

APPENDIX 1

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 17 MARCH 2015

TITLE: REVIEW OF HATE CRIME IN HARLOW –
FINAL REPORT

LEAD OFFICER(S): JANE GREER, ACTING HEAD OF
COMMUNITY WELLBEING (01279) 446406

CONTRIBUTING OFFICERS MARYSIA RUDGELEY, COMMUNITY SAFETY
TEAM MANAGER (01279 446115)

JULIE HOUSTON, STRATEGY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (01279 446445)

RECOMMENDED that: The Committee recommends to Cabinet:

- A** To approve the initiative to develop greater understanding of Hate Crime in Harlow through the production of a leaflet that could be utilised in schools and other public bodies in regular contact with members of the public.
- B** To request that the Safer Harlow Partnership obtains up to date and detailed analysis of Hate Crime and investigate any trends revealed by that data which might inform further partnership approaches to address these issues.
- C** To request that the Safer Harlow Partnership prioritises Hate Crime in recognition of the rise in incidents.
- D** That the Harlow Arts Trust be asked to explore the possibility of the Anne Frank Exhibition in the Gibberd Gallery.

BACKGROUND

1. At its meeting on 3 February 2015, the Committee considered 'The Review of Hate Crime Interim Report' which provided an overview of how Hate Crime is recorded and tackled in Harlow. The report gave an overview of agencies that provide support to victims of Hate Crime and the enforcement methods used to tackle it. The work is overseen by the Safer Harlow Partnership and the Hate Crime Priority Group which continues to meet. In addition, the Committee considered evidence given by Essex Police and Show Racism the Red Card Charity

2. Essex Police informed the Committee of the standard response to Hate Crime. They advised that there has been an increase in overall incidents in 2014 as compared to 2013.
3. It was not possible to provide the Committee with more detailed statistical information since July 2014, as it was reported that the Police did not currently have a dedicated Hate Crime analyst in post.
4. Show Racism the Red Card outlined to the Committee the work undertaken to educate school age children about Hate Crime.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

5. The importance of obtaining regular and up to date information on Hate Crime enables the public bodies concerned to meet their obligations arising from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. This statistical analysis should be made regularly available to the Safer Harlow Partnership and Hate Crime Priority Group.
6. Given the rise in incidents reported to the Committee, consideration should be given to prioritisation of the issue at the Safer Harlow Partnership to promote greater partnership working to address the problem.
7. The concerns identified by the Committee regarding the profile of Hate Crime Ambassadors could be addressed by way promotion through way of leaflets to help promote the understanding of Hate Crime and support that is available.
8. The Anne Frank Trust is a charity that works to encourage young people to embrace positive attitudes, personal responsibility and respect for others. It has a touring exhibition that captures the experience of Anne Frank's life and covers themes such as:
 - Anne Frank's diary and the history of the Frank family.
 - The introduction of the Nazi racist state.
 - The victims and consequences of the Holocaust.
 - The deliberate and organised nature of genocide.It explains the value of democracy and a civil society, and imbibes the importance of positive attitudes, personal responsibility and respect for others.
9. It may be possible to secure the exhibition for Harlow. If this is possible it would help young people and the wider community visiting the exhibition to:
 - Understand the consequences of unchecked prejudice and discrimination.
 - Explore, understand, respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

- Learn more about themselves and their local community.
- These matters are of particular relevance to victims and perpetrators of Hate Crime in Harlow.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (includes Sustainability)

None specific

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

Finance (Includes ICT)

None specific

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None specific

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific

Author: **Jane Greer, Acting Head of Community Wellbeing**

Governance (includes HR)

None specific

Author: **Brian Keane, Interim Head of Governance**