

Fact Sheet No 11 Hate Crime – what it is and how to report it

Summary of Topic

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic. A Hate Incident is the same, the difference being that it is judged to be non-criminal in nature. However, although there is a difference in law, there may not be any difference in the effect on the victim or their family.

Nationally, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service record hate crimes and hate incidents that have been, or are perceived to have been, motivated by hostility or prejudice due to a person's:

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

- or a combination of the above. Greater Manchester Police, along with twelve other police forces, also records an additional hate motivation of:

- Alternative sub-culture

We are all expected to contribute to 3 key actions that have been formulated based on Government Guidance:

Preventing Hate Crime – challenging attitudes/early intervention

Increasing reporting and access to support – building victim confidence and staff awareness

Improving the response to hate crime – case management/dealing effectively with offenders

Who does it affect and what are the signs and symptoms?

Who might be the victim of a hate incident or hate crime? – Anyone can be a victim of a hate incident or hate crime and the impact on victims can have far reaching and devastating effects. The Police and the Crown Prosecution Service treat hate crime as a very high priority and see it as extremely important that all reports of hate crime are dealt with consistently, investigated thoroughly and that wherever possible, reparation is made via restorative justice or offenders are prosecuted.

Perception of the victim or any other person is the defining factor in determining a hate incident or crime. An apparent lack of evidence for the perpetrator's motivation for an incident is not relevant as it is the perception of the victim, or any other person, that counts. A person reasonably acting on behalf of the victim can make a third party report.

Victims who have a mental health issue or learning difficulties – Perception of third parties is particularly important when a hate crime or incident is directed at a person with a mental health issue or learning difficulty. On occasions people who have mental health/learning difficulties may not realise that they have been subject to a hate incident or crime. This is often called 'Mate Crime'.

For example, from the victim's perspective this might be

- "My mate borrows my mobile and uses up all the credit"
- "My mate comes round every time its benefit day so we can go to the pub and spend it"
- "Family members take my money from me without asking"
- "My mates always come to my flat for a party on a Friday night. I don't mind getting all the food and drink for them".

What do we all need to do?

(e.g. questions to ask, actions to take ...)

In the course of your work, you may interact with individuals who have been the victim of a hate incident or hate crime. Encourage them to report the matter to the appropriate authorities through the methods outlined below in the key contacts section. Your response should always be empathetic in nature.

You may also interact with individuals who have unknowingly been the victim of a hate incident or hate crime. Again, discuss this with them and encourage them to report the matter to the appropriate authorities.

Why should I report a hate incident, hate crime? No minor incident is just a minor incident – escalation is a big issue (often serious incidents start small). People often can be repeat victims, “it happens all the time, it comes with the territory” and perpetrators can be repeat offenders. What appears to be a minor incident could form part of a bigger picture - a piece of a jigsaw.

Anonymous reporting If a victim is adamant that they do not want their details disclosing or any further action taken, then their decision must be respected unless there is a significant risk of harm or a risk to life. However, GMP will still record it for purposes of analysis and to understand the “bigger picture”.

When to phone the police? Is there a risk to someone’s life? Could someone be seriously injured or their property seriously damaged? Has there been an increase in numbers of incidents and or severity? Could forensic evidence be lost? Is there an increase in community tension? This list is by no means exhaustive.

When reporting a hate crime you should:

- remember no incident is too small to report,
- report it as soon as possible,
- write down everything that happened during the incident including time, date and place,
- not touch anything that may be classed as evidence, such as weapons used, etc,
- a friend or family member can also report hate crime on your behalf.

All reports are taken extremely seriously and in the strictest confidence; if you prefer your report can be kept anonymous and you will not be asked for any personal details.

See below for details about how to report.

What support is available in Bury?

(e.g. how to get more information; how to keep up-to-date; what and where to refer)

Information on Hate Crime and how to report it is available on the Greater Manchester Police website. gmp.police.uk/hatecrime

It is also available on [Bury Council’s website](#) and both of them have details of the 3rd Party [Hate Crime Reporting Centres](#) that we currently have in Bury.

You can access information on Hate Crime and how to report on the [Bury Directory](#)

Key contacts

To report a hate crime If in progress or has just occurred, ring the Police emergency number **999**. To report an historic hate crime, ring Police non-emergency number **101** or contact/visit a 3rd Party Hate Crime Reporting Centre. **For online reporting** www.report-it.org.uk

For information - Ndiv.partnership@gmp.police.uk (Partnership Team based at Bury Police Station, tel: 0161 856 8177 PS Carolyn Jones or 0161 856 8087 PC Jane Watson. Community Cohesion Officer, Bury Council (speak to Community Safety Manager 0161 253 5099).

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