



# Lincolnshire

## Hate Crime

## Strategy

# 2020 - 2023

# Introduction to Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire is in the East Midlands region. It is a two-tier authority area comprised of Lincolnshire County Council and seven districts; Boston Borough, City of Lincoln, East Lindsey, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey. Lincolnshire's population currently stands at an estimated 743,400 people and is projected to increase by 35,900 by 2024. The proportion of people over 75 years of age is projected to increase by 95% between 2014 and 2039.

Hate incidents and hate crimes are an issue of vital social importance because they not only affect individuals and families who experience them but also the communities and social groups to which they belong.

Experiencing hate crime can be a particularly frightening experience due to being targeted because of personal characteristics or perceived characteristics. This can leave individuals feeling vulnerable and negatively impact on their lives; affecting self-confidence, self-worth and health. Research suggests the psychological damage to a victim of hate is greater than with similar crimes that are not motivated by hostility or hatred. Hate crime can also be very isolating and impact on individual's personal freedom, forcing people to change where they go, work and or even live.

Hate crime is not acceptable in Lincolnshire, and our communities should be free to express their identities without fear of censure or prejudice. Our communities should feel confident to report hate crime whenever it happens, and to know the response they receive from the police and partners will be prompt, proportionate and effective.

# Hate Crime or Hate Incident

A Hate Crime or Hate Incident is any crime or incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by a hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

For the purpose of this strategy the hate crime strands we will be focusing on are:

- **Disability**
- **Race**
- **Religion and Belief**
- **Sexual Orientation**
- **Transgender**

However it is worth noting that malice or ill will towards a social group can be based on any identifying factor including the above groups but not exclusively. Also, some people may experience hate crimes and incidents because of more than one identifying factor, for example, a combination of their race and disability.

It is important to note that some hate incidents may not constitute a criminal offence and therefore will not be recorded as a hate crime, whereas all hate crimes are hate incidents.

Hate crimes and incidents can take many forms including:

- **Physical attacks**
- **Threats**
- **Verbal abuse**
- **Murder**
- **Neighbour disputes**
- **Arson**
- **Graffiti**
- **Intimidation or harassment**
- **Bullying at school, college or work**
- **Harassment by phone, text, email or through the internet (Cyber Bullying).**

Hate crime will not be tolerated in Lincolnshire, and it is the responsibility of all partners to deliver an effective and robust response to incidents to ensure communities are educated about, and invested in reporting hate crimes. All agencies are committed to the following Charter actions within their organisations.

- That the agency I represent will promote awareness and understanding of Hate Crime and its impact on victims and communities – both internally and externally.
- Hate Crime material is displayed by the agency/department I represent in different languages relevant to local communities and is also available in alternative formats such as large print. Information about Hate Crime is included on respective agencies websites with links to the Lincolnshire Police and Stop Hate UK websites.
- That the agency I represent has a process in place to effectively identify Hate Incidents/Crime.
- That there is an effective policy/protocol or guidance in place detailing how the agency/department will respond to Hate Crime.
- The agency I represent is committed to working in partnership to tackle Hate Crime.
- Ensure appropriate referral/signposting pathways are in place for victims of Hate Crime.
- That staff who require Hate Crime training have been identified and receive role appropriate training.

## Mate Crime

There is no formal agreed definition of Mate Crime however, it is a form of hate crime and can be defined as:

When a person is harmed or taken advantage of by someone they thought was their friend. It is more common with people with learning disabilities and mental health condition but not exclusively. Due to the nature of a mate crime this is managed by Lincolnshire Police, and supported through the adult safeguarding board.



## Reporting Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes

In Lincolnshire victims of hate incidents or hate crimes can report their complaint to either the Stop Hate help line or directly to Lincolnshire Police.

## Stop Hate UK

The Stop Hate UK help line service is operated by independent charity Stop Hate UK. The service is available 24 hours a day and can be accessed via Phone, Text, Text-Relay, Web-chat, Email, Online Form, BSL and Post. The helpline supports reporting of all forms of hostility (crimes and incidents) and other forms of discrimination. Service users are offered immediate practical and emotional support and where consent is given a referral to Police and other local support agencies can be made. The service also provides the option for anonymous referrals to aid collection of intelligence and tension monitoring.



**0800 138 1625**  
**24 HOUR HELP LINE**



# Lincolnshire Police

Lincolnshire Police adopts a victim led approach to reports of hate incidents and hate crimes. All complaints will be recorded and investigated using the information available. Victims may be asked to provide a statement to account for what has occurred, which either can be written or video-recorded, dependant on the circumstances or needs of the victim. If the decision is taken to close the investigation, it does not mean that the crime is not important, or closed permanently. It may be that there are no further lines of enquiry or evidence available. If more information comes to light at a later date, the case will be reviewed and if necessary investigated further.





# Supporting Victims of Hate Crime

Victim Lincs provides a high quality service that offers help, support and guidance to victims of crime. They have a dedicated Complex Case Worker, to specifically support victims of hate crime. Their role is to gather further information on your case and keep you informed of any progress, whilst also providing support and reassurance and access to other specialist coping and recovery services such as, Victim Support, Citizens Advice Bureau and Witness Care Unit.





# How do we propose to tackle Hate Crime and Hate Incidents?

Tackling hate crimes and hate incidents will be a challenge for Lincolnshire; however this strategy acknowledges and builds upon good practice that is already evident both nationally and locally.

Good practice, which already exists in Lincolnshire includes:

- Commissioning of Stop Hate UK – countywide 24 hour third party reporting mechanism and support service.
- Partnership sign up to a Hate Crime Charter.
- Just Lincolnshire’s – Hate Crime Project.
- A range of generic advice services that respond to hate crime and incident issues through a free and confidential outreach victim service, providing individually tailored support packages delivered by accredited Victim Support staff.
- Op REVIVE – Police project to support victims of hate crime and mate crime.
- Regional Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels - Hate crime scrutiny panels have contributed to increased success in prosecuting hate crime. The panels enabled the Crown Prosecution Service decision-making process to be opened up to external scrutiny by community representatives.



## Understanding Hate crime

Agencies will utilise multiple intelligence sources regarding the prevalence, nature and location of hate crimes and incidents to determine emerging trends and hot-spot areas. We will ensure the county is able to collect and disseminate the key messages around hate crime and that services have relevant and concise information on key areas of concern.

Preventing hate crime – we will aim to reduce the incidents of hate crime and hate incidents by promoting the early identification of problem areas and co-ordinating intervention activities. We will ensure that hate crime remains a priority in key forums across Lincolnshire and promote and support preventative programmes.

# Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

**The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) is the single multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues across Lincolnshire.**