

People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	11 January 2017
Officer	Patrick Myers
Subject of Report	Hate Crimes – Quarter Two 2016/17
Executive Summary	<p>The committee had requested further information about hate crime reported in quarter 2. This report provides the information requested with some commentary on the various categories. The report also highlights some increases against quarter one that may correlate with the EU referendum. This rise is not expected to continue as a trend.</p> <p>In addition the report provides information on the numbers of hate crimes so that members of the committee are able to see the scale of the issues reported.</p> <p>The committee also asked for further information about disability hate crimes and national information has been provided. Locally very low numbers are reported and this can be explored as a specific issue as the committee discusses the content of the report.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: The report reflects the authority's duty in respect of equality and diversity but no EQIA is required to support this report.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: The report provides statistical data to assess the prevalence of hate crime in Dorset.</p>
	<p>Budget: There are no direct budget implications for the council but it should be noted that the individual impact on individuals will give rise to service demands across public services in Dorset.</p>

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM (Delete as appropriate) Residual Risk LOW (Delete as appropriate)</p> <p>The principal risk are reputational, should it be deemed that the county council is not fulfilling its duty to promote equality and diversity.</p>
	<p>Other Implications: Increase in hate crime may lead to further demands on public services</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and request quarter 3 updates to confirm officers assessment that the increase in hate incidents is not in itself an upward trend.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>The committee are able to monitor effectively and be able to identify any further actions that may be required by the council.</p>
Appendices	<p>Hate Crime Definitions. (Note: Provide <u>public</u> web links where possible.)</p>
Background Papers	<p>None</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Patrick Myers – Assistant Director for Design and Development Tel: 01305 228302 Email: p.myers@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 The People and Communities Overview Committee at their last meeting requested an update on the reported incidents of hate crime in the Dorset County Council area. Members of the committee also asked for enquiries to be made about hate crimes that are directed to those people with mental health or those people with learning disabilities.
- 1.2 Members will also recall that quarter two occurred within the Brexit window and members indicated they would have liked that information provided to them as soon as possible.
- 1.3 Following the Public Referendum on 23 June 2016 and the decision to leave the EU, there was widespread concern that racially and religiously motivated incidents or crimes would increase. Several national newspapers reported incidents where victims had been attacked or abused because they were from foreign European countries. Although some of these incidents were very serious, they were not common on a national scale. The Pan-Dorset area showed an increase of all categories of Hate Crimes in July and then a decrease in August and September.

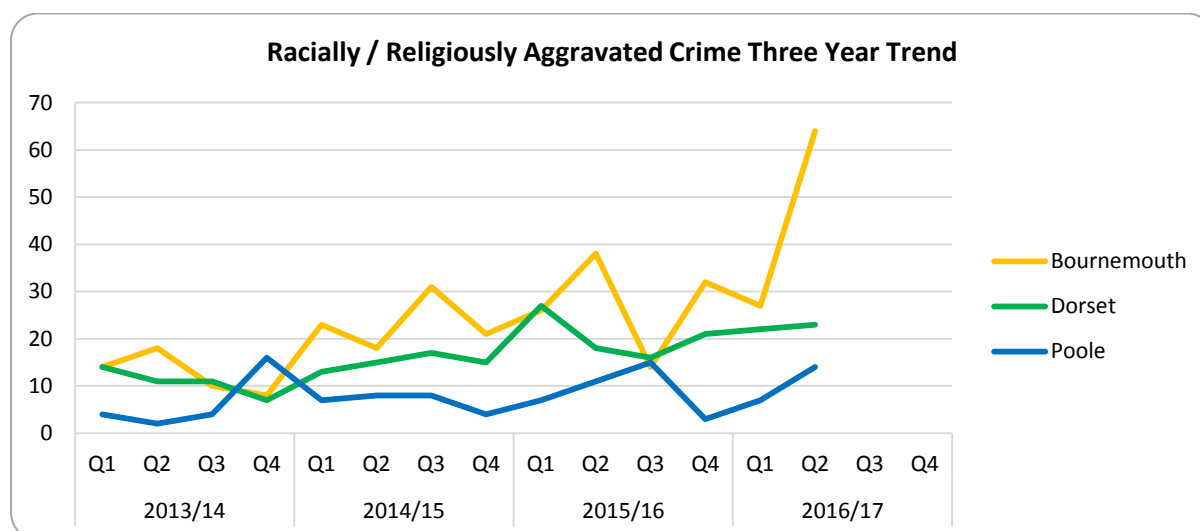
Hate Crimes – Quarter Two 2016/17

- 1.4 Members will also be aware that press interest was sufficient that somehow they were able to run the story before papers had been prepared for this committee to set the context and narrative.
- 1.5 Numbers of reported instances of hate crimes are low. However, the headline was unhelpful in not offering the necessary commentary that could have enabled print and online reader's context and narrative.
- 1.6 The intention of this report is to allow for an informed debate about the entirety of the data as reported across quarter two.
- 1.7 As a reminder, hate crimes are divided into three categories, depending on the nature and severity of what occurred. These can be found in appendix 1.

2. Quarter two data

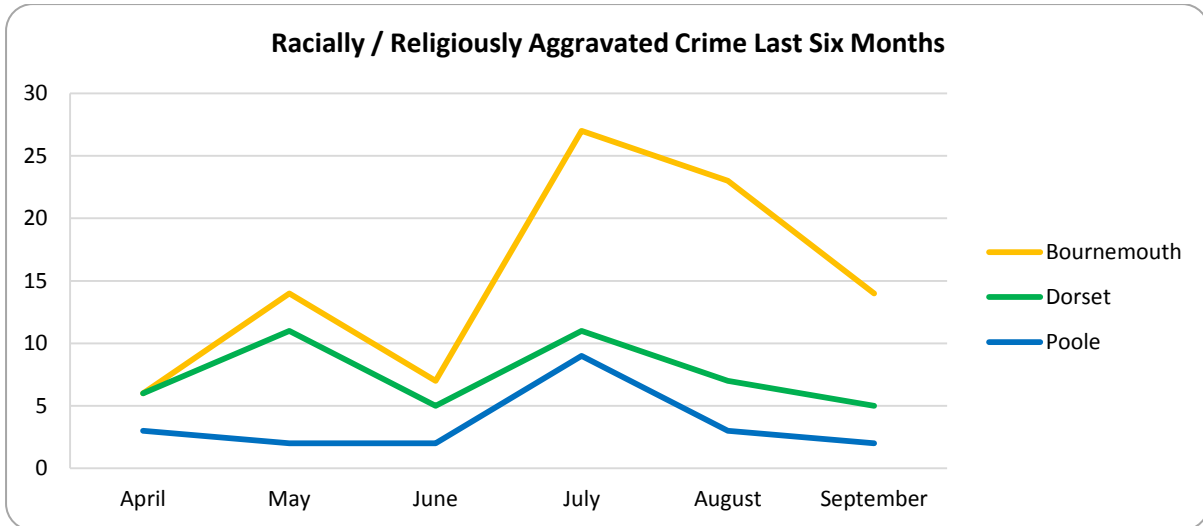
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Crime Reported to Dorset Police

	2013/14				2014/15				2015/16				2016/17			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Bournemouth	14	18	10	8	23	18	31	21	26	38	14	32	27	64		
Dorset	14	11	11	7	13	15	17	15	27	18	16	21	22	23		
Poole	4	2	4	16	7	8	8	4	7	11	15	3	7	14		



- 2.1 The three year trend shows a slight increase over time but not a particular pattern. This last quarter shows an increase for all three areas. Bournemouth has seen a 137% rise from the previous quarter, 68% more than quarter two in 2015/16. Poole too has seen a doubling this quarter, 27% more than last year. Dorset has seen the least change, possibly because as a mostly rural area it does not have the multicultural mix of the conurbation. Last quarter indicates a 5% increase in Dorset, 28% increase from the same point last year.

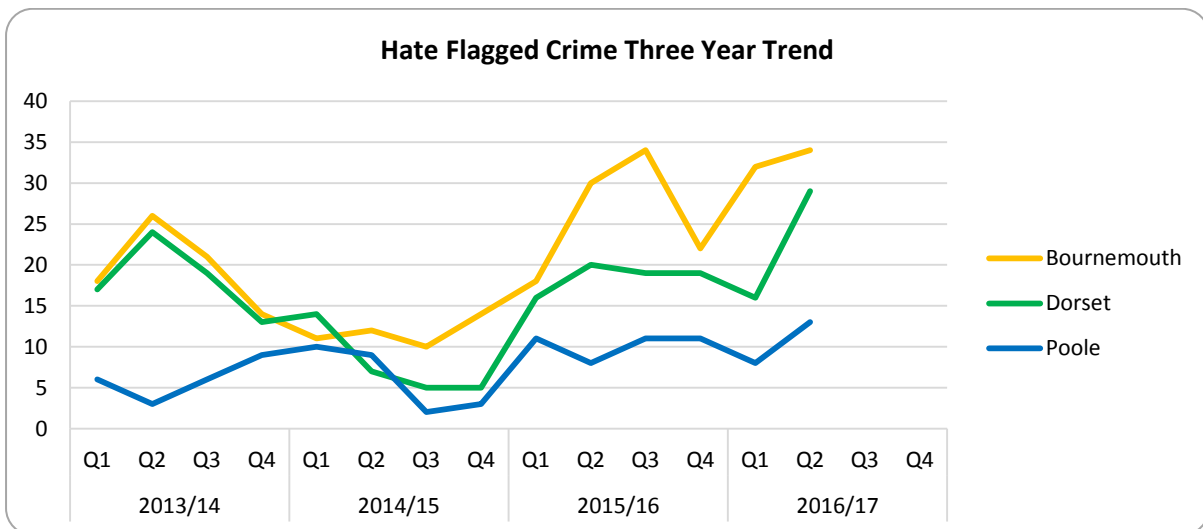
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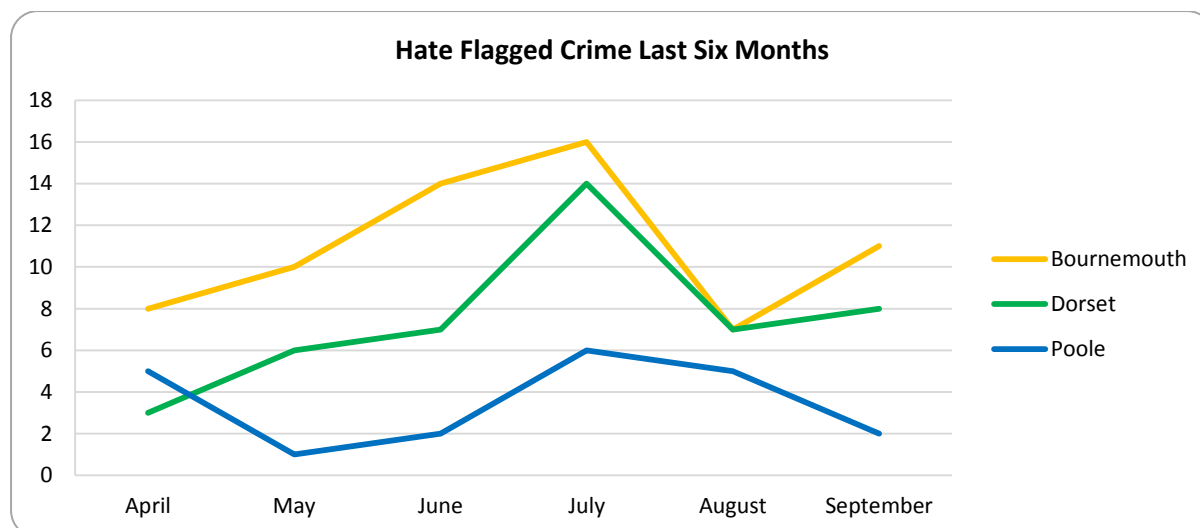
2.2 The last six months (two quarters) clearly shows a significant rise in racially or religiously aggravated crimes for the month of July in all three areas. August and September show a fall again to similar levels at the beginning of quarter one. This is as we had expected following the referendum and does not seem to suggest an ongoing hate crime issue.

Hate Flagged Crime Reported to Dorset Police

	2013/14				2014/15				2015/16				2016/17			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Bournemouth	18	26	21	14	11	12	10	14	18	30	34	22	32	34		
Dorset	17	24	19	13	14	7	5	5	16	20	19	19	16	29		
Poole	6	3	6	9	10	9	2	3	11	8	11	11	8	13		



Hate Crimes – Quarter Two 2016/17

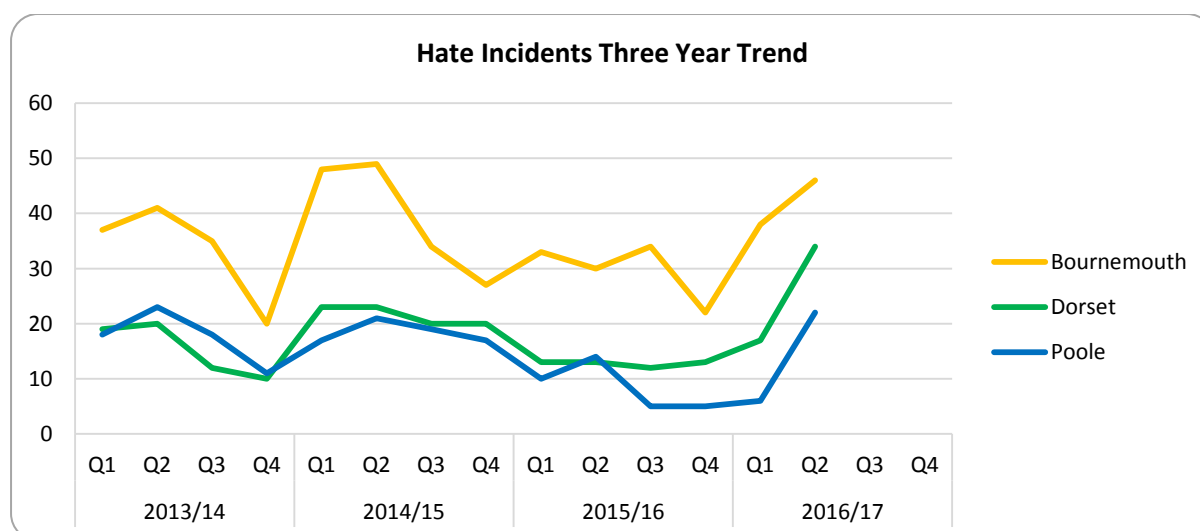


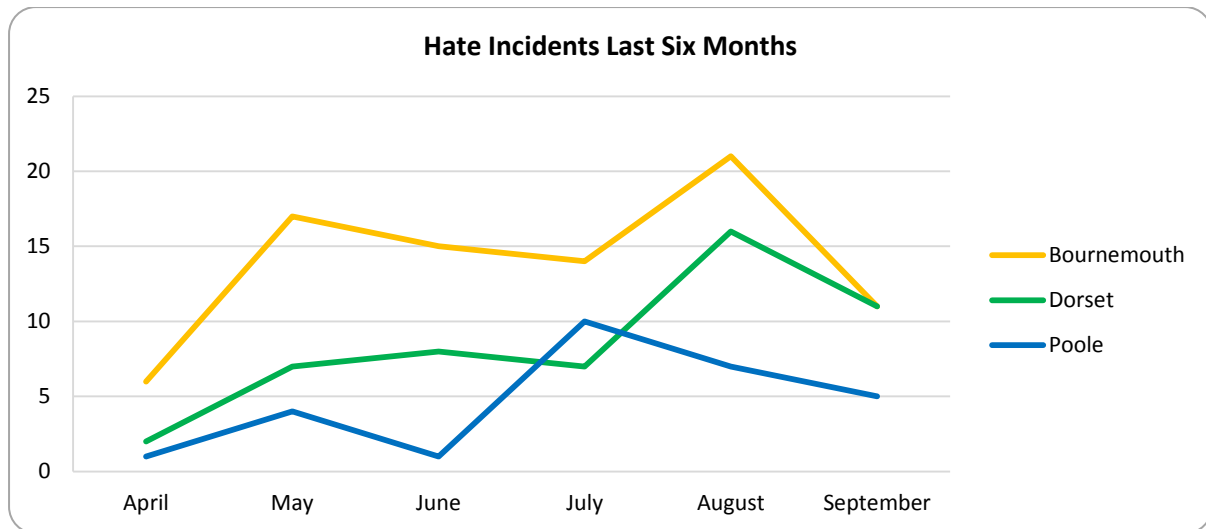
2.3 Similar to Racially or Religiously Aggravated Crimes, Hate Flagged Crimes have also shown a rise in quarter two, in particular for the month of July and then a fall. In Dorset and Poole, there are comparable numbers between the two crime types. However, Bournemouth has many more racially or religiously aggravated crimes than hate flagged crimes.

2.4 Interestingly there are slight increases for Bournemouth and Dorset whereas Poole continues to decrease.

Hate Incidents Reported to Dorset Police

	2013/14				2014/15				2015/16				2016/17		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Bournemouth	37	41	35	20	48	49	34	27	33	30	34	22	38	46	
Dorset	19	20	12	10	23	23	20	20	13	13	12	13	17	34	
Poole	18	23	18	11	17	21	19	17	10	14	5	5	6	22	





2.5 Hate incidents also increase for quarter two but looking at the individual months, the peak seems to be later; August for Bournemouth and Dorset. This could be because incidents are not as serious as Crimes. Perhaps in July there were more crimes as the emotions were more intense and then as they subsided the crimes gave way to more petty incidents.

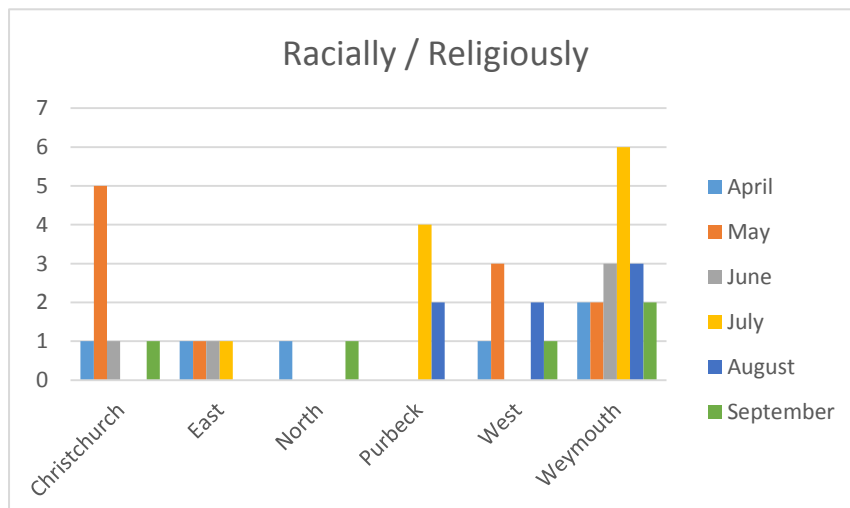
2.6 We anticipate that quarter three will continue the decreasing trend across the three categories.

2.7 Here is the district breakdown.

Hate Incidents by District by number

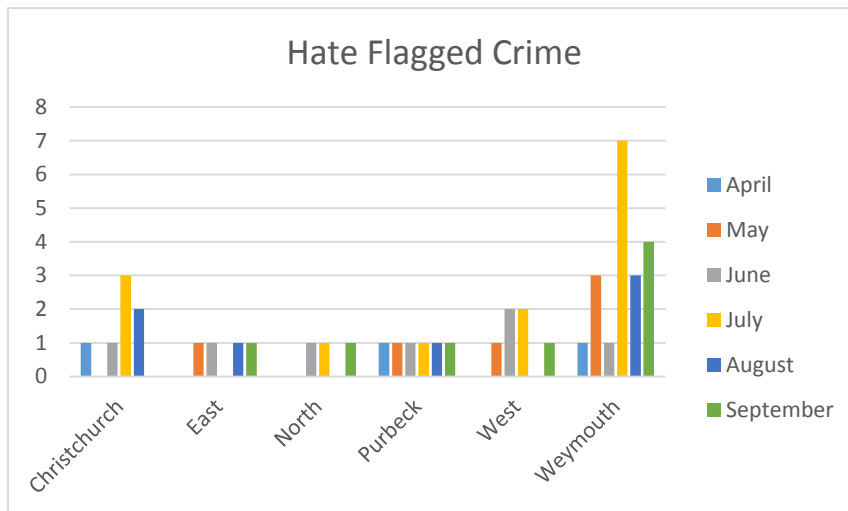
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Crime

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Christchurch	1	5	1	0	0	1
East	1	1	1	1	0	0
North	1	0	0	0	0	1
Purbeck	0	0	0	4	2	0
West	1	3	0	0	2	1
Weymouth	2	2	3	6	3	2



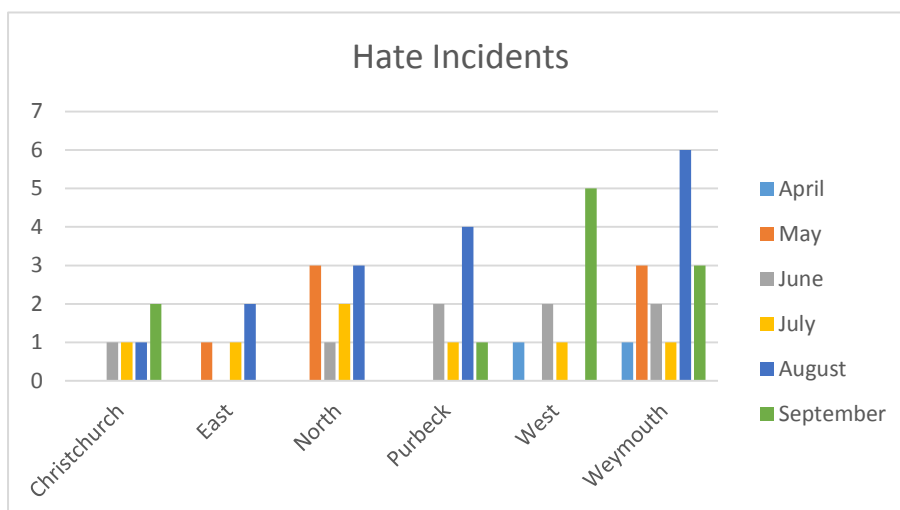
Hate Flagged Crime

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Christchurch	1	0	1	3	2	0
East	0	1	1	0	1	1
North	0	0	1	1	0	1
Purbeck	1	1	1	1	1	1
West	0	1	2	2	0	1
Weymouth	1	3	1	7	3	4



Hate Incidents

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Christchurch	0	0	1	1	1	2
East	0	1	0	1	2	0
North	0	3	1	2	3	0
Purbeck	0	0	2	1	4	1
West	1	0	2	1	0	5
Weymouth	1	3	2	1	6	3



2.8 In addition to the above, the committee requested information in relation to crimes against people who are disabled. The numbers are small and this may be based on under reporting and further work is required to explore other avenues.

2.9 It is important to note that there has been a national increase of 107% for disability hate crimes recorded between the first figures in 2011/12 – 1,748, 2012/3 – 1,911, 2013/4 – 2,020, 2014/5 – 2,515 and 2015/6 – 3,629.

3. Commentary on data

3.1 The data does indicate an increase in reported hate crime and incidents immediately post the Brexit result that may have been the result of some people feeling it appropriate due to the result to challenge the law.

3.2 Commentators have begun to discuss that with changes in the UK and the USA have the potential to create an ‘authorising environment’ for those who engaged in religious and race related crimes.

3.3 This is an important time to reflect on how organisations such as the County Council are expected to use this understanding to demonstrate ‘due regard’ to the Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

4. Conclusion

4.1 The County Council will need to consider how it can play an effective role in fostering good relations between all the people of Dorset. We should make full use of the arrangements that the Community Safety Partnership have for developing outcome based approaches to the reduction and minimisation of these crimes.

4.2 An audit of County Council activity directed to fostering good relationships and may be of interest to the committees so that it has some insight into our current arrangements and any planned activity. This could take the form of an inquiry morning rather than paper reporting exercise. Directorates could be asked for presentations informing the committee of current and planned activity that helps the council fulfil its public sector equality duty and how that activity is supporting the reduction in hate crime and incidents.

Hate Crimes Quarter Two 2016/17

Hate Crimes are divided into three categories depending on the nature and severity of what occurred. Some examples are as follows;

Religiously / Racially Aggravated Crimes

- *verbal and physical abuse*
- *bullying*
- *threatening behaviour*
- *online abuse*
- *damage to property*

Hate Crimes

- *assaults*
- *criminal damage*
- *harassment*
- *murder*
- *sexual assault*
- *theft*
- *fraud*
- *burglary*
- *hate mail (Malicious Communications Act 1988)*
- *causing harassment, alarm or distress (Public Order Act 1988)*

Hate Incidents

- *verbal abuse like name-calling and offensive jokes*
- *harassment*
- *bullying or intimidation by children, adults, neighbours or strangers*
- *physical attacks such as hitting, punching, pushing, spitting*
- *threats of violence*
- *hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages, hate mail*
- *online abuse for example on Facebook or Twitter*
- *displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters*
- *harm or damage to things such as your home, pet, vehicle*
- *graffiti*
- *arson*
- *throwing rubbish into a garden*
- *malicious complaints for example over parking, smells or noise*