

**AGENDA**

**Sefton Safer Communities Partnership**

**Thursday 10th September, 2020**

**10.00 am, Remote Meeting**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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**MEMBERSHIP:**

Councillors Hardy, John Sayers, Shaw, Helen Armitage, Jenny Currie, Tracey Forshaw, Neil Frackelton, Martin Gay, Tony Harland, Sue Holden, Nicola Horn, Superintendent Graeme Robson, Karen Rooney, Kevin Sexton and Tanya Wilcock

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room by switching their camera and microphone off during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer by 12 Noon the day before the meeting to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2020.

**4. Domestic Homicide Review 8 'Charles'**

Presentation by Paul Cheeseman, Chair of DHR Panel.

**5. VRP Marketing plan**

**6. Domestic and Sexual Abuse**

Update from Steven Martlew, Localities Service Manager – North.

**7. Refugee and Asylum seekers**

Update from Steven Martlew, Localities Service manager – North.

**8. Local Policing update**

Update from Superintendent Graeme Robson, including impact of COVID19.

**9. Integrated Youth Support Report**

Rossana Stanley, Localities Service Manager – South.

**10. PREVENT Verbal Update**

Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South.

**11. Impact of COVID19 on Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime**

Chris White, Localities Team Manager - South

**12. Any Other Business**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 10 December 2020, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

COMMITTEE

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## SEFTON SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

### REMOTE MEETING ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Hardy (in the Chair)  
Councillors John Sayers and Shaw  
Helen Armitage, Jenny Currie, Tracey Forshaw,  
Neil Frackelton, Martin Gay, Tony Harland,  
Sue Holden, Nicola Horn, Steven Martlew,  
Superintendent Graeme Robson, Kevin Sexton,  
Nikki Sofia, Rosanna Stanley, Chris White and  
Tanya Willcock

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted from Karen Rooney, Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

#### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair reported that the Minute book would be signed at a future meeting.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **4. DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE**

Steven Martlew, Localities Service Manager – North, gave a verbal update on domestic and sexual abuse, providing an overview of incidents and activity undertaken to combat issues since March 2020, and highlighted the following:

- The huge amount of publicity given to the potential for domestic and sexual abuse during the lockdown period;
- The slightly increased number of cases reported to Merseyside Police;
- The increasing number and complexity of cases referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC);
- The increasing number of cases of abuse by adolescents against parents during the lockdown period;

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- The outcome of the bid for funding of £38,500 to the Ministry of Justice would be known the following day and a bespoke child-on-parent scheme was being sought; and
- The steering group to consider issues had last met on 4 June 2020 and would meet every two months.

Neil Frackelton, Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA), reported on recent activity and funding for the organisation.

Tanya Wilcock, Head of Communities, reported on activity undertaken by the Council's community response cell meetings that took place weekly.

Kevin Sexton, Schools Representative, raised concerns regarding vulnerable children during the forthcoming school summer holidays and Tanya Wilcock agreed to liaise with schools regarding vulnerable children.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update on domestic and sexual abuse be noted; and
- (2) Tanya Wilcock be requested to ensure liaison with schools is carried out, in order to identify vulnerable children prior to the forthcoming school summer holidays.

## **5. REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

Steven Martlew, Localities Service Manager – North, gave a verbal update on refugee and asylum seekers and highlighted the following:

- Numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in Sefton;
- Support offered;
- The use of the Scarisbrick Hotel, Southport, for asylum seekers;
- Issues with racism; and
- Issues with Serco.

The housing of asylum seekers nationally was organised by the Home Office through its contractors. Serco was the Home Office contractor for the North West of England.

Tracey Forshaw, NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs), indicated that the CCGs had been working in partnership regarding the cohort at the Scarisbrick Hotel. Following issues with seeking medical input, the cohort was now registered with a GP. There were a small number of children at the Hotel and in response to a query raised by Tracey Forshaw, Steven Martlew indicated that School Regulatory Services were in regular contact with families there. Tanya Wilcock, Head of Communities, indicated that the Family Wellbeing Centre had been requested to make contact and offer support to these families.

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RESOLVED:

That the update on refugees and asylum seekers be noted.

## **6. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE**

Superintendent Graeme Robson, Merseyside Police, gave a verbal update and highlighted issues during lockdown and trends as lockdown eases, including the following:

- Serious organised crime;
- Burglaries;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Traffic management and parking issues, particularly on the Sefton coast;
- The potential for illegal rave parties and associated issues; and
- Vulnerable children and young people and associated risks.

Discussion took place on raising awareness of hate crime.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update be noted; and
- (2) Merseyside Police and the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner's Office be requested to consider issuing a joint communication to raise awareness of hate crime and provide feedback to the Partnership in due course.

## **7. INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES**

Tanya Wilcock, Head of Communities, presented the report of the Service Manager Localities – South, that provided an update on the progress and achievements of the Integrated Youth Service and highlighted the following:

- Youth Offending Team (YOT) and YOT Performance;
- Impact of Covid-19 for the YOT;
- Youth Service; and
- Trauma Informed Practice.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## **8. PREVENT**

Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South, gave a verbal update on the Sefton PREVENT Strategy, that had now been approved. The Strategy

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aimed to stop people becoming, or supporting, terrorists and violent extremists. The update highlighted the following:

- Monthly meetings were in progress;
- The Chair of the Channel Panel, that was fundamental to the process, reviewed live cases;
- There had been a big reduction in reporting across the North West; and
- British Transport Police were considering the new referral process.

The new national referral form passed cases to the Police and did not allow the Local Authority to check for any safeguarding issues. The Sefton process for referral had only just been published, as part of the Strategy.

In response to a query raised by Tracey Forshaw, Chris White undertook to share the approved Sefton PREVENT Strategy with the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, for circulation with the Minutes of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update on the Sefton PREVENT Strategy be noted;
- (2) the recently published Sefton process for referral be retained; and
- (3) Chris White be requested to share the approved Sefton PREVENT Strategy, for circulation with the Minutes of this meeting.



PREVENT  
Strategy\_V3.0 Edit.pdf

## 9. COMMUNITY SAFETY WEEKLY TRACKER

Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South, gave a verbal update on the Community Safety Weekly Tracker that had now moved to a monthly report as it was difficult for the Localities Team to produce the report on a weekly basis. Chris White shared the report on-screen and highlighted the following:

- Anti-social behaviour had increased during lock-down and was often lock-down related;
- Reports of hate crime had decreased;
- Domestic abuse; and
- The work of the Sefton Youth Offending Team.

Discussion took place on the possibility of submitting the Tracker to the next meeting of the Partnership, although it was possible that the information contained was restricted. Enquiries would be made with the Business Intelligence Team.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update on the Community Safety Tracker be noted; and
- (2) consideration be given to how best to share the Tracker with the Partnership.

**10. 2020-2021 SEFTON SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP PLAN (POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP FUNDING)**

The Partnership considered the report of Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South, on the draft Sefton Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2020/2021, that highlighted the following:

- Vision;
- What we know;
- Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP);
- Priorities and actions for Crime Reduction Grant 2020/2021; and
- Priorities and actions for Violence Reduction Partnership Grant 2020/2021.

Chris White reported that the Budget Sub Group had last met on 2 June 2020 and had been well attended. Two amendments were required to be made to the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2020/2021, in that an allocation of funding had been granted to Beach Safe, and the £6,000 would be allocated to 10 Commissioned Youth Provision organisations and the document would be updated.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the amendments to be made, the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2020/2021 be approved.



SSCP%20VRP%20Budget%20plan%202020

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

During the meeting, there were no items of any other business raised.

**Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service**

Subsequent to the meeting, Tony Harland, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS), reported that he had experienced technical difficulties during the meeting and that he wished to provide an update of MFRS performance in Sefton for 2019/20, as follows:

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Total fires attended – 704, a 23% reduction on previous year. The breakdown was as follows:

- Deliberate vehicle fires attended – 46, a 9% reduction on previous year;
- Deliberate secondary (ASB) fires attended – 290, a 38% reduction on previous year;
- Deliberate occupied dwelling fires attended – 14, a 17% reduction on previous year;
- Deliberate non-domestic fires attended – 37, a 17% increase on previous year;
- Accidental dwelling fires attended – 130, an 8% reduction on previous year.

There had been 3 accidental dwelling fire fatalities during the period and a further 3 so far this year. However, no particular trends had been identified with the incidents and nothing could be attributed that related to the current Covid-19 situation.

Information would also be provided on beacon courses in due course.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair reported that the venue for the next meeting could be reviewed nearer the time, as to whether the meeting would be held remotely, or physically with social distancing measures in place.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be held on Thursday, 10 September 2020, commencing at 10.00 a.m.



By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Sefton's Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) on the activities undertaken by the Integrated Youth Support Service.

2 **Recommendation(s) That:** SSCP notes the report.

### 3 Youth Offending Service

#### 3.1 Performance

3.2 In Sefton during January 2017 to March 2017 the rate of re-offending was 44.4% compared with 50% during January 2018 to March 2018 an increase of 5.6%. The YOT family average was 42.6%, Merseyside 46.2% and England with 39.2%. This is the highest reoffending rate for some time, with the predominant offences being for drugs and violence related offences.

3.3 Many of the young people who receive court orders are entrenched in criminal activity and are hard to engage, albeit YOT have had some recent successes with three young people who were high risk entrenched individuals who have now successfully secured employment. This level of engagement takes time and there are more opportunities to engage young people when they are sentenced to longer orders.

3.4 There is a more positive picture with regard to First Time Entrants (FTE), during October 2018 to September 2019 the rate of FTE's in Sefton were 195 compared with 262 during October 2018 to September 2019 a reduction of 67 per 100,000. In actual numbers this translates to a decrease from 61 to 46 in the same period. Sefton is listed as the seventh YOT as having the lowest number of FTE's out of 10 similar YOT's from October 2018 to September 2019.

3.5 Custody Rate is the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence. Sefton's custody rate during Apr 18 to Mar 19 was 0.04 and the same during Apr 19 to Mar 20. Performance compares extremely well when compared to the YOT family average of 0.23, Merseyside 0.31 and England 0.23. There are no Sefton young people in custody at present.

3.6 During January to March 2018/19, 45 young people in Sefton received an Out of Court Disposal (OOC) from April to June, at three months into their intervention, two of the cohort had re-offended, from April to September, at six months into their intervention five of the cohort had re-offended, from April to December, at nine months, five of the cohort had re-offended and at 12 months, 6 of the cohort had re-offended.

3.7 In comparison, January to March 2019/20, 49 young people in Sefton received an informal action, from April to June, at three months 1 of the cohort had re-offended, from April to September at six months six of the cohort had re-

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offended, from April to December, at nine months, eight of the cohort had re-offended and at 12 months, 9 of the cohort had re-offended.

- 3.8 This translates into an increase in the re-offending rate for O OCD during 2019/20 with 18.4% compared with 13.3% during 2018/19 , the lowest over the previous eight years, and a reduction compared with 20.0% during 2017/18.
- 3.9 The Out of Court Disposals offer brief interventions up to a maximum of three months, our analysis has shown that many of the young people who access YOT services have had adverse childhood experiences (aces) but tend not engage well with larger youth groups to address the aces. YOT workers are currently adapting the programme to cater for 1-2-1 or small group aces programmes to support young people to increase their resilience and develop aspirations for the future.
- 3.10 YOT will receive funding to deliver these ACES interventions and other diversionary programmes from the Violence Reduction Partnership.

## 4 Impact of Covid

- 4.1 The impact of COVID-19 upon the operation and performance of youth justice in Sefton will not be fully apparent until the performance figures are available in the next quarter. It is anticipated that there will be a large variance in numbers of young people receiving interventions from the YOT. Initially the numbers of young people receiving new out of court disposals was largely unaffected, however, in recent weeks we have noted a reduction in these cases coming through to the out of court panel.
- 4.2 A proportion of statutory orders have ended, but due to changes in the operation of court, new orders temporarily ceased to be awarded, creating a short-term reduction in YOT caseloads. From this week we have begun to see an increase in young people being sentenced and expect a steady increase in numbers within the YOT cohort.
- 4.3 Prior to the pandemic, all Youth Courts in Merseyside had become centralised and operated out of the Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts (QE2), in Liverpool City Centre. YOT Staff from the centralised YOT court team have been working hard behind the scenes preparing for the 'new normal' and new measures were implemented in July when young people were required to attend court in person for sentence.
- 4.4 Comprehensive risk assessments are in place to support social distancing and safe working practices that will result in the opening of Sefton Magistrates and Wirral Magistrates to young people. Courts are now already processing cases where there has been overnight detention in police custody, breaches, trials and sentencing with pre-sentence reports. An uplift in new statutory cases began in the first week of July and we anticipate a continuation of this trajectory given that courts are now gearing up operations.
- 4.5 YOT interventions continue to take place using a range of methods both virtual and direct. Direct interventions are all risk assessed and YOT is in the process

of aligning risk assessments with other service areas. Young people continue to be risk assessed using a RAG rating system on a weekly basis to ensure that those young people who are most vulnerable or present the greatest risk within the community receive direct contact more frequently.

- 4.6 Sefton have been working with The Ariel Trust and other YOTs utilising funding from the VRP to develop an innovative and comprehensive programme that can be used with young people while lockdown measures remain in place. The programme is aimed at young people who commit (or are likely to commit) violent crimes and focuses on developing decision making skills and helps to build upon desistance factors. The programme uses a range of animations, worksheets and films that have been created locally for this project. Some Sefton young people formed part of a focus group prior to lockdown, in which they advised the programme creators about their experience of Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation, and methods and language that should be used to target this group effectively. The programme is now in its final stages and we hope to be able to launch it very soon.
- 4.7 Sefton YOT has also seized the opportunity to support a piece of research being led by the University of Exeter. The research project will engage with young people and parents open to Sefton YOT to understand how young people make decisions about entering their pleas, particularly when there are vulnerabilities present. It is envisaged that the result will be new guidelines to be utilised by the Law Society and this fits with Sefton YOT's commitment to understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and working with in a trauma informed way.

## 5 Youth Service

- 5.1 The Youth Offer and associated groups continue to operate and engages young people using virtual groups and maintaining additional contact via mobile phone and Apps.
- 5.2 Youth Workers are responding to emerging needs as they continue to support Green Sefton by working in partnership with the police, Police, National Trust, Rangers, Cleansing Department and the Fire along the coastal areas due to the high numbers of visitors converging there and leaving these sites without clearing up after themselves.
- 5.3 The Youth Service is working closely with the Commissioned groups and has signposted them to funding that is available during COVID-19 that will allow them to further develop the additional work they have been doing to support their local communities.
- 5.4 The Youth Service staff have continued to deliver outreach services at hot spot areas looking for any groups that may gather. In partnership with the Neighbourhoods team, staff from the Youth Team are maintaining visits to vulnerable people who the Government identified on the shielding list but have not been able to contact. This work continues with Youth Service support.

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- 5.5 Although It was not possible to celebrate PRIDE in the usual ways this year, celebrations took place using different platforms and young people from Sefton were able to take part in a video for the visual PRIDE. As previously reported, it is still hoped that the PRIDE event will take place at some time in the future.

Ros Stanley  
Localities Service Manager  
Sefton Council

**Briefing to:** Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

**Briefing from:** Chris White, Localities Team Manager

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Subject:** The impact of COVID19 on the Anti-Social behaviour service

**Prepared:** Simon Evans, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

## Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this briefing is to update Partners on the impact that COVID19 has had on Sefton Council's Anti-Social behaviour service since the implementation of Lockdown.

**Recommendation(s) That:** the partnership notes the briefing.

**Background:** N/A

The restrictions that were put in place at the end of March 2020 to reduce the infection rate and help to support the NHS led to many more people being at home for a long period of time, and a heightened sense of anxiety and nervousness in the community. One of the signs that lockdown was having an adverse effect on our communities was the increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

Measuring the amount of cases recorded between 01/03/2020 and 14/08/2020 and comparing them with the same period last year we can see that there was a 143% increase. The tables below demonstrate where the increases have been identified:

### Cases recorded:

#### 1/3/2019 - 14/8/2019

Category	Count
Domestic Violence	0
Drugs	5
General	72
Noise	9
Housing	3
Race	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

#### 1/3/2020 - 14/8/2020

Category	Count	Difference
Domestic Violence	1	1
Drugs	7	2
General	164	92
Noise	42	33
Housing	1	-2
Race	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>129</b>

The largest increase is seen in General cases with the majority of these being reported as Neighbours partying in the garden and/or house and the use of drugs in particular cannabis.

There was also a large increase in Noise complaints, related to the above issue. 42 cases of pure noise nuisance have been referred on to the Environmental Health noise nuisance team. Currently there is no mechanism on the Council web site to report pure Noise Nuisance, so the contact centre reports it to us, and we pass it on. Unfortunately, this can lead to a delay and frustrate residents trying to report noise nuisance cases.

There was an 80% increase in Hate related cases (3 additional cases) all cases involving Hate crime are referred to and jointly worked on with the local Police Sigma team and referred to the Hate Crime MARAC to review and offer support to the Victim.

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Housing cases have decreased by 2 cases. A high proportion of all ASB cases have been either private or Social Housing tenants.

During the lockdown period 83 first contact warning letters have been issued, 21 Community Protection Notice Warnings and 3 Full Community Protection Notices. We are also working closely with the Police on three additional closure orders for Anti-Social Behaviour.

All those receiving any type of contact have also received Covid 19 letters advising of their responsibilities as good neighbours. We have made more use of video conferencing as a means of keeping in touch with victims of ASB and with our partners, a practice we will continue post lockdown

The Youth Service were redeployed to support partners in dealing with issues along the coast. There are 2 members of staff each evening patrolling hotspot areas, engaging with groups of young people advising them of social distancing rules and deterring them from taking part in any anti-social behaviour. 95% of cases we deal with are adult cases, this is the reverse of the perception that young people are responsible for Anti-Social Behaviour.

At the height of lockdown Simon held 93 cases over a two-week period, post the easing of restrictions this reduced to 20 cases, but he currently holds 32 cases 17/8/20.



**Briefing to:** Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

**Briefing from:** Chris White, Localities Team Manager

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**Subject:** The impact of COVID19 on hate crime

**Prepared:** Paul McCann, VCF and Equalities Officer

## **Purpose/Summary**

The purpose of this briefing is to update Partners on the impact that COVID19 has had on hate crime in Sefton since the implementation of Lockdown, with particular regard to refugees and asylum seekers and gypsies and travellers. The briefing also covers any hate crime issues arising from the Black Lives Matter protests.

**Recommendation(s) That:** the partnership notes the briefing.

## **Background:**

The restrictions that were put in place at the end of March 2020 to reduce the infection rate and help to support the NHS led to many more people being at home for a long period of time, and a heightened sense of anxiety and nervousness in the community. The national press reported concerns around increases in hate crime, particularly directed towards the Asian community.

Sefton continues to have a significant number of unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments in the area, in particular in Southport. This was the subject of a recent report in the local press:

<https://www.liverpooecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/area-merseyside-more-traveller-camps-18768494>

Sefton Hate Crime MARAC continues to meet on a monthly basis to receive and monitor referrals from partner agencies regarding hate crime.

Merseyside Police have Hate Crime Coordinators in each Local Authority area and the coordinator for Sefton, Kate Gore, has provided the following information.

## **Information from Merseyside Police:**

Whilst we update the Sefton MARAC on a monthly basis of our Hate Crime figures. We have compared the figures from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and done a comparable from the same period last year. The tables below shows the increases broken down into strands.

1 <sup>st</sup> Mar-31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2019	<b>224</b>
Disability	23
Racial	128
Religion	11
Sexual Orientation	46
Transgender	7
Sex Worker	1
Hate Incidents	8

1 <sup>st</sup> Mar-31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2020	<b>337</b>
Disability	27
Racial	176
Religion	8
Sexual Orientation	62
Transgender	10
Sex Worker	4
Hate Incidents	50

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(Hate incidents are incidents which have been reported to the Police as being hate related but which do not constitute a crime.)

Whilst we have seen an increase from the previous year's recorded figures we cannot attribute this entirely on COVID. Monitoring across the force was completed throughout lockdown to identify if people were specifically being targeted for the spread of COVID. There were no detailed incidents identified within the Sefton area. From reviewing the individual cases we do consider that lockdown did have a bearing on tensions that did culminate in hate related words being used as well as increase on hate related malicious communications.

In relation to the Black Lives Matters movement Merseyside Police were made aware prior to the Black Lives Matters planned, sit down, peaceful, protest held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 outside Southport Town Hall. This event passed without any significant hate related incidents.

Throughout this period hate graffiti has continued to be monitored. Whilst we continue to identify Far Right stickers across the borough we are not able to identify any pattern to this or any significant increase compared to previous years. Of note there was hate graffiti located in Victoria Park, Waterloo at the time of the BLM protests this was on a park bench and read "whites only bench". No further reports of a similar nature have been received since.

In relation to Asylum Seekers being housed temporarily at the Scarisbrick Hotel initially this did raise substantial media interest more particularly on social media platforms this has been continuously monitored by Merseyside Police and there has been no hate related incidents crimed for this location to date.

From the Irish Community Care Representative at the Sefton Hate Crime MARAC we are aware that there has been an increase in traveller movements across Merseyside. However there have been no incidents reported to Merseyside Police with regards to hate related crime incidents perpetrated against Gypsy and Travellers in the Sefton area.

We continue to drive Hate Crime Intelligence reporting. Our aim is to improve intelligence from our communities, officers and staff so that we can prevent more hate incidents, demonstrate we listen and develop/enhance partnership working and are actively encouraging our partners to report via

<https://www.merseyside.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/hco/hate-crime/how-to-report-hate-crime/>

## **Information from Sefton Hate Crime MARAC:**

The Hate Crime MARAC receives referrals from partner agencies when they are concerned about a victim of hate crime and wish to access support from other partners.

Since the start of the COVID pandemic and the lockdown there have been a number of referrals but not a significant increase on previous numbers. One referral concerned a traveller family who were spending the lockdown living in a house in Bootle and were having issues with the neighbours, and another concerned an asylum seeker who was resident at the Scarisbrick Hotel. The latter referral did not involve anyone external to the hotel.

There is anecdotal evidence from members of the MARAC who also work in other areas of incidents of hate crime linked to COVID, i.e. abuse of members of the Asian community. These incidents have not taken place in Sefton.