

## 01 Hate incidents /crimes

Hate incidents and crimes hurt and can be very frightening for the person subjected to them. They directly strike at who a person is, their community and their way of life and can be committed against a person or a property.

People have often suffered abuse and hostility all their lives, just because of who they are. A frequent way of managing this is 'self-editing' where they hide their true self from others in daily life to avoid any conflict.

Incidents and crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards their disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, sexual orientation or gender identity are classified as hate incidents or crimes.

This briefing is here to remind you of our shared responsibility to the victims of hate incidents/crimes so that we can make people safe and help them feel safe.

Hate incidents and crimes are being committed every day across all force areas and yet research tells us that **over 60% are never reported to the police.**

## 02 What is a hate incident or hate crime?

Hate incident is defined as;

**Any incident, which does not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.**

Hate crime is defined as;

**Any hate crime, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.**

Hate incidents or hate crimes may be because of an individual's

- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Disability

## 03 Our duty

It is essential that we all understand that whilst the nature of the hate incident may not grade high on the criminal framework of offences, victims of hate incidents or crimes have often experienced this hostility and behaviour for long periods and contacting the police is a significant step for them due to fears of recrimination and them not being taken seriously.

Hate incidents and crimes if not dealt with appropriately have the potential to rapidly escalate for both for the victim and the community and could cause severe damage to public confidence.

## 04 Public trust and confidence

Our consistent, competent and compassionate approach to victims and communities will improve;

- people's awareness of what should not be tolerated – hate incidents and crimes
- people's confidence to report hate incidents and crimes
- people's confidence in the criminal justice system

This in turn will lead to increased trust and confidence within our communities in our ability to understand their issues and deal with them effectively.

Most victims of hate incidents and crimes just want it to STOP.

# Hate Crime briefing sheet for partners



## 07 Guidance

**DO – take all reports of hate incidents and crimes seriously. The victim impact will be significant even though the incident may appear minor.**

**DO – take positive action to make the offending behaviour STOP. It doesn't only have to be the victim that reports Hate Crimes/Incidents. If YOU witness it YOU can report it too.**

**DON'T – assume it is someone else's problem. We ALL have a responsibility to fight Hate Crime.**

## 06 Ways to report

Positive action to make the behaviour STOP and victim care/support is vital.

There are various ways to report hate crimes and incidents:

- In an emergency always call 999. For all other reports please call 101.
- Wiltshire Police website
- [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)
- True Vision [report-it.org.uk](http://report-it.org.uk)
- Crimestoppers call anonymously 24/7 on
- **0800 555 111** where you can also use its translation service, or report online [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)
- Victim Support local victim care team on freephone **0808 281 0113** [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

## 05 Did you know?

- The population of Wiltshire and Swindon is 680,137 according to the latest census (2011), of whom 5.9% were recorded as visible BAME (black, minority or ethnic).
- It is estimated that 2% of the population is LGBT and 19% identify as having some form of disability.
- Across the Wiltshire Force area, 44,168 crimes were recorded in 2017, of which 524 (1%) were recorded as hate crimes; the same proportion as in 2016.
- Wiltshire has the second highest hate crime conviction rate in the country with 95% successful convictions in 2017.



Victim Support, commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner, helps victims of hate crime through Wiltshire's local victim care team. It offers free, confidential advice, regardless of whether the crime has been reported or how long ago it happened.

Call the local victim care team on **0808 281 0113**. Lines open 9am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays. Or you can request support online through the Victim Support website [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

**Further information:** Hate crime information is available on Wiltshire Police website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)