

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 006-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Stop Hate UK support line
Area of county/ stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 1 st February 2021
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £22,500 in the form of crime and disorder reduction grant to Stop Hate UK for the provision of the Essex hate crime support service.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £22,500 to Stop Hate UK for the Essex hate crime support service until December 2021.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. Stop Hate UK is a specialist hate crime support service provider. The organisation provides emotional support as well as advice and information on staying safe in the home or in the community. Stop Hate UK will also help victims of hate crime or hate incidents with advice on how to navigate the criminal justice system as well as how to hold statutory and other bodies to account. The support line can also provide advice and information to professionals, including police officers and staff in how to deal with hate crimes or incidents.
- 3.2. The support line has been operating in Essex for a number of years and the phone number is included on partnership resources providing a point of contact for anyone wanting to access information or support about hate crime.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. StopHate are a specialist agency providing tools, training, awareness and support for Hate Crime. The 24-hour independent reporting and support helpline provided by Stop Hate UK covers all the currently monitored strands

of hate crime and was established as part of a direct response to Recommendation 16 of the [MacPherson Inquiry](#)¹.

'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.'*

- 4.2. The PFCC has funded Stop Hate UK since 2016/17.
- 4.3. This helpline supplements existing hate crime partnership activity including a partnership co-ordinator, the Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC) network of local support locations and active promotion of ways to report crime to Essex Police.
- 4.4. StopHate data does show that around 60% of the contacts were outside business hours. This identifies the need to continue to support this service. Through the Hate Crime Partnership, we also would like to expand upon this area and encourage better collaboration between Hate Incident Reporting Centres and StopHate.
- 4.5. In addition to victim support Stop Hate have provided the PFCC and partners training material and support with awareness campaigns across the year.
- 4.6. The funding proposed for this year will also provide additional resources available from Stop Hate UK will also support delivery of the Strategic Hate Crime Partnership priorities including
 - Continue to work with partners to encourage the early identification of hate crime
 - Exploring and tackling online hate crime.
- 4.7. It is proposed to allocate £22,500 to Stop Hate UK in order to provide;
 - A free 24-hour helpline, for victims and witnesses of hate crime, to provide independent support and advice
 - Access to resources to assist with the promotion of hate crime reporting and general awareness raising which includes 1-hour training sessions.
 - Quarterly monitoring reports to show usage of the service, identify trends and patterns, and to inform evidence-based commissioning decisions
 - Work collaboratively with Hate Crime Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) to have 24-hour support available
 - Use of Stop Hate branding to demonstrate commitment to an independent hate crime service.
 - Support Essex Police and victims of hate crime to remove hate material from internet sites

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

- 5.1. The PFCC could choose not to continue funding StopHate UK. However, a review has taken place into the effectiveness of Stop Hate UK including reviewing reported data and partner feedback. Purely assessing the volume of victims seeking support from StopHate shows a lower volume than we would want to see. However, 60% of these victims contact outside business hours demonstrating a need from victims to have a support service during these times. If the PFCC chose not to support StopHate it will leave a gap in specialist services for victims.
- 5.2. In addition, the review highlighted that the Hate Crime Partnership was not fully utilising the Stop Hate UK resources available including the 1-hour training sessions and the online hate crime removal services and providing support to tackling online hate messages
- 5.3. Essex Police are continuing to see increased reports of hate incident. In the past 12 months there has been a 14% increase (rolling 12 months up to Dec 20) during the pandemic where restrictions have been in place. If the PFCC chose not to continue funding, there may be a negative public perception/confidence impact as it would be seen to removing a specialist support agency in a time where hate crime has increased.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This funding will support priority 6 of the Police and Crime Plan protecting children and vulnerable people. In particular, the PFCC commitment to respond to the needs of individuals and local communities who are vulnerable to specific crime types such as hate crime.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no direct operational implications, however, the work of Stop Hate UK complements Essex Police's response to tackling hate crime.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off grant of £22,500 from the 2020-21 Victims' Commissioning Fund to Stop Hate UK. This was the same value awarded in 2019-20.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. This funding is subject to the terms of the PFCC's standard grant agreements.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. The use of this funding to employ staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the host organisation. No liabilities, immediate or ongoing, will be placed on the PFCC as a result of this funding.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. There are no direct additional Equality and Diversity implications, Stop Hate UK is accessible to all and its purpose is to support those that have received hate against a person's identify and protected characteristics

12. Risks

12.1. There is a risk that Stop Hate UK does not meet expectations and deliver value for money. This risk is going to be mitigated by increased monitoring.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. This approach has been developed with key strategic partners from the Strategic Hate Crime Partnership.

14. Background papers

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DP FCC.

Deputy M.O.

Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 18 March 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 18 March 2021

Publication *(double click box to add a tick)*

Is the report for publication?

Yes

No

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication *(Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)*

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If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction *(double click box to add a tick)*

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? Yes No

2. Of Appendix? Yes No

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

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Treasurer/ Chief Executive Sign Off - for Redactions only

If has redaction been is completed. required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date Signed: 18 March 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date Signed: