

Date: 07/02/2018



Members of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils

(By email)

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Hampshire Police and Crime Panel's proactive scrutiny of 'Hate Crime'

Following public consultation, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) launched his Police and Crime Plan in December 2016, within which he set out his key priorities for delivery to 2021. Within the Plan the Commissioner stated that he would prioritise addressing hate crime within Hampshire and the IOW, "as something we all have a responsibility to challenge and overcome", with a view to offering better outcomes for victims and those vulnerable to hate crime within our communities. Hate Crime was also determined a high risk area within Hampshire Constabulary's Force Control Strategy 2016-17, with the Commissioner affirming his responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of the strategy.

The Hampshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) are responsible for scrutinising and supporting the PCC. The Panel is made up of representatives from each of the local authorities in the Hampshire Police area and, meeting formally around four times per year; the PCP examines and makes recommendations on various aspects of the PCC's activity.

The PCP will soon be holding a proactive scrutiny session in order to scrutinise and support the PCC in his intention to prevent and tackle hate crime across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This scrutiny will consider how the PCC is listening to and engaging partners, community associations and members of the public across the two counties in efforts to enhance outcomes for victims and to encourage them to come forward to report their concerns. The review will also consider how effectively the PCC is holding the Chief Constable to account for policing strategy focussed upon tackling and preventing hate crime.

As part of their scrutiny process the PCP plan to hold an evidence-gathering session, and, in order to support Members to gain the most value from this session, we are inviting you to provide written evidence to our session. This is because preventing and/or supporting victims of hate crime is one of your key priorities, or because we wish to learn of instances of best practice known to you or your organisation.

The key questions of the proactive scrutiny are:

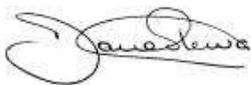
- 1) Since the publication of the Police and Crime Plan in 2016, how successful do you feel the PCC has been in his pledge to address hate crime? What changes have you observed, since this time, in the approach to supporting victims and those vulnerable to hate crime within our communities?

- 2) Are you aware of the current strategic approach to policing hate crime? Can you identify any areas where the policing provision, within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in response to hate crime could be improved?
- 3) How effective do you feel the PCC and his office have been in engaging with partners to enhance the approach to preventing hate crime and to encourage greater community cohesion? What opportunities do you feel exist for greater engagement?
- 4) What engagement is currently being undertaken with local residents and victim support groups to better understand their concerns regarding hate crime? How could the PCC support or improve the current approach?
- 5) What do you think should be the priorities for action to address hate crime and enhance community cohesion within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight? What challenges exist which could prevent or delay these actions from being delivered?
- 6) Are there any examples of successful approaches in tackling, and supporting victims of hate crime which you or your organisation are aware of, either within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight or in other areas?
- 7) Is there anything further that you can provide to the Panel that will assist us with our proactive scrutiny of this topic?

Please find attached to this letter an evidence return form with the questions the PCP wishes to explore at their session. Your organisation's response to as many of these questions as are relevant would be much appreciated. The deadline for receipt of submissions is 13 March 2018.

Please return your feedback to the Democratic Support Officer to the Hampshire PCP, as detailed on the form. Your contribution will assist the PCP to arrive at evidence based and constructive recommendations to help us in our scrutiny and support of the PCC for Hampshire and the IOW, and his priorities.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Stewart
Chairman, Hampshire Police and Crime Panel