

What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is defined as '*Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.*'

Hate Crime falls into 3 categories

- **Physical assault;** actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm
- **Verbal;** verbal threats, name calling
- **Incitement to hatred;** where someone is acting in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hatred eg messages/video/pictures against anyone due to their differences

Why report Hate Crime?

Reporting hate crimes ...
impacts on the victim in the following ways;

- Prevents escalation in seriousness
- Affects confidence in Police and other agencies
- Affects the wider community
- Has an impact on community cohesion

What Happens when you report Hate Crime?

1 **The crime report is investigated by the relevant team.**



Anything that is religiously or racially motivated goes to Safeguarding. Aggravated offences go to Emergency Response (for isolated incidents) or Safer Neighbourhoods (for ongoing neighbour issues that require more long-term focus). If it's a more serious crime, then it will go to CID.

3 **All victims are offered a referral to Victim Support.**



Victims of hate crime are offered a CATCH referral. If there are particular vulnerability concerns about the victim then a Merlin report would go on which would be seen by Safeguarding/ Social Services etc.

2 **The victim is then contacted, and a statement is taken.**



The time it takes for a victim to be contacted by the investigating officer can be a couple of days if the officer it is assigned to is on a period of rest days. The officer will then look at obtaining evidence by way of independent witness statements, CCTV or any other evidence.

4 **The Officer in the Case (OIC) will investigate (speak to neighbours, check CCTV, forensics) and either arrest the suspect or invite in for an interview under Caution.**



If there is no evidence at all then sometimes these interviews do not take place and the crime report is closed at this stage.

5 **If an interview has taken place then all evidence will then go to an Evidential Review Officer (Sergeant) for a decision around a disposal, i.e. out of court disposal, charge for court or a fine.**



6 **The Police BCU Hate Crime Lead will also try and speak to the victim themselves and check they have been offered a referral to support services.**

