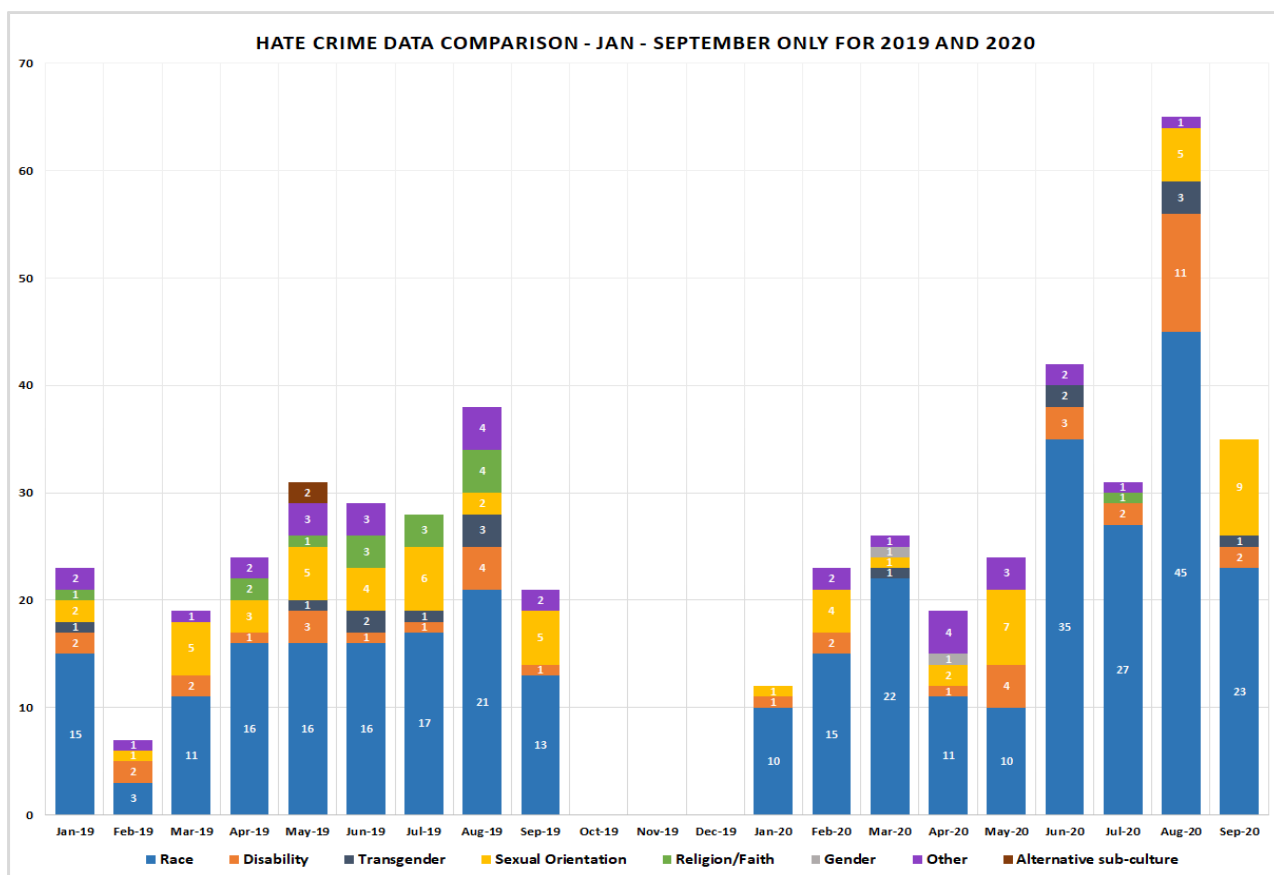


Hate Crime Awareness Week Newsletter



For this year's Hate Crime Awareness week I decided to look Victim First's data for hate crime incidents. Attached is a chart representing the data generalised from VF's needs assessments between 2 specific periods; the first is the 9 months from Jan – Sept 2019 and the second being the same period in 2020. Of course it is often best to look at a whole year, but as we don't yet have stats for the rest of this year I thought it best to have a true comparison – it makes looking at the information more relevant.

This chart only relates to the hate crimes reported by the people of LLR. It's well known that a vast number of hate crime, of all categories is not reported. During 2015/16, it was estimated that 278k hate crimes were committed in England and Wales, yet only 52K hate crimes were reported to the Police.

Any change in reporting hate crimes could be interpreted in several ways – more hate crimes are being committed, or more people are prepared to report crimes. If numbers go down, it could mean the following:

- More crimes are not being reported as more people are less inclined to report
 - Hate crime is decreasing
 - Reporting criteria/practises have changed
 - There may be some significant events taking place that shake the confidence of a particular group in the Police.
- I guess a combination of them all is possible.

All communities have the right to ask for and scrutinise hate crime data in order to evidence accountability, inform decision making, introduce laws, policies, procedures etc. There is a community impact of data – it must be collected and evaluated for the benefits it can bring to supporting our living and working in adverse community. Reporting hate crime (any crime) has to be supported by work to ensure victims who access criminal justice services get an appropriate, respectful and effective response – this is where Victim First comes into the picture. This also applied to those who, chose not to tell the Police about their experiences.

Victim First Caseworker - Heather.

How have VF supporting victims of hate crime?

Two Victim First Case Workers went to meet with a service user who was in a difficult situation: her ex-partner was threatening to disclose her sexual orientation to the community and this was making her feel highly distressed and isolated. The service user was supported by her friend during the appointment. At the end of the meeting, the service user and her friend cried with joy as they stated this was the first time anybody had properly engaged with her to address the complex issues she was facing.

The Victim First Case Worker referred her to the Citizens Advice Bureau and advocated on her behalf with the Housing Department to ensure she received the support she needed. He also advised her to seek support and advice from her GP. The service user followed this advice and received medical support. She has also now been re-housed in a different city and has stated that she feels far safer and happier.



Here is our team celebrating [#WearRedDay](#) in 2019 – We stand with our communities to promote Anti-Racism as part of [#HateCrimeAwarenessWeek](#) every year!

We supported a victim of a racially motivated hate crime. Her child and another were fighting in the park and when she and the other parent intervened, the other parent used an offensive racial slur and told her to, "...go back to your own country". She also physically assaulted her by punching her in the face.

The victim felt very upset, isolated and not wanted. She felt very unsafe at home and feared that the suspect would return to torment her. Our Caseworker reassured her, made a referral for target hardening to 24/7 locks and also provided ongoing emotional support. The victim told us how much she valued this support and being given the opportunity to open up, be listened to and respected.

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