

Understanding Hate Crime



Fact Sheet 5

What is a hate crime?

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 defines a Hate crime as:-

- Anything that causes you alarm and distress, **and**
- Is perceived to be motivated by a hatred of the victim's race, religion, lack of religion, sexual orientation or other identifiable characteristic (perceived or actual).

Examples of hate crime are:-

- Verbal abuse
- Assault
- Damage
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Graffiti

Hate crime is not limited to these examples, and incidents are not always actual crimes.

How do Cross Keys Homes deal with hate crime?

Cross Keys Homes and the Safer Peterborough Partnership are committed to tackling hate crime.

If you are victim or witness of a hate crime that is life threatening or the perpetrators are still present you should dial 999 to summon emergency help. If the incident isn't an emergency, you can contact the police on 101 and report it, and/ or contact Cross Keys Homes. You can also report hate crime on the 'True Vision' website:

www.report-it.org.org.uk

The True Vision website also has lots of useful information about understanding hate crime and agencies that can offer support.

Below are some examples of hate crime cases:

Example 1.

Person A has assaulted person B, person B thinks that they were assaulted because just before person A assaulted them they called them a racist name and person A is of a different racial group to them.

Person B reported the assault to the police and gave them the details of the person A who lives only a few doors away from them. Person B also reports this to person A's landlord, Cross Keys Homes.

The police arrest, interview and charge person A with racially aggravated assault. Cross Keys Homes' interview person A and warn them that they will be pursuing action against them if they are convicted of the crime, and that they must adhere to their tenancy agreement.

Person B works with victim support to help them cope with the crime, which has deeply affected them.

They attend court and give evidence against person A and person A is convicted of the offence and given a prison sentence suspended for 12 months.

Cross Keys Homes pursues action through the court to ensure that if there is any further misbehaviour by person A, they will also lose their property as well as being sent to prison.

Person B is updated by all agencies, and is aware that they can report anything further and will receive further support if needed, as well as further action taken against this perpetrator.

It is important that all hate crimes are reported. Even if the crime isn't serious and the police don't attend, the information is still logged and all agencies can direct resources appropriately.

The example below shows how this may work:-

Example 2:-

The police receive several calls within a month from people saying that they have been called racist names by a group of youths hanging around a shopping parade. Many people do not visit the shops for fear of being verbally abused, but no one is able to identify the youths.

All incidents are recorded. The police identify that the shops are owned by Cross Keys Homes.

Cross Keys Homes deploy a professional witness to gather evidence, and the police step up their patrols of the area.

The professional witnesses gather evidence of further hate crimes.

From the footage, the police and Cross Keys Homes are able to identify who the youths are and visit them. Action is taken against the youths, and the police create a 'dispersal area' at the shops that means they can move on groups of youths hanging around the shopping parade; and people can still use the shops without being racially abused and intimidated.

Finally, hate crime is taken extremely seriously by Cross Keys Homes and we will take appropriate action to support you as much as possible. See fact sheet 4 for further details.

In some cases you may be required to gather evidence using diary sheets and attend court.

Other fact sheets give further advice on this.