

# Equalities Monitoring – Services

## Appendix C – Community Safety

**Annual Report - 2016-17**



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# 1. Introduction

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act set up Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) throughout England and Wales to make key agencies work together to reduce crime and disorder. These partner agencies are the Local Authority, Police, Fire Service, the Health Service (Clinical Commissioning Group), the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company. The Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership has worked hard for the past ten years to make Bracknell Forest a safer place.

The purpose of equalities monitoring is to ensure the council is providing a fair and equitable service to all residents. Although the Community Safety Team does not provide a service directly to the public, it has an impact in improving the health and wellbeing of the community by working with partners to eliminate victimisation, discrimination and harassment. These are crucial elements in terms of equalities.

To ensure the service is having an impact in terms of equalities, monitoring has been undertaken in terms of:

- Performance/Outcomes

The monitoring in this report is an assessment of how successful the team is in working with partners to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the following areas:

- Reducing Hate Crime
- Reducing racist incidents
- Reducing domestic violence
- Reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence
- Reducing homophobic incidents

The areas to be monitored above affect all residents but have particular relevance to the following protected characteristics:

- Race
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or Belief
- Disability
- Gender reassignment

The data below has been taken from:

- Thames Valley Police performance team

## 2. Outcomes/Performance

Hate Crime is any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by hostility towards someone based on their disability, race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. Hate crimes are taken to mean any crime where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised.

Hate Crime includes transphobic, homophobic, racist, disablist and faith related crimes. The table below shows the trend over the last five years.

	Racist	Faith	Homophobic	Disablist	Transgender	All Hate Crime
2011/12	39	1	4	2	1	47
2012/13	28	0	3	1	1	33
2013/14	46	3	2		3	54
2014/15	29	0	0	3		32
2015/16	25	0	5	10	1	41
2016/17	40	3	10	4	1	58

**Source: Thames Valley Police Crime Recording System – Niche RMS<sup>1</sup>**

The number of recorded hate crimes in Bracknell Forest is up although the overall numbers remain low and these figures should be seen in the context of a rise throughout the TVP area and nationally. There is a suggestion that the numbers of recorded hate crimes and faith based crimes have risen, in part, on the result of the Brexit vote and the number of recent domestic terrorist incidents. The greatest increases have been seen in non-crime offences rather than recorded crime which may be an indication of a greater willingness to report which should be seen as positive.

### Comments

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<sup>1</sup> **Note:** The above Hate Crime data is for all recorded crimes based on the Occurrence Type, Classification, NICL Qualifier and specific hate crime Incident qualifiers.

**Note:** Data for all years has been refreshed, therefore may differ from previous supplied data.

**Note:** The data provided is taken from TVP's crime recording system. This is a dynamic system. Additional information identified during the investigation may lead to a reassessment of the crime classification. Information held on the system is also subject to review to ensure compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules for Recording Crime and the National Crime Recording Standard. As a result of this crime levels and classifications may change over time and this data may not match data previously published or data published in the future. For this reason, the data should only be used as an indicator of crime trends.

The hate crimes in Bracknell Forest are predominantly racist incidents. Bracknell Forest has amongst the lowest number of racist incidents within the Thames Valley area despite a growing population and an increasingly diverse community. The CSP recognises that this may reflect an issue with under-reporting and continues to raise awareness amongst professionals and local communities about how to report Hate Crime and the support that is available.

Whilst there has been a significant increase in homophobic hate crime in percentage terms, the numbers remain exceptionally low.

Work continues to be done to reduce Hate Crime. Throughout the year the Council, Police and Voluntary Sector have supported the 'One Community: Stop Hate Crime Now', campaign. The Community Cohesion & Engagement Partnership which is made up of representatives from partnership statutory organisations has regularly monitored Hate Crime incidents and has been consulted and involved in the delivery of the One Community: Stop Hate Crime Now campaign. In addition, Bracknell Forest supports the Police & Crime Commissioners #LetsHateHate campaign.

### **3. Local Views**

#### **General Fear of Crime**

The level of recorded crime in Bracknell Forest remains low when compared with the rest of the Thames Valley and when measured against similar local authorities as identified by the Home Office. Some rise in Bracknell town centre crime is to be expected following the regeneration of the town centre and a substantial increase in footfall.

The Bracknell Forest Residents Survey 2017 asked, "What three things do you like best about living in the Borough?" Out of 35 options the low level of crime came 8<sup>th</sup> with 11% of respondents. (17% of BME respondents indicated to low level of crime among their three things). Bracknell still enjoys the lowest level of dwelling burglary in Thames Valley and a level of crime per 1000 residents well below the TVP average.

## 4. Actions from last year's equalities monitoring

- £100k was made available to address domestic abuse in 2015-16. The intention was to achieve 3 targets agreed by the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF):
  - Reduce the number of reported criminal offences committed by the Domestic Abuse Service Co-ordination (DASC) cohorts
  - Reduce the number of children on Child Protection Plans (CPPs) where domestic abuse (DA) is a factor and the perpetrator has participated in the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service (DAPS) programme
  - Achieve the detection rate for domestic abuse assaults with injury.

## 5. Domestic Abuse

In terms of domestic abuse (DA) reporting, the following table shows the figures for domestic abuse crime across the Thames Valley. Bracknell Forest had the lowest levels of recorded domestic incidents and incidents where violence was used in the Thames Valley in 2016-17 at 20.7%. This can be attributed to excellent partnership working, a focus on early intervention and repeat victimisation and work with perpetrators.

The majority of the reports of DA show women as victims, particularly in cases of repeat victimisation. Where men are recorded as victims these cases can involve counter-allegations of abuse. DA can also involve same sex relationships. The last domestic homicide in Bracknell Forest (Sept 2012) was between two men.

Domestic Abuse is a strategic priority for Bracknell Forest Council. Several projects have been delivered in the borough to support both victims and perpetrators of DA such as:

- Training for frontline staff on identifying, risk assessing and supporting victims – *Introduction to domestic abuse course run June 2016 with 16 attendees, multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) and Domestic Abuse Stops Here (DASH) course run May 2016 with 13 attendees. Both courses are run four times a year.*
- Monthly Domestic Abuse Service Coordination (DASC) meetings to discuss progress on medium and low risk cases – *Continuing to meet monthly, adopting more flexible cohort to include not only intimate partner relationships but familial domestic abuse.*
- The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service (DAPS) – In 2016-17 there were 92 referrals to DAPS. Of these 39 were subject to child protection plans, 23 were under child in need plans and 30 were known to the Duty and Assessment Team. Plain Talking was arranged for one evening a week with day time appointments being available.
- [www.itsneverok.co.uk](http://www.itsneverok.co.uk), Bracknell's dedicated domestic abuse website where victims and perpetrators can find out which services are available to them and where to get help. There is also signposting to the Police & Crime Commissioners website #Letshatehate campaign.

### **Domestic Abuse Crime recorded within Thames Valley**

	Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	% Change 15/16 to 14/15	% Change 16/17 to 15/16
Bracknell Forest	562	522	534	-7.1%	2.3%
Berkshire Hub	4781	5601	5620	17.2%	0.3%
Thames Valley	10633	12964	13371	21.9%	3.1%

Note: The above data is representative of Domestic Abuse crime as per the Domestic abuse latest and finalisation flag.

The work of the partnership is having a positive impact on victims and in changing perpetrator behaviour but an area for concern is the lack of services for children and young people affected by DA.

## **6. Conclusion**

There has been a slight rise in overall crime in Bracknell Forest in line with the rest of the TVP area and the UK. Despite local campaigns to raise awareness of Hate Crime and DA in particular; the number of reports remains low compared with other CSPs and local authority areas within the Thames Valley. The annual strategic assessment of the CSP has not found any evidence to contradict the low numbers of reported incidents.