

COMMITTEE: RACE ADVISORY FORUM

DATE: 10th OCTOBER, 2005

SUBJECT: RACE HATE CRIMES IN LUTON

REPORT BY: HEAD OF EQUALITIES

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY	✓
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS	
STAFFING		OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To appraise the Race Advisory Forum of race hate crime statistics as reported to the Luton Multi- Agency Racial incidents Group (LMARIG).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Members are requested to note this report.

BACKGROUND

3. As part of the work carried out by the Police and Victim Support in supporting victims of race hate crime and dealing with perpetrators of hate crime , both agencies make regular reports to LMARIG about the number and nature of such incidents town-wide.

REPORT

Luton Police

4. In the six months to end of September 2005:
Luton Police dealt with 171 race hate incidents which roughly represents a 50 % increase in reported incidents in comparison to the same period last year.

Of that number:

- 55 cases are outstanding and investigations are continuing
- 19 cases where the offenders have been identified and are being prosecuted
- 10 cases where cautions have either been given or in are in the process of being given
- 4 cases where even though offenders have been detected prosecutions are not considered appropriate.

Victim Profile

5. In terms of victim profile:
- 42% of the victims were of Asian appearance
 - 36% were white/European
 - 18% were of African Caribbean origin

Offender Profile

6. In terms of offender profile:
- 40% were white /of European origin
 - 25% were of Asian origin
 - 10% were of African Caribbean origin

Type of offences

7. These are categorised as follows:
- 3% Assaults
 - 13% Criminal damage
 - 18% Harassment
 - 12% Verbal abuse

8. According to the Police the most number of reported incidents (about 15-20 a month) take place in the four wards of Dallow, High Town, Biscot and Challney.

5. Victim Support

9. The Victim Support Racial harassment Officer Kamal Acharya has recently left his post to work for the Luton Police. Prior to his departure in his report to LMARIG on 10th May, 2005 he reported that for the first time the annual figure (year end April 2005) had reached 400 reported incidents. This figure included Luton Borough Council reported figures and had been bolstered by the schools reported figure of 349 – most of which comprised of verbal abuse incidents - though all 349 would have needed further action.
10. Jenny Goodman replaced Kamal on August 9th 2005 and on 13th September in her report to LMARIG she indicated that she had dealt with 21 race hate incidents and 1 homophobic incident.

Luton Borough Council

11. The Council makes annual returns to the Audit Commission under Best Value Performance Indicators 174 and 175.
 - 174 is the number of racial incidents resulting in further action
 - 175 is the number of incidents per 100,000 of population
12. The annual return last time covering the 12 month period to March 2005 was:

Total number of recorded incidents=472

Number of incidents that needed further action 460

Hence BV174 was $460/472 \times 100 = 97.45\%$

BV 175 calculated as number of incidents divided by total population and multiplied by 100,000 was $472/183000 \times 100000 = 258$