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# Merton Council

## Overview and Scrutiny Commission



Date: 9 September 2020

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: This will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location, in accordance with s78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

### AGENDA

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2	Declarations of pecuniary interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
4	BCU Commander - Crime and policing in Merton	5 - 10
5	Safer Merton update	11 - 36
6	Covid-19 update -Communications	

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**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.  
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

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Further information can be found [here](#)

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### Electronic agendas, reports and minutes

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Agendas can also be viewed online in the Borough's libraries and on the Mod.gov paperless app for iPads, Android and Windows devices.

## Overview and Scrutiny Commission membership

### Councillors:

Peter Southgate (Chair)  
Peter McCabe (Vice-Chair)  
John Dehaney  
Sally Kenny  
Paul Kohler  
Owen Pritchard  
Nick McLean  
Edward Gretton  
Joan Henry  
Natasha Irons

### Substitute Members:

David Williams MBE JP  
Thomas Barlow  
Edward Foley  
Ben Butler  
David Chung  
Simon McGrath

### Co-opted Representatives

Mansoor Ahmad, Parent Governor  
Representative - Secondary and Special  
Sectors  
Emma Lemon, Parent Governor  
Representative - Primary Sector  
Colin Powell, Church of England diocese

### Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

### What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3864 or by e-mail on [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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# Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

15 JULY 2020

(7.15 pm - 8.30 pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Peter Southgate (in the Chair), Peter McCabe, John Dehaney, Sally Kenny, Paul Kohler, Owen Pritchard, Nick McLean, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry and Natasha Irons

Co-opted Member Mansoor Ahmad

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Edith Macauley MBE (Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Community Safety)

Kiran Vagarwal (Interim Head of Community Safety) and Julia Regan (Head of Democracy Services)

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from co-opted members Emma Lemon and Colin Powell.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

### 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

The additional information requested had been received by email. Members agreed that they would make a decision at the Commission's September meeting on whether to bring forward the Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy. **ACTION:** Scrutiny Officer to ensure this is covered as part of the discussion of the work programme.

### 4 MERTON'S PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (Agenda Item 4)

The report was introduced by Kiran Vagarwal, Interim Head of Community Safety. She said that the report sets out proposals for a new more localised Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), based on analysis of data and currently subject to public consultation. The Commission was invited to make comments that could be taken into account by Cabinet when it is due to sign off the PSPO in November.

The Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Community Safety, Councillor Edith Macauley, provided background on the legal framework and assured the Commission that the impact of the PSPO would be assessed to determine whether there was a need to extend PSPO coverage into other parts of the borough.

In discussion, several members of the Commission expressed concerns that the town centre areas in Wimbledon and Morden would be excluded from the PSPO and sought assurances that the problem drinking in these areas would continue to be addressed. They also expressed concern about displacement from the PSPO area into surrounding areas. Kiran Vagarwal said that other enforcement measures could be taken in these areas, including a localised PSPO for Wimbledon town centre in future. She undertook to investigate the boundary of the PSPO in relation to Morden town centre.

In response to a request to include the whole of Morden and Wimbledon town centres within the PSPO, Kiran Vagarwal said this would not be possible because the areas covered by a single PSPO have to be adjacent. She said that it was common for local authorities to address this by having several localised PSPOs.

Members urged Cabinet to submit applications for localised PSPOs for Morden and Wimbledon town centres at the same time as the Mitcham application. Councillor Macauley said that Cabinet would listen to views expressed during the consultation period, including the views of the Commission, and would consider whether a separate PSPO was required.

In response to a further question about street drinking outside Wimbledon Centre Court shopping centre, Kiran Vagarwal said that this was currently being monitored and that there were a range of intervention measures that could be applied should the problem recur.

In response to a question about enforcement, Kiran Vagarwal said that the localised PSPO helps to focus the response to those areas that most need it.

The Commission RESOLVED to make the following reference to Cabinet:

That the Commission supports action being taken to address street drinking that occurs to such an extent that it intimidates the public, makes an area undesirable and becomes an area that people wish to avoid. The Commission wishes the proposals to be expanded to include other areas where there is unacceptable street drinking, namely Mitcham and Wimbledon town centres. It is understood that this wouldn't cover all of the wards, just the town centre areas.

The Commission further RESOLVED that this reference should be included and responded to within the officer report to the meeting of Cabinet in November at which the consultation results and proposals for the PSPO would be considered.

ACTION: Director of Environment and Regeneration and Head of Community Safety.

## 5 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Commission RESOLVED to present the annual report to Council at its meeting on 16 September. The Chair agreed to make a change to his foreword replacing the words "a budget deficit of £35m" with "a budget deficit that is predicted to be substantial". ACTION: Scrutiny Officer

## 6 DISCUSSION TO IDENTIFY QUESTIONS TO ASK THE BCU COMMANDER WHEN SHE ATTENDS ON 9 SEPTEMBER (Agenda Item 6)

The Commission agreed to use its first meeting with the new BCU Commander, Chief Superintendent Lis Chappell, as an opportunity for dialogue in order to share concerns and priorities. A number of lines of questioning were agreed:

- Safer neighbourhood teams and community policing in wards (Councillor Gretton to lead on high level questions)
- Police plans on carbon reduction (Councillor Gretton to lead)
- The number and deployment of officers, current level of resources and demand, how scarce resources are used and the implications for Safer Merton, impact of policing the lockdown and wearing of masks (Councillor Owen Pritchard to lead)
- What is the police doing to tackle low level nuisance that may escalate to something serious and what is being done to assure residents that this is being addressed (Councillor Natasha Irons to lead)
- In the light of Black Lives Matter, what is being done to ensure that the police are representative of the communities that they serve and that stop and search is intelligence-led (Councillor Irons to lead)
- Does the BCU Commander believe it is important to have continuity and stability in senior police ranks? The turnover levels seems high and not conducive to good governance (Councillor Peter McCabe to lead)

The Commission resolved:

- To invite the Chair of the Stop and Search Monitoring Group to its meeting on 9 September to provide the most recent data and to take part in the discussion with the BCU Commander ACTION: Scrutiny Officer
- To inform the incoming BCU Commander, Chief Superintendent Lis Chappell, of the proposed lines of questioning. ACTION: Scrutiny Officer
- That the Chair would write a letter of thanks to the outgoing BCU Commander, Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar. ACTION: Councillor Peter Southgate

## 7 SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Agenda Item 7)

The Commission RESOLVED to agree the scrutiny improvement action plan with the following additions:

- To include the option to hold scrutiny task group meetings remotely and to hold discussions with other authorities through Zoom or equivalent software in order to make it easier for members to attend
- To ensure that all scrutiny members feel safe during meetings and afterwards – all scrutiny members will take responsibility for this and the Scrutiny Officer will stay in the room till members of the public have left

ACTION: Scrutiny Officers and Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships

## 8 WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 8)

The Commission RSOLVED to agree the draft work programme as set out in the report and to re-establish the financial monitoring task group, with terms of reference as previously agreed. Councillors Ed Gretton, Joan Henry, Natasha Irons, Paul Kohler, Peter Southgate volunteered to join the task group. The Scrutiny Officer will identify meeting dates and will email all non-executive councillors to see if there are others who would also like to join. ACTION: Scrutiny Officer.

The Chair announced that this would be the last meeting attended by the Head of Democracy Services, Julia Regan, and thanked her for the support that she had provided to scrutiny over the past 11 years.

From 1 August, officer support to scrutiny will be led by John Dimmer (Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships) with Rosie McKeever (Scrutiny Officer) having responsibility for the Commission, the Financial Monitoring Task Group and the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Stella Akintan (Scrutiny Officer) will have responsibility for the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee,



# Merton Daily Dashboard

Reporting Period Ending: 26  
August 2020

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## Offences & SDs

Crime Category	Sub Category	Offences Previous R12	Offences Current R12	Offences % Change	SDs Previous R12	SDs Current R12	SD Rate - Previous R12	SD Rate - Current R12	
TNO	TNO	14,371	13,915	-3.2%	1,384	1,427	9.6%	10.3%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,371</b>	<b>13,915</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	●
Burglary	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>-22.6%</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	●
Robbery	Robbery of Business P..	51	51	0.0%	5	9	9.8%	17.6%	●
	Robbery of Personal P..	344	334	-2.9%	15	30	4.4%	9.0%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	●
Robbery - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	●
Theft Person - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-17.3%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>-</b>	●
VWI	VWI - Domestic Abuse	491	561	14.3%	103	103	21.0%	18.4%	●
	VWI - Non Domestic A..	890	792	-11.0%	109	124	12.2%	15.7%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	●
Domestic Abuse	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	●
Sexual Offences	Rape	129	104	-19.4%	4	4	3.1%	3.8%	●
	Other Sexual Offences	239	209	-12.6%	24	63	10.0%	30.1%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>-14.9%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	●
Total Gun Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-27.8%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	●
Lethal-barrelled Gun Discharges	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	●
Total Knife Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>-28.7%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	●
Knife Injury Victims (U25 Non DA)	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-32.1%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	●
Covid-19 Flagged	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>			●
Theft	Other Theft & Handling	1,734	1,317	-24.0%	34	29	2.0%	2.2%	●
	Bicycle Theft	345	310	-10.1%	3	5	0.9%	1.6%	●
	Shoplifting	816	635	-22.2%	116	99	14.2%	15.6%	●
	Theft from Person	259	226	-12.7%	3	1	1.2%	0.4%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>-21.1%</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	●

## I & S Calls and ASB

	Previous R12	Current R12	Change %
ASB Calls	4,229	6,943	64.2%
ASB Repeat Callers	86	138	60.5%
I Calls In Target	83.2%	80.0%	
S Calls In Target	66.4%	61.1%	

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# MPS Daily Dashboard

Reporting Period Ending: 26 August 2020

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## Offences & SDs

Crime Category	Sub Category	Offences Previous R12	Offences Current R12	Offences % Change	SDs Previous R12	SDs Current R12	SD Rate - Previous R12	SD Rate - Current R12	
TNO	TNO	897,646	836,721	-6.8%	75,905	84,803	8.5%	10.1%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>897,646</b>	<b>836,721</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>75,905</b>	<b>84,803</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	●
Burglary	<b>Total</b>	<b>81,232</b>	<b>68,435</b>	<b>-15.8%</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	●
Robbery	Robbery of Business P..	2,621	2,609	-0.5%	308	348	11.8%	13.3%	●
	Robbery of Personal P..	34,450	29,938	-13.1%	1,629	2,256	4.7%	7.5%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,071</b>	<b>32,547</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>2,604</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	●
Robbery - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,048</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	●
Theft Person - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,304</b>	<b>22,743</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	●
VWI	VWI - Domestic Abuse	23,841	24,134	1.2%	4,725	4,447	19.8%	18.4%	●
	VWI - Non Domestic A..	53,817	48,119	-10.6%	6,556	6,983	12.2%	14.5%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>77,658</b>	<b>72,253</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>11,281</b>	<b>11,430</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	●
Domestic Abuse	<b>Total</b>	<b>88,308</b>	<b>93,022</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>13,642</b>	<b>13,214</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	●
Sexual Offences	Rape	7,981	7,542	-5.5%	241	341	3.0%	4.5%	●
	Other Sexual Offences	12,195	11,356	-6.9%	1,018	1,279	8.3%	11.3%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,176</b>	<b>18,898</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	●
Total Gun Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>-22.7%</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	●
Lethal-barrelled Gun Discharges	<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>-11.9%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	●
Total Knife Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,914</b>	<b>13,302</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	●
Knife Injury Victims (U25 Non DA)	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>-21.4%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	●
Covid-19 Flagged	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,689</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>			●
Theft	Other Theft & Handling	130,181	100,514	-22.8%	1,756	1,414	1.3%	1.4%	●
	Bicycle Theft	20,987	20,536	-2.1%	228	267	1.1%	1.3%	●
	Shoplifting	44,347	38,926	-12.2%	5,257	4,454	11.9%	11.4%	●
	Theft from Person	51,385	38,590	-24.9%	500	551	1.0%	1.4%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>246,900</b>	<b>198,566</b>	<b>-19.6%</b>	<b>7,741</b>	<b>6,686</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	●

## I & S Calls and ASB

	Previous R12	Current R12	Change %
ASB Calls	266,469	417,544	56.7%
ASB Repeat Callers	6,827	10,971	60.7%
I Calls In Target	85.2%	84.5%	
S Calls In Target	76.6%	72.1%	

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# South West BCU Daily Dashboard

Reporting Period Ending: 26 August 2020

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## Offences & SDs

Crime Category	Sub Category	Offences Previous R12	Offences Current R12	Offences % Change	SDs Previous R12	SDs Current R12	SD Rate - Previous R12	SD Rate - Current R12	
TNO	TNO	66,083	63,581	-3.8%	5,447	5,940	8.2%	9.3%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,083</b>	<b>63,581</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>5,447</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	●
Burglary	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,158</b>	<b>6,096</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	●
Robbery	Robbery of Business P..	198	177	-10.6%	35	37	17.7%	20.9%	●
	Robbery of Personal P..	1,755	1,614	-8.0%	79	129	4.5%	8.0%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	●
Robbery - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	●
Theft Person - Mobile Phone	<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	●
VWI	VWI - Domestic Abuse	1,822	1,996	9.5%	350	376	19.2%	18.8%	●
	VWI - Non Domestic A..	4,042	3,586	-11.3%	496	490	12.3%	13.7%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,864</b>	<b>5,582</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	●
Domestic Abuse	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,016</b>	<b>7,365</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	●
Sexual Offences	Rape	622	600	-3.5%	10	22	1.6%	3.7%	●
	Other Sexual Offences	1,093	1,059	-3.1%	107	138	9.8%	13.0%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	●
Total Gun Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-18.9%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	●
Lethal-barrelled Gun Discharges	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-31.3%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43.8%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	●
Total Knife Crime	<b>Total</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>-20.7%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	●
Knife Injury Victims (U25 Non DA)	<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-18.1%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	●
Covid-19 Flagged	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>302</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>			●
Theft	Other Theft & Handling	7,829	6,535	-16.5%	127	108	1.6%	1.7%	●
	Bicycle Theft	2,776	2,492	-10.2%	23	34	0.8%	1.4%	●
	Shoplifting	3,697	2,885	-22.0%	451	391	12.2%	13.6%	●
	Theft from Person	1,755	1,338	-23.8%	16	14	0.9%	1.0%	●
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,057</b>	<b>13,250</b>	<b>-17.5%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	●

## I & S Calls and ASB

	Previous R12	Current R12	Change %
ASB Calls	18,973	33,116	74.5%
ASB Repeat Callers	385	684	77.7%
I Calls In Target	81.6%	82.1%	
S Calls In Target	67.5%	66.4%	

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## Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Wards: All wards

### Subject:

Lead officer: Kiran Vagarwal, Head of Community Safety

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley

Contact officer: Katy Saunders, Community Resilience Officer

### Recommendations:

- A. For the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to note the contents of the report in terms of community resilience work.

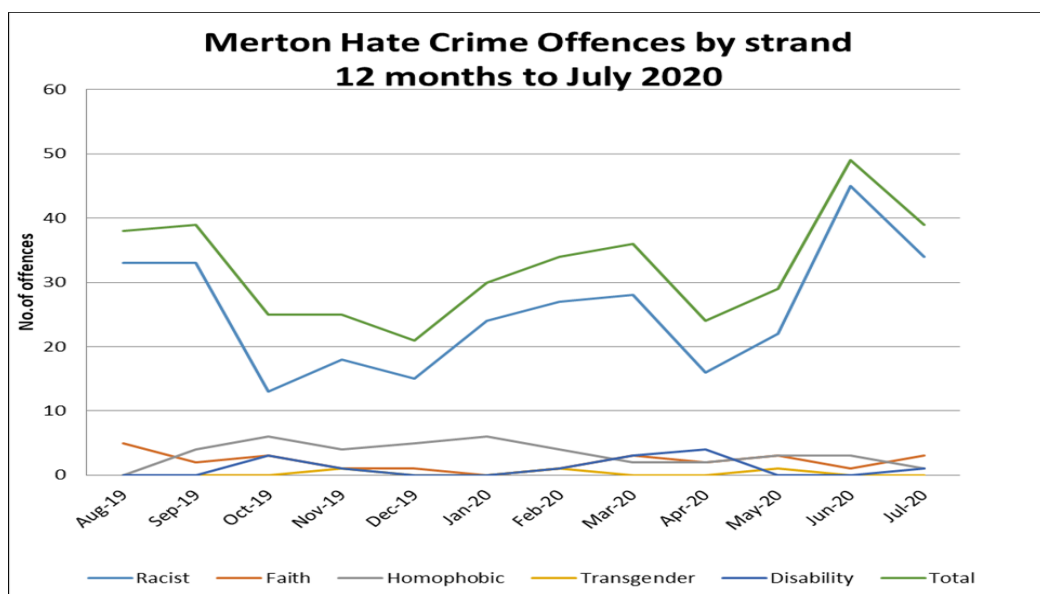
## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To give an update on the work progressed to contribute towards community resilience within Safer Merton specifically in relation to hate crime, Neighbourhood Watch and Merton's Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB).

## 2 DETAILS

### HATE CRIME

- 2.1. National hate crime figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are only available up to FY 2018/19. However the figures showed an increase of 10% on the figures for the previous financial year.
- 2.2. For Merton the figures show a 9% increase on the previous year for all forms of hate crime offence, with racial incidents being the highest form of offence with an approximate average 23 offences reported a month.



2.3. Each year the Safer Merton service undertake a hate crime profile to better understand reported hate crime within the borough. **A copy of the 2020 profile can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.**

2.4. For the financial year 2019-20 Merton saw 359 reports of hate crimes made to police. This is an increase on the total of 330 for the previous year. These figures break down as follows:-

<b>Merton</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<b>Racist</b>	275
<b>Faith</b>	23
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	45
<b>Disability</b>	11
<b>Transgender</b>	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	359

2.5. The most recent data to the end of July 2020 shows a surge in racist hate crime reporting which corresponds with the death of George Floyd and the emergence of the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign.

2.6. The Hate Crime Strategy Group continues to meet quarterly and has met virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time members of the group have been providing a weekly update on any emerging trends or areas of concern in their community, which is fed back in to the police. We have a strong relationship with the South West Police Basic Command Unit (BCU) partnership team, which provides a dedicated police BCU Hate Crime Officer who also sits on our Hate Crime Strategy Group. The police have been providing us with weekly hate crime figures and are picking up on any cases which may indicate a community tension.

**Key updates:**

2.7. ***Merton’s Hate Crime Advice Surgery in conjunction with Tell MAMA and partners*** - the surgeries take place on the second Tuesday of each month and are a drop-in service for victims of hate crime seeking advice and support. Due to social distancing, the surgeries have now moved to a phone based service, details of which are promoted via the council’s social media pages and website.

2.8. ***Promotion of Merton’s hate crime service via social media*** – on a regular basis messaging is put out via the council’s social media pages that Merton does not tolerate hate in any form and signposting towards hate crime support services in the borough. There is also an article in the latest addition of My Merton and the Neighbourhood Watch summer newsletter around third party reporting. There will be a piece in the autumn edition of My Merton around Hate Crime Awareness Week.

2.9. ***Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Scheme Pilot*** – the scheme launched in March 2020 and recognises that members of some communities may feel more comfortable reporting a hate crime to groups they already have a



relationship with. Although many of these organisations cannot currently meet their clients face to face, the services have continued throughout the pandemic via an over the phone and email basis, and will be continued to be promoted via the development of a promotional video for social media.

- 2.10. **International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)** - Unfortunately due to Covid-19, this year we were unable to gather together in person for a ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> May. However we were able to mark this virtually by raising the Freedom flag over the council's social media channels. This was supported by a social media video featuring the BCU Commander Chief Supt Sally Benatar urging victims to come forward and get the support they need from police and partners.
- 2.11. **Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) 2020** – during last year's HCAW Safer Merton, police and partners engaged with over 1,700 residents on a face to face basis through a series of events at locations throughout the borough. Planning has begun for this year's HCAW running 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020, which will be delivered virtually. The national focus of HCAW this year is disability hate crime. Given the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, the Hate Crime Strategy Group have decided racial hate crime will also be a focus. A planning meeting has taken place with the members of the Hate Crime Strategy Group to ensure that, via partnership working, we can still deliver a thorough programme of engagement with our residents. This will largely take the place of online webinars and engagement events supported by a robust social media campaign.
- 2.12. **Bystander training** – the chair of our Hate Crime Strategy Group has been trained to deliver Bystander training on how individuals in the community can speak up or take action against unacceptable behaviour in a safe way. Delivering this training will be incorporated in our plans for HCAW.
- 2.13. **AFC Wimbledon 'Kick it Out' campaign** – the Diversity and Inclusion manager at AFC Wimbledon will be presenting at the next Hate Crime Strategy Group in September about how we can support and link in with their campaign around racism and discrimination.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

- 2.14. Neighbourhood Watch is a community run scheme supported by the police and is the largest voluntary movement in the UK. Merton Neighbourhood Watch is managed two days per week by a Safer Merton officer, and is overseen by a committee currently made up of five Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and a police officer. The committee are volunteers who give up their time to ensure Neighbourhood Watch can function and continue to grow, something we acknowledge and are grateful for.
- 2.15. We are proud of the breadth and scheme in Merton and the commitment of our members. There are 478 coordinators and approx. 22,693 members in our scheme (see Appendix 2 of this report for coverage by ward breakdown). Coordinators are the link between the council and local police teams for the roads they cover and circulate the information sent from the Safer Merton Neighbourhood Watch lead to their members.
- 2.16. We work in partnership with the police, with a MET police volunteer helping to provide vital admin support. The coordinators and members act as the

'eyes and ears' of the community and intelligence they provide to police can be vital, and we always work to strengthen relationships with the local police teams. Their support from police in canvassing for members and promoting the NHW scheme to residents is key.

- 2.17. At a time when we are focusing more on our communities during the Covid-19 pandemic NHW has an important role to play.

**Key pieces of work undertaken and aims for 2020-21:**

- 2.18. ***To maintain and expand our membership*** – as NHW coordinators move on it is a challenge to maintain watches and keep residents engaged. We will continue to work with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to refresh existing watches and set up new watches in areas particularly affected by crime. During 2019-20, this work has been aided by a MOPAC (Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime) funded door knocking project by Merton's police cadets. The cadets are targeting roads in the borough most affected by burglary (a strategic priority for the partnership), setting up new watches and refreshing existing ones. Whilst the project has paused due to Covid-19, the cadets will continue once it is safe to do so.
- 2.19. We have also secured a further round of MOPAC funding via Merton's safer Neighbourhood Board to continue with the door knocking project in 2020-21. This work will be led by the Neighbourhood Watch committee and will again target roads in the borough most affected by burglary.
- 2.20. ***Implementation of an effective system for Neighbourhood Watch communications*** - Currently communication with NHW members is done via email sent from Outlook. Over the past few months there has been difficulties in sending bulk emails via Outlook due to Microsoft changing their settings.
- 2.21. OWL (Online Watch Link) is the preferred recommendation for communications going forward. OWL is a shared secure platform for sending local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches. It is tailored for NHW and allows members to find and join a watch easily.
- 2.22. Within the BCU, Wandsworth and Richmond have rolled out OWL over the past 6 months and have doubled their membership so far. They have also trained up the BCU partnership team and their Safer Neighbourhood Teams on OWL so the local police teams are able to send messages out to their wards.
- 2.23. It is important that as we move towards autumn/ winter we have a reliable and sustainable messaging system so we can relay crime prevention messaging to our members during peak burglary season. OWL will provide a robust and effective structure for running NHW going forward. We are currently in discussions around implementing OWL in Merton.
- 2.24. ***National Neighbourhood Watch Association*** - we have strengthened our relationship with the National Neighbourhood Watch Association and now have a listing on their website. We are working collaboratively with them to share ideas and best practice and look to further develop this over the coming year. We are currently participating in a Covid-19 working group developing a communications campaign around engaging the volunteers

who have come forward during the Covid-19 pandemic with NHW, and looking at what roles these volunteers who play in assisting NHW.

- 2.25. **Junior Neighbourhood Watch** – Merton is the only borough in London which runs a Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The scheme is run in partnership with police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and is a 6 week programme for year 5 pupils in Merton schools. The students learn about how to protect themselves and their homes from crime and helps to develop their relationships with the police from an early age. The scheme also includes visits to the local fire station and the CCTV department, and a chance for the students to meet with the Mayor to discuss what they have learnt. The scheme has very positive feedback from students and teachers and we aim to roll in out in schools which we haven't previously worked in during 2020-21. Note this work is currently on hold pending the reopening of schools following Covid-19.

### **Merton Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB)**

- 2.26 SNBs are the primary, borough level engagement and oversight mechanism enabling communities to hold their local police services to account. The meetings take place quarterly and are chaired by a representative from the community. Merton's SNB met virtually on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020. There was good representation from community reps and senior police team.

### 2.26. **Key updates:**

- **MOPAC (Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime) Community Engagement Funding** - The Funding Committee gave an update on applications for 2020-21. There were a large amount of bids for funding this year – 21 in comparison to 5 in 2019.

6 projects have been selected to receive funding in 2020-21:

- ISN Hate Crime 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reporting Project
- Karate Club Youth Project
- Polish Family Association Third Party Reporting Centre for Poles and Eastern Europeans
- Crime Prevention for Children and Young People (South London Tamil Welfare Group)
- Peer Press by Filmanthropy
- Neighbourhood Watch Door Knocking Project

- 2.27. Due to the financial pressures of Covid-19, we have been notified that MOPAC are reviewing discretionary funding budgets for 2020-21, with a view to identifying savings. Community Engagement funding applications are part of this process, however this does not necessarily mean the Community Engagement grant budgets will be affected. This information has been communicated to the successful grant applicants. At the time of writing this report MOPAC have said they will provide an update by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

- 2.28. As well as the updates given from the police on progress across the BCU and neighbourhood policing, the meeting also includes relevant updates from British Transport Police and the Met Contact Centre.

- 2.29. **Stop and Search** – It has been noted that one of the stated functions of the SNB is to ‘ensure the stop and search community monitoring function is delivered’ in the borough.
- 2.30. The chair of Merton’s Stop and Search panel has agreed to share the minutes from the panel with the SNB. If they cannot attend the SNB meeting in person, they will provide a report with any relevant updates or key discussion points to ensure the SNB can monitor the effectiveness of the panel. A member of the Stop and Search panel also sits on SNB.
- 2.31. The next SNB meeting will take place 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. There are no alternative options as this report is an information update document.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. N/A

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. N/A

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. No financial implications arising from this report

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. N/A

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. Hate crime, support for Neighbourhood Watch and the successful functioning of the Safer Neighbourhood Board are all directly linked with community cohesion. Continuing to maintain the strong links we have with our community and letting them know the services we have to support them if they do become a victim of crime is vital in achieving our ambitions for more victims to report and for more friends, family and/or neighbours to report matters of concern.

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. Safer Merton oversee this work and ensures that all crime and disorder concerns are considered within this work.

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. As a response to the ongoing concerns re Covid-19 the Safer Merton service and our partners have developed business continuity plans to cope with the challenges the pandemic may place us under, with ongoing consideration as to continue to deliver services to the local community.

**11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

*Appendix 1: Hate Crime Profile 2020*

*Appendix 2: Neighbourhood Watch coverage breakdown by ward*

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. N/A

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## Appendix 2: Neighbourhood Watch coverage by ward

Ward	Number of members	Number of watches
Abbey	993	24
Cannon Hill	2004	69
Colliers Wood	656	13
Cricket Green	1291	22
Dundonald	1009	14
Figge's Marsh	1636	29
Graveney	1598	26
Hillside	787	26
Lavender Fields	691	18
Longthornton	975	18
Lower Morden	2043	69
Merton Park	783	19
Pollards Hill	1182	20
Ravensbury	1548	27
Raynes Park	496	13
St Helier	405	13
Trinity	1746	17
West Barnes	1713	18
Wimbledon Park	450	7
Wimbledon Village	681	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>22687</b>	<b>477</b>

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2020

# Hate Crime Profile

**Safer Merton**

*Working Together To Keep Merton Safe & Sound*

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## 1. Aims of the profile – the specification

- 1.1 In order to ensure that Safer Merton was able to meet the needs of the partnership the following specification, was drafted and circulated for comment, before finalisation. This specification underpins the whole of our work



Title	Hate Crime Profile
Details	Refreshed Hate Crime Strategy
Authorised by	Kiran Vagarwal CSP Manager
Author	Richard Anderson
Authors contact	X3623
Date	10/07/20

### Hate Crime Profile

## 2. Aim

- 2.1 To describe the extent of hate crime in the London borough of Merton and identify gaps in our knowledge and understanding of this problem.

## 3. Purposes

- To inform members of the Safer and Stronger Executive Board (SSE) and practitioners working on the borough.
- To update the profile written in August 2019.
- Provide evidence to support new projects and funding bids.

## 3. Data Period Covered and Data Limitations

- 3.1 The analysis used data from the publicly available Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) hate crime dashboard for the financial year 2019/20 to provide an annual perspective and data from the MPS internal CRIS (crime reporting system) system to look at the most recent trends.
- 3.2 The profile will be a “best known” picture of hate crime on the borough, based on available data.
- 3.3 This profile does NOT look at Domestic Violence offences as this is addressed in a separate profile.
- 3.4 A hate crime flag is applied to a recorded crime report or crime incident in line with the definition shown on the following page. It is possible for more than one flag to be applied to a single report. This can lead to some confusion when dealing with hate crime statistics as not every reported incident may justify a crime report being created. Unless otherwise stated the statistics used in this report relate to recorded crime reports

#### **4. Hate Crime Definition and the National Picture**

- 4.1 The MOPAC website defines hate crime as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity”
- 4.2 MPS Hate Crime aligns with the former Home Office (APACS) guidance and is a measure identifying offences that satisfy **both** of the following criteria:
1. The offence is a notifiable offence
  2. A feature code identifying a hate crime) has been added to the crime report. The feature codes identifying hate crime types are:
    - Religious hate flags FH,(Faith Hate;
    - RS & RT (Anti-Semitic)
    - IS (Islamaphobic)
    - Racist Hate Flags RI (Racial Incident)
    - Homophobic Hate Crime HO
    - Transgender Hate Crime HT
    - Disability Hate Crime VH
- 4.3 The flag should be applied to any incident that is perceived to be a hate crime by the victim or any other person, or any offence where the offender demonstrates hostility based on the victim’s membership of one or more of these groups.
- 4.4 A hate crime dashboard is maintained by the Metropolitan Police  
<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/hate-crime-dashboard/>
- 4.5 A revamped MOPAC Hate Crime Dashboard has been launched last year and can be found at:  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/hate-crime-dashboard>
- 4.6 The interactive maps can be filtered by borough and hate crime strand
- The five monitored strands are:
- Race;
  - Religion/faith;
  - Sexual orientation; (Homophobic)
  - Disability;
  - Gender-identity (Transgender)
- 4.7 Domestic Violence is considered a sixth stand of hate crime but because of the much larger volumes of incidents and crime it is reported separately

#### **5. Hate crime recording history**

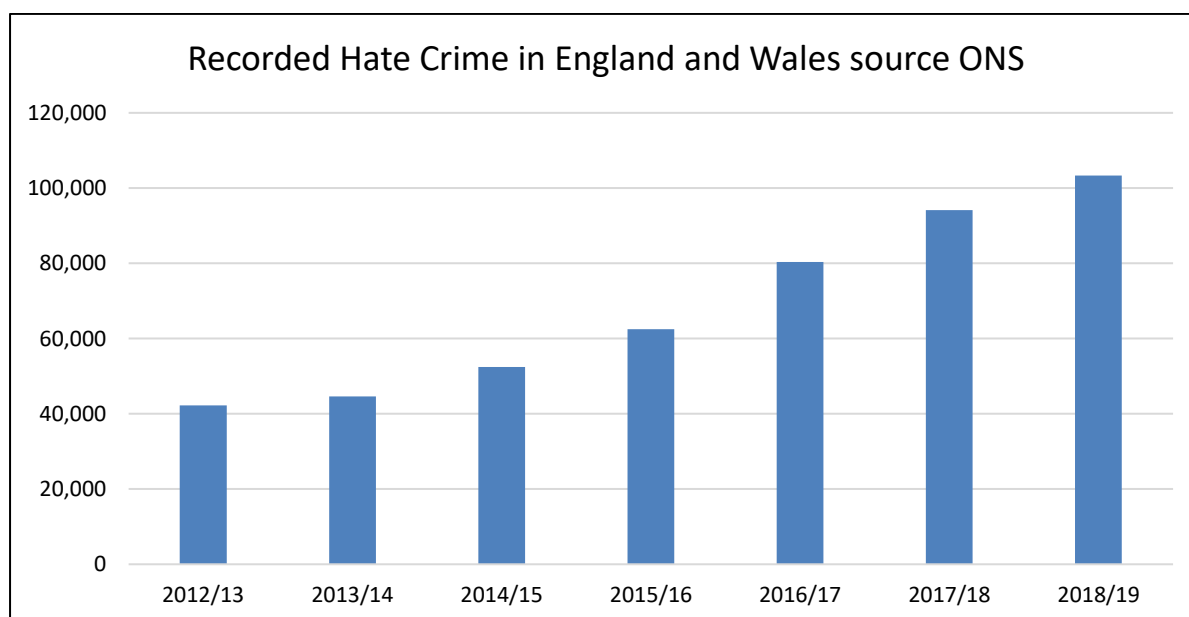
- 5.1 There has been a steady increase in reported hate crime since 2012. Action taken by police forces to improve their compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) led to improved recording of hate crime. Other causal factors for the rise are a greater public awareness and media attention on hate crime, and an improved confidence of victims to come forward.

5.2 Some Police forces are trialling flagging some incidents as Misogyny hate crime. This is defined as "incidents against women that are motivated by the attitude of men towards women and includes behaviour targeted at women by men simply because they are women".

5.3 Whilst many types of incident considered under this definition are substantive offences in their own right such as public order or sexual offences, others such as using sexually explicit language are not.

5.4 In March 2020 a private members bill the **Hate Crime (Misogyny) Bill 2019-21** had its first reading in the House of Commons the Bill is intended to make motivation by misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing; to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misogyny; and for connected purposes. The second reading of the bill is scheduled for November 2020.

5.5 Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable crimes that are recorded by the police. As can be seen in the table below in England and Wales total hate crime rose by 10% compared to the previous year whereas in 2017-18 the year on year increase was 17%. Figures for 2019/20 will not be published until October 2020.

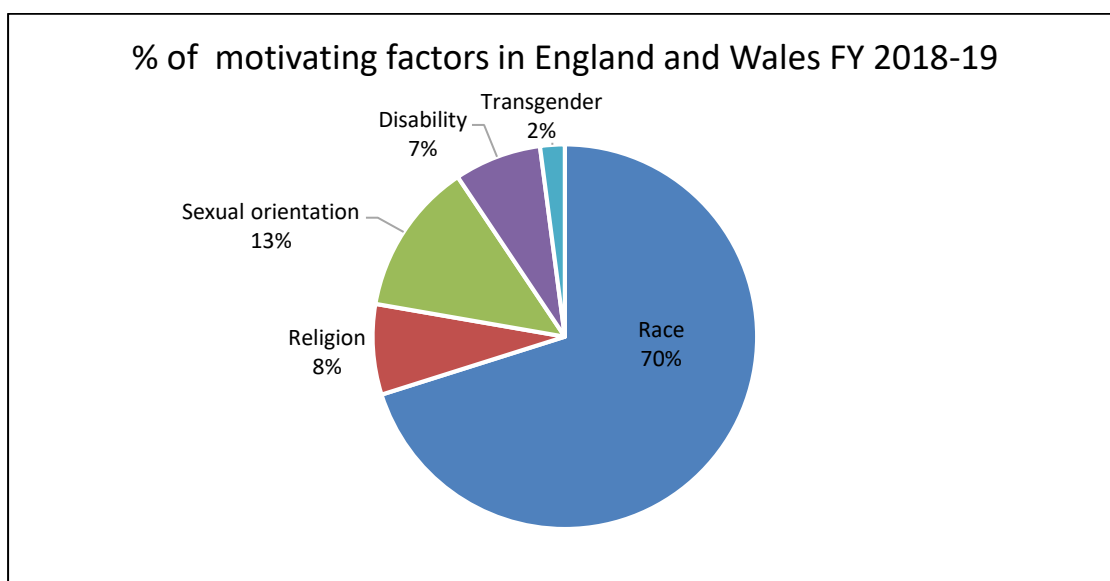


Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

## 6. Types of Hate Crime

6.1 In England and Wales in 2018/19, around 54% of all hate crime offences were classified as public order and 36% as violence against the person. These proportions are unchanged from the previous year.

- 6.2 In terms of the five strands of hate crime the majority of reports (70%) relate to race hate; 13% relate to sexual orientation and the remainder are made up of the other three strands.

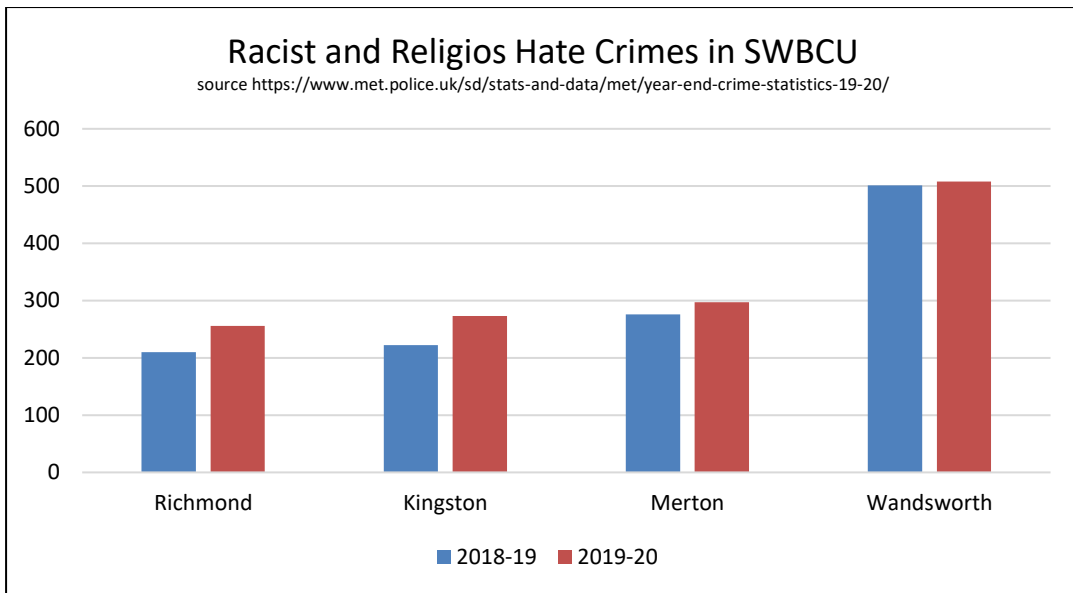


## 7. Influencing factors

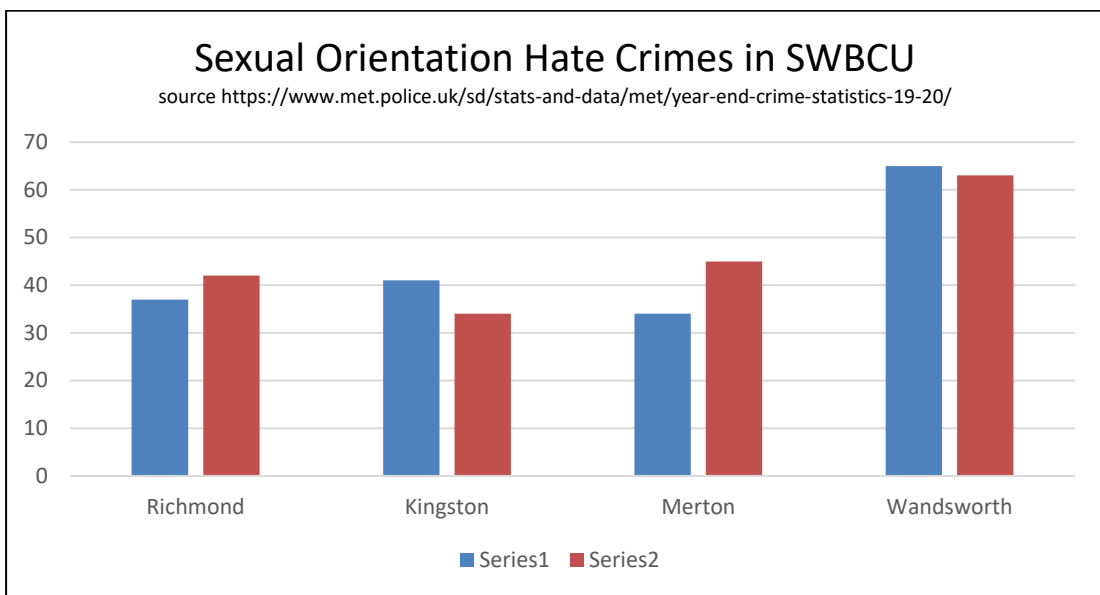
- 7.1 Following the last Merton hate crime report there have been further high profile terrorist incidents at London Bridge in November 2019 and a stabbing in Streatham in February 2020. In both instances, the attackers were wearing fake suicide vests and shot dead by the police.
- 7.2 Politically the issue of Brexit was resolved following the general election in December 2019. Subsequently the UK left the European Union at the end of January 2020.
- 7.3 Outside of the main reporting period for this report In May 2020 the death of George Floyd triggered the Black Lives Matter Campaign. June 2020 saw a spike in Racist hate crime in Merton and the MPS. National figures are not available.

## 8. BCU comparison

- 8.1 All boroughs in the South West Basic Command Unit (SWBCU) saw increases in Racist and Religious Hate crimes in 2019-20 compared to last year. In percentage terms both Richmond and Kingston rose by more than 20%, Merton by 8% and Wandsworth by 1%. The figure for the SWBCU as a whole was a 10% increase. This is in contrast to the last report when three of the boroughs saw slight decreases.



8.2 In respect of sexual orientation hate crime, the picture was mixed with Richmond and Merton seeing increases whilst Kingston and Wandsworth decreased.



8.3 Disability hate crimes across the SWBCU amounted to 34 offences compared to 28 in the last financial year.

8.4 Transgender crimes across the SWBCU amounted to 15 offences compared to 19 in the last financial year.

## 9. The Merton Picture

- 9.1 Data from the MPS hate crime dashboard shows that Hate Crime in Merton has increased by 9% in the last financial year compared to 2018-19. In the last report, the increase was 5%. The percentage swings for some of the strands are large because the base numbers are well below 100. For the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as a whole the rise was 12% compared to 2% in the last report.

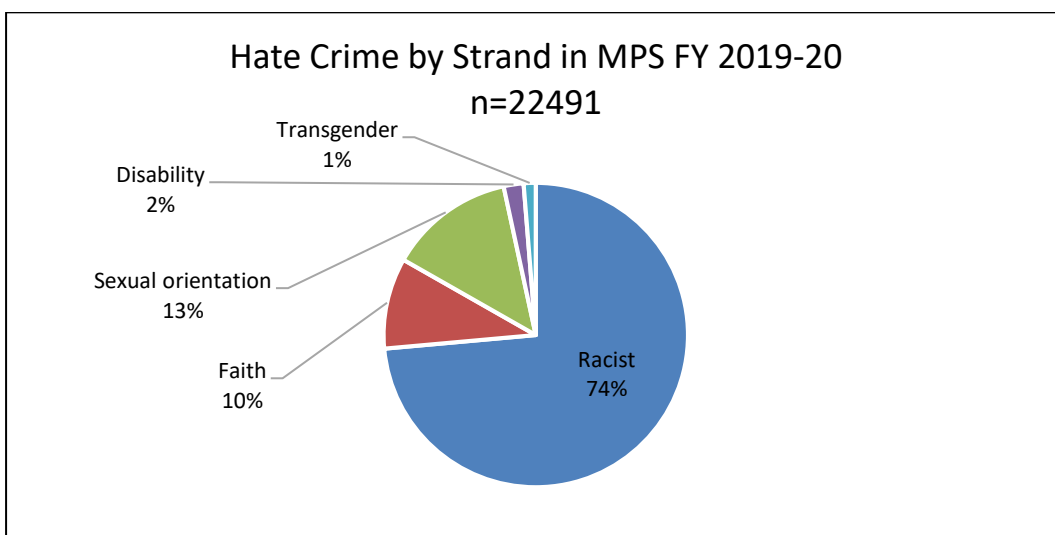
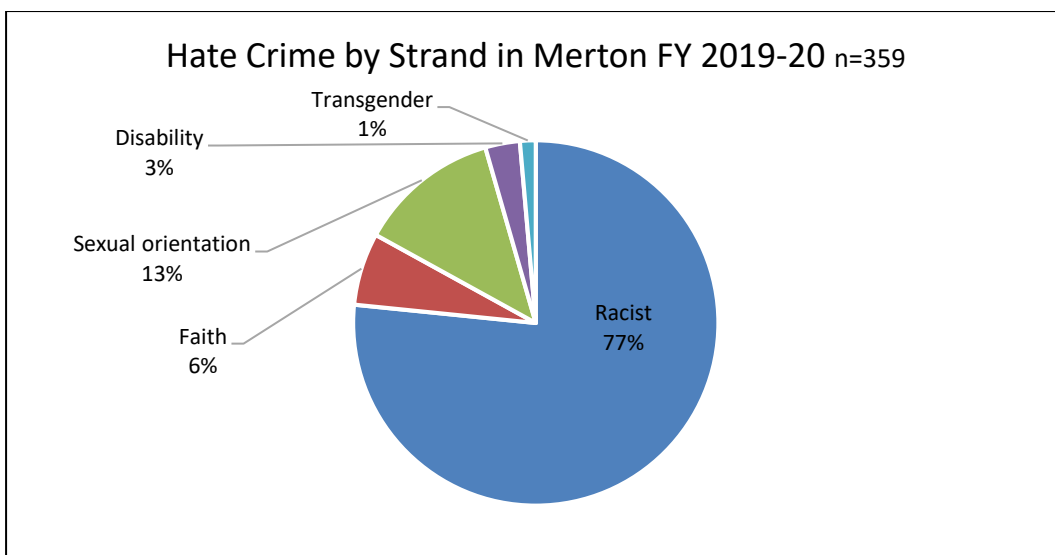
<b>Merton</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Racist</b>	246	275	12
<b>Faith</b>	30	23	-23
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	34	45	32
<b>Disability</b>	9	11	22
<b>Transgender</b>	9	5	-44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>9</b>

<b>MPS</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Racist</b>	14898	16547	11
<b>Faith</b>	2213	2172	-2
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	2379	3009	26
<b>Disability</b>	407	475	17
<b>Transgender</b>	233	288	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20130</b>	<b>22491</b>	<b>12</b>

## 10. Proportion of the differing strands of hate crime

- 10.1 The relative proportions of the hate crime strands in Merton broadly reflects the breakdown both across the MPS and Nationally. In the longer term the proportion of homophobic hate crime is increasing. (National figure for 2018/19 shown on page 6. National figure for 2019/20 not yet available.)



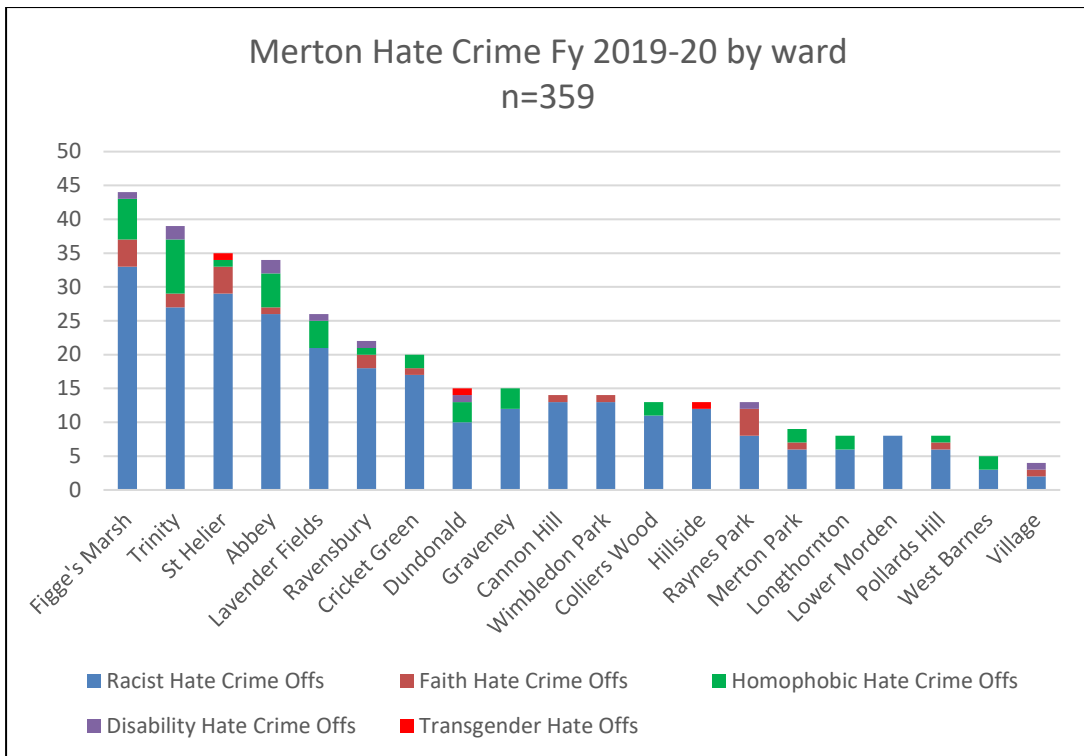


**11. Violent Hate Crime**

11.1 87% of all hate crime was classified as Violence against the Person (VAP) in Merton for 2019-2020 of which 3% percent is sub classified as violence with injury. The majority of reports are categorised as “harassment” which was included in the range of VAP offences from 2015.

**12. Wards with the most Hate crime reports**

12.1 The data set provided by Metstats2 for 2019-20 identifies individual wards in Merton. The breakdown by ward is shown in the table below. Compared to last year Figge’s Marsh, Trinity and Abbey have retained their place in top four. Cricket Green last year’s top ward dropped to seventh whilst St Helier rose from seventh to third



## Victim Profile

### 13. Repeat victims

13.2 According to the MPS safeguarding dashboard the level of repeat victims of Hate crime in Merton is 7% This is 2% lower than the 2019 profile.

### 14. Victim profile methodology

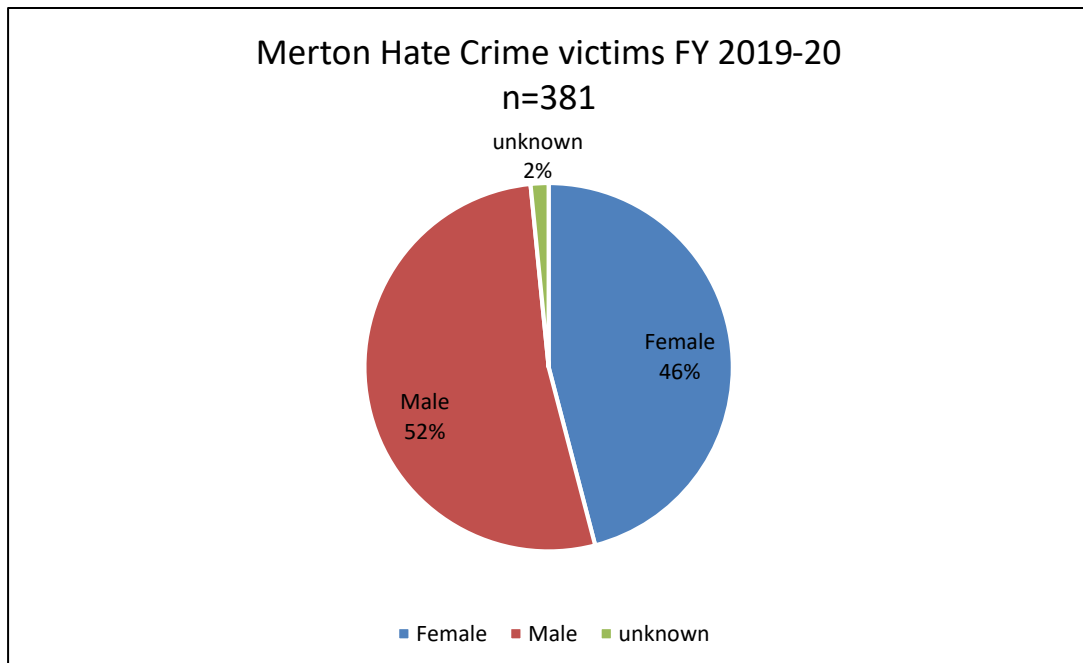
14.1 A search was constructed on the Police Cris enquiries system to attempt to return information on the victims and suspects of hate crime during the period under review.

14.2 Note the number of victims is larger than the number of reports and the number of suspects is lower than the number of reports. The search returned data on 89% of the relevant crime reports. The disparity in the data results from:

- a) The complex structure of the data
- b) An element of key fields not being completed in the records
- c) The skill of the author in constructing the search terms. Whilst not definitive the data sample is sufficient to produce a good overview of these groups. For this reason percentages rather than figures are shown.

### 15. Victim gender

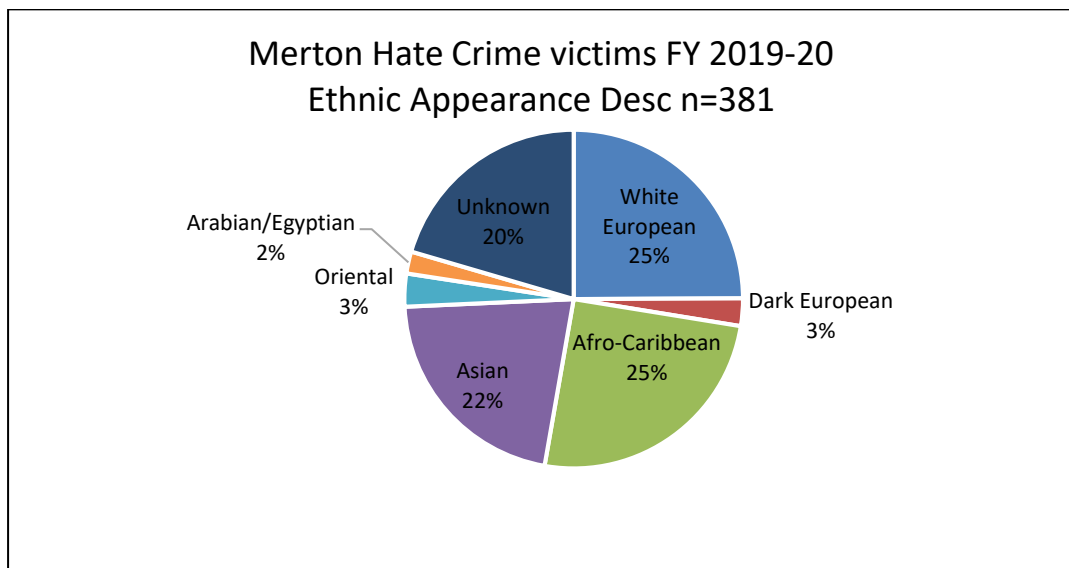
15.1 The gender split of all hate crime victims is shown in the pie chart below. There has been little change in this figure since last year with no one gender being especially victimised.



## 16. Victim Ethnicity

**NB. The MPS crime recording system continues to use just 6 identity codes to describe ethnicity.** <sup>1</sup>

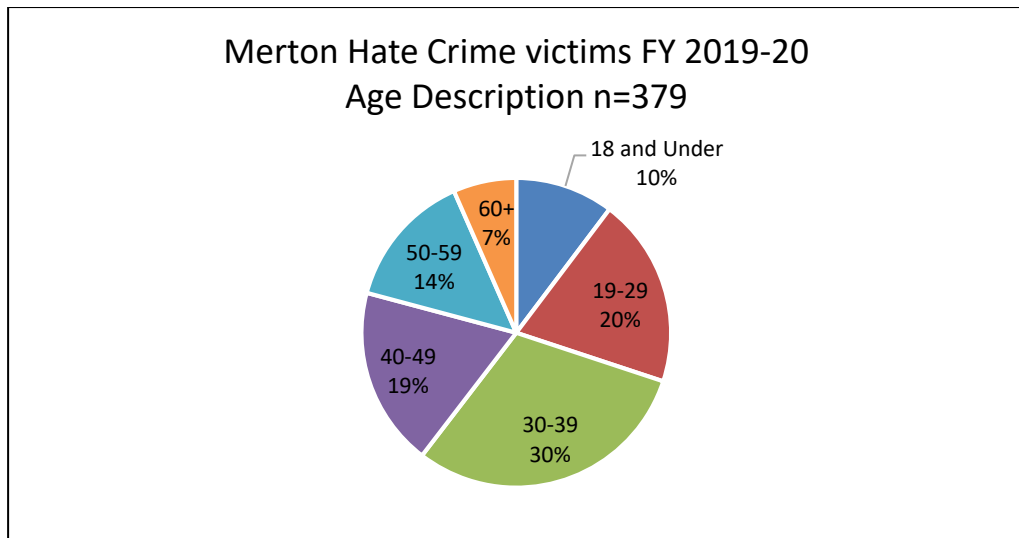
- 16.1 The ethnic breakdown of victims of racist hate crimes shows 52% from a BAME group. This is just 1% difference compared to the previous profile. Within the BAME grouping the percentage of Afro- Caribbean victims has decreased and was unchanged compared to the last profile as was the percentage of Unknown. The percentage of Oriental victims rose by 2% from 1% and this may be as a result of the covid 19 pandemic originating in China.



## 17. Victim Age

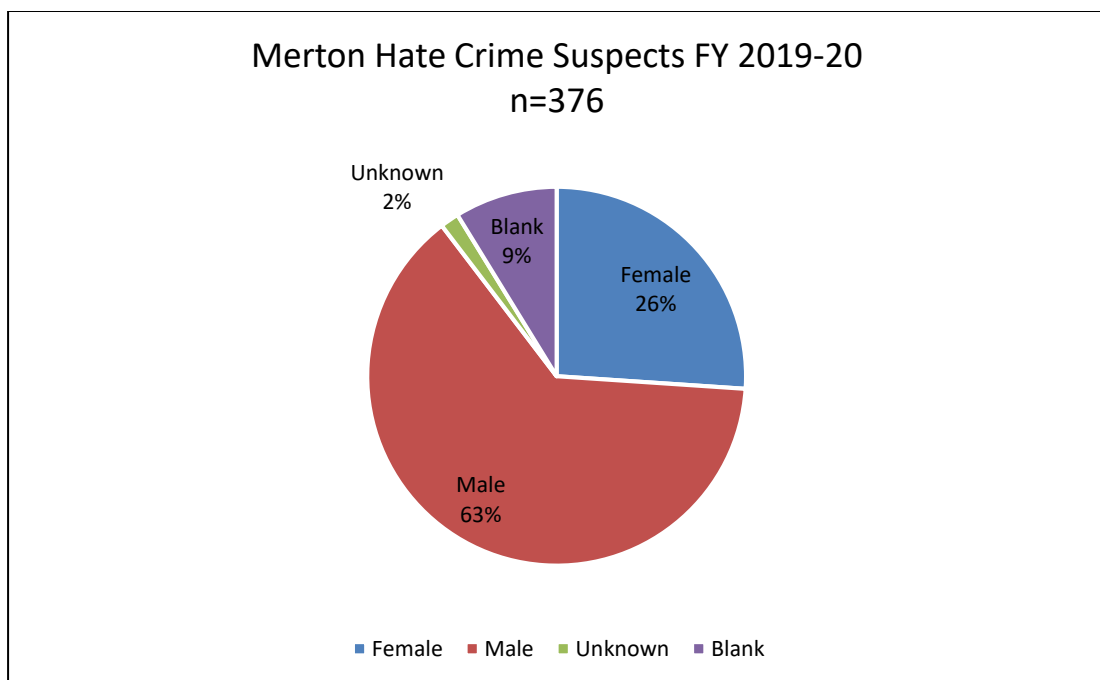
- 17.1 Just under half the victims of hate crime in Merton were aged between 30-50 whilst 30% were aged under 30 compared to 22% in the last profile.

<sup>1</sup> 0-Unknown 1 WHITE – NORTH EUROPEAN, 2 WHITE – SOUTH EUROPEAN, 3 BLACK, 4 ASIAN, 5 CHINESE, JAPANESE, OR OTHER SOUTH EAST ASIAN, 6 ARABIC OR NORTH AFRICAN



**18. Suspect<sup>2</sup> profile**

- 18.1 Given the large number of suspects who are not positively identified or subsequently proceeded against for hate crime in Merton some of the findings shown below cannot necessarily be said to represent the offending community as a whole.
- 18.2 The MOPAC Hate crime dashboard<sup>3</sup> previously provided an age/ethnicity breakdown for perpetrators<sup>4</sup> however due to the ongoing lockdown these figures have not been updated for the 2019-20 financial year and the previous breakdown removed.

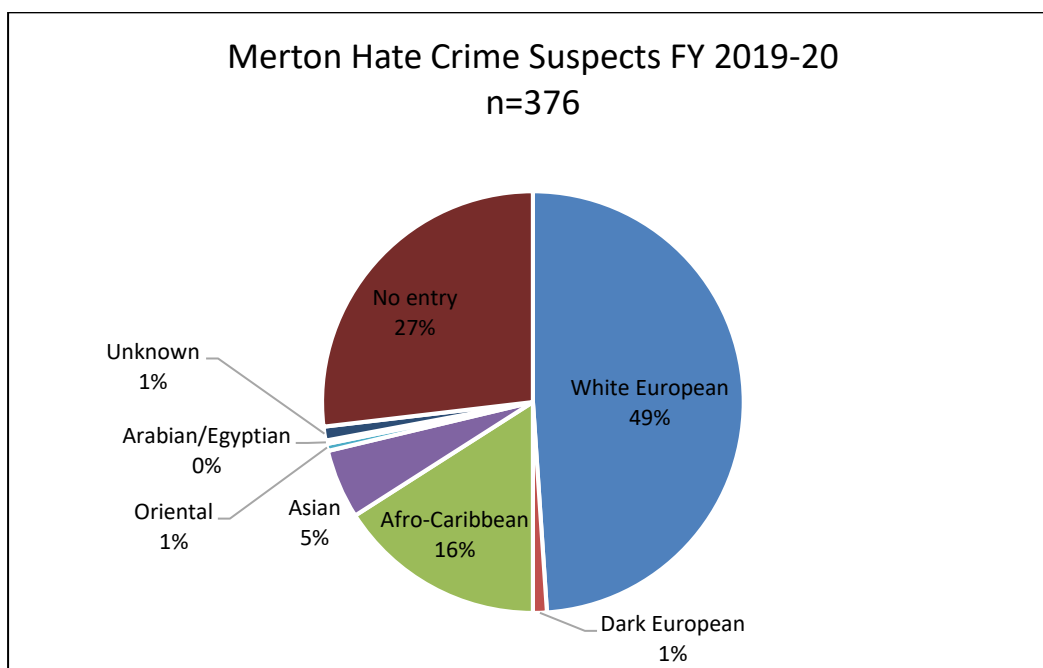


<sup>2</sup> The term Suspect has been used there rather than Perpetrator as the police data detailed those named as suspects of an offence rather than those convicted of an offence

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/hate-crime-dashboard>

<sup>4</sup> The term perpetrator in this case means a person against whom proceedings were commenced.

18.3 Whilst the victim population was fairly evenly split there was a clear majority of male suspects.



18.4 White people made up half the suspect cohort and there was no entry in a quarter of the records retrieved.

## 19. Motivations for hate crime

19.1 Whilst no form of hate crime should be condoned or excused it is worthy to consider the differing situations in which they occur. Whilst some are spontaneous acts of verbal or physical assault born out of prejudice, many result from disagreements between parties over a non hate issue such as parking or anti social behaviour. The situation then escalates resulting in a hate crime taking place.

19.2 It is impossible to judge whether the initial confrontation would have occurred if both parties had been of similar backgrounds. It is therefore hard to quantify with any certainty which are purely Hate motivated offences and which are Hate aggravated offences. However the perception is that there are more hate aggravated offences.

19.3 Where verbal abuse occurs there is a tendency for some to use whatever the eye perceives to influence their choice of language whether that be skin colour, headscarf, body shape or use of spectacles. This name-calling is an abusive way of expressing a person's anger to denigrate or control the other party.

19.4 The numbers of hate crime reports which result in people being proceeded with is low. The main reasons for this low figure are:-

- In many instances the victim and suspect are unknown to each other
- There may be no physical interaction between the parties and hence no forensic opportunities
- The incident occurs in a public place where there is no CCTV coverage
- No third party witnesses come forward.

19.5 Resultingly there are few practical lines of enquiry for police to pursue.

## **20. Sanctions and Court Outcomes**

20.1 A successful outcome in any criminal offence as measured by the police is referred to as a Sanctioned Detection (SDet)<sup>5</sup>

20.2 The sanction detection (SDet) rate is calculated by using the following formula: SDet Rate = Number of SDets recorded in a particular period x 100 divided by the Number of offences recorded in the same period.

20.3 The SDet rate for Hate crime across the MPS has fallen slightly for all strands of hate crime, from 13% to 12% for the 12 months to June 2020. The figure for Merton borough is unchanged and also 12%

## **21. Key Judgement statements**

21.1 National figures are several months behind those available at force and borough level and were showing Hate Crime reporting still increasing sharply. The picture in the MPS suggests a continuing increase in the most recent financial year (National figures are likely to be published in October). Merton was also up overall but this was less than the MPS as a whole. SWBCU neighbours Kingston and Richmond have seen increases in the order of 20% albeit from lower starting levels .

21.2 In Merton the sanctioned detection rates for Hate Crime has stabilised and is comparable to that of the MPS as a whole.

21.3 Without reading the details of individual reports it is not straightforward to identify if many hate crime flagged offences were motivated by hatred or aggravated by it. Anecdotally more are aggravated in nature.

21.4 The top wards for reported hate crime in Merton are the town centre wards in Wimbledon and the socio-economically challenged wards of Figge's Marsh. St Helier ward rose up the rankings from seventh to third in terms of total hate crimes.

21.5 Half of all victims are aged between 30-50.

21.6 Outside the parameters of this report the death of George Floyd and the emergence of the black lives matter movement saw a spike in reporting of racist hate crime in June 2020. It is hoped that numbers will decrease in coming months.

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<sup>5</sup> A sanction detection occurs when (1) a notifiable offence (crime) has been committed and recorded; (2) a suspect has been identified and is aware of the detection; (3) the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) evidential test is satisfied; (4) the victim has been informed that the offence has been detected, and; (5) the suspect has been charged, reported for summons, or cautioned, been issued with a penalty notice for disorder or the offence has been taken into consideration when an offender is sentenced.

## **22. Recommendations**

- 22.1 To refresh and revisit the profile on an annual basis to support both the hate crime strategy and the strategic assessment process.
- 22.2 To use the findings of this report to shape the activities of Hate Crime Awareness Week.
- 22.3 To continue to monitor the hate crime detection rate for Merton for any changes.
- 22.4 To target engagement on countering Hate crime in wards with the highest volumes of offences.