



Safe in East Sussex

Safer East Sussex Team Newsletter

In focus – Hate Crime

July 2015

In this edition:

Hate Crime
Coordinator update

The Picture in East
Sussex

Could you be a Hate
Crime Ambassador?

BBC Three Disability
Hate Crime

Stop Hate UK

Holocaust Memorial
Day Trust

National Hate Crime
Action Plan

Hate Crime Coordinator Update- Matt West has now spent 12 months in his role within the Safer East Sussex Team. His role aims to raise awareness of Hate Crime in the community and with partner agencies and looks to co-ordinate appropriate police responses to Hate Crime.

The last year has seen his work develop around the identification of Hate Crime hotspots, patterns and repeat victims and ensure a close working relationship with key partners including local authorities, statutory authorities and other agencies. Matt has just completed the 4th Hate Crime Awareness/Dementia Awareness session for Custody Sergeants and Detention Supervisors which help officers in identifying and responding to these crimes.

Work has also been carried out with some of the counties younger residents, with workshops and awareness sessions around Hate Crime being held at primary schools in Battle and Hastings. This work will continue throughout the rest of the year as well as with other sections of the community. Matt is also coordinating the rollout of the Safe Place Scheme which has been funding by the Safer in Sussex Community Fund. Hastings Voluntary Action, Rother

Voluntary Action and 3 VA will be rolling out a number of schemes beginning this year which will provide a safe place for people with learning difficulties across the county feel confident and safe whilst out and about.

In Hastings/St Leonards they have made contact with a number of local places where the scheme could happen. The Gizmo Café, Renaissance House in St Leonards and Café Des Arts in Hastings and are considering the library in Hastings as a possible location. Rother are planning to develop two places during August to hopefully be up and running by the end of September.



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The Government has made a commitment to improve the recording of hate crimes and to develop a better understanding of the issue by strengthening the evidence base – to give us a clearer picture of the types of hate crimes that are happening, the victims who are affected and offenders' motivations.

*During the period April 2014 to March 2015, the total number of recorded hate crimes in Sussex rose from 1009 in 2013/14 to 1352 in 2014/15, an increase of 34%.

*The number of non-crime hate incidents also rose during the same period, from 299 in 2013/14 to 447 in 2014/15, an increase of 49.5%

Reports made to Sussex Police that constitute a crime are divided into separate strands as follows (2013/14 figures in brackets):

- Disability 106 (80)
- Race 961 (731)
- Religion 106 (71)
- Sexual orientation 230 (144)
- Transgender 28 (24)

The force also recorded 447 hate incidents, which is behaviour that does not constitute a criminal offence, but is perceived to have been motivated by prejudice or hostility. The incidents are divided into their separate strands as follows:

- Disability 56 (37)
- Race 245 (182)
- Religion 45 (30)
- Sexual orientation 94 (51)
- Transgender 20 (16)

The reason the five strands when added together are different from the total number of crimes or incidents is that more than one strand has been targeted in some instances.

*Pan Sussex figures

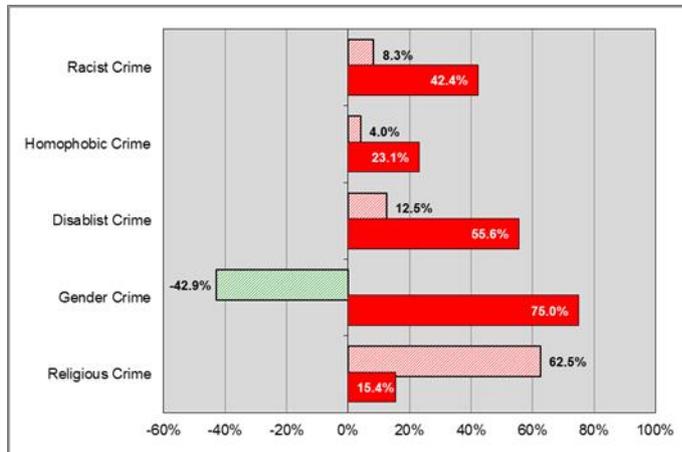
Sussex Police policy identifies what amounts to a hate crime or hate incident and details the Sussex Police Response Plan to such incidents

<http://www.sussex.police.uk/policing-in-sussex/transparency/policies-and-procedures/force-policies/hate-crime>

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Reported Hate Crimes in East Sussex have risen by 40% (+93) in the 12 months to March 2015 with Racist Crime seeing increases in all districts with the exception of Wealden. For East Sussex, Racist Crime saw the largest numerical increase with reports rising from 170 to 242 (+42%) in the 12 months to March 2015. The next largest increase was seen by disablist crime with reports increasing by 10 (+56%).

Graph : Change in reported Hate Crimes in East Sussex from April 2012 to March 2015



 / 	Change in reported Hate Crimes - 2012/2013 to 2013/2014	 / 	Change in reported Hate Crimes - 2013/2014 to 2014/2015
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Hate Crime remains an area with significant under reporting and partners continue to work closely to increase reporting, increase awareness and build confidence with victims to bring those responsible to justice and reduce the likelihood of these types of offences being committed.

Based on the 2011 *British Crime Survey we can get an indication of the level of reporting of hate incidents.

Race	136000 identified	35875 recorded	26%
Disability	65000 identified	2095 recorded	3%
Sexual Orientation	50000 identified	4477 recorded	9%
Religion	39000 identified	1773 recorded	5%
Transgender	We don't know		

Estimate only 15% of hate incidents are reported to or recorded by the police.

*Now called the Crime Survey of England and Wales

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Could you be a Hate Crime Ambassador?

Life is a challenge for most of us in one way or another, but to add to those challenges by being persistently targeted because of a personal characteristic, whether it is your race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity, or something else, is harmful to individuals and can be corrosive to communities.



This is hate crime and Sussex Police is looking for individuals who want to increase their knowledge, which can be used to help victims.

To unpick some of the myths around hate crime, Sussex Police is launching an initiative that will see hate crime ambassadors in the communities of Sussex. They will be given information about what hate crime is, how it can be reported and what happens when it is

What is a Hate Crime Ambassador and who can get involved?

We're looking for people who are interested in raising awareness of what hate crime is and encouraging victims to report to police or partner agencies across Sussex. You will need to attend a two-hour coaching session and you will have the opportunity to refresh and enhance your knowledge and understanding at twice-yearly seminars.

Sussex Police hate crime sergeant, Peter Allan said: "We know that a lack of understanding about what hate crime is and at what level you can report it to the police are two of the biggest challenges. I hope these coaching sessions will be a springboard for discussions about hate crime, in the pub, at work, at the gym, at the many clubs and activities people take part in on a regular basis and... well, anywhere really."



If you are interested in learning more about becoming a hate crime ambassador please contact Peter on 07867 501150 or email peter.allan@sussex.pnn.police.uk

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BBC Three launches 'Defying the Label' season over the next four weeks all based around disability

Adam Pearson features in the documentary *The Ugly Face of Disability Hate Crime* which aired on Thursday, 23 July at 21:00 BST on BBC Three as part of the *Defying The Label* season about disabled people.

Living with a facial disfigurement, in a busy city like London, means he is rarely invisible. Even something as simple as a train journey can turn into a gauntlet of stares, pointing and whispers.

He has neurofibromatosis type 1, a condition that causes benign tumours to grow on nerve endings – in his case, on his face.

He can understand why people stare. Disfigurement is so widely unrepresented in our media heavy culture it is little wonder people don't know how to react to it. But stares and whispers are not in themselves hate crimes, even if it does mean he has to experience people's prejudice and misconceptions of disability on a daily basis.



“While I don't enjoy being looked at constantly, what I experience cannot be labelled as a disability hate crime. That is a more serious issue. The term itself is banded about a great deal, and yet remarkably very few people know what it is or recognise it. It's any criminal offence where the victim, or another person, thinks it has happened because of prejudice based on their disability, or perceived disability.

But the behaviours I do come into contact with, if left unchecked and unchallenged, can become the origins of such hate crime. Pointing and staring can quickly progress into name-calling, particularly on nights out when alcohol is added to the equation..

The tide is slowly turning though, and schools are taking bullying much more seriously than when I was a pupil 15 years ago. As part of my role as a patron for the charity Changing Faces I go into schools and talk to pupils. I want to teach people about disability while they're young so they know the impact words and actions can have.

People may think I simply need to toughen up and grow a thicker skin, but I think this attitude is part of the problem. When disability hate crime does take place, be it in a relatively mild form such as my own experiences or even in stronger incidents, it often isn't treated as seriously as other forms of hate crime.”

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-ouch-33623011>

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In 2013 Stop Hate UK launched Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime, a service for England and Wales, which is funded by the Ministry of Justice. Stop Learning Disability Hate Crime provides support to people affected by Learning Disability Hate Crime, whether as a victim, a witness or third party.

In January 2015, the Stop Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Hate Crime Line, funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, was launched across England, Scotland and Wales on 0808 801 0661. The LGB&T line provides information, advice, support and telephone-based advocacy to LGB&T people who are experiencing Hate Crime or incidents as a result of their identity or perceived identity. Witnesses of incidents can also report and receive support via the helpline.

Why people don't want to report Hate Crime...?

The most common reason for not reporting the incident to the police was because the victim believed that the police would not or could not do much about it.

- Large numbers of people who experience hate crime do not report it to the police because they lack confidence in the police's willingness to deal with it.
- Some victims believe that the police are prejudiced, unsympathetic and/or untrustworthy and that making a report will make matters worse.
- Some victims do not understand what a hate crime is or how to report it.
- Others believe that hate crimes happen too frequently to report or that what happened to them was not serious enough to report.

Stop Hate UK started life in 1995 as a service for victims of racial harassment. The project was established in direct response to the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

In 2006 they launched the Stop Hate Line to respond to Recommendation 16 of The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, 1999 which reads:

“That all possible steps should be taken by Police Services at local level in consultation with local Government and other agencies and local communities to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include

- **the ability to report at locations other than police stations; and**
- **the ability to report 24 hours a day.”**

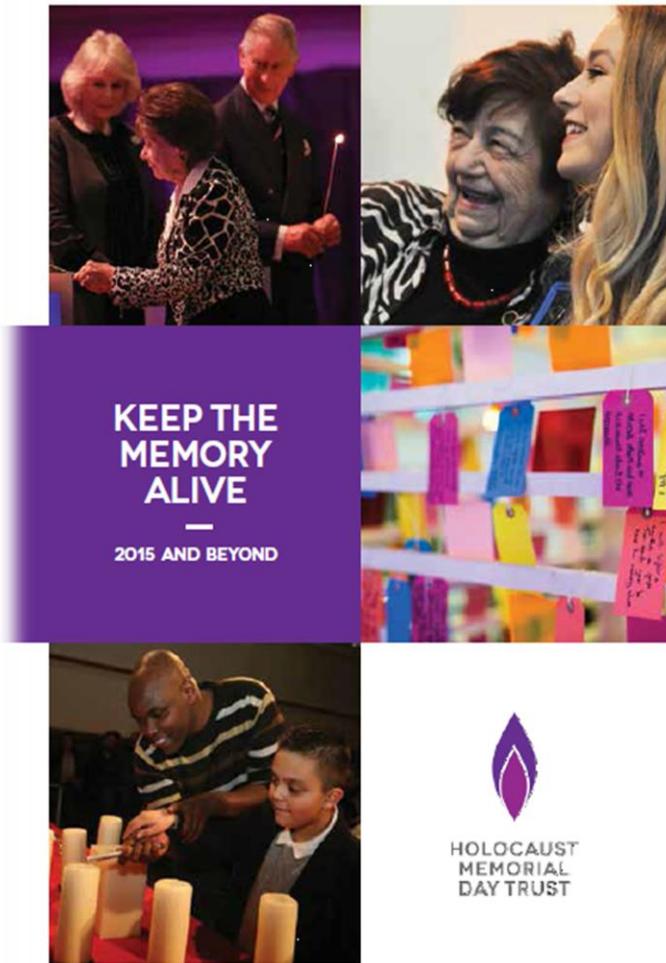
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Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 is 'Don't Stand By'. This is a great opportunity to promote the work which is being done to tackle hate crime and the opportunities to report it



The HMD South East Regional Support Worker is a familiar face to us and is our former team colleague Phil Mears.



“If you are thinking of organising an event in the South East please do get in touch! It is a rewarding experience and however big or small, your event can make a difference! I got involved in HMD because it gives everyone an opportunity to hear the life stories of those affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. We need to acknowledge the past and constantly challenge ourselves as to how we can tackle hatred and discrimination in all spheres of our lives.”

Philip.SouthEast@hmd.org.uk

The South East of England includes Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, and Sussex.

For more information on HMD <http://hmd.org.uk/page/our-work>

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National Hate Crime Action Plan

The Government's Hate crime action plan: **Challenge it, Report it, Stop it** was published in May 2012. The plan brought together action by a range of departments and agencies under three core principles:



- To prevent hate crime - by challenging the attitudes that underpin it, and intervening early to prevent it escalating;
- To increase reporting and access to support - by building victim confidence and supporting local partnerships; and
- To improve the operational response to hate crimes - by better identifying and managing cases, and dealing effectively with offenders.

Since the publication of the action plan a number of issues have emerged or have continued to evolve. The Government are now working, with our partners, the voluntary sector and internationally to take action in the following areas:

- Disability hate crime
- Hate crime online
- Extremism and hate crime
- Anti-Muslim Hatred

A progress report was published in May 2014 and can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307624/HateCrimeActionPlanProgressReport.pdf



If you would like to find out more about what the team have been doing, then why not sign up to the new fortnightly e-bulletin.

This complements the current newsletter which will continue to provide an in depth focus on our priority areas.

To sign up please do so at: <http://eepurl.com/bfQM6H>

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