

Hate Crime Prevention Forum Report

Introduction:

Several events aimed at tackling hate crime were held across the borough of Hounslow as part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week (14th – 21st Oct). Information on how to report hate crime and how to seek support was provided to the public as Hounslow council engaged in joint working practise with the Met police and local community groups from October 16th to October 20th 2017.

The message, “There is no place for Hate Crime in Hounslow” was reinforced through various community events which focused on encouraging people report acts against an individual’s gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race or religion. Events included the LGBT Hate Crime Information Stall, Disability Hate Crime Workshops, Multi Faith Event and Hate Crime Awareness Stalls.

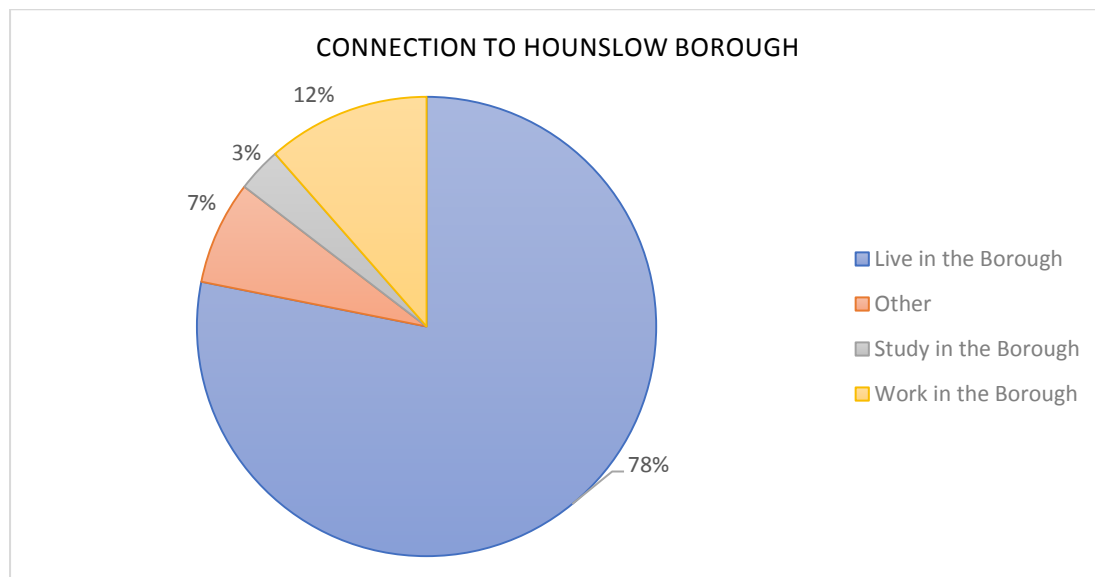
Methodology:

Members of the public were also asked to a complete survey questionnaire around their experiences of hate crime, views on reporting and whether they felt confident to contact services to seek help and support for Hate Crime. Surveys were completed at the Hate Crime Awareness Stalls at the Treaty Centre which took place from 10am- 6pm and at a Drop-in Session at Barclays Bank, Hounslow from 10am-2pm. Over a hundred people were spoken to at the stalls, they were provided with information about Hate Crime, reporting and support services. Of those spoken with 96 completed the Hate Crime questionnaire.

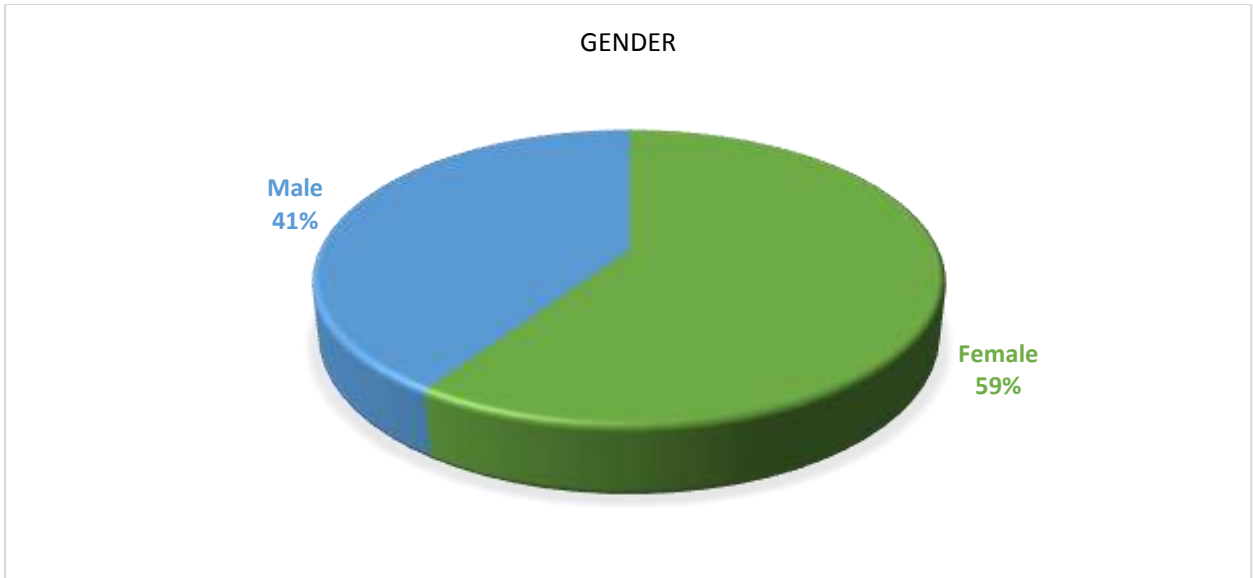
This reports outlines the findings below with a survey analysis around the information gathered from the public.

Results

Results below show the number of community members that are currently residing in the borough.



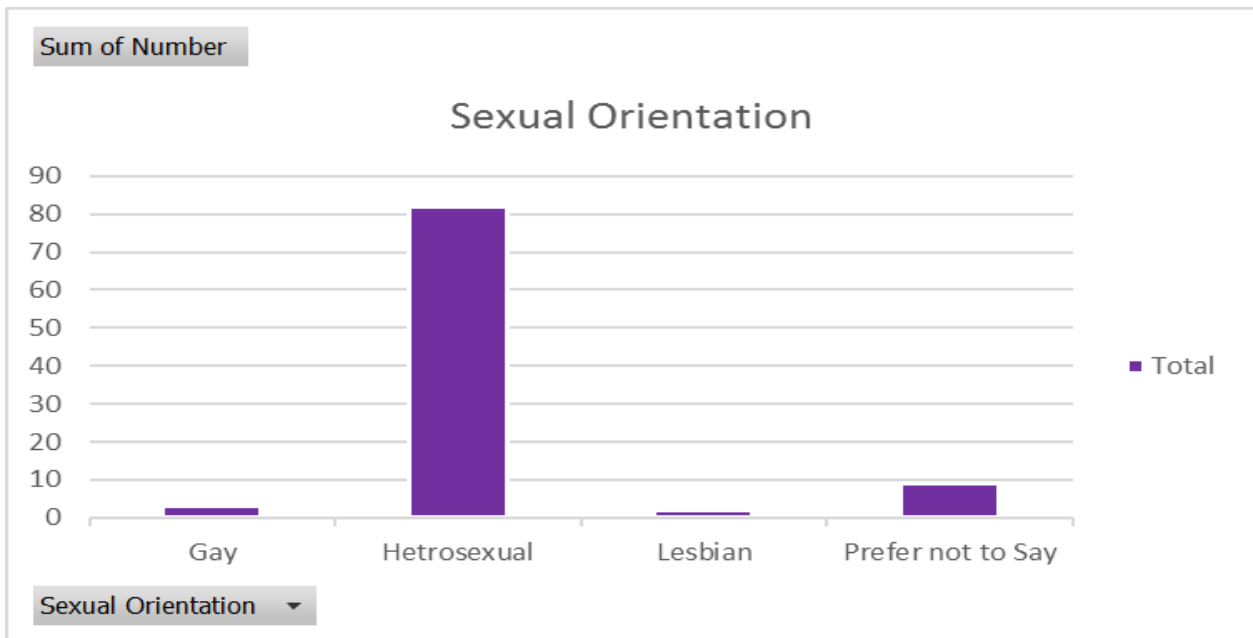
Research collated provides an insight into the number of individuals that further study or work in the borough alongside the “other” which includes respondents having family members living in the borough or having some local connection. Over 70% of community members are currently residing in Hounslow which suggests the locations of the stalls were appropriate to reach Hounslow residents.



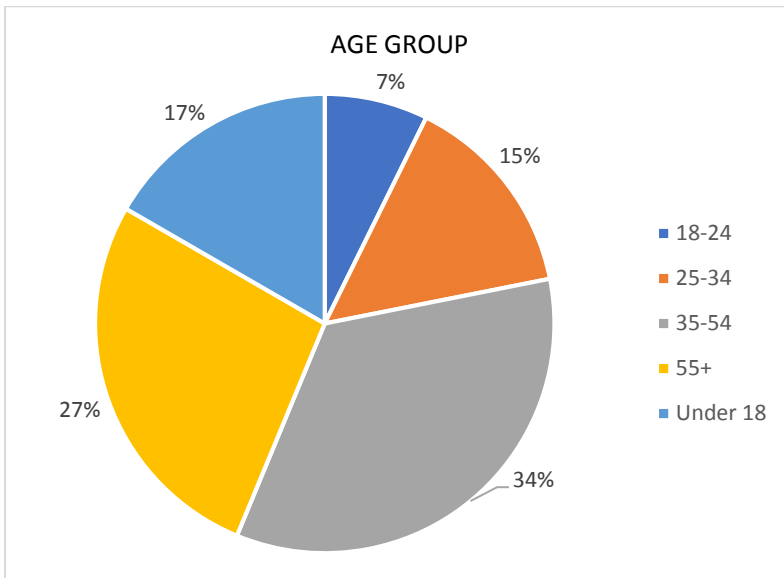
57% of those individuals were identified as females and 39% as males however data collection had been split into the below categories also allowing individuals to identify themselves as:

- Transgender
- Questioning
- Fluid

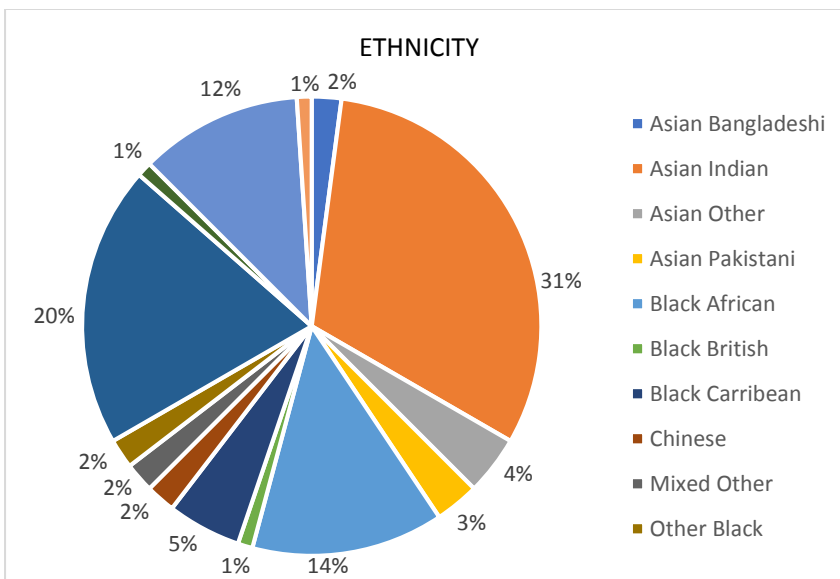
As suggested, results depict 0% for the above three categories. It is known that those who identify as transgender, Questioning or Fluid may face barriers in disclosing their gender identity.



Similarly, Sexual Orientation had also been noted as being a factor of potential hate crime as 9% of community members "preferred not to say" or disclose their sexuality. 3% of respondents identified as Gay, and 2% as Lesbian.

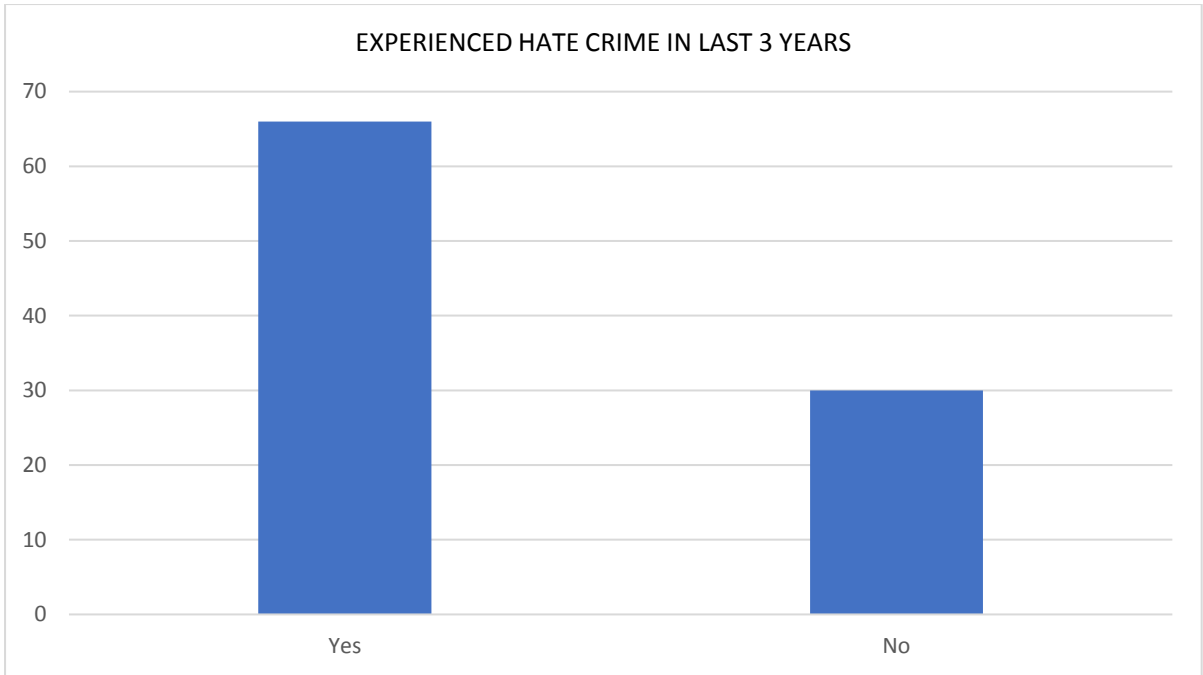


Results also show diversity in the age groups of those completing the questionnaire. The largest age group was those aged 35 -54, which is in line with the 2011 census data which identified that the average age of people living in Hounslow is 35.

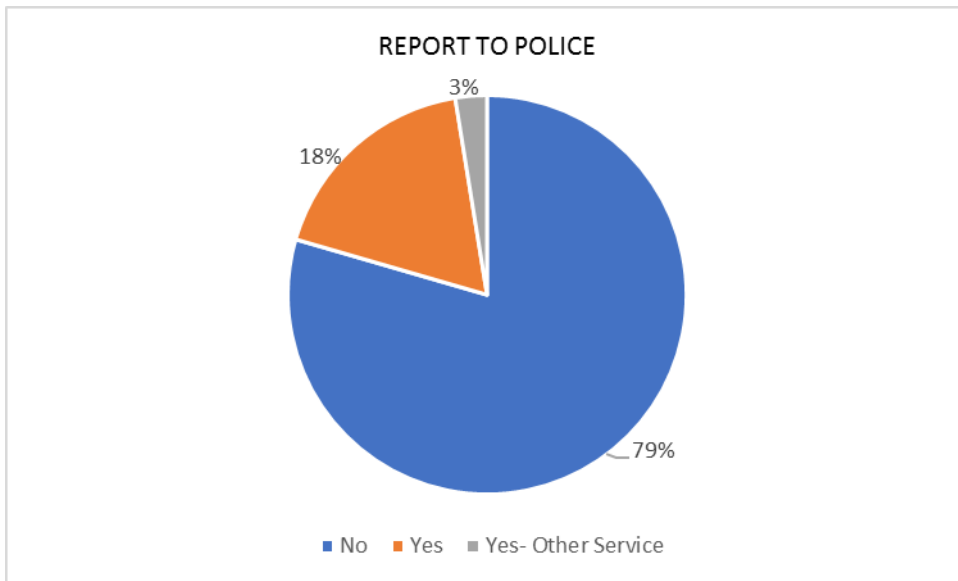


Row Labels	Sum of Number
Asian Bangladeshi	2
Asian Indian	30
Asian Other	4
Asian Pakistani	3
Black African	13
Black British	1
Black Carribean	5
Chinese	2
Mixed Other	2
Other Black	2
White British	19
White Irish	1
White Other	11
White&Asian	1
Grand Total	96

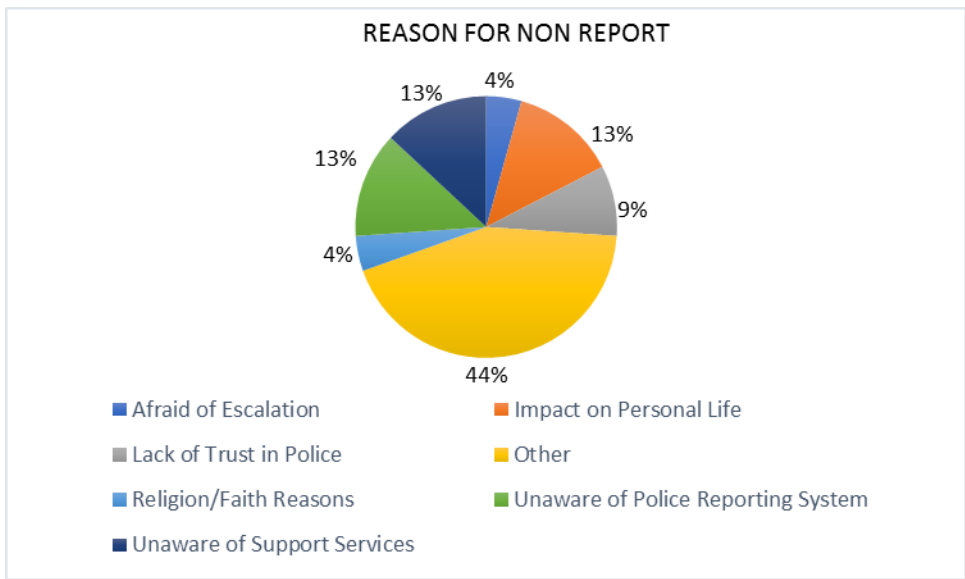
The table above explores the various ethnicities that community members have recorded as their ethnic background. An increased number of 31% of Asian Indians have been recorded to have completed the survey. Individuals who recognised themselves as Black- were also filtered down to Black African, Black Caribbean's and Black British. The questionnaires captured the diversity of Hounslow's ethnic makeup.



66% in comparison to 30% stated that they did experience some form of abuse related to their Sexual Orientation, Disability, Race, Religion and Gender Identity. Disability (2 responses) and Sexual Orientation (1 response) were specifically disclosed as being one of the many factors of hate crime abuse.



Of those who had experienced Hate Crime, 79% of respondents did not report the incidents to the police. 21% of respondents reported the hate crime; 18% reported to the police and 3% to another service.



Impact on personal life; being unaware of support services and police reporting system have been concluded as some of the main reasons why those who experienced hate crime did not report to the police. Of the 44% who stated “other” some reasons provided were that they did not feel they would be believed, they felt the police would be too busy, that it was a “one-off” incident and that they did not wish to relive the abuse.

Of the 96 individuals who completed the questionnaire, 95 people stated that, after receiving information on the stall, they had an increased confidence in seeking support and reporting incidents in future. These stats demonstrate that events such as Hate Crime Awareness Week are significant in building public awareness and confidence in reporting hate crime.

Conclusions

From the data provided the following analytical observations have been made:

- Lack of awareness around reporting and low confidence of the reporting system prohibit individuals from coming forward and sharing their experiences.
- The stalls were significant in raising the profile of hate crime and the important of tackling hate crime as part of community safety.
- Being unaware of support services acted as a barrier to individuals reporting to the police. Awareness campaigns, community engagement and promotional materials about support services, such as LBH Hate Crime Advocate, VCS organisations and details of 3rd Party Reporting Centres, are key in addressing this.
- There is a need to reinforce that support can be provided regardless of whether individuals wish to report to the police. This is currently done at all training and awareness raising sessions conducted by the Hate Crime advocate.
- Regular training and awareness sessions are needed to reiterate the borough’s stance against hate crime and the seriousness with which Hate Crime is dealt, which in turn can help improve community cohesion.
- Strong focus to be placed upon engaging minority groups, such as those from the LGBT community and those with disabilities.

- Alternative reporting methods, such as the Self-Evident app and Third party reporting centres need to be promoted to reduce the impact on reporting on people’s personal lives.

Although the data drew several important conclusions, the questionnaire did not capture monitoring information on those with disabilities. The questionnaire has since been amended to capture this. Whilst the questionnaire does not allow for borough hot-spotting, the lack of identifiable information requested made the questionnaire more accessible as personal identifiable information was not requested.