

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
STRATEGY STATEMENT FOR TACKLING HATE
(2023 – 2026)

1. Introduction

1.1 This Strategy brings together key organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) including; Leicestershire County Council, the county’s seven District and Borough Councils, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Victim First, LLR Health Services and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service in response to hate incidents and hate crimes, to ensure a consistent approach across the sub region.

2. Background

2.1 The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (2022) provides a broad and inclusive definition:

2.2 Hate crimes and incidents are taken to mean any crime or incident where the perpetrator’s hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is targeted. This is a broad and inclusive definition. A victim, complainant or the person reporting the incident does not have to be a member of the group. In fact, anyone who is perceived to be or associated with an identifiable group of people (even mistakenly), could be a victim of a hate crime or targeted by a non-crime hate incident motivated by hostility.

2.3 Across LLR a crime that is motivated by hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or transgender identity can be classed as a hate crime.

2.4 Incidents and crimes are recorded against these five categories, as well as including a category for ‘any other perceived difference’ to align with Leicestershire Police’s recording of hate. Detailed below are the differences between hate incidents and crimes:

3. Hate Incident

3.1 Any incident where a crime has not been committed, but where it is perceived by the reporting person or any other person that the incident was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on:

- I. A person’s race or perceived race

- II. Any racial group or ethnic background including countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups
- III. A person's religion or perceived religion
- IV. Any religious group including those who have no faith in a theology
- V. A person's sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation any person's sexual orientation
- VI. A person's disability or perceived disability
- VII. Any disability including physical disability, learning disability and mental health or developmental disorders
- VIII. A person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender (including people who are transsexual, transgender, cross dressers and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004)

4. Hate Crime

4.1 A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on:

- I. A person's race or perceived race
- II. Any racial group or ethnic background including countries within the UK and Gypsy and Traveller groups
- III. A person's religion or perceived religion
- IV. Any religious group including those who have no faith in a theology
- V. A person's sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation
- VI. Any person's sexual orientation
- VII. A person's disability or perceived disability
- VIII. Any disability including physical disability, learning disability and mental health or developmental disorders
- IX. A person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender (including people who are transsexual, transgender, cross dressers and those who hold a Gender Recognition Certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004)

4.2 Research indicates that hate incidents and hate crimes can cause greater psychological harm than other types of crime with a much greater and longer

lasting effect on the victim, the victim's family, and on communities. Whilst great strides have been made in tackling hate incidents and crimes too often, these crimes still go undetected and underreported. Whilst Leicestershire Police are the lead agency for the investigations of hate crimes, it is important to recognise that no one single agency can effectively tackle hate incidents and crimes alone.

6. Our Vision:

6.1 Our vision is to create a tolerant society where differences are accepted, valued and celebrated within our communities, in order to make Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland safer and more inclusive places to live, work and visit.

7. Themes and Priorities

7.1 The 2023-26 priorities for this strategy are:

- To raise awareness of what hates crimes and incidents are and how to report them
- To improve the partnership response to hate crimes and incidents
- To identify and respond to emerging issues within localities and communities
- To understand new and emerging communities and engaging with them
- To reassure, strengthen and educate communities
- To support localities to further improve community cohesion
- To learn lessons and share good practice
- To ensure member organisations of the Group improve their corporate understanding of hate crime and incidents and the drivers behind them
- To take an evidence led approach to tackling hate crimes and incidents.

8. Action Plans

8.1 Hate Action Plans will be locally driven through Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to ensure actions are fit for purpose and link appropriately to the key themes and priorities based on local need.

8.2 An LLR Communication Plan will set out the partnership approach for promoting national campaigns and raising awareness to encourage people to report hate incidents.

9. Performance Monitoring

9.1 Update reports on the local action plan will be provided to the appropriate local Community Safety Partnerships across LLR. Quarterly progress reports will be presented to the Senior Officer Group (SOG) into the Strategic Partnership Board Executive (SPB Exec).