



Equality Objective 3: Reducing Hate Crime 2014 to 2018

Equality Objective 3 focuses on London Borough of Hounslow’s commitment to reduced Hate Crime in the borough in partnership with the Police and other local organisations.

The evidence base for adopting equality objective 3 is detailed in the table below which details data on Hate Crime during 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Data on Hate Crime				
Incidence of crime by equality groups	Number of incidents in 2011 (Apr – Dec)	Number of incidents for the same period in 2012 (Apr – Dec)	Number of incidents for the same period in 2013 (Apr – Dec)	Analysis/Comments between 2012 and 2013
Race Hate Crime	238	246	247	Same level as previous year
Homophobic Crime	13	15	24 *	60% increase from previous year
Domestic Violence	1536	1528	1690	Increase of 10% from previous year
Faith Hate Crime	17	11	22 *	100% increase from previous year
Disability Hate Crime	6	4	2 *	50% decrease from previous year

* Please note that the large percentage differences are due to changes in low numbers, hence an increase of 11 reports of Faith Hate Crime calculates to be a 100% increase in reports.

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This new table is now adopted to provide more detailed information on Hate Crime. This is based on table produced by the Community Safety Team.

Type of Hate Crime	Number of incidents for the same period in 2014 (Apr – Dec)	Analysis/Comments between 2013 and 2014
Age	1	Not reported previously
Learning Disability	2*	Previously not reported separately *Aggregated disability total: 350% increase. In actual terms the number of incidents are still small but the increase in reporting is reflective of national increase through better data capture.
Physical Disability	4*	Previously not reported separately
Other Disability	2*	Previously not reported separately
Gender	1	Not reported previously
Mental Health Issues	1*	Previously not reported separately
Race	227	8% decrease over previous period
Religion (or Faith)	83	277% increase over previous period. The increase is reflective of the national trend of increasing religion/faith/ belief hate crime and the improved data capture.
Sexual Orientation	23	4% decrease over previous period
Other	5	Not reported previously
Domestic Violence	2170	28% increase over previous period. There has been an increase in the domestic violence statistics over the last 2 years. This may be due to the improved targeting of domestic violence issues by various organisation.

ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE INCIDENCES OF HATE CRIME

HATE CRIME

The Hate Crime Prevention Forum meets regularly to measure the effectiveness of the Hate Crime Prevention Action Plan. Some of the actions carried out include:

- Training professionals to enable them to spot early signs of hate crime.
- Enabling agencies to record referrals of hate crime that are not reported to the Metropolitan Police.

HOUNSLOW HATE CRIME SUPPORT SERVICE

The Hounslow Hate Crime Support Service (HHCSS) is a multi-voluntary sector partnership providing support to victims of all types of hate crime, harassment and discrimination in the borough that is commissioned by the Council. Through a range of specialist support, the HHCSS are able to offer victims support at drop in and appointment service and help with legal issues on civil and criminal remedies, advocacy, housing support, liaison with the Police, and other statutory services which supports those who have been victims of hate crime. HHCSS also works with the wider community to raise awareness of all hate crime, its impact, what communities can do to address hate crime and what support is available. HHCSS is based in the Treaty Centre within Hounslow Town Centre and is available to all residents and communities.

DISABILITY HATE CRIME – KEEP SAFE SCHEME

The Community Safety team have developed and initiated the Safe Place Scheme, in partnership with the Police and the Equality and Human Rights Team. The Hounslow Safe Place is an initiative designed to provide reassurance and support for disabled people in local town centres. The initiative comes in response to evidence that disabled people, especially those with learning difficulties, tend to experience more crime or harassment than the general population.

Local shopkeepers sign-up to the scheme and display a 'Safe Place' sticker in their shop window, to signal to disabled people that they will find support and help inside. Safe Place venues can be shops, libraries, community centres. Staff receive basic awareness training on the scheme, the difficulties that disabled people may experience, and how they can help them, if needed. Registered members of the scheme carry a card with the contact details of two people who can get to them quickly, should they need help. These can be relatives, friends, support workers, carers, etc. In the event of an incident, the disabled victim can go to the Safe Place. The shop staff then help by phoning the person listed on the contact card or the police.

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HOMOPHOBIC CRIME – WEST LONDON GAY MEN’S PROJECT

The West London Gay Men’s Project (WLGMP) was set up in 1997 with funding from Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and works with Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) across West London

- to promote sexual health and increase their knowledge of HIV prevention, thereby reducing the levels of HIV and sexually transmitted infections;
- to reduce levels of undiagnosed HIV infection and encourage testing and screening; and
- to support men in the behaviour change process.

Their services, amongst others, include homophobic and hate crime reporting kiosk machines in local gay venues and acting as a third party reporting agency.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

The Violence Against Women and Girls (“VAWG”) Strategy for 2014-2015 has been agreed and is being implemented and monitored by a VAWG strategic group. As part of this strategy the need to raise awareness amongst professionals throughout the borough was identified as a gap of knowledge to be filled. Ongoing training sessions are delivered looking at issues such as Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual Violence, Prostitution and those trafficked for sex purposes.

The Metropolitan Police in partnership with other agencies have implemented a weekly One Stop Shop (“OSS”) for survivors of Domestic Violence. The OSS is a free and confidential drop in services for survivors of DV to seek advice from a range of multi-agency partners under one roof. The VAWG Strategy is available to view at http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/domestic_violence

MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE (MARAC)

The monthly Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi-agency risk assessment conference for victims of high risk of domestic violence. It facilitates, monitors and evaluates effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase safety.

MARAC aims to:

- reduce repeat victimisation
- share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of survivors – adults and their children
- determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual/individuals or to the general community
- pull together a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm
- improve agency accountability
- improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic violence cases

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMMES

Hounslow's Learning to Respect Domestic Violence Education Programme and Let's Talk programmes continue to be well received in the borough. They both use evidence based models, which have been recognised by AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) and rolled out across London.

The Learning to Respect Programme is a domestic violence prevention programme for Hounslow schools and other settings. The programme co-ordinator is located within the Early Intervention Service and works in partnership with a number of other statutory and voluntary agencies in the borough to provide training for teachers and other adults working with young people. The aim of the programme is to educate young people about safe, healthy relationships and to help them identify abusive behaviour in a relationship.

The Let's Talk Programme offers 12 weeks structured therapeutic group programme for children affected by domestic violence, with a parallel programme for mothers. The aims of the project are to provide:

- Children's groups to help children to process their experiences and begin the healing process.
- Mothers' groups to support women to understand how to help and communicate with their children.

HOUNSLOW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH SERVICE (HDVOS)

Hounslow Domestic Violence Outreach Service (HDVOS) has been based at Chiswick Police Station since October 2011 and employs 2 IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) and a Parent Support Worker.

Referrals to the service continue to increase year on year as have calls from other professionals seeking support and advice on domestic violence matters. The service now includes telephone support for those that do not require a face to face appointment. This includes a full risk assessment enabling the IDVAs to respond appropriately to the need of the victim thereby increasing immediate safety and improved long term support planning. High risk victims are always given face to face appointments.

FAITH HATE CRIME – COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS UNIT (CPU) provision

The CPU has been working with residents and third sector / voluntary organisations to address elements of Faith Hate Crime in Hounslow.

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We worked in partnership with the Met Police (Faith and Prevent Officers) and Hounslow Friends of Faith to deliver five days of unprecedented access to five places of worship in the Borough enabling attendees to meet their neighbours and see what goes on in places of worship. We also signposted attendees (500+) to stalls offering information and advice on health, housing, welfare benefits, caring, education classes, dealing with hate crime and more. The aims of the events also enabled us to deliver on the outcomes of the **Faith in the Community – Clearing the Ground** report about the freedom of Christians in the UK. The reports ultimate conclusion was that

- Local authorities work well with faith groups in many parts of the country but there are many opportunities for greater involvement. There remain barriers to overcome and work through, and benefits that are yet to be fully realised.
- It is our hope that by working together and through stronger relationships, faith communities can contribute to the flourishing of neighbourhoods across the UK.
- As financial pressures continue to re-shape the priorities for delivery and provision of local services, this report represents a contribution to enhancing the relationships between local authorities and faith groups. We acknowledge that this is the beginning of a larger cultural shift and that it will require time and effort from both local authorities and faith communities to learn about each other and work together for the benefit of all.

Hounslow Council continues to prioritise the removal of hate crime and offensive graffiti in the borough. We continue to work in partnership with the police, Housing Associations and other local organisations in tackling hate crime, including Religious/ faith hate crime.

Hounslow Police participated in an MPS Community Engagement exercise with partners in April 2015 as part of our Listening campaign. The theme was hate crime. As part of the initiative, surgeries were established at key religious sites across the borough.

We established and maintain access to a raft of social media sites with local focus which allows us to monitor activities that might lead to faith hate crimes being perpetrated locally and we work to halt them before they are acted upon. Hounslow Police have disseminated hate crime questionnaires via Twitter and the Neighbourhood Link system to community contacts. In the region of 1,000 questionnaires were completed. The objective is to gain more insight and understanding on the scale of the problem to inform the police and partnership response.

Hounslow Council continues to work to the Government's agenda of tackling all forms of extremism. This includes work on the nature and extent of extremism related activity.