

Report to: Community Protection Panel
Date: 10th March 2008
Subject: Hate Crime Awareness Week
Report of: Director of Environmental Services
Contact officer: Nicola Yates Telephone: 01942 488301

Purpose/summary: To inform panel members about the programme of activity that took place during Hate Crime Awareness Week 2008.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: n/a

Recommendation/decision: Panel are invited to note the contents of this report.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 19 March 2008

Risks/Implications: n/a

Financial: n/a
Staffing: n/a
Policy: n/a
Equal Opportunities - has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? No
Wards affected: All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **No ***

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **No ***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No ***

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

Discussion	
Decision	
Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
CPP 10.3.2008			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 21st February 2008

1.0 Hate Crime Awareness Week “See the Difference, Be the Difference”.

1.1 The 18th to the 24th of February 2008 saw the borough’s fourth hate crime awareness week take place under the banner of “See the Difference, Be the Difference”. Commencing in 2004, the Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with other agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups have held this annual event to raise awareness about Hate Crime and encourage people to report incidents or crimes that they feel have been committed against them because of who they are.

2.0 What is Hate Crime

2.1 Hate Crime can be many different things to many different people. As a broad definition anyone who is victimised because of their age, race, religion, sexuality, gender, social class or disability may feel that they have been a victim of a hate crime. The Community Safety Partnership records and monitors all incidents of hate that are reported throughout the borough. The police will investigate any report of hate crime relating to someone’s race, religion, sexuality, gender or disability.

2.2 Reducing hate crime is important in creating community cohesion, and helping people to feel safe and that they belong in their community.

2.3 We currently have a range of reporting centres throughout the borough, many of which are located in community venues and schools to encourage people to report things who may feel uncomfortable approaching police station or local authority building.

3.0 What we are doing to tackle Hate Crime

3.1 There is an ongoing programme of awareness raising through out the year. Providing diversity training and encouraging community venues and businesses to act as reporting centres is an important way of engaging people in exploring and discussing hate crime issues.

3.2 There are a variety of agencies and support groups throughout the borough who provide information, advice and awareness about hate crime issues such as Victim Support, Rafiki Mostwako and the LGBT community.

3.3 There is extensive work going on in our schools and within Children and Young Peoples Services to support young people around issues of diversity.

3.4 In 2007, CVS trained over 200 people from 20 organisations across the borough in cultural awareness.

3.5 Training has also been provided for Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust staff and magistrates.

4.0 Events throughout the week

4.1 This annual event brings together all of the agencies and community groups across the borough for a week long programme of activities to raise

awareness of hate crime and to hopefully impact on the attitudes and behaviours of those people who may be perpetrators of hate crime.

4.2 Activities are held throughout the week at various venues across the borough and anyone is welcome to attend.

4.3 **Programme of Activity for the week**

Various events were held at a range of venues. These included:-

- Hate Crime Conference at JJB Stadium
- Poetry Reading Sessions – The Horror of Hate at Leigh Library Derby Rooms
- Information and Advice Stall provided by Victim Support at Wigan's History Shop
- Diversity Dinners – Wigan Town Hall
- Story Time and Activities at Libraries across the borough
- Mobile phone marking at colleges and schools
- Presentations by the Muslim Police Association
- Basics of Islam at Wigan Mosque, Poolstock

5.0 **Hate Crime Conference**

5.1 This year, on Monday 18th February, Hate Crime Awareness week commenced with a full day Hate Crime conference at JJB Stadium. This is the fourth conference the borough has held but for the first time this year, invitations were extended to organisations from outside the borough. The response was overwhelming and the 18th February saw over two hundred delegates arrive at the JJB Stadium, some from as far away as London and Northampton. Unfortunately due to venue capacity, many people who wanted to attend had to be placed on a waiting list, such was the interest in the event.

5.2 The day commenced with a photo shoot to publicise the "Hate Crime Taxi", a hackney carriage that will be promoting the hate crime awareness week slogan "See the Difference, Be The Difference" alongside some useful telephone numbers, as it carries its passengers across the borough throughout 2008.

5.3 The Leader of the Council, Lord Smith of Leigh, opened the conference. Speakers throughout the day included Paul Gianassi who leads the Home Office Criminal Justice Reform Unit on the Race for Justice, who gave a keynotes speech on the national policy context for reducing hate crime. We also heard from Sergeant Kate Crompton who has recently reviewed Greater Manchester Police's Hate Crime Policy.

- 5.4 An inspiring and challenging presentation was given by Karen Flood, who gave us all an insight into what it is like to live your life as someone with a learning disability and be victimised as a result of that. Further presentations were heard from Tom Sweeney of the Crown Prosecution Service and Pete Coulson of Wigan Children and Young People Services.
- 5.5 The day finished with a series of workshops to explore issues around disability, homophobia, racism amongst young people, older people and faith. The results of these workshops will further inform our activity to tackle Hate Crime in future months.
- 5.7 The week this year has been a great success and we are hoping to build on the strength and success of this years conference to continue raising awareness and tackling inappropriate attitudes and behaviours.

6.0 Hate Crime – Reporting Arrangements

- 6.1 A report of hate crime receives priority attention by the police and perpetrators of hate crimes can be arrested. The police recognize that not all victims would wish to report to the police directly - for this reason 3rd party reporting is acceptable as well as completing the multi-agency hate crime reporting form that can be filled in remotely and forwarded through to the Community Safety Team. The hate crime reports received by the Community Safety Team will either be managed by the team or forwarded through to the police subject to what is requested by the person reporting.
- 6.2 The Multi Agency Hate Crime reporting form is completely victim focused and all reports are fully investigated, if this is the action that is requested by the victim. The Police will not investigate should the victim not choose this action. The venues where incidents can be reported include: Leisure centres; every Library in the borough; at every area housing office and various Council departments across Wigan and Leigh. Witnesses as well as victims can report incidents.
- 6.3 There is a Freephone service which gives details about where to report Hate Incidents and where to find support services for victims. The automated service gives information in ten different languages and is free to call.
- 6.4 Hate Crime Multi Language Information Line: 08000 191 456

7.0 Conclusion

Hate crime and its consequences have a damaging effect on our communities and individuals within them. Hate Crime Awareness week plays an important part in raising the profile of the issue and reassuring victims that action will be taken when such issues are reported.