

Equalities Monitoring – Services

Appendix C – Community Safety

Annual Report - 2017-18



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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 (TVP) 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, sexual 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 belief-related crimes. The table below shows the trend over the last five years.

Hate Crime recorded within Bracknell Forest.

	Racist	Faith	Homophobic	Disablist	Transphobic	Number of Flags	Number of Hate Crime Occurrences
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	36	1	4	2	1	44	43
Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	28	0	3	1	1	33	33
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	46	3	2	0	3	54	53
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	28	0	0	3	0	31	31
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	25	0	5	9	1	40	40
Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	40	3	10	4	1	58	53
Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	57	3	2	18	0	80	76

Note: The above data is representative of crime occurrences where one (or more) of the 5 hate crime strands were flagged (using 'latest' or 'finalisation'). Please note, the above figures count the number of flags as well as the number of occurrences. As such, if one crime is flagged as both racial and faith it will appear under each hate crime strand but only once as a Hate Crime Occurrence.

Source: TVP Crime Recording System – Niche RMS¹

The number of recorded hate crimes in Bracknell Forest have increased although the overall numbers remain low and these figures should be seen in the context of a rise

¹ **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.

throughout the TVP area and nationally. There is a suggestion that the numbers of recorded hate crimes and belief-based crimes have risen, partly as a 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. There has also been a rise in the number of reported disablist crimes which needs further analysis to be better understood.

Comments

The hate crimes recorded 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. Analysis has demonstrated that the most likely age of those reporting hate crime is 36 – 40 years while the most likely age of the suspect/offender is 11 – 18 years. This finding will be reported to both the CSP and the LSCB for further analysis and action.

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 8th with 11% of respondents. (17% of BME respondents indicated a low level of crime was amongst the top three). 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

£53,120 was made available to address domestic abuse in 2017-18 - excluding funding for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service (DAPS). Two priority outcomes were agreed by the BFC Domestic Abuse Executive Group as part of the DA Strategy Action Plan:

- i. Reduce the overall domestic abuse repeat rate as measured by TVP and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
- ii. Reduce the % of DAPS clients reoffending*, who have completed the agreed work.

*Reoffending constitutes an alleged physical assault reported by any source (e.g. agency/self) to Children's Social Care / TVP / MASH etc.

5. Domestic Abuse

In terms of DA reporting, the following table shows the figures for DA crime across the Thames Valley. Bracknell Forest had the lowest level of repeat cases in the Thames Valley in 2017-18 at 24.2% with the Thames Valley repeat rate being 27.2%. 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 (September 2013) was between two men.

Domestic Abuse is a strategic priority for Bracknell Forest Council. The current Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20 and annual action plan (updated quarterly) outlines the boroughs response to domestic abuse, including:

- Training for frontline staff on identifying, risk assessing and supporting victims – 'Introduction to domestic abuse' and 'MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) & DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence' courses run quarterly and in 2017-18 had 43 and 36 delegates attend respectively. An 'Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage' course also ran during this time, jointly with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead with 16 delegates from across the two boroughs attending.
- Monthly Domestic Abuse Service Coordination (DASC) meetings to discuss progress on medium and standard risk cases making highest demands. This is chaired by Police and the Community Safety Team and continues to meet monthly, utilising TVP's crime recording applications to identify cases and referred where appropriate. Use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders (DVPN) to be extended where applicable through the DASC process.
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). In 2017-18, 76 high risk cases were heard at MARAC. Over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of cases discussed at MARAC and also an increase in the repeat rate. The ratio of referrals from police/partners remains constant, and within partner referrals, over the last year we have seen a good spread of referrals from the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) (18% n=14), Children's

Social Care (20% n=15), Health (3% n=2), Adult Social Care (3% n=2), and Children's Centres (3% n=2).

- DAPS – In 2017-8 there were 89 referrals to the service. 30 referrals did not start due to a number of reasons and 34 children were removed from child protection plans during this time. The re-offending rate of clients completing the agreed work through DAPS is monitored with a target to reduce it. In 2017-18, there was an increase in the reoffending rate of the cohort which includes all who have been through the programme from its inception. Ways of monitoring the re-offending rate are currently being looked at.
- Bracknell's dedicated domestic abuse website where victims and perpetrators can find out which services are available to them and where to get help has now been moved in-house to the Bracknell Forest Council website. The URL www.itsneverok.co.uk is still in use and all content was updated in April 2018. Other local publicity is available and a pathway for practitioners and a cue card have also been recently updated and circulated in 2018.

Domestic Abuse Crime recorded within Thames Valley

	Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	% Change 15/16 to 14/15	% Change 16/17 to 15/16	% Change 17/18 to 16/17
Bracknell Forest	562	523	535	595	-6.9%	2.3%	11.2%
Berkshire Hub	4781	5605	5632	5892	17.2%	0.5%	4.6%
Thames Valley	10639	12970	13374	14566	21.9%	3.1%	8.9%

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

Data Source: Thames Valley Police Crime recording system - NICHE RMS

Date Extracted: 21.08.2018

Note: The data provided is taken from our 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 work of the partnership continues to look at gaps in service and for areas of good practice to ensure a positive impact on victims and their children and in challenging and changing perpetrator behaviour.

6. Conclusion

There has been a slight fall in reported victim-based crime in Bracknell Forest in contrast with a rise in 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.