



**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP, 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

**SUBJECT: HATE INCIDENT MONITORING FORM**

**BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to adopt the Hate Incident Monitoring Form, but with consideration of recommended points in this report.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 **The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to adopt the Hate Incident Monitoring Form, but with consideration of recommended points in this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Racist Incident Monitoring Form (RIMF) was launched in 2002 for recording and reporting racist incidents and was viewed as good practice in response to the statutory duties placed upon public services by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The forms, which are completed by partner agencies are sent to Grampian Race Equality Council (GREC) for monitoring purposes. GREC produce reports regarding these incidents to highlight trends.

3.2 The equalities agenda has grown rapidly over the last few years with the introduction of further statutory duties for public services, with duties focussing on disability equality and gender equality in addition to race equality. The establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in October 2007 extended the equalities agenda further with the Commission focussing on additional strands such as age, sexual orientation and religion and belief.

3.3 The Joint Racist Incident Partnership Group, Chaired by Grampian Police with representatives from Moray Council, Aberdeen Council, Aberdeenshire

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Council and GREC have decided to extend the RIMF to include all other equality strands in response to the growing equalities agenda. It is proposed that this form be renamed as the Hate Incident Monitoring Form (**Appendix 1**).

- 3.4 In order for adoption of the form the recommended points for consideration are as follows:-
- This form is too police focussed and has a criminal/serious incident focus. In order to adopt, the reference to crimes would have to be removed.
  - The form should focus on recording incidents, no matter how minor, rather than only focussing on serious crimes. The more data we have the better our understanding of any underlying diversity issues within the partnership.
  - The word 'Hate' within the title of the form is too extreme for the purpose of the form. The focus needs to be on recording or reporting diversity issues.
- 3.5 It is proposed that this form be introduced to all partner agencies as of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. It would be the responsibility of all partner agencies to record incidents relating to age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief and sexual orientation and forward this information to GREC for collation of statistics.

#### **4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Community Plan/Theme Plans/Partner Plans**

Community Planning should participate in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and, in particular, the observance of the equal opportunity requirements. The provision also relates to the duty of Best Value and to the power of local authorities to advance well-being.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Partners have a legal duty to address equality issues.

##### **(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no financial requirements arising from this report. The risk of not recording such incidents is breaching equalities legislative requirements. There will be commitment required from partner agencies to record such incidents and report to GREC.

##### **(d) Consultations**

Partner agencies have the opportunity to comment on the Hate Incident Monitoring Form before introduction in 2009.

**5     CONCLUSION**

- 5.1   The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to adopt the Hate Incident Monitoring Form, but with consideration of recommended points in this report.**

**Author of Report:   Fiona Simpson, Equal Opportunities Officer**

**Background Papers:**