

**Bury Council  
Chief Executive's Department**

# **EQUALITY OBJECTIVES REPORT 2012-2013**

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allows flourish att  
**Equality**

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

Provide an outline of issues relating to Hate Crime, Domestic Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour in the Borough, with information on the actions that we are taking to tackle them

## 2.0 Background

### 2.1 Hate Crime, Domestic Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

#### Hate Crime

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic.

Hate incidents cannot be dealt with by any single agency in isolation because the issues involved are usually cross cutting and impact upon more than one agency or organisation. Such incidents require a multi-agency joined-up approach to effectively tackle them. It is extremely important that all reports of hate crime



are dealt with consistently and investigated thoroughly and that, wherever possible, reparation is made via restorative justice or offenders are prosecuted.

There is now a greater understanding of the impact that hate crimes have on victims and how this is alleviated through partnership working in the community. However, as with all agendas, we must guard against knowledge stagnation in the awareness of staff within organisations and the general public at large.

#### Domestic violence

The Government defines domestic violence as:

"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality"

This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so called 'honour based violence', female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

An adult is defined as any person aged 18 years or over. Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, and grandparents, whether directly related, in laws or stepfamily.

Whatever form it takes, domestic abuse is rarely a one-off incident, and should instead be seen as a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the abuser seeks power over their victim. Typically the abuse involves a pattern of



abusive and controlling behaviour, which tends to get worse over time. The abuse can begin at any time, in the first year, or after many years of life together. It may begin, continue, or escalate after a couple have separated and may take place not only in the home but also in a public place.

#### Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as 'conduct which caused or was likely to cause alarm, harassment, or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.'

This definition is quite subjective which can lead to confusion as to what types of incidents the Council and Police will and won't respond to.



There can be a fine line between antisocial behaviour and disputes between neighbours over relatively minor

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inconveniences, although these may, if persistent, become antisocial behaviour. Types of behaviour typically dealt with as anti-social include:-

- noise
- rowdy behaviour such as shouting, swearing and fighting
- intimidation of neighbours and others through threats or actual violence
- harassment, including racial harassment or sectarian aggression, particularly if it takes place at or near a football match
- verbal abuse
- systematic bullying of children in parks, on the route to school or on school grounds, if normal school disciplinary procedures do not stop the behaviour
- motorbike or car nuisance for example, drivers congregating in an area for racing
- dumping rubbish
- animal nuisance, including dog fouling
- vandalism, property damage and graffiti

### 2.2 Data

#### Hate Crime

The number of Hate Crimes and incidents reported in Bury in the rolling 12 month period (to January 2013) is 273. This is as compared with 312 in the previous year (February 2012). This is a 12.5% decrease on the previous year to date total. There has been a 6.6% increase in the number of solved Hate Crimes from 38.5% up to 45.0%.

#### Domestic Violence

During 2011/12 3412 cases of domestic violence were reported to the police. However, only 40% are generally reported to police, so it is estimated that Bury has around 7100 domestic violence incidents per year. These are reported through a number of different agencies.

#### Anti-social Behaviour

In 2011/12 the Police recorded 8016 incidents of anti-social behaviour. Reports

to the Police have been declining year on year since 2007/08 when there were 12,858 incidents logged in Bury

The Bury Council ASB Case Workers dealt with 112 cases in 2011/12. The biggest complaint category was harassment and intimidation, accounting for a third of these cases.

Six Town Housing's ASB team is benchmarked against other Local Authorities' ASB team for performance under Housemark. One of the targets is how many new cases per 1000 properties are dealt with over a 12 month period.

From March '11 - April '12 the figures are:

- Bury East - 8% reducing to 4.4%
- North Manner, Tottington and Ramsbottom - 7.0 % reducing to 5.9%
- Radcliffe - 7.7% reducing to 4.8%
- Whitefield and Prestwich - 7.2% reducing to 5.9%

In total we have dealt with 595 cases and issued 450 warnings.

- 7 evictions
- 60 legal Notices
- 6 Legal Orders

### 2.3 Partnership arrangements

#### Hate Crime

Team Bury still recognises the need for a multi-agency group that could take forward the actions, priorities and objectives relating to Hate Crime on an operational level. Therefore, Bury Hate Crime Forum has recently been set up to facilitate this.

Meetings will take place each quarter to enable the cascading of hate crime Intelligence; reporting on trends in Hate Crime and the formulation and review of pertinent GMP Force-wide Hate Crime Steering Group/Community Cohesion Plan actions.

Strategic responsibility for Hate Crime sits with the Community Safety Partnership, with a formal link to the Team Bury Communities Group and the GMP Force-wide Hate Crime Steering Group.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence & Abuse Steering Group is a strategic group that meets on a quarterly basis and is accountable to the Community Safety Partnership. It is currently chaired by the Director Of Childrens Services and is represented by a number of key agencies of a senior level. Domestic Violence & Abuse is also a priority area within the CSP and the Partnership Tasking Group – which is a operational group lead by GMP but has membership across key agencies.

### Anti-social Behaviour

Reducing ASB is a currently a priority for Bury's Community Safety Partnership. This work is overseen by the Partnership Tasking Group which meets monthly at Bury Police Station. Other forums where ASB is addressed are the local tasking meetings held in Prestwich, Whitefield, Bury East and Radcliffe every 4-6 weeks and the fortnightly meetings between Six Town and the Police.

ASB interventions make up one of the indicators in the 'Supporting Communities, Improving Lives' agenda and is the subject of a current Scrutiny working group.

## **2.4 Current and future work**

### Hate Crime

GMP will be cascading training to all current 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Hate Crime reporting centres. They will outline a clear single procedure for completing forms (both online and in hard copy) and the dissemination of hard copy forms to the relevant agency.

Links will be made between GMP and Children's Services to enable them to provide co-ordinated responses where hotspots are identified.

Team Bury and GMP in particular, have prioritised the reporting of LGBT and Disability Hate Crimes. Through the Learning Disability Partnership Board, the I'm not laughing project is being developed to raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime and the support that is available to those who want to report it.

### Domestic Violence

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Domestic violence & Abuse Strategy is currently under development it is envisaged that this piece of work should be completed by March 2013.

In addition a Domestic Violence & Abuse Directory which is currently in draft stage has been developed to assist key agencies in accessing support service for all involved in Domestic Violence and Abuse situations.

### Anti-social Behaviour

Current and future workstreams:

- Seasonal campaigns: Christmas / New Year, Safe4Summer, Operation Treacle (Bonfire Night and Halloween campaign)
- Bury East Staysafe initiatives supported by Alcohol Prospectus funding (4 initiatives to be run by Dec 2013)

Scrutiny report (first draft to be completed January 2013)

## **3.0 Next Steps**

### Hate Crime

There will be a Hate Crime re-launch event that will include interested parties and will be the vehicle for training and the tasking of partners in raising awareness of Hate Crime and its reporting processes.

Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Hate Crime Reporting Centre and other partners, in addition to GMP and Bury Council, will raise awareness of Hate Crime in their respective 'communities'. This will be carried out through a variety of mediums, such as press releases, websites, posters in premises, one-to-one meetings, group meeting and through Township Forums.

### Domestic Violence & Abuse

Please see points mentioned in 2.3, and 2.4. In addition the new strategy will be developed with an action plan for the next 3 years which will outline further planned work for the future.

### Anti-social Behaviour

Secure funding for the 2 Council grant funded ASB Case Workers for 2013/14 to

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ensure continuity of service for private residents of the borough

Implement recommendations of the ASB Review which are anticipated to be around: Service standards, reporting mechanisms, enhancing the mediation service and bringing the noise abatement capacity to Six Town Housing ASB Team.

Update the ASB Strategy and Policies & Procedures by September 2013

Plan and execute seasonal partnership campaigns for next 12 months (see above)