



## **Scrutiny Report**

**Crime and Disorder Committee**

**Work Plan Study on Hate Crime**

**August 2017**

**– July 2018**

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**Background Information – web links:**

[\*\*Appendix A – Scoping Document\*\*](#)

**Appendix B – Notes of Interviews with the following external partners / organisations:**

[\*\*BME forum – 4.12.17\*\*](#)

[\*\*Lancashire Victim Services – overview\*\*](#)

[\*\*Lancashire Victim Services – interview 12.2.18\*\*](#)

[\*\*Appendix C – Notes of Interview with Cabinet Members 17.7.18\*\*](#)

## Foreword by the Chair, Councillor Jonathan Saksena

I am very pleased to be able to present this report to Cabinet. Hate Crime is a particularly vicious phenomenon - as the statistics show - and as a result the Committee has interviewed a great deal more people than usual.

A lot of work has gone into its production and I would like to thank all who have been involved. I would particularly like to thank Zafar Coupland, who was Vice-Chair of the Committee for most of the time during the work study, and whose idea it was in the first place.

I would also like to mention that one of the interviewees, who has done tremendous work in Lancashire Constabulary regarding hate crime, has now retired and I would like to wish him a very happy retirement.



**Councillor Saksena**

**Chair**

**This study was undertaken by the following Committee members:-  
(August 2017 – May 2018)**

Councillor Saksena (Chair)	Councillor Mrs Gildert
Councillor Coupland (Vice Chair)	Councillor Hammond
Councillor Mrs Brown	Councillor Hull
Councillor Corker	Councillor Mrs McManus
Councillor Gale	Councillor Patel
Councillor Dewhurst	Councillor Pomfret

**May 2018** – Councillors Coupland, Hammond, and Mrs McManus retired from the Council

At Annual Council 16 May 2018, a new Committee membership was appointed as follows:

Cllr Saksena (Chair)	Cllr Greenhalgh
Cllr Patel (Vice Chair)	Cllr Hindle
Cllr Bailey	Cllr Jolliffe
Cllr Corker	Cllr Pomfret
Cllr Gale	Cllr Potter
Cllr Mrs Gildert	Cllr Sedgewick

## Recommendations to Cabinet:

1. That Cabinet notes the definition of hate crime described in paragraph 4.1 of the report (“Defining Hate Crime”) and ensures that the Council as a whole is aware of it and promotes that awareness through its services to the public and in partnership with other organisations;
2. That, further to the above, hate incidents be included within the Council’s definition and approach to tackling hate crime;
3. That Cabinet notes the limitations of the legal definition of hate crime in terms of the current protected characteristics, and supports the Committee’s position that the definition be wider and more inclusive to incorporate anyone who may be targeted on the basis of difference (e.g. dressing as/belonging to the goth sub culture as in the murder of Sophie Lancaster). This could be the subject of a Council Notice of Motion;
4. That Cabinet re-explore the possibility of the town hall being a third party reporting centre, offering a point of contact for support for victims of hate crime or hate incidents and for passing information to the police. This should be in liaison with the police to ensure the Council complements and supports their service;
5. That signposting on the Council’s website with regard to hate crime and hate incidents be improved;
6. That training be provided for all Preston City Councillors and staff on hate crime (The Sophie Lancaster Foundation may be able to assist);
7. That Preston City Council promotes awareness of how to report hate crime and hate incidents -
  - i) through its digital communication channels e.g. social media,
  - ii) by approaching places of worship, community centres and other third sector partners as potential contact points and
  - iii) by promoting local ward councillors as a point of contact and nominating a “hate crime champion”.

N.B. With regard to Recommendation 4, the Community Safety Manager indicated that she was aware of educational project concerning Romany/Traveller communities and promoting hate crime awareness in schools. She said that she would report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as part of its’ monitoring of actions arising from work plan studies.

## **1. Introduction**

Members of the Crime and Disorder Committee began their work plan study on Hate Crime in August 2017.

The Lead Officer was Alison Hatton, Community Safety Manager assisted by an officer in Member Services.

## **2. Scoping of the Topic**

On 8 August 2017 the Crime and Disorder Committee first received a draft of the Scoping document for the work plan study. The final version can be found at Appendix A of this report.

The aims of the review were to identify:

- Why are hate crimes committed?
- An inclusive definition of Hate Crime
- The social / cultural issues leading to hate crime
- Awareness and prevention

### **Possible Outcomes**

The possible outcomes of the review were identified as follows:

- greater understanding of why hate crimes are committed;
- greater understanding of the effects and consequences of hate crimes for individuals and communities;
- increased availability and access to effective support for people affected by hate crime;
- increased awareness of what constitutes hate crime leading to increased reporting;
- more effective intervention to deter hate crime offences;
- recommendations for additional local measures which the Council, working with partner organisations, could introduce to reduce the harm arising from hate crime

### **Added Value of Scrutiny?**

This work plan study enables Members to discuss the issue with stakeholders, including community representatives, and in doing so the Committee may consider the implications arising for community safety from Hate Crime.

### **Information Required**

To undertake the review, the Committee has linked the subject to the Council's Corporate Priorities – i.e. Your City, Your Council, and Fairness for You.

The Committee identified the following additional information:-

- The Preston Community Safety Partnership Plan;
- Findings of local analysis, research studies and guidance.
- Accounts from local organisations and community representatives.
- Accounts from local victims of hate crime.

A number of individuals and organisations both internal and external, were invited to participate in the study to enable the Committee Members to make valid recommendations. Details of witnesses interviewed, and details of those interviews can be found in Section 3 of this report.

The Committee agreed to use a variety of methods to undertake the study, including face to face interviews, analysis of data and information and guidance from a range of Government, Lancashire Constabulary and other reliable sources.

### **Diversity**

The scope of the review would take into account the extent to which Hate Crime impacts upon families and individuals in the community and these could differ according to age, gender, ethnicity and disability. The draft recommendations would have an equality impact assessment.

### 3. Evidence Submitted

- 13.6.17 Draft scoping document submitted to the Committee  
Presentation by the Community Safety Manager and Equality and Diversity Officer giving background information on the work plan study topic
- 8.8.17 Revised scoping document submitted and approved  
INTERVIEW: Melanie Close, Chief Executive at Disability Equality North West and a representative from the Disability Hate Crime Project Preston (Developing from the Negatives)
- 3.10.17 INTERVIEW: Chief Inspector, Lancashire Constabulary
- 21.11.17 INTERVIEW: Representative from South Division Preston Police, (also accompanied by the Chief Inspector who attended on 3.10.18)  
KEY DOCUMENT: [The Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017 to 2020 and Annual Delivery Plan 2017 to 2018](#)
- 4.12.17 SUB GROUP INTERVIEW: BME Forum  
See Appendix B
- 23.1.18 INTERVIEW: Ali Amla, Tell MAMA
- 12.2.18 SUB GROUP INTERVIEW: Lancashire Victim Services  
See Appendix B
- 20.3.18 [Report by the Chair – Disability Hate Crime Conference 15 February 2018 – Plungington Youth and Community Centre](#)
- 12.6.18 INTERVIEW: A representative from the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group / Lancashire Constabulary
- 17.7.18 INTERVIEW: Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Social Justice

## 4. Information and evidence provided at formal Committee Meetings and Sub Group Interviews

### 4.1 Meeting 13.6.17

[Link to Minutes](#)

Alison Hatton, Community Safety Manager and Lesley Pritchard, Equalities and Diversity Officer, presented a draft scoping document for the Committee's new work plan study on Hate Crime.

#### 4.1.1 Defining Hate Crime

Lesley Pritchard explained that **hate crime arises from a feeling of difference and/or power over other groups which leads to deliberately setting out to harm someone on the basis of that difference.** The differences encompass protected characteristics defined under Hate Crime legislation, which are:

#### 4.1.2 **Race; Religion; Disability; Sexual Orientation; Transgender Identity.**

A person may have several characteristics. It was acknowledged that some characteristics are not included in the legislation; one committee member referred to the murder of Sophie Lancaster, who was attacked because she belonged to the goth/alternative sub culture.

#### 4.1.3 **Media Influence, Awareness of Hate Crime and Underreporting**

Councillor Coupland stressed that it was important not to underestimate the extent of the underreporting of hate crime and how this may result in a community appearing more cohesive than it actually is. She also highlighted the impact of the media as a key issue, referring to the influence of media reports from around the world. The Committee agreed upon the potential for both positive and negative influence by the media, and how freedom of the press must be balanced against responsibilities enshrined in law.

The Committee were keen to focus on how the Council and individual members can make a difference. Lesley Pritchard explained that she was currently working with Shirah Bamber, Communications and Marketing Manager on a Council 'Positive Communications Policy'. She also stressed the crucial role of councillors supporting local communities by listening, celebrating events and activities, amplifying the positives and encouraging victims of hate crime to report it. Mrs Pritchard informed the Committee that it is important to raise awareness of what constitutes hate crime and that anyone who witnesses a hate crime can also report it.

Members identified that a trigger may arise which results in lowering tolerance amongst people within a community, leading to a reaction through hate crime. It was felt that it is important to understand where communities may be vulnerable to these circumstances.

4.2

### Meeting 8.8.17

[Link to Minutes](#)

Ms Melanie Close, Chief Executive at Disability Equality North West and a representative from the Disability Hate Crime Project Preston (Developing from the Negatives) gave a presentation regarding the work of their organisation regarding Hate Crime.

Ms Close expanded on the definition of hate crime within the legal framework. She explained that if a criminal offence is committed e.g. robbery or assault **and is motivated by hostility or prejudice\*** (\*see protected characteristics), this is covered by hate crime legislation and as such, offenders may be liable for a sentence uplift in court. She stressed that, although the law may not necessarily change minds, it can change behaviour.

Ms Close explained that the background to the DENW's current focus on hate crime was following the launch of the '**Getting Away with Murder' report 2008 (Scope & United Kingdom Disabled People's Council (UKDPC))**. This mirrored experiences of disabled people locally, who had identified hate crime as their main issue of concern. She added that hate crime in Preston was linked to the most deprived wards.

She quoted the following statistics from Lancashire Constabulary (as at June 2017)\*:

#### **Lancashire Constabulary - June 2017**

##### **Total Recorded Crimes in Lancashire**

2015/16 (Mar-Feb) = 96,296

2016/17 = 105,885

(9.95% increase)

##### **Recorded Hate Crimes in Lancashire**

2015/16 – 807 (0.84% of total crime)

2016/17 – 1022 (0.96% of total crime)

(26.64% increase)

Total adult population of Lancashire (UK census 2011): 1,460,900.

\*Subsequent to this interview, updated statistics were obtained up to June 2018. The data is provided by Lancashire Multi-Agency Data Exchange (MADE). **PLEASE NOTE, statistics are regularly scrutinised by Lancashire Constabulary and may have been adjusted after June 2017.**

**Set 1 Hate Crime Flags (all) - The total number of hate flags placed (July to June).** This refers to situations where there is a crime for which more than one flag has been applied. It may occur where the crime is found to be the result of prejudice against multiple protected characteristics (e.g. disability and religion). This accounts for the higher figures in comparison to Set 2 figures.

	Lancashire	Preston
July 2015 to June 2016	1,025	201
July 2016 to June 2017	1,439	274
July 2017 to June 2018	2,587	515

**Set 2 Crimes with Hate Flags - Number of crimes with one or more hate flags (July to June)**

	Lancashire	Preston
July 2015 to June 2016	936	177
July 2016 to June 2017	1,345	263
July 2017 to June 2018	2,352	475

**Set 3 Number of Crimes with Hate Flags - April to March** (to attempt to match Mel Close's original figures but there is a slight variation – possibly due to subsequent adjustments by Lancashire Constabulary)

	Lancashire	Preston
April 15 to March 16	929	172
April 16 to March 17	1,132	221
April 17 to March 18	2,303	454

#### 4.2.1 **Impact of 'Triggers' on Vulnerable Communities and Raising Awareness**

Ms Close also informed the Committee that Disability Equality NW had observed an **increase in racially motivated verbal abuse targeted at the Asian Community, particularly since "Brexit"**. (This links to the Committee's previous discussions identifying that a 'trigger' may arise which

results in lowering tolerance amongst people within a community, leading to a reaction through hate crime).

She talked about the publicity they produced to raise awareness of hate crime and to encourage people to report it, including witnesses of hate crime. She indicated that their strategy was multi-faceted, including both internet / social media and print media e.g. leaflets, large window stickers and posters.

She identified **social media** itself as a tool for hate crime and stressed the need for the police to prioritise the issue. She also expressed concern about the lack of support her clients received from social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, however she acknowledged that they were now working on a National Strategy.

It was suggested that support from the Council for an awareness campaign may be a recommendation to consider later into the study.

### 4.3 Meeting 3.10.17

#### [Link to Minutes](#)

A representative from Lancashire Constabulary attended the meeting. The Chief Inspector stated that currently the legal definition of 'hate crime' did not allow lifestyle choices (such as alternative sub cultures) to be identified as a hate crime and it was therefore not recorded as such. However, he reported that he had recently met with Sophie Lancaster's mother and had discussed the issue at length, as she was now trying to ensure that an offence against someone because of lifestyle choice was identified as hate crime. This came about as Mrs Lancaster's daughter Sophie was tragically killed in 2007 because she happened to dress differently.

#### **Locally, 170 cases of hate crime had been recorded since April 2017.**

The CI said that police were trying to establish where they had originated but there had been no spikes in data to determine there was a particular issue in one place. He said they would continue to record hate crimes.

One Member asked how hate crimes were recorded as such. For example, if someone had punched someone else it could be for a reason other than hostility or prejudice due to the victim having characteristics which would be identified for hate crime offences. It was explained that whether or not a hate crime had been committed would come out in the subsequent investigation.

A question was asked regarding education in schools. The CI said that he and the team in the Vulnerability Hub worked closely with schools. They undertook hate crime awareness with role playing activities and this linked to vulnerable families in crisis. He said the early action work was also intended to break the cycle of use of certain terminology as sometimes it was a generational issue where older family members may use words which were not acceptable now.

#### 4.3.1 **Reporting Hate Crime**

A Member asked if under-reporting was an issue with the inability to identify trends, particularly with race. The CI said that they were getting the message across that they would look into any hate crime being reported, whatever the nationality, and the more that the police worked with individuals the reporting and recording process improved.

Another question was, are more people reporting hate crime? He said that there had been an increase in all crimes reported. National recording guidance had changed in recent years and all 'crimes' had to be recorded even if no crime had occurred. He gave an example of a person suffering from mental health who had perceived a burglary to have taken place on several occasions but in reality it had not occurred once, however, each 'crime' was still recorded. He said that every day his communications team reviewed every hate crime to see if there were any links with other reported crimes, therefore, there may be a perception of an increase in hate crime but more people were reporting the incidents.

One Member asked if he found it difficult to keep up to date with new types of crime and therefore the need to adapt policing. The CI said that organised crime took a lot of staff to resource but there would unfortunately always be the more traditional crimes to deal with such as drugs, burglaries and robberies. He said his team tried to keep up with complex crime and maintained partnerships with organisations such as the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), which assisted this, and therefore policing practices had changed.

#### 4.4 **Meeting 21.11.17**

[Link to Minutes](#)

Two representatives from Lancashire Constabulary, attended the meeting to discuss Hate Crime in Preston. One officer gave details of the staffing / resources used to target hate crime and indicated that they work very closely with Mel Close from Disability Equality NW.

He informed the Committee that there had been **an increase in recorded hate crime in Preston of 30% since April 2017**. This was approximately 7 crimes per month, which reflected the national average. He indicated that the increase coincided with a change in the way hate crimes were recorded and their approach, i.e. being more proactive and raising awareness. It is therefore difficult to say at this stage if this accounts for the increase, wholly or in part.

#### 4.4.1 **Hate Crime Trends**

He indicated that the figures pointed to an increase in hate crime committed online, and hate crime towards **taxi drivers and Asian women particularly if**

**they were wearing a hijab.** This increase has been linked to **events taking place nationally such as Brexit.** He also said there was a suspected **lack of reporting from the Eastern European communities,** possibly due to the impact of Brexit. He also referred to a recent event organised by Sahara, which was well attended and discussed lack of reporting by Asian women. It was stressed to the Committee, however, that Preston had strong community cohesion, underpinned by positive community events.

A question was asked regarding the prevalence of far right groups such as the English Defence League (EDL). It was reported that despite a spike in targeting Preston in response to specific events, such groups had been less proactive in Preston and nationally in recent years.

A number of issues and concerns were raised in relation to the service provided by the police, including:

- Asian women feel the police are not doing enough. Currently Sahara is the only Pathway for them to report hate crime
- One case where a victim rang the 101 service again to keep updated and highlighting the importance of keeping victims of hate crime informed
- Disbanding some Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings resulted in the loss of the visible link with communities, and loss of support in areas such as Fulwood

It was acknowledged there is a need to keep victims informed and a need for them to see something is happening. The CI referred to the use of restorative justice/ mediation which enables victims to feel involved in the process.

Sympathy was expressed about the concerns regarding PACT. It was explained that some meetings were no longer fit for purpose and the police were utilising new methods of communication with the public e.g. social media and a regular ePACT. He gave assurances that the resources were being directed to support communities in the background, rather than at a public forum.

The Chair shared concerns raised about the loss of PACT in some areas and said he would raise the issues at the next month's Police and Crime Panel.

#### 4.4.2 **The Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017 to 2020 and Annual Delivery Plan 2017 to 2018**

The Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017 to 2020 and Annual Delivery Plan 2017 to 2018, were submitted to the Committee for consideration as part of its work plan study.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Boswell addressed the Committee on behalf of the Leader in relation to the Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy, as follows:

"I appreciate that the Hate Crime Strategy before the Crime and Disorder Committee refers to the definition of Anti-Semitism drawn up by the

(International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) IHRA. I want to urge the Committee to indicate that the reference to the IHRA definition in Appendix E not only has been adopted by HMG but all local authorities have been urged by Sajid Javid MP, the DCLG Secretary of State to support this. This needs to be drawn to all authorities' attention by the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group.

The definition should be used as part of the overall work that Lancashire Councils do to respond to and counter all forms of hate crime and racism, and in order to build on the councils' established record of positive work to build good community relations between all the people in Lancashire boroughs, whatever their identity, background, race or religion."

Councillor Boswell added that he was pleased to note that the definition made the distinction between Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism.

The Community Safety Manager provided an overview of The Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017 to 2020 and Annual Delivery Plan 2017 to 2018, which was noted by the Committee.

#### 4.5 **Meeting 23.1.18**

[Link to Minutes](#)

Ms A Hatton, Community Safety Manager reported on the latest position as to the sub group interviews for the Hate Crime work plan study.

##### 4.5.1 **Interview with Ali Amla, Tell MAMA**

Ali Amla from the organisation "Tell MAMA" was in attendance at the meeting. The Chair invited Mr Amla to address the Committee instead of a sub group interview.

Mr Amla gave a presentation about the work of Tell MAMA, at which he acted as a consultant on a part time basis. He explained that Tell MAMA is a national project which records and measures Anti-Muslim incidents in the United Kingdom. He highlighted some of the key issues identified by the organisation, such as **gendered violence in Anti-Muslim Hate Crime, abuse experienced by taxi drivers**, the impact of **Brexit** and gave examples of other incidents in Preston, Blackburn and Lancashire.

He talked about his concerns regarding **far right extremist groups** and his wish to avoid a return to a less tolerant society (i.e. the one in which he had grown up during the 1980s). He referred to an incident cited in a recent TV documentary, whereby a building owned by a local authority had been inadvertently booked out to a far right group and stressed the need for greater awareness within the public sector and for it to be seen taking hate crime seriously.

He also stressed the issue of lack of resources and funding currently facing the third sector, which had similarly been raised by the BME Forum at its sub group interview.

Arising from the discussions at the meeting Mr Amla recommended that it would be **beneficial for PCC councillors to receive training on the issue of hate crime.**

#### 4.6 **Meeting 20.3.18**

[Link to Minutes](#)

The Chair submitted a written report on a Disability Hate Crime Conference he attended at Plungington Youth and Community Centre.

He highlighted the issue of the proposed closure of the Lancashire County Council information office in Preston Bus Station. Concerns were expressed at the conference that if the office were to close, the only point of contact for a victim of hate crime to report it would be to a security guard. He indicated that he had raised these concerns with the local County Councillor, Gillian Oliver.\*

#### 4.6.1 **\*Update – July 2018**

County Cllr Oliver holds the Shadow Highways portfolio on Lancashire County Council. As a result of the Chair raising the issue with her she has met with Disability Equality NW and is actively pursuing the issue through her shadow portfolio.

#### 4.7 **Meeting 12.6.18**

A representative from Lancashire Constabulary and the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group, attended the meeting for interview.

#### 4.7.1 **Lancashire Strategy**

He explained that the aim had been to create a single **Lancashire Strategy** for hate crime, and a coordinated communication method so that all websites were linked and had a single definition of hate crime. He indicated that they were now building towards safeguarding and health.

#### 4.7.2 **Hate Crime in Preston**

He reported that the majority of hate crimes in Preston occur in the Town Centre, and in Deepdale. The focus was on premises, taxis, transport networks and carrying out a communications exercise around Deepdale.

The statistics were higher for religious hate crime, but he viewed this as a positive indicator of confidence in reporting.

#### 4.7.3 **Reporting and awareness**

One member raised the issue of the need for an improved reporting process and to increase confidence in reporting. The CI explained that one approach being taken was to work with communities, to gather intelligence and tackle anti-social behaviour which may escalate into hate incidents/ crimes. He also said that it is helpful if the police are seen as more representative of the community i.e. a more diverse employer.

The Committee discussed the issue of the level of ignorance surrounding the behaviour of children and young people with autism. The CI confirmed that officers were being educated about the condition which would also assist in cases where young people are arrested or in custody.

Another issue raised was the impact of the internet as regards hate crime and the general underreporting of hate crime. He agreed that hate crime on the internet was difficult to tackle as the relevant IP address needs to be identified. Furthermore, **hate crime only accounts for 1% of crime statistics, suggesting that it is massively underreported given the proportion of diverse communities that live in Preston.** He added that often the first time a hate crime or incident is reported, it has actually occurred several times perhaps over many years.

The CI agreed with an early intervention approach for offenders and that a lot of organisations that have contact with young people/ teenagers, such as football clubs, do a lot of good work in this area.

#### 4.7.4 **101 contact telephone number - concerns**

The Committee expressed some concerns about the '101' police telephone number, such as having to wait up to 15 minutes to get through. It was explained that the '101' number had been built on an industrialised model in order to save money, however as the requests and issues are so varied they take longer to deal with. He said that due to resources the Constabulary was looking at a 'scientific' approach. For example, a mapping exercise had been undertaken to identify all the actions following a call to try and improve efficiency. The Committee noted that the 101 service had been intended as a contact number for all public services, but at present only the police were using it.

The Chair expressed concern that 75% of calls are simply 'chasing up' for feedback on previously reported incidents – there must be a better way of dealing with these enquiries.

The Chair reported that the issue of hate crime was now being discussed at liaison meetings between the Council's licensing section and taxi drivers to raise awareness.

## 4.8 Interview with Cabinet Members

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Rollo and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Social Justice, Councillor Khan, met for a sub group interview with Councillors Saksena, Patel and Mrs Gildert on 17.7.18.

Full notes of the interview can be found at Appendix C. A summary of the key points in the discussion are as follows:

### 4.8.1 Cabinet Member for Communities and Social Justice – key points:

- Cllr Khan was involved with some issues in connection with hate crime and she was also involved with the police
- Generally, it is in connection with gender, culture, space, and victimisation
- She was involved in both reporting the incidents and helping the victims for moral support.

She indicated that she attended a Racial Equality Council (REC) meeting the previous week and it was reported that such incidents had gone down. It was suggested that this could be due to underreporting. Cllr Khan highlighted there had been a number of incidents reported from the Eastern European community.

A question was asked indicating concern that some people sympathize with the victim of a hate crime when it is reported but leave it at that and do no more.

Cllr Khan said no, not necessarily. There is a high expectation – dealing with someone who is not here by first choice but may here be due to a conflict or a life threatening issues.

However, she stressed you cannot eradicate racism from the society. There is still the problem of institutional racism (i.e. through policies, practices within organisations).

The Chair indicated that disability organisations would like to encourage and see the establishment of “Hate Crime Champions”. Cllr Khan said it is generally a two way process; interaction with the local neighbourhood is very important. Discrimination and racism are always there and there is no easy solution to eradicate it completely - we need to continue to educate people. New communities are facing challenges too – e.g. asylum seekers, refugees, Eastern European communities. To continue as a City of Sanctuary we need to carry on working on it; Preston is a city with a diverse communities.

Finally, she highlighted that we have a specific (government) minister for many different groups but we haven’t a minister for the elderly.

### 4.8.2 Reporting Incidents

Cllr Khan: Being an Asian Councillor, in my opinion many people feel safer and more comfortable reporting the incidents. Sometimes they can’t get to

the point of reporting for various reasons i.e. may not be able to express themselves better or appropriately.

#### 4.8.3 **Role / Support from Preston City Council – Approach to tackling issues**

Cllr Khan said we need to find out what's gone wrong; increased awareness from PCC. It should be like a duty of care - providing assurance that PCC is here to care for local residents. Give assurance right across the board with greater understanding and awareness.

PCC can learn from past experience, identify the gaps and perhaps learn or adopt from others or neighbouring authorities (exchange of good practice).

#### 4.8.4 **Cabinet Member for Environment – key points:**

What's your view on hate crime and how PCC and Lancashire Constabulary treats it?

Lancashire Constabulary are taking it more seriously than ever. There is a much more active involvement within the department.

What about the figures: if it goes up then does it mean more people reporting?

There are more hate crime incidents than before and yes more people are coming forward to report it too. Also there are increases in the number of Eastern European community incidents.

- Perpetrators are mostly the younger ones – community based rather than family based.
- Disability hate crime is a small target area. Police will require further information to follow it through.
- In 1970's there was probably more hate crime but it wasn't reported. But in recent times the law has done more to deal with this subject.

What can PCC do to encourage reporting of hate crime?

Encourage people to report through Community Safety which can give us a bigger picture. If we can help / deal with reporting by phone than more people will come forward.

Chair's final comment: Perhaps we can qualify for some extra grants to deal with hate crime. Historically we can do better in Preston City than the rest of Lancashire.

5. **Key Findings and Conclusions:**

1. The Government defines hate crime as: “any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice and hate.”
2. Hate Crime arises from a feeling of difference and/or power over other groups which leads to deliberately setting out to harm someone on the basis of that difference. There are certain protected characteristics covered by hate crime legislation which are:  
  
Race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity. A person may have several characteristics.  
  
If an offence such as burglary is linked to a hate crime, offenders may be liable for a sentence uplift in court (Section 145/146 Criminal Justice Act 2003).
3. It was acknowledged that in the case of some lifestyle choices, e.g. belonging to an alternative sub culture, individuals may be the victim of incidents or offences motivated by hostility or prejudice. However, it will not be recorded as a hate crime, because currently they are not one of the protected characteristics specified within the legislation.
4. There has been an observable increase in racially motivated verbal abuse targeted at the Asian Community, particularly since “Brexit”. There has also been increased awareness of hate crimes affecting Eastern European Communities.
5. **Underreporting and lack of awareness concerning hate crime** were key issues raised through the study. The Committee would like to see Preston City Council, in partnership with other agencies and organisations, working to address this.
6. Concerns were identified about the police ‘101’ contact number, including waiting times and follow up. The Committee appreciates that the police are facing resource issues but would like to see these issues addressed.
7. It was noted that councillors did not currently receive any formal training on the issue of hate crime. This would assist the Council in promoting awareness and tackling underreporting by enabling ward councillors to be knowledgeable themselves and support residents as and when necessary.

6.

**Corporate Management Team Response to the Recommendations in this report:**

CMT welcomes this detailed study.

1. CMT notes recommendation 1;
2. Agreed;
3. CMT notes recommendation 3;
4. CMT acknowledge the possibility of the town hall being a third party reporting centre but are mindful of the level of resource this may require in very challenging times. The use of signposting and web content at recommendation 5 would be a manageable solution;
5. Agreed;
6. Agreed;
7. Noted, refer to 4 above.

7.

**Cabinet Response – Meeting on 26.9.18**

**Minute CA52**

**Summary**

Councillor Saksena, the Chair of Crime and Disorder Committee presented a Work Plan Study report on Hate Crime. Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked the Committee for all their hard work.

**Decision Taken**

That Cabinet endorsed the report and noted the recommendations contained therein.