

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 21 September 2020

Report Title

Children’s Commissioner Take Over Day Challenge 2020: Hate Crime

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sally Hodges, Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

David McWilliams

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham Youth Cabinet included Hate Crime as one of the four key aims in their 2020 manifesto after it emerged in the top three issues following the annual “Make Your Mark” consultation with young people.

A spotlight scrutiny review was undertaken by a group of young people from Rotherham Youth Cabinet on 12 March 2020 when they took over an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting.

As part of their evidence gathering beforehand, Rotherham Youth Cabinet participated in a short interactive session with the Community Safety Team. A planning meeting followed to develop the young people’s key lines of enquiry and broad questions and to determine who they wished to invite as witnesses. The Early Help and Family Engagement Team facilitated this work with support from Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Governance Unit.

The attached Report (Appendix 1) was presented to Cabinet on Monday, 20 July 2020 where the following recommendations were approved.

1. That the report and the recommendations from the review be received.
2. That, in view of the requirement for a multi-agency response to the recommendations, the Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services co-ordinate the preparation of a response to the recommendations within two months, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Recommendations

1. That progress updates on the recommendations from the review be received and noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 CCTOC Draft Report Hate Crime
Appendix 2 Initial Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Notes from Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Sessions – March 2020
Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2020
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 12 March 2020
Minutes of Cabinet – 20 July 2020

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children’s Commissioner Take Over Challenge - Hate Crime
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1.	Background
1.1	<p>The Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management and leadership roles. As part of the Council’s commitment to the Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge, each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.</p>
1.2	<p>Rotherham Youth Cabinet included hate crime as one of the four key aims in their 2020 manifesto after it emerged in the top three issues following the annual “Make Your Mark” consultation with young people.</p> <p>A spotlight scrutiny review was undertaken by a group of young people from RYC on 12 March 2020 when they took over an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting.</p> <p>As part of their evidence gathering beforehand, Rotherham Youth Cabinet participated in a short interactive session with the Community Safety Team. A planning meeting followed to develop the young people’s key lines of enquiry and broad questions and to determine who they wished to invite as witnesses. The Early Help and Family Engagement Team facilitated this work with support from Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Governance Unit.</p> <p>The attached Report (Appendix 1) was presented to Cabinet on Monday 20 July 2020 where the following recommendations were supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report and the recommendations from the review be received. • That, in view of the requirement for a multi-agency response to the recommendations, the Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People’s Services co-ordinate the preparation of a response to the recommendations within two months, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
1.3	<p>The Safer Rotherham Partnership is a multi-agency community safety partnership with statutory responsibilities, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to “make Rotherham safe, keep Rotherham safe and to ensure communities of Rotherham feel safe.” It has a number of core priorities; one of which is Building Confident and Cohesive Communities.</p> <p>Within this overarching priority a specific objective area is Preventing Hate Crime.</p>

	<p>The Safer Rotherham Partnership has adopted the following definition to classify Hate incidents.</p> <p>“Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on:</p> <p>Disability Race or ethnicity Religion or beliefs Sexual orientation Transgender identity</p>
2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>It was evident from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting in March that good work is taking place in Rotherham to raise awareness about hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviour.</p> <p>Similarly, with initiatives to encourage people to come forward and report incidents for disability related incidents.</p> <p>Media coverage of events and issues was a clear concern shared by participants in the scrutiny session, as it often created divisions and tensions in the community. It was recognised that this was outside the control of local organisations.</p> <p>The Licensing Service had acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised in respect of hate incidents experienced by taxi drivers and their families, which had fed into the revised policy and consideration of other potential measures that could be introduced to protect drivers.</p>
3.	Options considered and recommended proposal
3.1	<p>1. That the Safer Rotherham Partnership continues to engage with young people in 2020-21 around improving Rotherham’s response to hate crimes and ways to encourage incident reporting.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>A preparatory meeting with the Youth Cabinet was held and facilitated by the Assistant Director, Early Help, Family Engagement & Business Support on the 5 August 2020 to explore how the Safer Rotherham Partnership can support progress against the 10 recommendations.</p> <p>Young people from the Youth Cabinet presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership on Monday 10 August 2020. The young people’s presentation was well received, and the partnership agreed to support the recommendations. A further update will take place at the next Safer Rotherham Partnership Board 12th October 2020.</p>

3.2	<p>2. That the Licensing Service continues to engage with young people in 2020-21 to capture their suggestions and feedback from the community around licensing policy on taxis.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>Licensing continue to liaise with the Safer Rotherham Partnership to include hate crime in safeguarding awareness training for taxi drivers throughout 2020 and a Safer Rotherham Partnership information sheet for taxi drivers on hate crime is given out, along with Police hate crime leaflets.</p> <p>This action is complete.</p>
3.3	<p>3. That liaison takes place between colleagues in primary and secondary schools to make the links to support preventative work on hate crime.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>Preventative work to date includes: Harms of Hate initiatives; sessions by the Police Hate Crime Coordinator; Schools, Children’s Services staff have been trained and licensed to use the Sophie Lancaster Foundation education toolkit; hate crime awareness sessions have been delivered to the education safeguarding leads forum and there is ongoing promotion through the Rotherham Children’s Safeguarding Partnership website and newsletter. The new Assistant Director for Education started work in September and will take this recommendation into the next Headteacher’s forum now that schools have returned and feedback will be provided to the Youth Cabinet on progress from the Head Teacher’s Forum. The deadline for this action is January 2021.</p>
3.4	<p>4. That the Headteachers Forum encourages all primary and secondary schools to invite the Hate Crime Co-ordinator to work with students on hate crime awareness, with a focus on work in smaller groups rather than talks at whole school assemblies.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>The new Assistant Director for Education started work in September and will take this recommendation into the next Headteacher’s forum now that schools have returned and feedback will be provided to the Youth Cabinet on progress from the Head Teacher’s Forum. The deadline for this action is January 2021.</p>
3.5	<p>5. That consideration is given to establishing a dedicated young person’s seat on the Independent Hate Scrutiny Panel so that young people have an opportunity to input their views.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>The Independent Hate Scrutiny Panel is an independent group. Young people have been invited to attend in the past, but it has proved difficult for them to attend meetings which are held during the day. The Assistant Director, Early Help, Family Engagement & Business Support will liaise with Chair to see if</p>

	<p>there can be flexibility around meeting times or is there are other ways in which young people's views can inform and influence the Panel. The deadline to achieve this action is December 2020.</p>
3.6	<p>6. That consideration is given by the Safer Rotherham Partnership, Children and Young People's Services and schools to involving young people in a peer educator initiative for hate crime awareness raising.</p> <p>Update: The deadline for this action is at the next Safer Rotherham Partnership Board on 12th October 2020.</p>
3.7	<p>7. That liaison takes place between South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) and Rotherham Youth Cabinet to discuss ways to encourage more people to report incidents on public transport.</p> <p>Update: South Yorkshire Police already have good links with SYPTTE and bus companies have been proactive in tackling hate crime. Recommendations from the Youth Cabinet on publicity and promotion materials will be shared with SYP and SYPTTE. The deadline for this action is February 2021.</p>
3.8	<p>8. That partner agencies consider working with Rotherham Youth Cabinet on a campaign to raise awareness with young people about how and where to report hate incidents.</p> <p>Update: The Youth Cabinet have begun a series of YouTube short (2 minute) films to raise awareness of Hate crimes. The next one will be on Disability discrimination. In addition, Early Help, the Safer Rotherham Partnership, South Yorkshire Police and Rotherham United Community Sports Trust all use social media to reach young people. The Community Safety Officer hate crime lead has attended Youth Cabinet meetings, facilitated Safer Rotherham Partnership funding for the Youth Cabinet and delivered a hate crime workshop at their event.</p>
3.9	<p>9. That partner agencies consider working with the "interest in identity groups" established by Children and Young People's Services to incorporate the learning from their experiences in future work on hate crime.</p> <p>Update: The SRP partners have worked in the past with LGBT+ group on hate crime awareness and reporting and it has been agreed that more work will be undertaken in 2020/21.</p>

3.10	<p>10. That the concerns raised by Rotherham Youth Cabinet with regard to press coverage of issues that may impact more widely on communities be shared with the local media.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>Police Superintendent and the Head of Community Safety met with Rotherham Advertiser editor about their coverage of local incidents and where articles reinforce stereotypes or increase prejudice and discrimination.</p>
4.	Consultation on proposal
4.1	Consultation and engagement with key partners and stakeholders will be achieved through a Task and Finish Group.
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision
5.1	It is anticipated that the response to the recommendations will be presented at Cabinet in September for approval and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in October 2020
5.2	10th August Safer Rotherham Partnership update provided by young people.
6.	Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)
6.1	There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.
6.2	There are no direct financial implications within this report.
7.	Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)
7.1	There are no direct legal implications within this report.
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
8.1	No direct HR implications within this report.
9.	Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults
9.1	<p>The intention of the review is to impact positively on young people, as set out in the RYC manifesto aim:</p> <p>“We want to ensure people understand what Hate Crime is, know how to report it and encourage reporting of Hate Crime incidents. We also want people to understand the impact Hate Crime has on victims and the potential consequences.”</p>

10.	Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications
10.1	The recommendations aim to support work to address hate crimes/incidents experienced by people on the grounds of disability; race or ethnicity; religion or belief; sexual orientation and/or transgender identity.
11.	Implications for Ward Priorities
11.1	Positive. The recommendations aim to support work to address hate crimes/incidents experienced by people in all Wards.
12.	Implications for Partners
12.1	A multi-agency approach from the Council, schools and other partners will be necessary to respond to and progress a number of recommendations in the report.
13.	Risks and Mitigation
13.1.	None identified at this stage
14.	Accountable Officers
	David McWilliams
	Assistant Director; Early Help, Family Engagement and Business Support

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	25/08/20
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	26/08/20

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