2017

Hate Crime Profile

Safer Merton

Working Together To Keep Merton Safe & Sound

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1. Aims of the profile – the specification

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

Title	Hate Crime Profile
Details	Refreshed hate crime strategy
Authorised by	Neil Thurlow CSP Manager
Author	Richard Anderson
Authors contact	X3623
Date	10/09/17

Hate Crime Profile

Aim

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

Purposes

- To inform members of the SSE board and practitioners working on the borough

- To update the profile written in September 2016

- Provide evidence to support new projects and funding bids

Data Period Covered and Data Limitations

- The analysis used data from the publicly available MOPAC hate dashboard for the rolling year to June 2017 to provide an annual perspective and data from the internal metstats 2 application for the period January 1st 2017 to 31st July 2017 to look at the most recent trends.

- The profile will be a "best known" picture of hate crime on the borough, based on available data

- This profile does NOT look at Domestic Violence offences as these are addressed in a separate profile first produced in September 2016.

Hate Crime Definition and the National Picture

A hate crime is defined on the MOPAC web site 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"

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

The flag should be applied to any incident which 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.

A hate crime dashboard is maintained by the Metropolitan Police

MPS data is subsequently produced to the public on the MOPAC Hate Crime Dashboard

At   https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-research/crime%20/hate-crime-dashboard
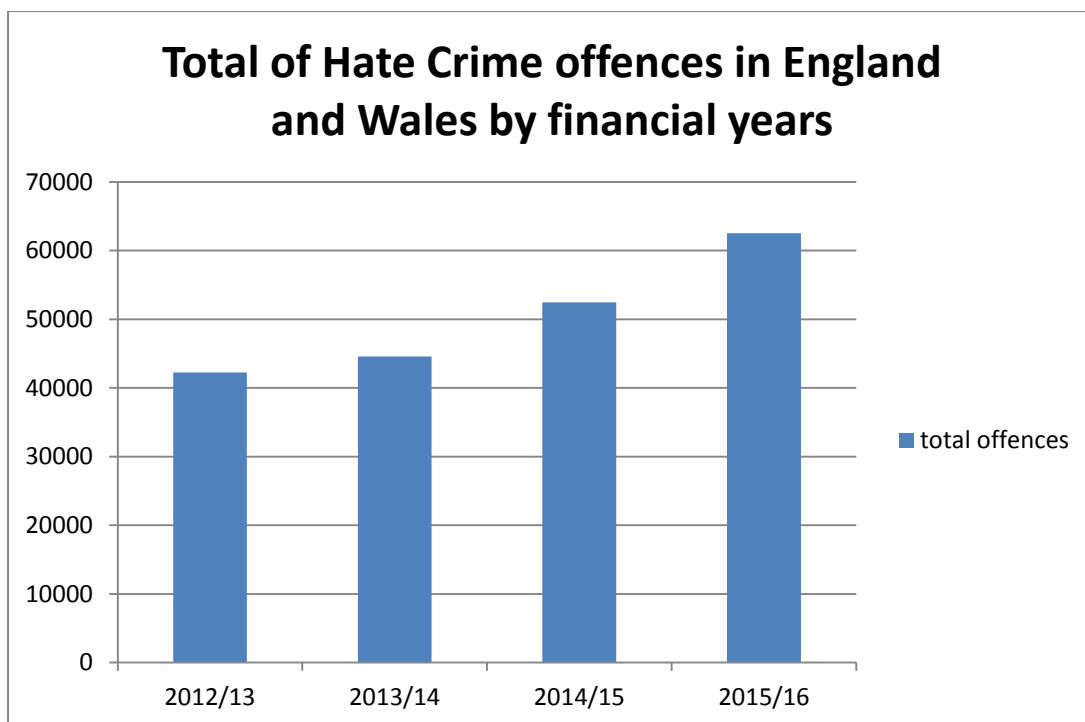
The five monitored strands are:

• Race;

• Religion/faith;

• Sexual orientation;

• Disability;

• Gender-identity

Hate crime recording history

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 willingness of victims to come forward.

Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable crimes that are recorded by the police and make up around two per cent of such crimes.

Total of Hate Crime offences in England and Wales by financial years

Source: Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16, Home Office, October 2016

Types of Hate Crime

In England and Wales in 2015/16 around 56% of all hate crime offences are classified as public order mostly causing fear, alarm or distress.

Of this figure 33% of offences of Violence Against the Person (VAP). with a quarter of the VAP offences classified as with injury - around 8% of all hate crime).

As commented on in the DVA profile VAP reporting has undergone several changes which has resulted in a general uplift in the figures.

It therefore follows that this, in part, explains the uplift in hate crime figures.

Criminal damage to vehicles, premises and personal property makes up just over 7% of all hate crime. Racist graffiti would fall into this category. The remaining 4% are made up of other notifiable crimes including theft, burglary etc.

In terms of the five strands of hate crime the majority (over 80%) of reports relate to race hate; 10% sexual orientation and the remainder made up of the other three strands.

National reporting

"Since April 2016, the Home Office has ceased collecting racist incident data from the police. The collection was stopped as the hate crime time series is now sufficiently established, with data for five years included in this publication. Furthermore, from April 2016 the police forces of England and Wales have begun supplying additional data around the religion of victims of religious hate crimes. Ending the racist incident collection manages the burden on the police

in supplying data to the Home Office. Therefore this is the last year in which official statistics will be published on racist incidents."
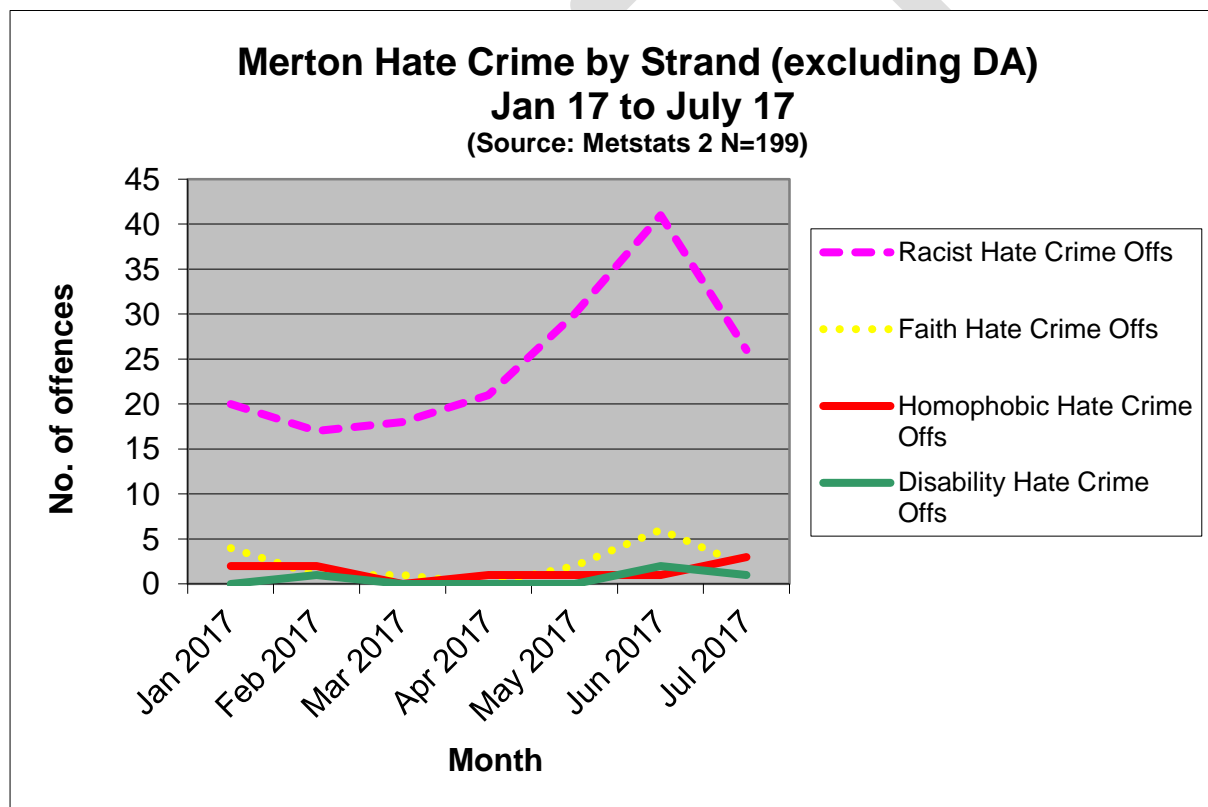
Influencing factors

Following the previous Merton hate crime report there have been a number of high profile terrorist incidents with attacks near the Houses of Parliament in March 2017, the bombing at the Manchester Arena in May and the attack in London Bridge and Borough Market in early June.

Since January 2017 the MPS have recorded increased levels of racist and faith hate crimes.
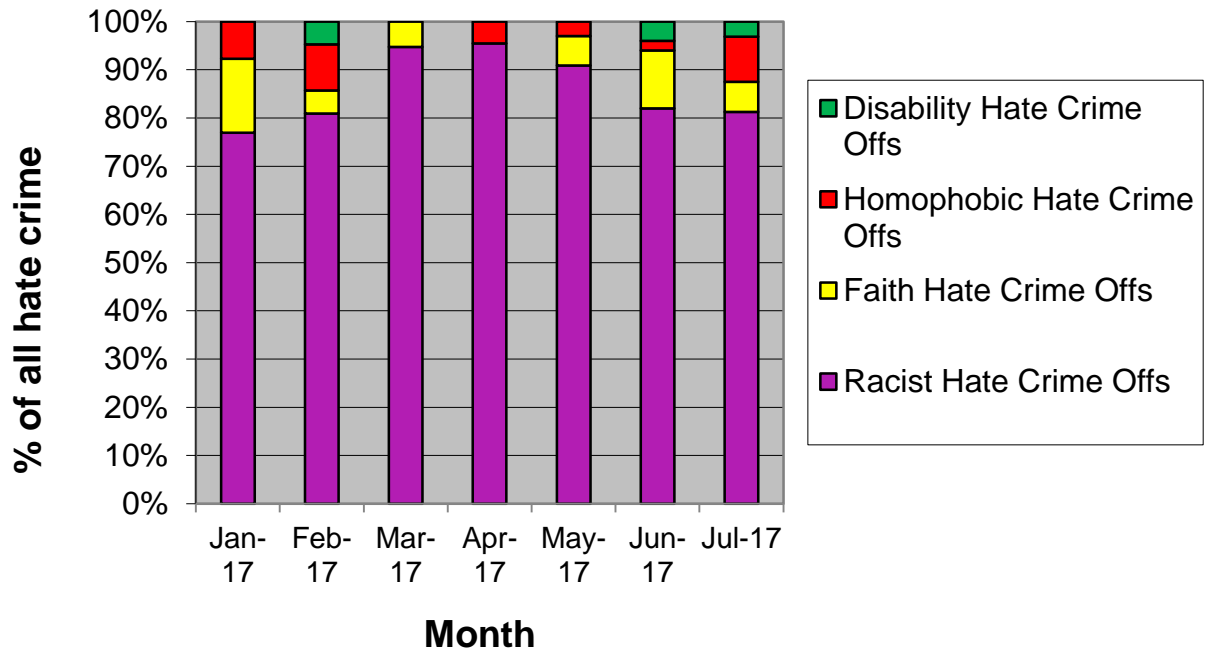
In Merton there was a surge in racist hate crimes during May and June and a smaller increase in faith hate crime. These figures have since returning to more "usual" levels of reporting.

Merton Hate Crime by Strand (excluding DA)
Jan 17 to July 17
(Source: Metstats 2 N=199)

In the chart below each hate crime strand is expressed as a proportion of each month's total. The proportion of Racist hate crimes was noted to increase in March to May.

Merton Hate Crimes By Category Jan 17 to July 17
(Source: Metstats 2 n=199)

Legend:
- Disability Hate Crime Offs (green)
- Homophobic Hate Crime Offs (red)
- Faith Hate Crime Offs (yellow)
- Racist Hate Crime Offs (purple)

Y-axis: % of all hate crime

X-axis: Month (Jan-17, Feb-17, Mar-17, Apr-17, May-17, Jun-17, Jul-17)

The Merton Picture

Using the data from the MOPAC hate crime dashboard it can be seen that Hate Crime in Merton has increased by just 1% in the rolling12 months (R12) to June 17 compared to 19% for the MPS as a whole.

Hate Strand	Merton R12 to June 16	Merton R12 to June 17	Merton Yr on Yr % Change
Racist	272	300	9.3
Faith	42	29	-44.8
Sexual orientation	30	20	-50.0
Disability	12	11	-9.1
Anti-semitic	0*	0*	0*
Transgender	0*	0*	0*
TOTAL	356	360	1.1

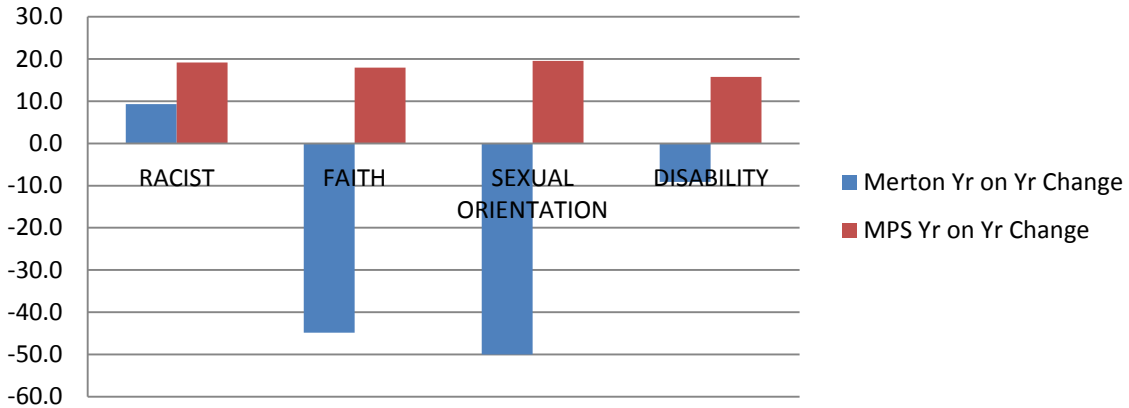| Hate Strand	MPS R12 to June 16	MPS R12 to June 17	MPS Yr on Yr % Change
Racist	14193	17560	19.2
Faith	1934	2356	17.9
Sexual orientation	1662	2065	19.5
Disability	498	591	15.7
Anti-semitic	461	518	11.0
Transgender	148	203	27.1
TOTAL	18896	23293	18.9

N.B. Totals below 10 offences do not appear on the MOPAC hate crime dashboard, which is why transgender or anti-Semitic crimes are shown as 0*.

The nearest constabulary, Surrey Police, has recorded an 35.4% increase in Hate Crime offences this FY to date (12 June 2017) compared with the same period last year (329 from 243 offences).

Merton has seen a rise in reported racist incidents but a fall in other hate crime strands whilst the MPS has increased in all strands as shown in the table below:

Percentage change in Hate Crime R12 June 16 compared to R12 June 17 for Merton and the MPS
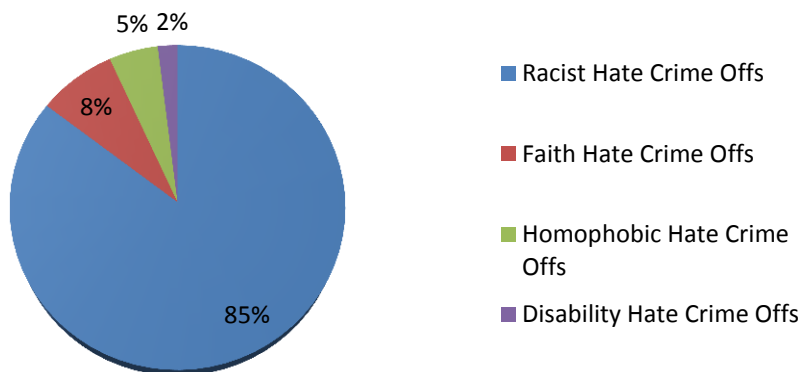### source: Mopac hate crime dashboard

Proportion of the differing strands of hate crime

In the seven month data sample in 2017 the proportion of racist hate crime has increased by 9% whilst other strands have reduced slightly compared to the data reviewed in the original hate crime profile last year.

As remarked on above this may be as a result of some notable terrorist incidents during the period.

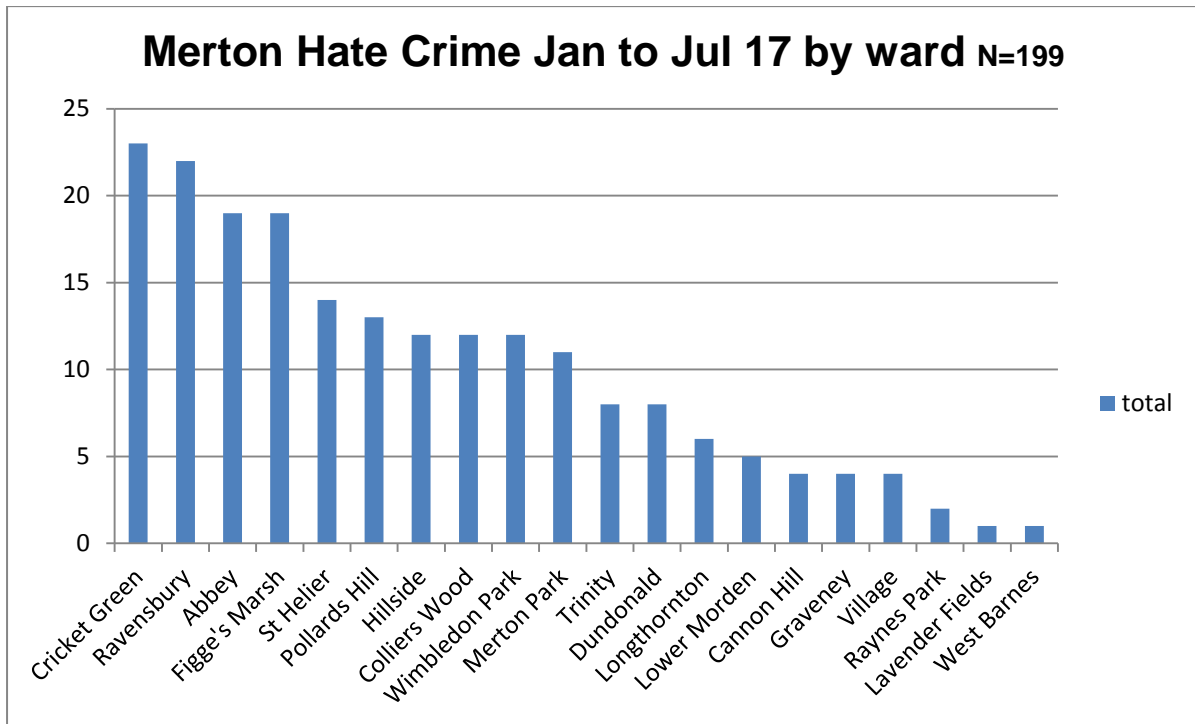## Merton Other Hate Crime By Strand Jan - Jul 17 N=199

Violent Hate Crime

Looking at the 12 months of data to July 2017 86% of all hate crime in Merton was classified as Violence Against the Person (VAP) of which 6 % percent results in an actual physical

injury. The majority of reports are categorised as "harassment" which was included in the range of VAP offences from 2015.

Wards with the most Hate crime reports

In the data set provided by metstats 2 for Jan to Jul 2017, the individual wards in Merton were identified. The breakdown by ward is shown in the table below.
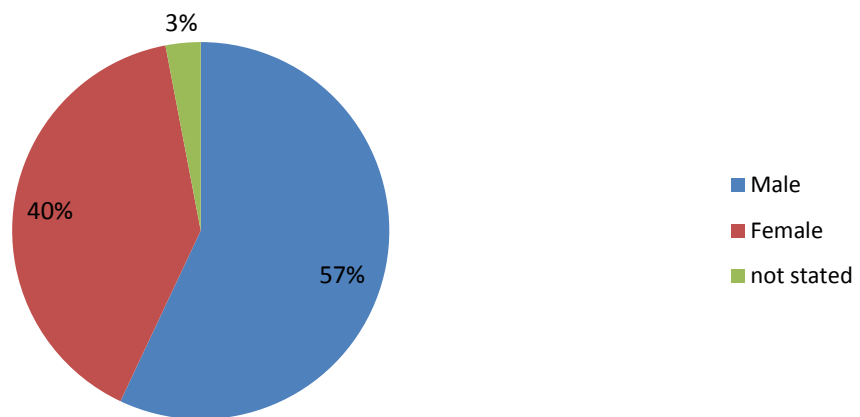

Cricket Green ward covers the Mitcham town centre whilst Trinity and Abbey cover part of the Wimbledon town centre. Three of the top four wards for hate crime are also in the top four wards for all recorded crime.
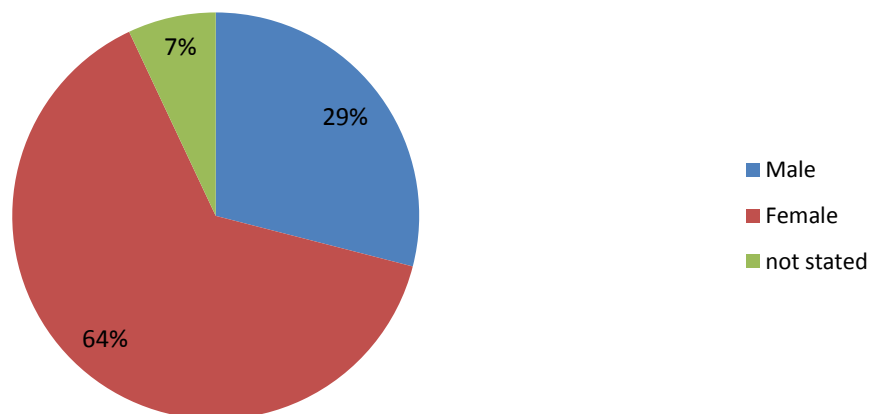
Victim Profile

Victim gender

Improved reporting on the MOPAC hate crime dashboard allows us to see the gender breakdown by the differing hate crime stands. In respect of race hate the gender split was 57% male victims however in respect of faith hate female victims (64%) were much more prevalent than males. This may possibly be explained by the distinctive items of clothing worn by females following the islamic faith.

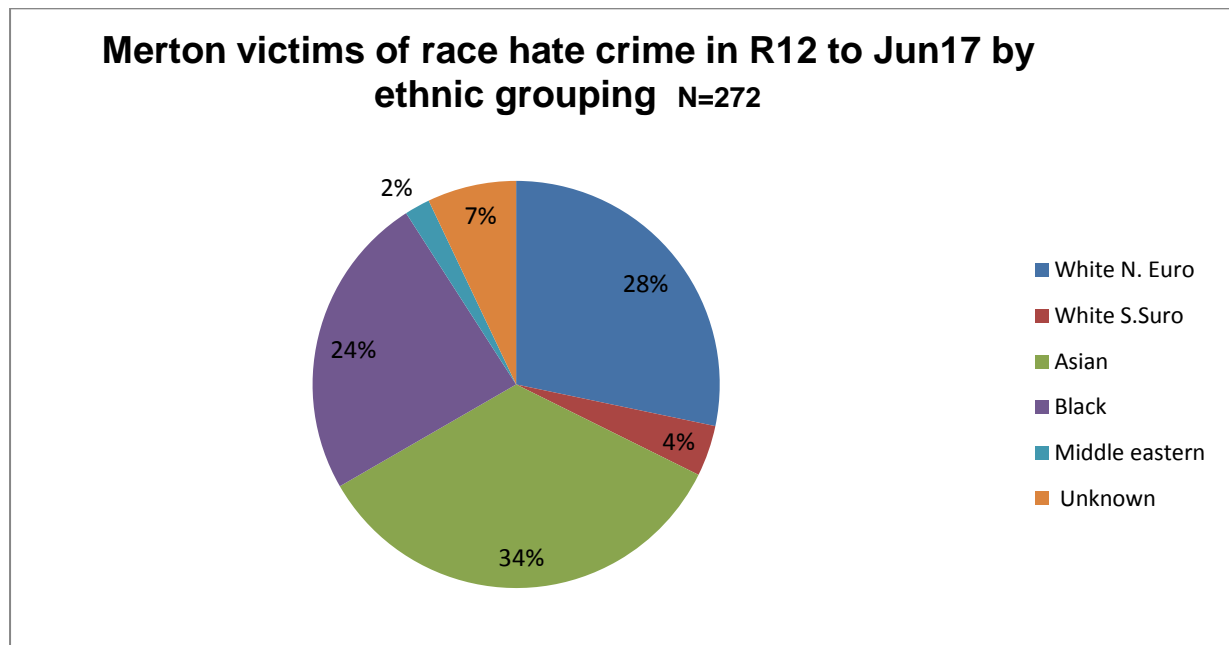### Merton gender of victims of race hate in R12 to June 17 N=272

- 3%
- 40%
- 57%

Legend:
- Male
- Female
- not stated

Merton gender of victims of Faith hate in R12 to June 17 N=28

- 7%
- 29%
- 64%
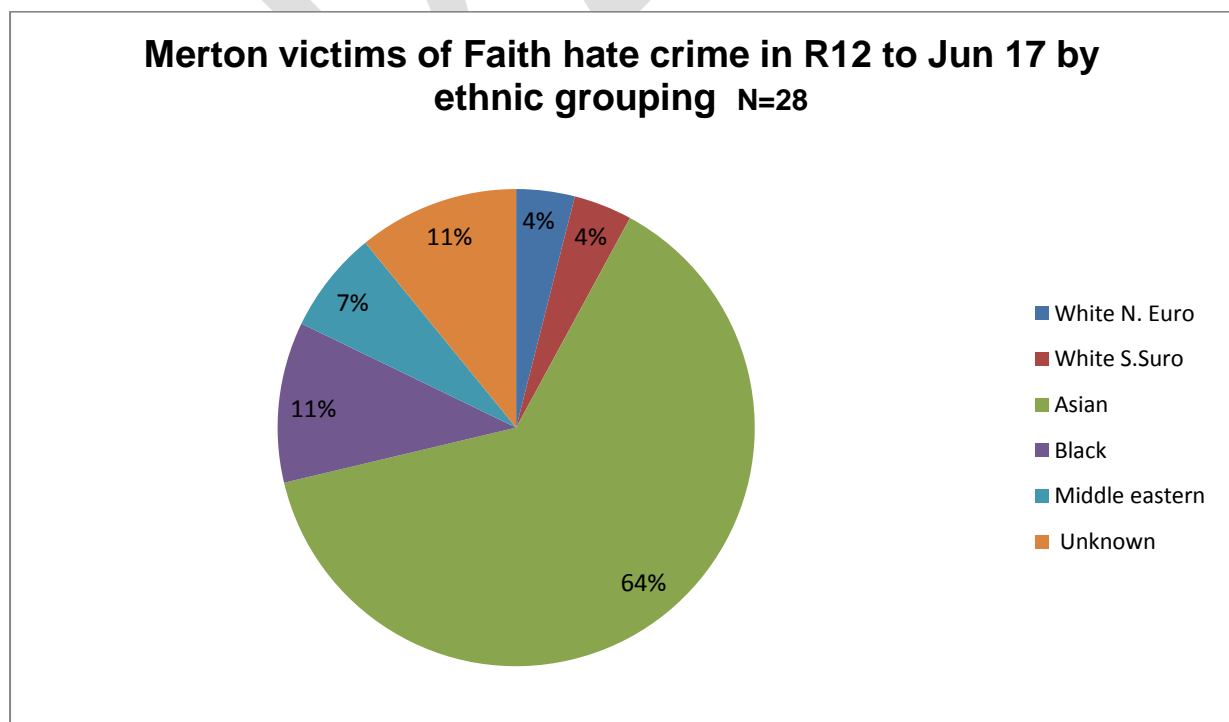
Legend:
- Male
- Female
- not stated

Victim Ethnicity

The ethnic breakdown of victims of racist hate crimes shows 60% from a BAME group.

NB. The MPS crime recording system contines to use just 6 identity codes to describe ethnicity.

Merton victims of race hate crime in R12 to Jun17 by ethnic grouping N=272

- White N. Euro: 28%
- White S.Suro: 4%
- Asian: 34%
- Black: 24%
- Middle eastern: 2%
- Unknown: 7%
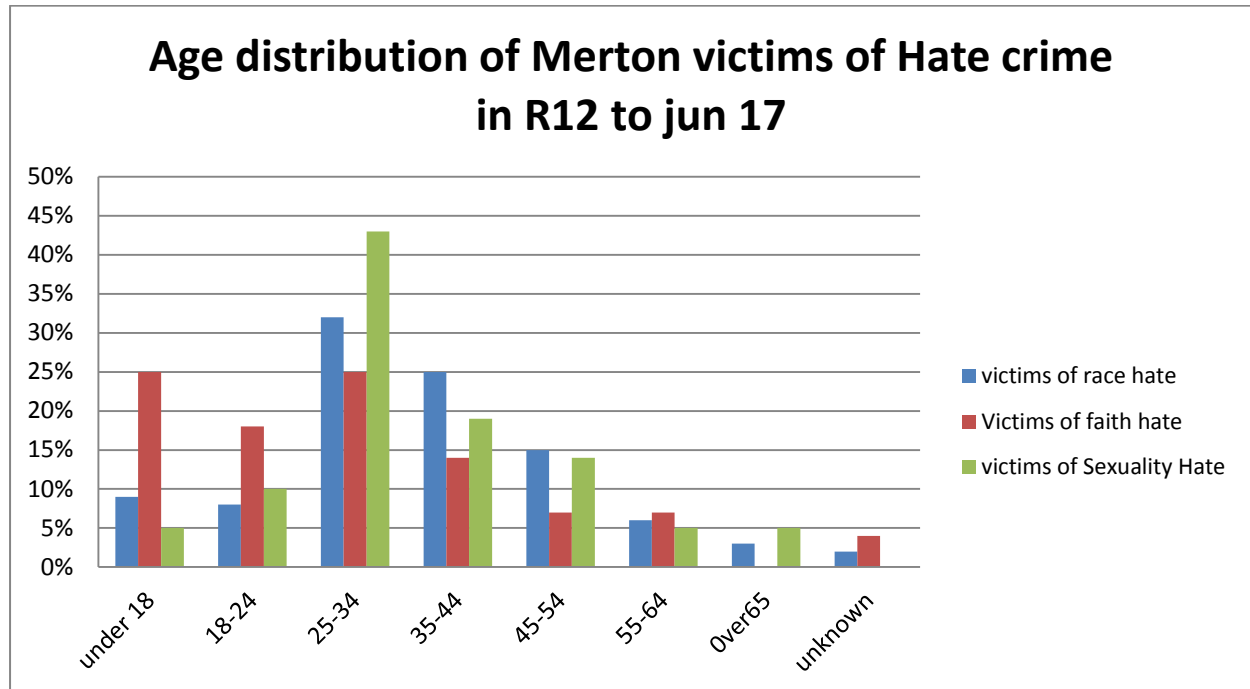
In respect of Faith Hate the Asian community is the most victimised but note the sample size is much smaller than that for race hate.

Merton victims of Faith hate crime in R12 to Jun 17 by ethnic grouping N=28

- White N. Euro: 4%
- White S.Suro: 4%
- Asian: 64%
- Black: 11%
- Middle eastern: 7%
- Unknown: 11%

The majority of faith hate crimes were anti islamic.

Victim Age

There were low levels of reported racist hate crime victims in both the under 18 and 18-24 age brackets. Faith Hate victims were mostly under 35 whilst victims of sexual orientation hate crime were predominantly 25-34.

Age distribution of Merton victims of Hate crime in R12 to jun 17

Suspect[1] profile

Given the large number of suspects who are not positively identified or subsequently proceeded against for hate crime in Merton there is no benefit in providing a breakdown in terms of age, ethnicity, home area etc. The focus of this report is victim centred.

Motivations for hate crime

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.

It is impossible to judge whether the initial confrontation would have occurred if both parties had been of similar ethnic/religious etc backgrounds.

Where verbal abuse occurs there is a tendency for some to use whatever the eye percieves 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.

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[1] 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

The following are decriptions of some hate crime incidents which illustrate the above:

"Male suspect made racially offensive remarks to male victim following and during an argument over queuing and boarding the 157 bus."

"Victim being harassed by neighbour who is using homophobic language."

"The suspect racially abused an officer after being detained."

"The victim and suspect had a road rage incident. victim was told by suspect "GO BACK YOUR OWN COUNTRY."

The numbers of hate crime reports which result in people being proceeded with is low. It is not possible to give an exact number given the passage of time which may occur between the offence and a suspect being charged or receiving other sanctions but is thought to be no more than 10%. The main reasons for this low figure are:-

- In most instances the victim and suspect are unknown to each other
- There is 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.

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

A review of Merton hate crime reports received in July 2017 suggested that only 2 of the 29 reports led to proceedings.

Sanitised details below:

1. Offences: Homophobic aggravated S4a, Common Assault

   Victim Profile: Male, white, IC2

   Suspect profile: Male, White British, IC1

   Location: Wimbledon

   Suspect threw plastic bottle of drink at victim which missed

   Outcome: 1 Charge – Prosecution fined £60

   .

2. Offences: Racially aggravated S4a Public Order

   Victim Profile: Male black British

   Suspect profile: Male, white British, IC1

   Location: Morden

The father of a child who is subject of child protection proceedings threatened social workers in the presence of police officers including terms perceived to be racially motivated.

Outcome: **1 Arrest Charge – Going to trial on 2nd October**

Key Judgement statements

Overall Hate crime levels in Merton have stabilised but there was a rise is racist offences which was offset by falls in faith and homphobic strands. In the rest of the MPS hate crime has risen by nearly 19% in the 12 months to June 2017. Recent terrorist incidents are thought to have contributed to the rise.

The top wards for reported hate crime in Merton remain mostly unchanged from the previous report. There is some correlation between high hate crime wards and high levels of overall crime

The proportion of victims aged under 24 was higher for faith hate crimes compared to other hate crime strands notably racist hate crime.

Reported Disability hate crime levels remain unaltered from the last report.

Revised CPS guidelines regarding prosecuting on line hate crimes may lead to increased numbers of people being proceeded against. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40981235

Recommendations

To conduct further research to ascertain if female faith crime victims were wearing clothing indicative of the Islamic faith and consider how this group can be supported.

To refresh and revisit the profile on an annual basis to support both the hate crime strategy and the strategic assessment process.

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