

## **Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel**

### **Minutes - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 6pm-8pm, FHQ Enderby**

#### **1. Welcome and Attendees:**

Clare Hornbuckle – OPCC  
Insp Will Prince – Force  
Sgt Stu Cross – Force  
David Findlay  
Barbara Czyznikowska  
Jenny Ardley Oakden  
Rosie Klair  
Brigitte Heller  
Lisa Vine - ETP

#### **2. Apologies**

Nandini Chakraborty  
Darren Goddard – Crime Registrar

#### **3. Urgent Business**

The board were informed that a previous member will not be moving forward with the panel. As a result of this, as Deputy, David Findlay is proposed Chair of the panel. Panel expressed agreement and confirmed David Findlay as panel Chair for a minimum term of 2 years. The panel were advised that a deputy would be elected at the October meeting and members should consider whether they wish to put themselves forward.

Sgt Stu Cross informed the panel that this would be his last meeting as he is retiring in July 2024, from which point Sgt Angela Cartwright would be stepping in to Stu's position for the panel. The panel wished Stu well in his retirement.

#### **4. Previous Minutes**

N/A – First panel.

#### **5. Panel Cases for Consideration**

Two cases of closed hate crimes were reviewed by the panel. The following gradings were recorded:

<b>1</b> (Appropriate and consistent with Police policies and procedures)	1
<b>2</b> (Appropriate but with observations)	1
<b>3</b> (Inappropriate and inconsistent with Police policies and procedure)	0
<b>4</b> (Panel fails to reach a conclusion)	0

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Case A	1 (appropriate without observations)	Related to a section 39 common assault perceived by victim to be motivated by disability prejudice. The case was closed with no further action due to evidential difficulties. While some areas of the forms presented to panel members had not been completed by the handling officer, this was understood by the panel that these sections only needed completion if the case was going to court, which this case was not. Victim had been informed of outcome, and had also been kept updated in line with procedure, and offered victim support services twice, which was accepted on the second offer.
Case B	2 (appropriate with observations)	Related to neighbour disputes involving hate speech and threats related to sexual orientation. Panel found that the forms had been completed well by the handling officer, and that this should be fed back. Victim had been informed of outcome, and had also been kept updated in line with procedure. Victim offered support services. Panel identified that the NACL qualifier was incorrectly marked as a 'racially aggravated assault'. For this reason, the handling of the case has been marked appropriate with observations.

**Action: Insp Will Prince to provide individual case feedback to handling officers, informing them of the discussion and findings of the panel, and recognise the**

**positive feedback of the panel regarding Case B where the forms were completed to a high standard.**

Case A –

Sgt Stu Cross provided an overview of the case to the panel, and a brief run through of the documents within the case pack (Niche report, Crime report, police officer statement, NICL stats classification – all fully redacted).

Lisa Vine queried the Niche reports use of the phrase 'transgender' on the form guidance. Lisa stated that gender expression and gender identity were two separate things, however have been put together on this form to define 'transgender'. Sgt Cross and Insp Prince explained that these are part of a national system and suggested changes go through a panel. Insp Prince agreed to raise this regionally and see if a software change is possible.

**Action: Insp Prince to query Niche definition of 'transgender' and feedback updates at next panel.**

Barbara Czyznikowska queried the 'north European' coding on the Niche forms, stating that this is a broad range of countries and not a specific term. Insp Prince acknowledged the comments and agreed that some coding can appear archaic, explaining that these relate to the 'ICV' coding used nationally. The panel wished to see this full list to help their understanding which was agreed by the board.

**Action: Insp Prince to share breakdown list of ICVs with Clare for circulation with panel members.**

A discussion was held around the use of the term 'special measures' in relation to vulnerability, which was marked N/A by handling officer. This was clarified by Insp Prince that it was N/A due to the case not going to court, and that special measures is only marked for cases progressing to court which was understood by the panel.

A discussion was held around the acceptance of Victim First support, which was initially marked 'no' by handling officer, then marked 'yes' 2 days later. Insp Prince confirmed that the victim changed their mind upon speaking to the Hate Crime SPOC and accepted the support. Jenny Oakden queried whether the Force make the referrals to victim first which Insp Prince clarified that they did.

Barbara Czyznikowska queried the use of 'repeat victims'. The board were informed that this related to an individual who had been a victim twice or more within 12 months. Insp Prince explained that repeat can also refer to demographic data, such as repeat locations, which helps the Force map trends and problem areas.

A discussion was held around the crime types associated with hate crime. Sgt Stu Cross explained that only 'racially aggravated assault' had an offence code. All other hate crimes were tagged on to existing crime types. This was queried by the panel with some concern that hate could be missed. Sgt Stu Cross explained that all offences in force are reviewed by Dedicated Decision Makers who meticulously check compliance and can identify where a hate crime should be added to the offence. Sgt Cross also explained that the Crown Prosecution Service actively look out for any hate offences which are applicable to an

offence and ensure this is considered when prosecuting. Panel members expressed their that they were reassured by this explanation that hate crime offences were not being potentially missed.

A discussion was held around how the Force inform complainants of an 'NFA' outcome. Insp Prince explained that multiple attempts are made, usually via telephone unless victim has requested otherwise as Force like to speak to people personally and explain. Insp Prince explained that if several attempts to contact have been made with no answer, Force closes case and logs the attempts made.

Chair David Findlay moved panel through the assurance questions to reach the classification of whether or not the case was handled appropriately. Case marked as appropriate without observation.

Lisa Vine queried whether the Force are aware of the criteria being assessed by this panel, to which Insp Prince confirmed that criteria and details of the panel were circulated to all NPA commanders in May 2024.

#### Case B –

Sgt Stu Cross provided an overview of the case to the panel, and a brief run through of the documents within the case pack (Niche report, Crime report, NICL stats classification – all fully redacted).

A discussion was held around the process for allocating cases to an OIC. Insp Prince explained that this was usually done within a day or two and from this point the OIC has 24 hours to contact the victim. The panel agreed that this was adhered to in this case.

A discussion was held around Sentinel, the shared data service with the council for recording crimes of anti-social behaviour. Panel members queried how crimes are placed on Sentinel rather than Niche and what was the process for determining which system. Insp Prince explained that Sentinel would only hold ASB offences, but that all crimes would go on to Niche as they take priority and should be recorded on there for access by all officers.

Brigitte Heller noted that the forms in relation to this case were completed exceptionally well, with plenty of detail and were easy to follow.

Case C – Deferred due to time constraints.

## **6. AOB**

Feedback provided by panel members that this meeting was really positive. Lisa Vine noted that there was a real sense of openness, transparency and willingness to accept feedback. Panel noted that they were all really pleased with the Police engagement with this panel.

Brief discussion held around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training on 8<sup>th</sup> November, Clare to determine whether this applies to HCSP panel members as they are volunteers and feed back as soon as possible.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 6pm-8pm, OPCC meeting room FHQ.

Meeting ended - 20:09pm.