



Ward: All Adur and Worthing

Hate Crimes Issues following the EU Referendum

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report outlines a review into the anecdotal reports of a rise in hate crimes following the result of the EU referendum on June 23rd 2016, and considers the role of Adur and Worthing Councils in monitoring and responding to hate crimes.

2.0 Background

2.1 Following the result of the EU referendum held on June 23rd, there has been significant media coverage reporting an increase in the frequency and severity of hate crimes perpetrated against certain communities.

2.2 The Communities and Wellbeing Team work with partners such as West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Victim Support and Sussex Police to monitor community tensions, reported hate crimes and hate incidents. The monthly Community Tensions meeting scrutinises local data and social media to produce a picture of reported and potential trends in our communities.

2.3 The Communities and Wellbeing Team is also responsible for coordinating the monthly Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference which creates and reviews safety plans for identified victims of anti social behaviour and hate crime. The Conference facilitates a multi agency response to safeguarding vulnerable individuals, groups and families and brings together Sussex Police, Adur and Worthing Councils, local housing providers and providers of Mental Health Services.

2.4 Adur and Worthing Communities and Wellbeing Team also deliver and participate in a range of initiatives to proactively promote community cohesion. This includes the annual " Behind Closed Doors" conference which this year provided training to 120 local professionals on a variety of issues including racism and far right ideologies. The team also participates in social media campaigns and supports community

organisations working with BME communities including supporting the International Neighbours event.

- 2.5 For the purposes of this report, Sussex Police and West Sussex Victim Support were contacted to ascertain the level of hate crimes reported since the EU Referendum. The outcome of this investigation is that there is no reported rise in hate crimes following the referendum result. West Sussex Victim Support reported a decrease in race related hate crimes in Quarter 2 2016 (30 hate crimes) compared to Quarter 1 2016 (37 hate crimes). An internal survey of Adur and Worthing Council services also suggests that there is no increase in direct reports to the Councils or in relation to incidents directed at staff.
- 2.6 The Community Tensions and Monitoring meeting dated November 3rd 2016, reviewed all of the available data, both anecdotal and statistical, and concluded that there is no significant evidence to suggest that Adur and Worthing are experiencing an increase in hate crimes or incidents. However, this cannot fully unpack the possibility of increased anxiety and stress that may have been caused from less significant changes in behaviours and attitudes following the referendum. The group also acknowledged that as the process for leaving the EU is ongoing, there is still potential for this situation to change and for incidents to increase. This will continue to be reviewed via the Community Tensions Monitoring group and the Joint Action Group. From December 2016, the Community Tensions and Monitoring Group will meet quarterly to provide strategic oversight of this work programme. The Joint Action Group will consider community and agency intelligence on a monthly basis.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the level of hate crimes and incidents in Adur and Worthing continue to be monitored via the mechanisms detailed in paragraphs 2.1- 2.6

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 There are no immediate legal consequences arising as a result of this report.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 None identified

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members note the report and agree to monitor the work programme on an annual basis.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

N/A

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Cultivating Enterprising Communities

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Safer Communities Partnership Plan

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 This work programme promotes adherence to equality duties.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 This work programme promotes the reduction of crime and disorder and safeguards vulnerable victims of crime.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Consultation with Adur Homes, AWC Customer Services, Sussex Police, West Sussex county Council and Sussex Police.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 Partnership working is embedded in this work programme