



Lincolnshire

Hate Crime

Strategy

2025-2028

Introduction to Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Community Safety partners work together to keep Lincolnshire a safe place to live, visit and safe for all our communities.

Hate crime and hate incidents are an issue of vital social importance because they not only affect individuals and families, 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 an individual's personal freedom, forcing people to change where they go, work 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.

What is classed as a 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 are:

- **Disability**
- **Race**
- **Religion**
- **Sexual Orientation**
- **Transgender identity**

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 they will promote awareness and understanding of Hate Crime and its impact on victims and communities – both internally and externally.
- That they have a process in place to effectively identify Hate Incidents/ Crime.
- That reports of a hate crime or incident will be dealt with in compliance with the organisation's own criteria.
- There is a commitment to working in partnership to tackle Hate Crime.
- That 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 who they thought was their friend. People with learning disabilities and/or mental health conditions may be more of a target for mate crime. Due to the nature of a mate crime this is managed by Lincolnshire Police and supported through the Lincolnshire Adult Safeguarding Board.



Reporting Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes

In Lincolnshire victims of hate crime or hate incidents can report their complaint directly to Lincolnshire Police, or to Victim Lincs. You can also report to True Vision.

[Report a hate crime - True Vision](#)

[Hate Crime | Victim Lincs](#)

[Hate crime | Victim Support](#)



Lincolnshire Police

Lincolnshire Police adopts a victim-led approach to reports of hate crimes and hate incidents. All reports of hate crime and hate incidents will be recorded in line with national requirements and investigated appropriately using the information available.

At all stages of an investigation, police officers and staff must be aware of potential risks to the safety, vulnerability and wellbeing of victims and witnesses. Victims will be asked questions to help officers understand the risk.

Victims may be asked to provide information explaining what has occurred, which may include a statement either in writing or by video depending on the circumstances and needs of the victim.

If the decision is taken to close the investigation without bringing an offender to justice, it does not mean that the crime or investigation is not important. It may be that there are no further lines of enquiry or evidence available that could lead to a reasonable prospect of conviction. If more information comes to light later, the case can be reviewed and, if necessary, re-opened.



Supporting Victims of Hate Crime

Victim Lincs provides a high-quality service that offers help, support and guidance to victims of hate 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.

Victim Lincs is a service put in place by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire to provide victims with information, advice and support, including referral to specialist support services.

Victim Lincs can complete a comprehensive needs assessment with the victim and onward referral into **Victim Support**, the commissioned service here in Lincolnshire to provide enhanced support to victims of hate crime. They are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime.

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

