Strategy for Tackling Hate Crime in Warwickshire

2023-2026

WARWICKSHIRE
HATE CRIME PARTNERSHIP

safe in...
warwickshire

Definition

The College of Policing defines hate crime and non-crime hate incidents as:

"A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice, based upon one or more identifying factors."

"A non-crime hate incident is any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice, based upon one or more identifying factors, that include but are not limited to disability, race, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity."

In Warwickshire we fully recognise the pernicious and divisive effect hate crime has on our communities. Nobody should live in fear of abuse, violence, prejudice or discrimination as a result of hateful actions. Everyone has the right to be visible, to be heard and live without fear.

In Warwickshire via our hate crime strategy we will strive for unified peaceful communities and be robust at all times when faced with instability and extremist, hateful behaviours.

National and Local Picture

- In the year ending March 2023, there were 145,214 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall), a 5% decrease compared with the previous year.

- Hate Crime, as monitored by the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership, is separated into five main strands that are reported to the Police and/or partner agencies:
  - o   Race
  - o   Disability
  - o   Sexual Orientation
  - o   Religion/ Faith
  - o   Gender Identity

- In the financial year 2022-23, there was a total of 1,660 hate crimes recorded in Warwickshire.

- Racially motivated offences make up the largest proportion of hate crimes committed in Warwickshire – nearly 80% of the total, followed by Disability and Sexual Orientation.

- Hate Crime in Warwickshire decreased by 6% compared to previous financial year 2021-22.

Context

Hate Crime is a priority for partner agencies in Warwickshire and the communities we work with. It forms a core component of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board ambition to tackle discrimination in all its forms and is a priority for three of the four Community Safety Partnerships in the county.

Between April and May 2023, a series of 4 events under the banner 'We Stand Together' were organised, involving Warwickshire Community Safety partners. The key focus was to engage with various community members and community groups to develop a joined-up approach to tackle hate in Warwickshire.

A further Big Conversation Event has been held on 14th June 2023, with a focus on the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board ambition, during which delegates shared commitments their agency could make to support the efforts in tackling discrimination across the county.

Recommendations from these events are included in the action plan which accompanies this strategy.

Strategic Aim

"Working with our partners and communities, we will seek to prevent hate crime, to increase trust and confidence of communities that fear they may be targeted by such crime and to identify and prosecute those that commit such crimes."

To achieve our strategic aim:

☐ We will ensure that there are effective internal and partnership governance structures in place to continually seek improvements in our response to hate.

☐ We will listen to our communities and, with our partners, build trust, confidence and awareness in order to increase reporting of hate.

☐ We will work with our partners, schools, faith and community groups to prevent hate.

☐ We will robustly and effectively respond to and investigate hate crime, support victims and seek appropriate outcomes for offenders.

Delivery

This strategy will be delivered by the Multi-Agency Hate Crime Partnership, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQuIP). Represented on the partnership are:

- Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire County Council
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire Youth Justice Service

- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Victim Support (Restorative Justice)
- Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
- University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire
- Public Health partners
- Schools and education partners
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Warwickshire Pride

The partnership is also working with other partners as appropriate to drive the local priorities and tackle hate across different areas of Warwickshire.

A comprehensive action plan has been developed to implement this strategy and the key themes within this are:

- Partnership Oversight and Governance
- Engagement, Awareness and Training
- Schools and Young People
- Support for Victims
- Cross-Cutting Themes and links established with PREVENT

Task and Finish Groups will be established as required to enable and ensure the effective delivery of the strategy and the action plan.

At a local Community Safety Partnership level, partners will develop specific local delivery plans as appropriate aligned with the countywide approach.

Each partner will nominate a lead officer with the responsibility of overseeing the delivery of the strategy and the action plan within their agency.

Accountability

The Multi-Agency Hate Crime Partnership is a sub-group of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board. The partnership is required to report quarterly into the SWPB Performance Challenge Group, enabling issues of concern or off target performance to be raised.

We will measure the success of the implementation of the strategy and action plan through consultation with the communities on their feelings of safety and perceptions of hate. Outcome measures will be co-produced via locally established ambassadors within the community.