

Hate Crime Safeguarding 7 Minute Briefing

1 What is a hate crime or hate incident?

A hate crime or hate incident is when somebody is targeted because of their:

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

2 What behaviours can hate crime or incident include?

Hate crimes or incidents can take many forms including verbal abuse or insults, offensive graffiti, threatening behaviour, robbery, bullying at school, work or in the community, harassment, abuse via phones or the internet, damage to property, physical attacks and assaults, neighbour disputes encouraging others to commit hate crimes (This is not an endless list).

3 What is the impact?

Research shows that hate crimes and incidents cause more emotional harm than similar crimes not motivated by prejudice. 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.

They create fear in victims, groups and communities and can break down community cohesion.

National research shows incidents of hate crime are under-reported. Sometimes victims and witnesses are reluctant to report for a number of reasons, for example they may think it isn't serious enough, they won't be believed or nothing will be done about it.

4 Who can report a hate crime or incident?

- In Cheshire a variety of reporting mechanisms are available to ensure people are able to report in confidence where they feel most comfortable
- **Anybody** can report a hate crime or incident whether they are a victim, witness or a third party.
- Partners in Cheshire are committed to tackling this behaviour and encourage all hate crimes and incidents to be reported

5 What to do

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.

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

FOLLOW SAFEGUARDING procedures for hate crimes or incidents that involve adults at risk or children

It doesn't only have to be the victim that reports Hate Crimes/ Incidents. If YOU witness it YOU can report it too.

6 Ways to report

There are various ways to report hate crimes and incidents:

- In an emergency always call 999. For all other reports please call 101 and report over the phone, via the police Website <https://cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/hate-crime/>
- Online form True Vision www.report-it.org.uk
- Victim Support 01384 241511 www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Or by contacting a third party reporting centres

7 What is a third party reporting centre?

Third party reporting centres are community locations where victims can report hate crimes or incidents without having to contact the police directly. Staff at the centres have been trained to help you report a hate crime through the True Vision website - this can be done anonymously if preferred. The information is then passed directly to your local police force.

- Cheshire East - <https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Services/ListAllLocations/4528>
- Cheshire West and Chester - <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-and-performance/equality-and-diversity/reporting-a-hate-crime.aspx>