



About us

Our Vision

A North Somerset that embraces difference, where everyone can live, work, study and visit in safety, with respect and free from the harmful effects of prejudice

What we do

The Responding to Hate Incidents in North Somerset (RHINS) multi-agency partnership group was established in 2002 and leads the implementation of the North Somerset Hate Crime strategy.

The purpose of RHINS is to:

- promote collaborative working between local agencies, support organisations and members of the community involved with hate incidents in North Somerset.
- achieve consistency of approach and effective resolution of hate incidents across partner agencies.
- identify any hate crime issues using available partnership data and to collaborate and use the resources of all partners to tackle identified issues
- raise awareness of and improve confidence in the reporting procedure as well as unblock any blockages in reporting
- give support and guidance on the development of partner policies and procedures that relate to hate incidents or the promotion of equality, diversity and community cohesion.

Our achievements in 2021/22

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021 – The RHINS partnership organised another successful Hate Crime Awareness Week which saw various awareness raising activities across North Somerset. These activities not only raised awareness of hate crime and how it report, they also celebrated diversity in North Somerset.

Expansion of RHINS Partnership – The RHINS partnership group has continued to expand with local agencies, voluntary sector and community groups. This has enabled good joined up working across these organisation to coordinate our response to Hate Crime and share good practice to ensure offenders are brought to justice and victims are supported.

SARI has been recommsioned – Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI) have been recommsioned by the Big Lottery Funding, bringing specialist hate crime support services for North Somerset.

Upskilling Police in responding to hate – Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Response Police have received training on hate crime and ensuring all victims are offered support.

Our challenges and risks for 2022/23

	RAG	How will your team tackle this challenge or mitigate this risk?
Lack of awareness of how to report hate crime and what happens after someone has reported a hate crime	AMBER	Develop communications strategy to promote hate crime reporting
Lack of uptake of support services	AMBER	Implement new case Review Panel to review hate crime cases
Under reporting in areas outside of Weston-super-Mare, especially in rural communities	AMBER	Review community engagement opportunities across North Somerset
Increases to cost of living is likely to cause increases in crime types and community tensions	AMBER	Visibility and engagement with communities to build strong relationships.
Tightening of public and voluntary sector services budgets post COVID to place significant pressure on maintaining service provision	AMBER	Make the best use of existing resources, working together to reduce demand on our services

Our commitments for 2022/23

	Lead Agency	Q1 review	Q2 review	Q3 review	Q4 review
Objective 1 - To ensure an effective response to hate crime and hate incidents in North Somerset Communities.					
To set-up and establish a Hate Crime Review Panel process to ensure hate crimes are investigated and support has been offered	NSC	Select	Select	Select	Select
Develop use of Restorative Justice for dealing with Hate Crimes	Police / SARI	Select	Select	Select	Select
Implement a new dedicated Community Tension monitoring process	NSC	Select	Select	Select	Select
Objective 2 - To ensure communities know what hate crime is, how to report it, the support available and to challenge hate crime against others.					
Develop a communications strategy on raising awareness of hate crime and how to access support	ALL	Select	Select	Select	Select
Explore making use of community spaces to provide more reporting centres across North Somerset	ALL	Select	Select	Select	Select
Objective 3 - To promote and celebrate the diversity and contributions by all communities in North Somerset.					
Develop lessons plans and resources that schools can use or PCSOs/ SLOs trained to provide inputs to schools	Police	Select	Select	Select	Select
Explore oportunities we have to raise awareness of inclusion in our schools, and in other areas such as libraries, children's centres, community learning opportunities etc	NSC	Select	Select	Select	Select
Develop a communications campaign to celebrate North Somerset's diversity	ALL	Select	Select	Select	Select