

Communities, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Board

Hate Crime Update December 2024

1 Background

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made in tackling hate crime across Leeds, highlighting key work areas and actions undertaken to date.

2 Definition of a Hate Crime and Hate Incident

2.1 **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 a person's: Disability, Gender Identity, Race, Religion or Sexual Orientation.

2.2 **Hate Incident** is any incident that the person affected or anyone else believes is based on a person's identity. Not all Hate incidents will lead to criminal offences, however, it's equally important to report both hate crimes and incidents, as incidents can turn into hate crimes or show a pattern of behaviour that could become a crime.

2.3 Anyone can report a hate crime and/or incident directly to the Police or via Leeds City Council's website, phone or hate incident reporting centres. Reports can also be made to third party reporting providers including Stop Hate UK, the Community Safety Trust (CST), Tell MAMA, MESMAC, United Response and more. A full list is available on Leeds Council's [website](#).

3 Delivery of Hate Crime work

3.1 Leeds City Council

- The Equality and Hate Crime Team within Safer and Stronger Communities includes an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager. In September 2024, the team was strengthened with the appointment of a new Senior Policy & Performance Officer focused on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Hate Crime. Additionally, an entirely new post was created for a Hate Crime Officer, who also joined the team in September. This new post highlights the commitment to tackling hate crime for the Council.
- The Hate Crime agenda is carried out by the Hate Crime Operational Group (HCOG), which reports to the Hate Crime Strategic Board (HCSB); both groups meet quarterly. The Hate Crime Strategic Board is tasked with ensuring the Hate Crime Strategy for Leeds is successfully delivered. The board tracks progress and addresses any performance issues, ensuring that objectives are met, and better outcomes are achieved.

- Leeds City Council also commissions Stop Hate UK to deliver a set programme of activities such as training and working within schools. This work is contract managed by Leeds City Council and monitored against specific agreed outputs.

3.2 West Yorkshire Police

- West Yorkshire Police has dedicated Hate Crime Officers within a team led by the Leeds Community Cohesion Sergeant.
- The team is also supported by Strategic Engagement Officers who work with a range of specific communities including Migrant Communities, Faith Communities, Women and Girls Officer and Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- A West Yorkshire Police Constable is also the CEO of CATCH – ‘Community Action To Create Hope’ – a charity based in Harehills, providing support, advice, and inspiration to raise the aspirations of people of all ages and backgrounds.

3.3 Safer Leeds

- The Safer Leeds partnership oversees the implementation of Hate Crime activity by Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, and other partners, coordinating efforts across all directorates, statutory and non-statutory and reporting directly to the Safer Leeds Executive Board.
- The Safer Leeds overarching vision is: *‘People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go’*. The key strategic themes include: Keep People Safe; Deter and Disrupt Offending; Community Cohesion and Resilience; and Building Trust and Confidence.

4 Hate Crime Strategy

4.1 The Hate Crime Strategy 2021-24 was developed through the Safer Leeds partnership with the ambition of addressing hate crime through a set of targeted initiatives across Leeds. Focused on five core priorities, this strategy aimed to both prevent hate crime and support affected individuals while improving overall community cohesion and safety.

4.2 The five core Hate Crime Strategy priorities include:

- (1) **Preventing Hate Crime** by dealing with the beliefs and attitudes that can lead to hate crime. We recognise the importance of preventing hate crime happening in the first place and are committed to challenging those attitudes that can lead to discrimination and divisions within our society.
- (2) **Responding To Hate Crime** in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crimes and hate incidents. We will focus on a number of settings that have emerged as high-risk environments for hate crime, the night-time economy and the internet.

- (3) **Increasing The Reporting of Hate Crime** We will continue to work to make it easier for those affected to report incidents of hate crime including through third party reporting centres. To give everyone the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously we will work with the police and Crown Prosecution Service to publicise successes in prosecuting hate crime.
- (4) **Improving support for Victims of Hate Crime.** Research has shown that crimes motivated by hate cause victims greater distress than similar crimes without the same motivation. We will continue to develop the Hate Crime Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which supports the review on ongoing hate crime incidents, where appropriate, helps drive better outcomes for victims and assists with organisational learning.
- (5) **Building Our Understanding of Hate Crime** In order to tackle hate crime, we need to understand the scale and nature of the problem. We will improve the data the government collects on hate crime and work with academics and others to improve our analysis and understanding of the drivers of hate crime and how these can be addressed. We will be working with victims learning from lived experience.

4.3 The Hate Crime Strategy 2025-28. As the strategy nears its conclusion, Leeds City Council seek to review and build upon the achievements of the 2021-2024 strategy, incorporating findings from community consultations and emerging data to create an updated strategy for 2025-2028.

5 LGBT+ Community Safety Survey

5.1 Leeds City Council, Safer Leeds and LGBT+ community group representatives carried out a survey to understand the views and experiences of people from LGBT+ communities who live in, work in, or visit Leeds. The purpose of this consultation was increasing our understanding of what could be done to make Leeds a truly LGBT+ Safe and Inclusive City. The consultation ran from the 22nd of February to the 23rd of March 2023 and was available to complete online. Promotion of the consultation was carried out on social media, with local networks, with Leeds City Council staff, and shared with around 2,500 members of the Leeds Citizens Panel. Overall, 518 people responded to the survey. Data which emerged from the survey is currently being assessed and will help to inform the review of the current Hate Crime Strategy.

6 Anti-Muslim Prejudice Work

6.1 Leeds City Council undertook a survey in 2020 of all stakeholders on views around Islamophobia. Coventry University were commissioned to analyse the results and produced a report with recommendations that includes adopting a definition on Anti Muslim Prejudice which is outlined below. The definition was approved by the council's cabinet and Executive Board in October 2022, which is: *'Anti-Muslim Prejudice is direct or indirect hatred and discrimination against*

anyone of Islamic faith on grounds of their belief and practice'. This could manifest in:

- Inciting or carrying out acts of racism, hatred, and violence against people, and those perceived to be, of the Islamic faith (Muslims).
- Direct or indirect acts of discrimination and exclusion including policy and practice within organisations, which deny Muslims legitimate, fair and equal access to opportunities, facilities and services because of their faith, beliefs and practice.
- Denying people of the Islamic faith the opportunity to practise their faith values, free of harassment, fear of violence against them or fear of incurring discrimination and hatred against them.
- Actions which perpetuate a climate of mistrust, fear, and a sense of marginalisation about or within the Islamic community e.g. remarks by individuals and groups that can be made without fear of being held to account. Also, use of print, social or electronic media to align and create fear and division surrounding the Muslim community.”

6.2 The Islamophobia report was made live on the Coventry University website at the same time as the definition was adopted by Executive Board.

6.3 An Anti-Muslim Prejudice Action Plan has been developed to deliver the recommendations of the Coventry report and is led by an Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group bringing together key Leeds City Council services and statutory partners.

6.4 An Anti-Muslim Prejudice Community Reference Group has been established to further guide the delivery of the recommendations in Coventry’s report and to track the progress of the Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group. The first meeting of the Community Reference Group took place in July 2023.

6.5 Activities delivered for Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) in 2023 included: The national organisers of the month delivering a session on the first day of the month for partners in Leeds about the history of the month and its importance with ideas on how organisations and people can get involved in the campaign. A session by Stop Hate UK on Islamophobic Hate specifically, how to report it and support available for victims.

6.6 At the time of writing this report the programme for Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) 2024 is being finalised. The month will feature a diverse range of online and in-person events, led by organisations such as Tell Mama and Stop Hate UK. Planned activities also include sessions with Councillors and Leeds City Council staff, along with community engagement activities in partnership with Police Engagement Officers. These engagement activities aim to reach young people, women and girls, and newly arrived communities along with the general population. Following the success of last year’s ‘Muslim Stories’ campaign, the campaign will be highlighted again to showcase the positive contributions of British Muslims to society. Additional activities and events are also being planned to further amplify the message of an inclusive Leeds.

7 Anti Semitism Work

7.1 The IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition on Anti Semitism was adopted by Leeds City Council in 2017. This definition was also recommitted to by full council in September 2024 following a delegation from Leeds Leads Against Antisemitism. The definition outlines that *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*. This could manifest in:

- The targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.
- To guide IHRA in its work, 11 contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere, taking into account the overall context, have been outlined. However, this list is not exhaustive of all examples.

7.2 It is planned that the current Anti-Muslim Prejudice Working Group will expand its remit to become an Anti-Muslim Prejudice and Anti Semitism Working Group. Work is starting to take place to deliver this ambition.

7.3 A new Antisemitism Community Reference Group is also being scoped currently. This group will track the progress of the Anti-Muslim Prejudice and Anti Semitism Working Group in delivering against Anti Semitism.

7.4 Leeds City Council recognises that there is currently no nationally celebrated awareness month dedicated to combating Anti Semitism. In response, we are actively exploring the development of initiatives to address this gap. Efforts are underway to scope and plan activities that would mirror the commitment and approach taken for IAM, ensuring equal regard and visibility for Anti Semitism awareness.

7.5 Leeds City Council maintains a strong working relationship with the Community Security Trust (CST), a key partner and member of the Hate Crime Strategic Board. This partnership has been instrumental in previous efforts, including the delivery of Anti Semitism-focused sessions during Hate Crime Awareness Week in 2023 and 2024. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for education and dialogue amongst colleagues and partners. Moving forward, this collaboration will be integral to shaping and delivering Anti Semitism awareness activities on a broader scale.

7.6 A conference on Anti Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudices was held in December 2023 to focus work on Anti Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudice with a range of speakers and workshop activity taking place. The conference was well

attended despite being planned before the tensions arising out of the latest Middle East conflict and feedback from the discussions around how to improve work to combat Anti-Semitism and Anti-Muslim Prejudice were fed back to participants.

8 Third Party Reporting and Signposting Centres

8.1 Third Party Reporting Centres provide people with an alternative way to report a hate crime or incident other than going to the Police. They give confidential advice, help people report hate crime, and support people. Work has taken place to identify reporting centres including Citizens Advice Leeds, Unity Housing Association, Leeds City Council Community Hubs, Leeds Gate re hate against the Travelling community, Yorkshire MESMAC for LGBT+ related hate and United Response for disability related hate. Further reporting centres are planned in the coming year.

8.2 The Hate Crime Operational Group has also recommended opening a small number of new signposting centres which provide information and guidance on where to report hate crimes and incidents, signposting to West Yorkshire Police or third-party reporting centres or other organisations, where required. The establishment of these signposting centres is part of our broader strategy to ensure that victims of hate crime have easy access to the support and resources they need. By offering clear guidance on reporting pathways, these centres will help bridge the gap for individuals who may feel uncertain or overwhelmed by the reporting process.

8.3 Training was identified as the number one requirement for a centre that either takes reports or signposts to operate effectively. Stop Hate UK have been and continue to deliver a series of training sessions for existing and new reporting centres and have also developed an information pack. The first training session took place in September 2023.

8.4 In order to ensure that any new centres (reporting or signposting) maintain their effectiveness, stakeholders have identified the need for regular contact with other venues or organisations offering a similar functionality to share best practice, overcome challenges in delivery or ask for general advice. A Network of Reporting Centres has been established to develop this regular contact and sharing of best practice, chaired by the Equality Team and which will meet quarterly. A newsletter is also being developed on a quarterly basis, updating all partners on developments on the hate crime agenda.

9 Schools Hate Incident Reporting Process

9.1 In November 2022 the Hate Crime Strategic Board implemented a new hate incident and hate crime reporting system in schools. Our work with Stop Hate UK allows schools and learning settings to report hate incident/crimes and is

reported to the Hate Crime Operational Group and Hate Crime Strategic Board on a regular basis. Ensuring that accurate, timely and relevant data is available to help determine the types of hate occurring will assist the Hate Crime Strategic Board to form our tactical response to prevent it.

9.2 Further development work around the hate agenda in schools has been undertaken jointly between the Safer Stronger Communities Team, Children and Families Services and Stop Hate UK including improving the reporting form that educational settings use to report. Work is ongoing to continuously review this reporting process and ensure it remains fit for purpose.

9.3 There has been a focus on communication with schools including training delivered by Stop Hate UK and a better understanding of how to report. Work is currently underway to develop new 'bite-sized' training sessions for school staff to increase awareness and understanding of hate crime. These sessions will be developed in partnership with Leeds City Council and Stop Hate UK.

10 Hate Crime Awareness Week 2024

10.1 Hate Crime Awareness Week was organised by Leeds City Council in partnership with West Yorkshire Police and a range of community organisations. Building on the success of previous years, the 2024 campaign featured a mix of in-person, online, and community engagement events aimed at raising awareness, providing support, and encouraging reporting of hate crimes.

10.2 Key activities included:

- **Launch Event at Civic Hall:** Centred on race-related hate crime, this event featured keynote speeches by Cllr Mary Harland and Alison Lowe OBE, followed by insights from West Yorkshire Police, Stop Hate UK, and the Culturally Diverse Hub, a panel Q&A and table discussions. Attendees included colleagues from partner organisations and Councillors.
- **Targeted Community Sessions:** The Migrant Access Project and Leeds Refugee Forum hosted discussions on hate crime awareness for migrant communities. Additionally, discussions were held by Leeds Equality and Hate Crime Team at Leeds GATE Women's and Youth Groups, for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Both sessions focussed on providing a safe space to capture the lived experiences of these communities, in relation to hate crime.
- **Online Training:** Three virtual sessions were held, each aimed at equipping attendees with practical insights into recognising and addressing hate crime. The Community Security Trust delivered a session on Anti-Semitism, the Switch on to Women's Safety Project Group delivered a session on misogyny and Stop Hate UK delivered training on race-based hate crime.

- **Public Engagement:** Leeds City Council collaborated with the Angels of Freedom to host an event in Leeds city centre, fostering dialogue and sharing resources on hate crime with the LGBT+ community. Additionally, sessions were held by West Yorkshire Police at Leeds Hindu Mandir, Leeds Sikh Temple, and Leeds General Infirmary, focusing on hate crime reporting and available support.
- **Youth and Education:** West Yorkshire Police connected with young people at local schools and colleges, promoting hate crime awareness and inclusivity.

10.3 This week of activities demonstrated Leeds's commitment to a safe and inclusive community through education, dialogue, and partnership across diverse communities.

11 Misogyny Work

11.1 Misogyny is not currently recognised as a hate crime but has serious impacts and is part of our work agenda. We are continuing work through the Violence Against Women and Girls Board.

11.2 A Misogyny working group is being established between Safer and Stronger Communities at Leeds City Council, the Equality Team, and Women's Lives Leeds, working with a range of partners including West Yorkshire Police, Stop Hate UK and others. It will run for an initial 12 months with the aim of reporting back after discussions on:

- Online hate
- The Law
- Current Research
- Local policy and the West Yorkshire Mayors manifesto
- The work on Violence against women
- How to consult
- Diverse women's experiences

12 Marketing Campaign

12.1 An anti-discrimination campaign is currently being developed for launch in March 2025, to support the prevention element of the Hate Crime Strategy. This will include digital advertising on billboards, in venue posters and social media content and will include content across all the types of hate crime recognised within the legislation but is also planned to include content on misogyny.

13 West Yorkshire Police

13.1 National and International Context

The volume of hate crimes is influenced by national and international events, including war and political discourse. Hate crime typically increases in response to high profile geopolitical events including conflicts, incidents of terrorism and other such incidents.

13.2 Middle East Conflict and Summer Riots, Unrest Across the UK

In recent months, disturbing unrest has occurred across the UK. Whilst hate crime and incident reports in Leeds remained stable over the past twelve months, August saw a marked increase, with approximately 100 more reports than in previous months, with race-based incidents comprising the highest volume. This rise correlates with the Harehills disorder and nationwide riots following the Southport tragedy. Additionally, both antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice have seen significant increases in connection with the ongoing Middle East conflict, with a particularly high rise in antisemitic incidents.

To ensure the safety of all residents, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council and partner organisations have comprehensively responded to manage community tensions and hate crime. This response has included:

- Managing demonstrations, vigils, and other public events
- Engaging with Muslim and Jewish organisations and leaders
- Responding to the rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice
- Tackling hateful graffiti
- Responding to online hate

The Police Engagement Team continues to support and gather intelligence from communities, working closely with faith establishments. The Hate Crime Coordinators also maintain drop-in centres in various venues across the city.

13.3 Ongoing Partnership Working and Readiness

Our approach to preventing and responding to hate crime continues to evolve. Whilst we develop proactive strategies, and we remain ready to adapt our response as new situations emerge. Strong working relationships between West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council and third sector organisations enable us to work together effectively to prevent incidents wherever possible. When incidents do arise, these partnerships allow us to respond swiftly and proactively, ensuring community safety and support.

14 Performance and Accountability

14.1 The Leeds City Council Best City Ambition sets out a positive vision for the future of Leeds. Recognising that Safer Leeds plays a pivotal role in enhancing community wellbeing and safety, there is extensive governance and performance management in place supporting intelligence led activity aimed at delivering better outcomes for hate crime.

Safer Leeds performance is enabled by a Safer Leeds Information Sharing Protocol which facilitates the exchange of information between partners to prevent crime and disorder, and to safeguard residents. Safer Leeds monitors and progresses priorities and deliverables detailed in the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27. Performance indicators monitor the number of Hate crime incidents, focusing upon strand-based volume trends, with appropriate context. Additional routine management information, for example the monthly Safer Leeds Locality Overview, provides a THRIVE (threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability, and engagement) community safety assessment of overarching and ward-based hate incident trends, with appropriate context.

- 14.2** The Hate Crime Strategic Board has responsibility for relevant aspects of the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27. Hate Crime key deliverables are: to increase awareness of the impact of hate crime on individuals and communities through a programme of targeted awareness raising campaigns and educational programmes; to develop the confidence of communities and individuals impacted by hate crime to report such incidents and crimes by supporting the development of hate crime reporting centres in local communities and high-risk environments, including schools and the private sector, alongside specific reporting centres for the range of protected characteristics; and to improve support for the victims of hate crime by ensuring effective provision is available at the time of reporting, so that agencies supporting hate crime victims are encouraged to make appropriate referrals to access the appropriate support. Working with the CJS and Victim Support to ensure victims of hate crime are adequately supported through their involvement with the criminal justice process.

The Hate Crime Strategic Board held responsibility for the delivery of Leeds 'Responding to Hate Strategy 2021-24'. The desired outcomes monitoring success were: An increase in awareness of hate crime, the number of reported hate crimes, the number of disability and gender identity reported hate crimes, and the number of young people reporting hate crime; An increase in the number of third-party reporting centres; An increase in victim satisfaction; A decrease in the number of repeat victims; and an increase in the use of Restorative Justice for Hate crime.

- 14.3** An Intelligence Led approach to performance information supports the Hate Crime Strategic Board; performance information has adapted to meet evolving requirements. In 2020/21, and 2021/22 a quarterly Accountability Tracker monitored the desired outcomes (listed above). In 2022/23 a quarterly Hate Crime Performance Overview moved reporting to focus on an Outcome Based understanding of the 'story behind the figures'. From April 2023 to date, a quarterly strand-based locality approach has delivered a nuanced assessment of the impact of Hate within Leeds communities. In August 2024 a Performance Information overview was introduced (in addition to existing reporting) to more closely link Safer Leeds strategic priorities, and management information indicators, to the work of the Hate Crime Strategic Board. Any further requests

for strategic partnership analytical information are directed to the Community Safety Performance and Intelligence team.

14.4 Trend overview - Statistical information builds a shared understanding of Hate Crime and Incident volume trends. Leeds trends recorded Hate crime are summarised below.

- In the year ending March 2024, there were 3,246 hate crimes recorded by the police in Leeds, a decrease of 16% from the year ending March 2023.
- Most hate crimes were racially motivated, accounting for 7 in 10 of all such offences (69%).
- Religious hate crimes recorded by Leeds police increased by 20%, driven by a rise in offences against Jewish people and to a lesser extent Muslims.
- In the year ending March 2024, there were 207 Hate crime enquiries/ service requests recorded by Leeds City Council, an increase of 6% from the year ending March 2023.
- Census information records 79% of Leeds residents are White/ British, 9.7% are Asian/ British, 5.6% are Black/ British, 3.4% are Multiple ethnic groups, and 2.3% are Other/ British. 42% of Leeds residents are Christian, 40% are of no religion, 8% are Muslim, 1% are Sikh, 1% are Hindu, 1% are Jewish, and fewer than 1% are Buddhist. The proportion of the Leeds population that is ethnically diverse, Muslim, Jewish, or Sikh is slightly higher than the national trend.

14.5 The tables below show the annual Hate Crime 2020-24 – West Yorkshire Police

Hate crime, England and Wales	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	92,063	109,843	103,625	98,799	-5%	-
Religion	6,383	8,730	8,370	10,484	+25%	-
Sexual orientation	18,596	26,152	24,777	22,839	-8%	-
Disability	9,945	14,242	14,285	11,719	-18%	-
Transgender	2,799	4,355	4,889	4,780	-2%	-
Total	124,104	155,841	147,645	140,561	-5%	-

Hate crime, Leeds	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	2,285	2,780	2,668	2,228	-16%	2,338

Religion	233	292	229	274	+20%	386
Sexual orientation	423	610	581	479	-18%	457
Disability	349	420	568	371	-35%	332
Transgender	108	133	135	117	-13%	91
Total	3,162	3,935	3,893	3,246	-17%	3,323
<i>Anti-Muslim</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>+13</i>	<i>134</i>
<i>Anti-Jewish</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>+143</i>	<i>50</i>

14.6 The table below shows the annual Hate Crime Service Request 2020-24 – Leeds City Council

Hate service requests refer to all hate incidents and hate crimes reported to Leeds City Council, online or within a Leeds City Council building.

Hate Enquiry / Service Request Leeds City Council	*2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	-	135	122	131	7%	127
Religion	-	7	8	7	-13%	11
Sexual orientation	-	26	20	17	-15%	21
Disability	-	15	15	18	20%	14
Gender identity	-	15	8	6	-25%	3
Total	-	220	195	207	6%	188

**In in 2021 a new customer contact system was introduced.*

14.7 The table below shows the annual Hate Crime 2020-24 – Stop Hate UK

Hate Incidents, Stop Hate UK	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Change	Oct-23 to Sep-24
Race	49	26	84	255	165%	-
Religion	9	4	3	15	204%	-
Sexual Orientation	22	4	34	102	400%	-

Disability	25	18	21	37	200%	-
Transgender	3	4	3	4	76%	-
Total	93	56	137	363	33%	-

14.8 The statistical information provided by Stop Hate UK shows all Leeds incidents reported to Stop Hate UK. The latest years figures include Stop Hate UK taking on responsibility for the schools reporting system which accounts for the large increase in their reported figures. Schools and learning settings can report hate incidents to Stop Hate UK who are commissioned by Leeds City Council. Reporting hate incidents and crimes in schools remains very important and helps to reinforce the city’s commitment to addressing discrimination and intolerance and our commitment to being a Child Friendly City.

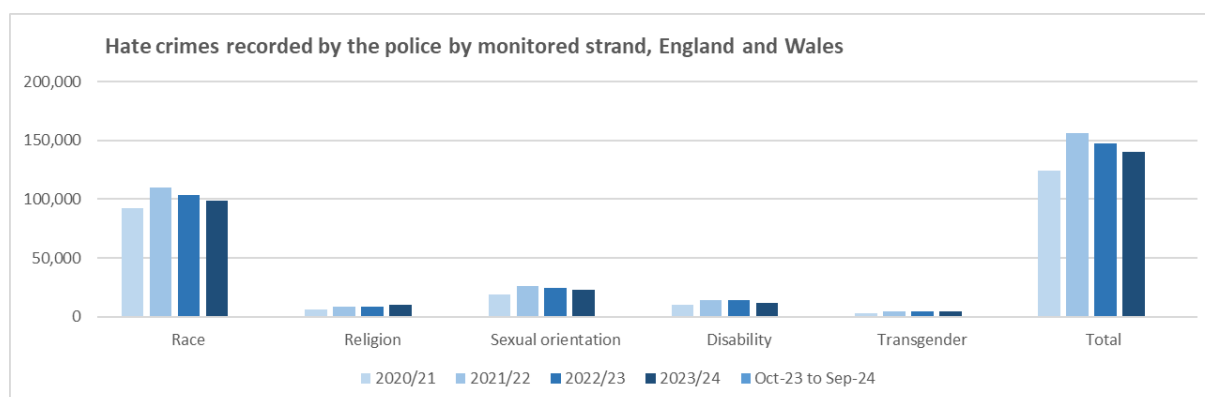
14.9 Hate incidents may take place at locations where a protected characteristic is visible and established, for example near to a place of worship.

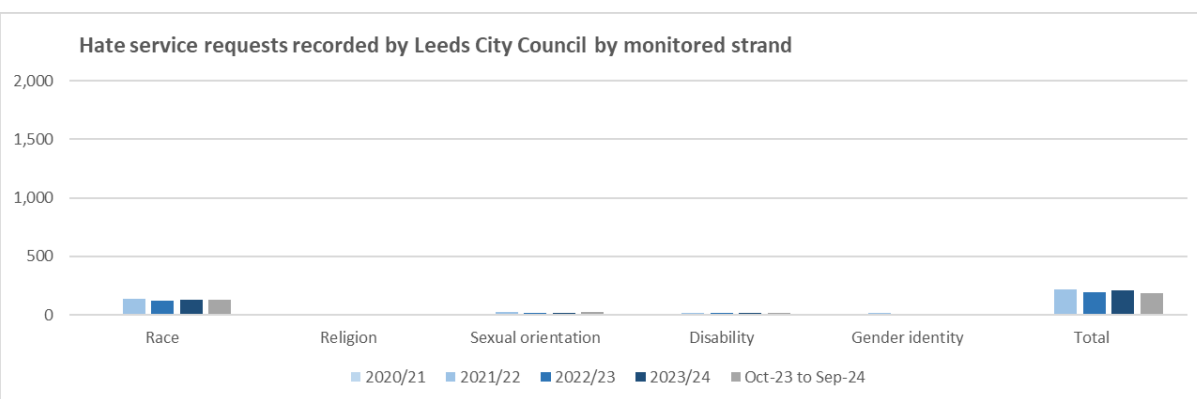
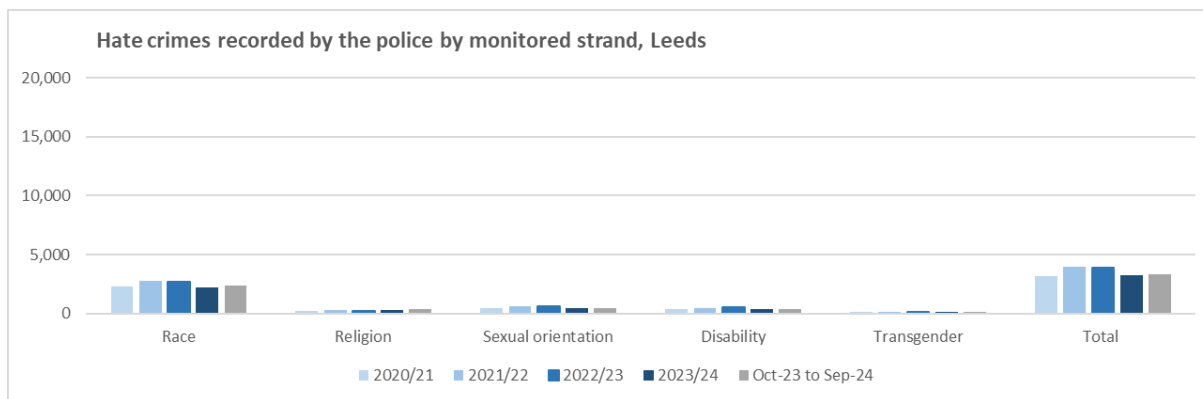
14.10 Perpetrators of hate may be more likely to act in public spaces where they feel they can act with impunity. Hate incidents may occur in high footfall locations, for example a city centre.

14.11 Places which are high volume hate incident locations are often a result of both the work undertaken in the building and the support offer to employees. People undertaking public service duties from a building such as a health care setting that provides a Leeds-wide service and with a large element of public contact, may experience a higher volume of reported hate incidents.

14.12 Place-based data is currently being reviewed by Leeds City Council, to support this work.

14.13 The graphs below show the trends outlined in 13.5-13.6.





Hate service requests refer to all hate incidents and hate crimes reported to Leeds City Council, online or within a Leeds City Council building.

14.14 Technical information

Technical information provided by the Home Office is summarised below to assist an understanding of trends in recorded Hate crime.

- Police forces have made significant improvements since 2014 in how they record crime. They have also improved their identification of what constitutes a hate crime. It is also thought that growing awareness of hate crime was likely to have led to improved identification of such offences by officers.
- In the process of recording a crime, the police can flag an offence as being motivated by one or more of these 5 monitored strands for example, an offence can be motivated by hostility towards the victim's race and religion. Hate crime figures are dependent on a flag being correctly applied to an offence that is identified as a hate crime.
- Hate crimes are taken to mean any crime where the perpetrator's hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people was a factor in determining who was victimised. While a crime may be

recorded as a hate crime, it may only be prosecuted as such if evidence of hostility is submitted as part of the case file.

- A Non-Crime Hate Incident (NCHI) is an act that is motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person's identity but does not amount to a criminal offence. The Home Office does not routinely collect this data.
- Changes were made to the Home Office Counting Rules in May 2023 for conduct crimes (stalking, harassment and coercive and controlling behaviour). The requirement to record 2 crimes when one of them was a conduct crime was removed, leading to a reduction in those crimes often associated with conduct crimes, such as malicious communications. Public, fear alarm or distress offences (including those recorded as racially or religiously aggravated) fell over the 2-year period. Malicious communication offences fell, with most of the fall occurring in the last year.
- On the 3 June 2023, the Home Office published statutory guidance which instructed officers to consider whether there was genuine hostility in the incident or whether it could be considered freedom of speech or thought. While the guidance was aimed only at the recording of NCHIs, and in no way amended the recording practices, processes or thresholds for hate crimes, it is possible that the guidance in turn may have led to greater scrutiny of the threshold of what constitutes a criminal offence of public fear, alarm or distress. However, the Home Office Counting Rules for the recording of these offences has not changed.

Because of these changes, police recorded crime figures do not provide reliable trends in hate crime since 2014. Figures from the police should also not be seen as a good measure of prevalence since not all hate crime is reported to them. The figures do, however, provide a good measure of the hate crime-related demand on the police.