



Hate Crime

Policy

1. Introduction

This document sets out the Force policy in relation to Hate Crime

2. Policy Statement

2.1. Surrey Police will not tolerate any form of Hate Crime and will speedily respond, investigate, identify and prosecute offenders to the satisfaction of the victim and the community, thereby seeking to reduce repeat victimisation.

2.2. A hate incident/crime is any incident which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by prejudice or hate, based upon:

- Race/Ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Transgender identity
- Alternative-Subculture i.e. Goths etc.

3. Hate Incident Definition

Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

4. Whilst a hate crime is defined specifically as:

Any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

5. Disability Incident or sometimes referred to as a disability related incident

Any incident which is perceived to be based upon prejudice towards or hatred of the victim because of their disability or so perceived by the victim or any other person

6. Faith related Incident

Any incident which is perceived to be based upon prejudice towards their faith or belief or hatred of the victim or so perceived by the victim or any other person

7. Homophobic Incident

Any incident that is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person that is directed to impact upon those perceived to be gay and bi-sexual.

8. Racist Incident

Any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person

9. Transphobic Incident

Transphobia is an irrational fear or hatred of individuals who are, or appear to be transsexual, transvestite or transgenderist. Any incident that is perceived to be transphobic by the victim or any other person

10. Alternative Subculture Incident

Alternative sub-culture means a discernible group that is characterised by a strong sense of collective identity and a set of group-specific values and tastes that typically center on distinctive style/clothing, make-up, body art and music preferences.

Those involved usually stand out in the sense that their distinctiveness is discernible both to fellow participants and to those outside the group. Groups that typically place themselves under the umbrella of 'alternative' include goths, emos, punks, metallers and some variants of hippie and dance culture (although this list is not exhaustive).

11. Sectarian Incident

Any incident which is perceived to be sectarian by the victim or any other person
Although currently there is no clear definition of sectarianism it is broadly understood to describe incidents of religious conflict or factionalism between individuals of different denominations of the same religion. For example conflict between Catholic and Protestant Christians or Sunni and Shia Muslims.

12. Hate crime Repeat victimisation

The agreed National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC, formerly ACPO) definition is: Where a person or immediate family member suffers more than one hate incident in a 12 month period following the date the first crime was reported.

13. Secondary Victimisation

13.1. The agreed NPCC definition:

If, as victims of hate crimes or incidents, individuals experience indifference or rejection from the police this in effect victimises them a second time. Secondary victimisation takes place whether or not the Police are indifferent or reject victims if that is how the victim feels about the interaction. Whether or not it is reasonable for them to feel that way is immaterial. The onus falls entirely on the Police and Partnership agencies to manage the interaction to ensure that the victim has no residual feelings of secondary victimisation.

13.2. Critical Incident:

'A critical Incident is any incident where the effectiveness of the police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of; the victim, their family and/or the community'.

13.3. Surrey Police policy is to fully record and exhaustively investigate all forms of Hate Crime.

13.4. The Force will give high priority to the investigation of Hate Crime and a full range of investigative and forensic tactics will be employed.

14. Positive action

14.1. Positive Action is an acceptance of the perception based view of the victim, or any other person, that a crime or incident is motivated by prejudice or hate.

14.2. The perception-based view of the victim, or any other person, will always be accepted.

14.3. This sends out a strong message of “positive action” that police will treat victims of hate crime seriously and will conduct a thorough and objective investigation of the matter.

14.4. Where an offence is determined, active and immediate steps will be taken to identify offenders.

14.5. Where there is sufficient evidence to substantiate that a criminal offence has taken place, “positive action”, by being thorough and objective, will be taken in all cases.

14.6. It is NOT a requirement, however, to make an arrest in every circumstance, this includes recognition of a proportionate approach using professional judgment, according to local context and Surrey Public First principles and officer discretion.

14.7. However, if the power of arrest is justified and necessary, then an arrest should be affected at the earliest practicable opportunity or, where appropriate, report for summons. All hate incidents and police action will be recorded so as to provide an audit trail.

15. Third party reporting and reluctant victims

15.1 The aim of third party reporting is to encourage the reporting of hate crime and to increase the flow of intelligence from the community.

15.2 Surrey Police must maintain a robust, proactive and effective response to tackling and preventing hate crime, ensuring that perpetrators are detected and prosecuted. We must work to secure the respect, trust and support of potential victims, groups and communities. This will contribute to improving the confidence of victims and will encourage others to report incidents.

15.3 Staff are encouraged to raise awareness of on line reporting and confidential methods of recording offences in order to overcome barriers to reporting hate crime.

Team: Public Protection