
NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON HATE CRIME FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MINUTES Thursday 10th October 2024 Online meeting

Attending Members

Mike Ainsworth - Chair
Sue Sanders - Schools Out
John Grieve
Dr Mark Brookes MBE - Dimensions
Julie Miller - Translucent
Mark Healey - 17-24-41
A representative of - CARG
A representative of - CST
A representative of - Stonewall
Nathan Hall - Kings College London
Iqbal Bhana
Mike Whine
A representative of - GALOP
A representative of - Tell MAMA
Ivy Manning - Friends Families and Travellers

In attendance

Paul Giannasi (Secretariat)
Anthony Hill

1. Introductions

2. Discussing Online Harms Bill and Hate Crime Awareness Week

Mike led the meeting through the issues arising from the previous meeting, discussing the response from the Home Secretary and the need for a meeting with Ofcom regarding the online harms Act. He also mentioned the successful Trans Pride march and the ongoing relationship with the government.

Mark Healey discussed the upcoming National Hate Crime Awareness Week, including the launch event and the need for political party statements of support.

Mike welcoming Anthony, who works hate crime at the CPS

3. Hate Crime Disposal and Conditional Cautioning Discussion

Mike discussed the considerations around the use of active court disposals for hate crimes, mentioning [Redacted] initial opposition and her later support of pilots with suitable safeguards against misuse. He also mentioned a pilot proposal by the NPCC and the work done by Sussex University on restorative justice in hate crimes.

Anthony then took over the discussion, outlining policy around hate crime and conditional cautions, and mentioned the power of police to take no action in relation to hate crimes or explore out-of-court resolutions. Paul ended the conversation by discussing the police perspective from pilot areas and arguing for the need for a government strategy and action plan to push for resources and systemic policy changes.

Julie and Mike discussed using out-of-court disposals with educational courses as a potentially more effective approach than traditional sentencing for addressing hate crimes against trans people.

[Redacted] suggested exploring restorative justice models used by organizations like Why Me, which Mike agreed could be useful along with a University of Sussex review.

Sue highlighted the importance of face-to-face interactions for their course, expressing concerns about the course being conducted online. Julie raised concerns about the lack of understanding of trans issues among police and CPS, emphasizing the need for training. Paul shared his understanding of the course's comprehensive nature and the safety nets in place, but acknowledged the need for ongoing awareness of diverse cultures. Mike agreed to reach out to the course provider for more information.

The Group gave their broad support for the use of conditional cautions to facilitate out of court outcomes for hate crime where the safety nets are in place to prevent misuse. They noted they had given support for the proposed structures presented by DCC Glenn at the commencement of the pilots. They would like to see this delivered as part of a new Government strategy for hate crime and would be happy to offer their support to NPCC/ CPS and Government in national implementation.

4. Hate Crime Figures and Reporting Challenges

Paul discussed the recent hate crime figures, noting that the latest data was not including the Crime Survey of England and Wales. He highlighted a significant rise in antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes, but expressed concern over the 18% drop in recorded disability hate crimes, attributing this to potential underreporting due to reduced support services and less confidence in Policing. Mark B agreed on the issue of underreporting and announced the launch of new hate crime awareness training to increase reporting.

The meeting focused on the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system, particularly among the trans community, due to a lack of awareness and understanding of trans issues among law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The underreporting of hate crimes and the influence of far-right groups were also discussed. Personal experiences of hate crimes were shared, highlighting the need for an intersectional approach to address

these issues. The importance of a cross-government approach to tackle disability hate crime was emphasized, with a suggestion for the formation of a specific NPCC gold group focused on disability hate crime. The need for a hate crime action plan and a cross-government strategy was also highlighted, with a mention of members' positive interactions with ministers regarding reviving the shelved hate crime action plan.

5. Addressing Online Harms and Hate Speech

Mike raised concerns about online harms and hate speech, suggesting a separate meeting with Ofcom for assistance.

Mark suggested working with 'stop funding hate' and expressed concerns about Twitter abuse during elections. Mike agreed to discuss this with 'stop funding hate'. Iqbal and Ivy supported a meeting on social media's role in community well-being. Ivy shared her strategy of monitoring bad actors online to stay informed and keep others safe, while

6. Addressing Hate Crime Guidance and Funding

Mike discussed the current state of the NCHI guidance, which he believes is being ignored by police forces due to its perceived ludicrousness.

Paul clarified that the Home Office is considering removing the guidance entirely, reverting to the original Appeal Court ruling. The process is expected to take 3 to 6 months from commencement.

7. True Vision

Sue said there was a need to update True Vision's website and particularly the News section which lacked recent contributions.

Paul said he had temporarily removed the News section and agreed it needs to have constant update if it is not to look neglected. He mentioned the addition of new team members to the online hate crime hub and the group's ongoing funding and recruitment issues.. A new analyst is expected to join soon and will maintain the site as part of her role.

8. Cross-Government Collaboration and Hate Crimes Discussion

Mike expressed gratitude to Mark Hamilton and announced plans to thank him formally. Paul relayed Mark's apologies for absence.

The group discussed the need for ministerial backing for the group's if it is to contribute to the previous levels of cross-government success. Mike highlighted hate crimes in schools, requesting assistance for ministerial buy-in. [Redacted] offered contacts at the Department for Education and shared a resource on educating against hate.

9. Addressing Gold Group Effectiveness and Structure

Mike and Paul discussed the effectiveness and structure of the Gold Group in response to recent riots and the way it integrates into other NPCC structures.

Paul expressed concerns about the lack of permanency and structure in their current processes, particularly in relation to the strain it's putting on those who contribute to it. He proposed an evaluation to assess the situation, seeking suggestions from others and considering the involvement of an independent academic or subject matter expert to oversee the review. Mike agreed with Paul's concerns, highlighting the benefits of their current process and the need for continued improvement. Paul also discussed the importance of collective decision-making and the need to consider the perspectives of those with a propensity to violence and the fears within communities.

10. Addressing Misuse of 'Two-Tier Policing'

Paul discussed the prevalence of accusations of 'two-tier policing', a term used by both genuine community members and racists to express concerns about unequal treatment by the police. He noted that the term is often used by mainstream politicians and media outlets without providing evidence.

Mike and Iqbal agreed that the term is misused and undermines efforts to address real issues in policing, such as stop and search. Ivy shared a personal anecdote about how people's opinions can be swayed by unconscious bias, which Mike agreed was relevant to the discussion. The team agreed that the misuse of the term 'two-tier policing' needs to be refuted and that more consistent lines need to be built around the human rights framework.

11. Election Process and Future Meeting Plans

Paul outlined the process for electing a chair and deputy chair, with Paul proposing a method for selecting a chair and deputy chair. The process involves notifying Paul in confidence by next Friday 18th October if anyone wants to stand for one of the two places, followed by a one-page manifesto explaining their reasons for wanting the role should there be competition.. The manifestos will then be circulated and another week given for anonymous voting.

Everyone agreed to this process

12. Any other business

[Redacted] shared the results of a survey that will be published in a webinar during hate crime awareness week.

Mike ended the conversation by thanking everyone and saying meeting dates would be circulated out of meeting.

Actions

1. Mike to write a formal letter to Mark Hamilton on behalf of the group thanking him for his work.
2. Paul to arrange a separate meeting with Ofcom regarding the Online Harms Bill.
3. Mike to consider inviting Stop Funding Hate to join the Ofcom meeting.
4. Paul to update True Vision website, removing old news and adding recent successful prosecutions.
5. Iman to connect Mike and Sue with new contacts at the Department for Education.
6. Paul to initiate an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the NPCC Gold Group.
7. Paul to email the group with details on the chair/deputy chair election process and timeline.
8. Paul to arrange for CC Mark Hobrough to formally meet with the group.
9. Mike to bring Bristol-based hate crime group SARI to the next meeting to discuss potential membership.