

Hate Crime Update September 2021



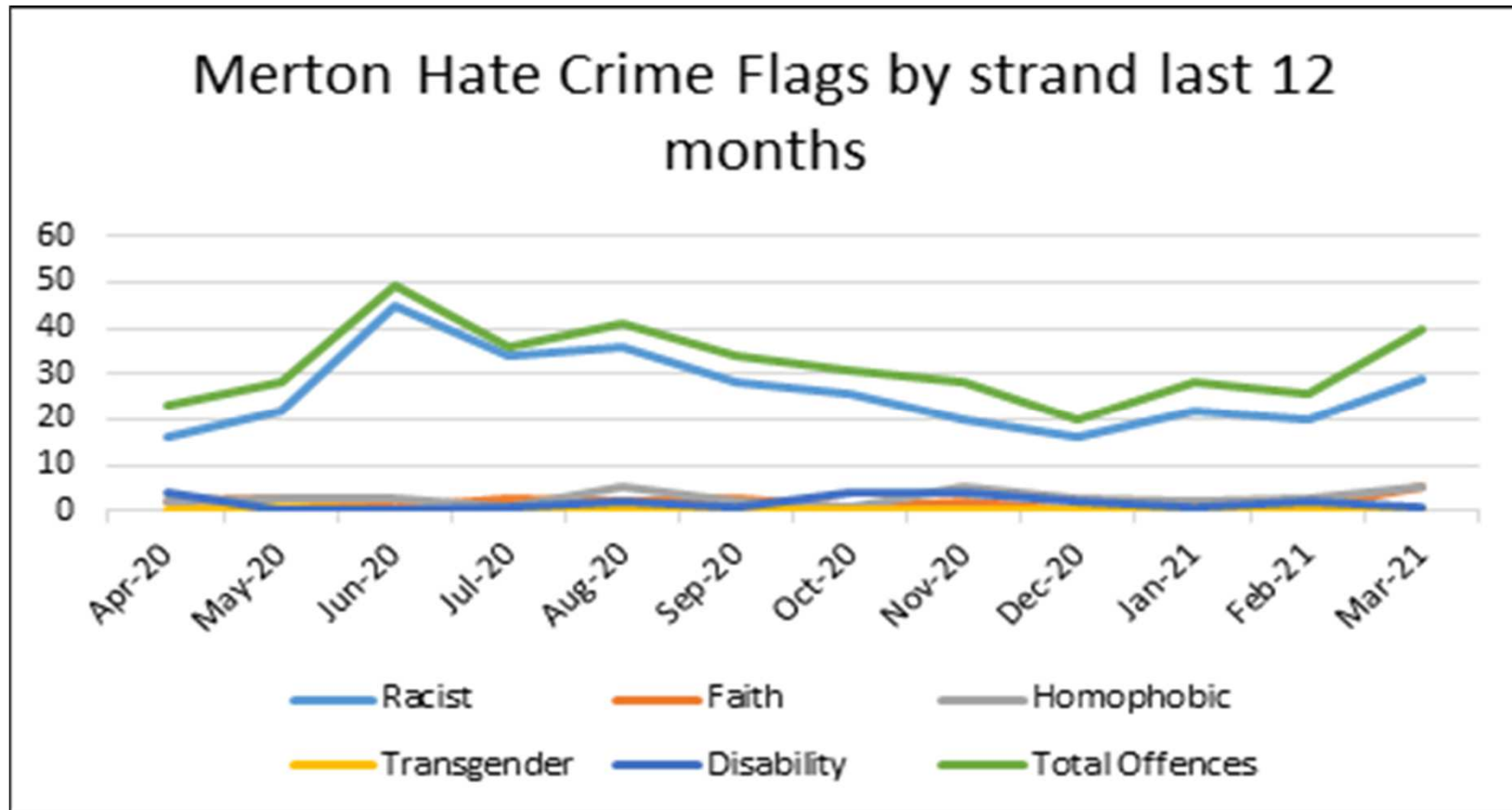
Tackling hate crime in Merton

Hate crime is defined, by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) 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, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity”*

Hate crime is a strategic priority for the Community Safety Partnership and Mayor of London as stated in the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017-21.



Statistics – The Merton Picture



Note the chart shows flags and is therefore slightly higher than total offences as some are double flagged.

- *Data from the MPS hate crime dashboard shows that for the financial year 2020-21 Merton saw 39 reports of hate crimes made to Police, an increase of 9% compared to 2019-20.*
- *For the MPS as a whole the rise was 16%.*
- *Nearly 80% of hate crimes in Merton are under the racist strand.*

Tackling hate crime in Merton

Merton's Hate Crime Strategy Group continue to meet quarterly. The group is made up of organisations in Merton representing the different strands of hate crime. The Police South West BCU Hate Crime Lead also sits on the group.

The aims of the group are, through partnership working, to raise awareness of hate crime and to encourage victims to have the confidence to report and obtain the support services they need.

Maureen Bailey of Inner Strength Network currently chairs the group. The chair of the Hate Crime Strategy Group now also sits as a member of the Safer Stronger Executive Board.



Tackling hate crime in Merton

Regular reassurance messaging is circulated via Merton Council's social media channels that Merton is no place for hate and hate in any form will not be tolerated. There are also regular articles in My Merton. We encourage our partners to share these messages with their communities.

A priority of the group is to continue to work on expanding Merton's Hate Crime Third Party Reporting scheme. AFC Wimbledon, Tooting and Mitcham FC and 10 Coaching Academy have signed up this year.

Hate Crime Advice Surgeries take place with partners including Tell MAMA, Polish Family Association, BAME Voice, Inner Strength Network and Merton CIL on a monthly basis (currently over the phone, moving back to face to face in Merton Civic Centre once restrictions allow).



Hate crime strategy and work plan

Our current hate crime strategy 2017-2021 ran until April 2021.

Following consultation with the Hate Crime Strategy Group, it has been agreed that going forwards the document will be split into a new strategy running 2022-26 and an annual work plan.

22

Actions on the work plan will be updated by the Hate Crime Strategy Group each quarter, with an annual report at the end of each year – highlighting key achievements and recommendations on what work continues/ stops. The aim is for this to be shared with the community.

The Hate Crime Strategy Group have recently finalised the work plan for 2021-22 (circulated prior to meeting).



Hate crime work plan 2021-22

The work plan is based around four themes:

- **Coordination** - *Ensure that the response to Hate Crime is shared by all stakeholders, embedded into service plans, and coordinated effectively*
- **Prevention** - *Preventing Hate Crime through a change of people's attitudes and proactive policing*
- **Provision** - *Improve provision of specialist support and reporting centres*
- **Protection** - *To provide effective response to perpetrators outside of and within the criminal justice system*

Page 23



Timetable of work on new hate crime strategy

Action	Date
Session with Hate Crime Strategy Group to review current strategy and work plan	April 2021
Draft 2021-22 work plan circulated to Hate Crime Strategy Group and their contacts for consultation	April 2021 onwards
2021-22 work plan signed off by Hate Crime Strategy Group	June 2021
Draft Hate Crime Strategy 2022-2026	June 2021 onwards
Hate Crime Strategy signed off by Hate Crime Strategy Group	December 2021
Hate Crime Strategy signed off by Safer Stronger Executive Board	February 2022
Hate Crime Strategy launch alongside 2022-23 work plan	April 2022

Key work in the year ahead

Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) 2021 runs 9th-15th October 2021.

- This year there will be a mix of online events and engagement stalls. The launch event ***'Challenging Transgender Hate Crime – Free to Be'*** will take place on **Monday 11th October 2021** and will focus on the national theme for HCAW which is Transgender hate crime.
- There will be a number of engagement events throughout the week covering the different strands of hate crime, including an event focusing on race hate crime, a coffee morning with Polish Family Association and ACT (Action Counters Terrorism training) with the Police.
- During the week we will link in with the campaigns being led by the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, British Transport Police and Safer Transport. We will also work with the Safer Schools Officers to ensure hate crime is covered in their assemblies and presentations during the week.



Key work in the year ahead

- To support this work there will be a social media campaign based around pledging to lend your support for HCAW which we encourage all partners to take part in.
- We will continue to work to expand and promote our Hate Crime Third Party Reporting scheme and support those organisations taking part. This includes working with different groups in the community who may wish to join the scheme.
- We will mark IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia) on May 17th 2022 with a rainbow flag raising ceremony at Merton Civic Centre.
- It should be noted that following an amendment to the Domestic Violence Bill in April 2021, Police nationwide have been asked to trial recording Misogyny as a hate crime from the autumn.



For more information

- Please see our web page:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/hate-crime>

- Hate crime information video for young people:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8olhyajTGdA>

- Hard copies of our hate crime information leaflet are available, please email:

safer.merton@merton.gov.uk

- MOPAC Hate Crime Dashboard:

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



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