statement enables the Authority to comply with its duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely exercising its functions with a view to doing all that it can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in the Borough. As referred to in the report, the Policy Statement also assists in protecting those with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

The adoption of a Hate Crime Policy Statement is a matter for Cabinet.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

Engagement has taken place with Cabinet Members and colleagues across the Authority including through its Corporate Equality Group and its four Staff Networks, representing staff from a number of protected groups. Further consultation will be taken forward as the policy statement is reflected in relevant Human Resource policies and procedures.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation**

Engagement has taken place with the Ethnic Diversity Community Taskforce with further engagement planned as part of the Authority's commitment to keep the Policy Statement under review. If Cabinet approves the Policy Statement, the Authority's Safer North Tyneside representative will work with partners and use it to help shape the future work plan of the Partnership.

### **2.4 Human rights**

The creation and consultation on a Hate Crime Policy Statement supports the following human rights

- freedom of thought, conscience, and religion
- freedom of expression

- prohibition of discrimination
- protection of property

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

As set out in section 1.4 of this report, the Hate Crime Policy Statement will assist the Authority in meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to “eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment” and supports the commitments made in the Authority’s Equality and Diversity Policy.

## 2.6 Risk management

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

The Hate Crime Policy Statement will reinforce the Authority’s commitment to stand against discrimination, victimisation and harassment and therefore prevent crime and disorder. Also, it will help shape the future work of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership in delivering its stated priority to tackle the issue.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive  X
- Director(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Assistant Chief Executive  X