

## The Context:

### The National Picture:<sup>1</sup>

In 2016/17 there were 80,393<sup>2</sup> offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales, in which one or more hate crime strands was a motivating factor this is an increase of 29%<sup>3</sup>, compared with 62,518 offences recorded in 2015/16

The number of recorded offences is broken down by the following personal characteristic strands:

- 62,685 (78%) were race hate crimes;
- 9,157 (11%) were sexual orientation hate crimes;
- 5,949 (7%) were religious hate crimes;
- 5,558 (7%) were disability hate crimes; and
- 1,248 (2%) were transgender hate crimes.

There was an increase in all five monitored strand compared with previous year and a continued upward trend in all five strands since 2012/13. The number of police recorded hate crime offences has increased by 90% (n =38,138) between 2012/13 and 2016/17. It is possible for a hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which is why the above numbers sum to more than 80,393 and 100 per cent.

This increase in the number of offences has been attributed to improved compliance by police forces with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which has led to improved crime recording across all offences, greater awareness of hate crime and improved confidence of victims to come forward and report incidents and crimes.

Recorded hate crimes are broken down by the following offence types:

- fifty-six per cent of hate crimes were public order offences<sup>4</sup>
- thirty-three per cent were violence against the person offences,
- six per cent were criminal damage/arson offences
- five per cent were other notifiable offences

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<sup>1</sup> Data in this section has been taken from the Home Offices "Hate crime, England and Wales 2016/17 – statistical bulletin"

<sup>2</sup> According to the Home Office's Hate crime 2016/17 statistical bulletin, published on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

<sup>3</sup> All %'s are rounded up to the nearest whole figure

<sup>4</sup> Includes: public fear, alarm or distress, violent disorder and other offences against the State or public order.

## The Local Picture (Hampshire Policing Area) <sup>5</sup>:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
	1538	1763	2163	5464

Recorded hate crimes have risen by 40% or 625 crimes, over the three year period across the Hampshire Constabulary policing area, as victims have become more confident to report incidents to the police, this includes the volume of repeats which have also increased. The total figures per year are shown above.

The figures below are for the same period broken down by each individual protected characteristic. It is possible for a hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which is why the below figures sum up to more than 5464

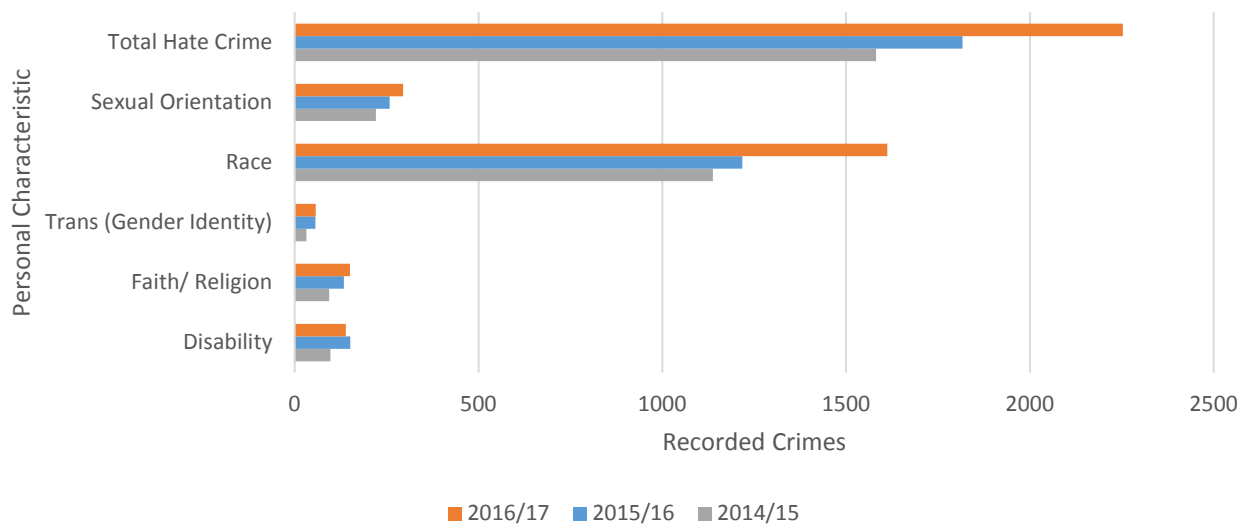
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
<b>Disability</b>	97	151	139	387
<b>Faith/ Religion</b>	94	134	150	378
<b>Trans (Gender Identity)</b>	32	56	57	145
<b>Race</b>	1138	1218	1612	3968
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	221	258	295	774
<b>Total</b>	1582	1817	2253	5652

The three districts with the largest number of recorded hate crimes are Southampton, Portsmouth and Basingstoke, unsurprisingly as these are the three districts with the largest populations within the Hampshire policing area. Each of the five personal characteristic strands has increased as follows:

- 42 (43%) increase in disability hate crime
- 56 (60%) increase in faith / religion hate crime
- 25 (78%) increase in trans (gender identity) hate crime
- 474 (42%) increase in race hate crime
- 74 (33%) increase in sexual orientation hate crime

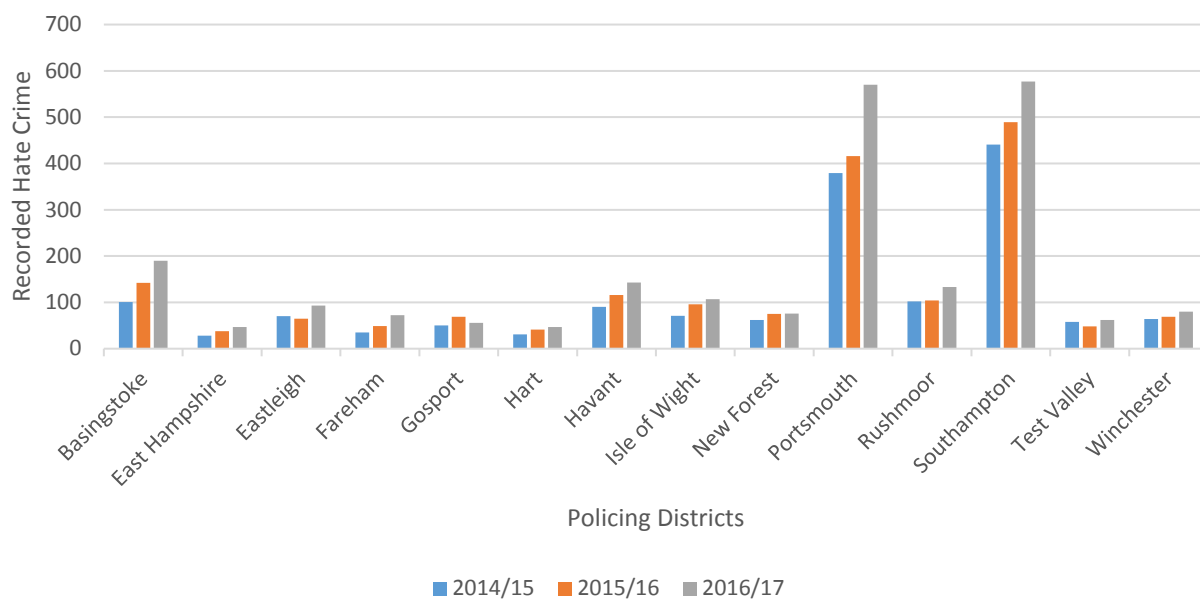
<sup>5</sup> Figures taken from Hampshire Constabulary's Business Objects data base on 14/11/17 & do not include HBV

## Police Recorded Hate Crime in Hampshire between 2014/15 - 2016/17



	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Basingstoke</b>	101	142	190
<b>East Hampshire</b>	28	38	47
<b>Eastleigh</b>	70	65	93
<b>Fareham</b>	35	49	72
<b>Gosport</b>	50	69	56
<b>Hart</b>	31	41	47
<b>Havant</b>	90	116	143
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	71	96	107
<b>New Forest</b>	62	75	76
<b>Portsmouth</b>	379	416	570
<b>Rushmoor</b>	102	104	133
<b>Southampton</b>	441	489	577
<b>Test Valley</b>	58	48	62
<b>Winchester</b>	64	69	80
<b>Total</b>	1582	1816	2253

## Recorded Hate Crime by Hampshire Policing District between 2014/15 - 2016/17



### Our Duty:

#### Equality Act 2010:

The Equality Act 2010, brought together and replaced previous equalities legislation, such as the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), The Race Relations Act 1976 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The Act requires all public bodies to take a proactive approach towards equality and diversity, it creates a new single specific duty, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This replaces all previous race, disability and gender equalities duties and came into effect in April 2011.

#### Public Sector Equality Duty:

The PSED set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act requires public sector organisations **using public funds and delivering on behalf of the public sector** to work towards the following aims and have due regards towards:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The nine protected characteristics are:

- Age

- Disability
- Gender reassignment / Identity
- Marriage and civil partnership (aim 2 only)
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers)
- Religion and belief

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998:**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, places a duty upon each authority (this includes the local policing body), to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

The exact wording of the section is as follows:

*s17 (1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent,*

- *crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and*
- *the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and*
- *re-offending in its are*

### **Hate Crime – Consequences:**

It is widely accepted that Police recorded levels of hate crime are not a true reflection of actual levels of crimes being committed. There are many reasons which prevent victims from coming forward and reporting their experiences of hate crime, such as incidents happen too often to report each one, victims doubt they will be taken seriously or that they have been a victim of a crime, concerns that the police will not be able to do anything, victims fear (e.g. they will be “outed” as being gay)<sup>6</sup> and lack of access to support to help make a report (e.g. interpreters), this is not an exhaustive list.

Hate based crime and incidents are underpinned by underlying negative attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes which exist within individuals and society. These attitudes have to be addressed, challenged and tackled to prevent escalation of behaviours into serious crimes (see diagram<sup>7</sup> on the next page).

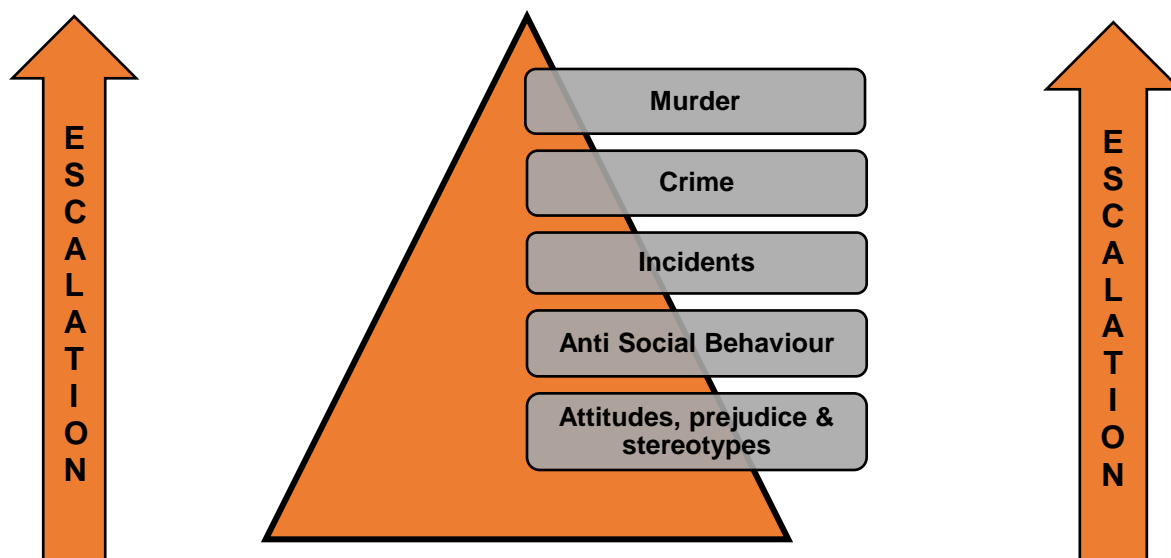
Examples of this include Fiona Pilkington, who committed suicide in October 2007 with her daughter who had learning difficulties following years of torment and abuse from a group of young people who targeted her and her disabled daughter. Despite several calls for help to local authorities nothing was done. Mrs Pilkington and her daughter became virtual prisoners in their home, they slowly became isolated and retreated from society. With no end in sight to this torment, Mrs Pilkington killed herself and her daughter.

<sup>6</sup> Victim Experiences in Hate Crimes Based on Sexual Orientation (2002) – GM Herek, JC Cogan & JR Gillis

<sup>7</sup> Adapted from the levels of prejudice, Gordon Allport, 1954

Bijan Ebrahimi was a disabled vulnerable Iranian refugee who was murdered in July 2013 by his neighbour. Despite repeatedly calling the police and informing them of reported death threats and racial abuse over a seven year period, nothing was done to help protect

Mr Ebrahimi, the police response to his calls for help was poor<sup>8</sup>. Instead of the Police recognising Mr Ebrahimi as a vulnerable repeat victim of abuse *“he was considered to be a liar, a nuisance and an attention seeker”*<sup>9</sup>. With the behaviour of his neighbours unchecked by the police they eventually attacked and murdered Mr Ebrahimi.



**Hate Crime Booklet – Link to be added**

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/poor-responses-over-seven-years-avon-somerset-constabulary-vulnerable-man-who-was-murdered> & <https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/investigations/bijan-ebrahimi-avon-and-somerset>

<sup>9</sup> Quote from IPCC Commissioner Jan Williams – full quote "Instead, his complaints about abusive neighbours were disbelieved and he was considered to be a liar, a nuisance and an attention seeker."  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-40494218>