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## Report of the: Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing Department

### Executive Board

Date: 14 June 2006

### Subject: Leeds Hate Crime Strategy

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

#### Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safer Leeds is one of the first community safety partnerships in the country to publish a Hate Crime strategy. This strategy has been designed to provide a framework to deal with all aspects of hate crime and has drawn upon the valuable lessons learned in the field of racist crime. The overall vision of this strategy is to create an environment where no form of hate-motivated crime is tolerated. The Leeds Hate Crime Strategy can be found by logging onto the Leeds City Council Intranet. The document is saved on the Neighbourhoods and Housing Home page under reference documents.

### 1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report has been submitted to the Executive Board for consideration and approval.

### 2.0 Background information

2.1 The Leeds Hate Crime Strategy is built upon the Leeds City Council Racial Harassment Strategy 2002, and draws heavily upon the Association of Chief Police Officer (ACPO) Combating Hate Crime Manual<sup>1</sup>. This strategy also seeks to complement the recommendation made by the McPherson enquiry report 1999 into the racist murder of Steven Lawrence.

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<sup>1</sup> Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Guide to Identifying and Combating Hate Crime published in September 2000.

2.2 A critical component of developing this strategy was to consult a number of key partners, which included the Strategic Hate Incident Group<sup>2</sup>, PCTs, A&E's, Leeds Mental Health Trust<sup>3</sup> Safer Leeds SMT, and the Safer Leeds Executive.

### 3.0 Synopsis of the main issues identified in the strategy

3.1 This strategy is not prescriptive and does not seek to impose a Leeds City Council policy on other organisations, nor does it seek to develop a “one size fits all” type of approach. The strategy provides a conceptual framework with shared definitions of what constitutes a hate incident. It provides a guide with action points to help organisations create their own structures to deal effectively with hate motivated incidents and is broken down as follows:

- provides the contextual background to the strategy and set the strategy within the context of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020 and other key strategies and policy development.
- sets the ethos of the strategy and articulates our long-term goal of significantly reducing hate crime in Leeds by implementing a number of realistic and practical objectives derived from victims and practitioners.
- discusses what is meant by the term hate incidents and provides a typology of hate motivated incidents. This section also introduces the important concepts of primary and secondary victimisation.
- discusses why it is important to identify hate incidents and what are the underlining systemic barriers to change.
- recommends a road map of converting the commitment into practical taken action which will support victims whilst at the same time taking effective action against perpetrators. This section also discusses how the strategy will be implemented and reviewed.
- provides an action plan and agencies overview activity matrix which will be developed and utilized by all agencies which is premised upon the 4 key priority themes identified in the strategy.
- provides legal remedies and a matrix of legal action that can be taken against perpetrator of hate motivated incidents.
- provides a list of the partner agencies involved with the strategy and abbreviations used.
- provides a bibliography of references used.

3.2 The key aim of the strategy is

- Increase awareness, reporting and recording of hate crime incidents
- Improve service response to victims
- Improve responses to deal with perpetrators of hate crime
- Develop preventative and educational activity to address hate incidents

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<sup>2</sup> List of the Strategic Hate Incident group can be found on page 29

<sup>3</sup> The feedback has been generally very positive and amendment has been made to the documents

## **4.0 Implications for Council policy and governance**

4.1 The council has an obligation under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 17, the Safer Leeds Strategy and the Leeds City Council Racial Harassment Strategy.

## **5.0 Legal and resource implications**

- Ensuring staff are trained across the council
- Raising awareness of hate crime issues amongst council staff and the general public.
- Development of appropriate I.T systems

## **6.0 Conclusion**

6.1 The Leeds Hate Crime Strategy represent the first major document developed by the council and its partners which seeks to provide an opportunity for agencies to create an environment where hate crime is not tolerated and helps to ensure that effective community cohesion becomes a reality.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Executive Board support this the implementation of the Leeds Hate Crime strategy.