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1. DEFINITION

Racism does not constitute a separate category of abuse, although it can be a source of significant harm and can be an aggravating factor in other incidents of abuse.

Children and their families from black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to have experienced harassment, racial discrimination and institutional racism and are disproportionately over- represented in the child protection system.

Racism includes stereotyping individuals or groups, because of their difference, bigoted assumptions about abilities, motives and intentions and stigmatising individuals or groups because of their ethnicity.

2. RISKS

The experience of racism is likely to affect how the child and family respond to and feel able to participate in the assessment and enquiry processes. Independent reporting stations other than Police Stations have been established across North East Lincolnshire where incidents of racial discrimination can be reported in confidence and acted on appropriately. This is aimed to negate any perceived failure by professionals, workers and managers against the victim minimising racial discrimination within the safeguarding arena.

Children who have been Trafficked or Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers are particularly vulnerable Working with different minority cultures in the context of a child protection investigation may be an unfamiliar experience for practitioners and specific advice about the cultural needs of a child may be difficult to obtain at short notice. The Police who are likely to be the first line of contact in any investigation provide all officers with Cultural Training so that they are likely to have a good understanding of diverse cultures to maintain a respectful and culturally sensitive practice with a child-centred focus.

3. PROTECTION AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The effects of racism differ for different communities and individuals and are not assumed to be uniform. Within North East Lincolnshire a multi-agency task group meets bi-monthly to discuss all aspects of Hate Crime. The group has close links is soon to be chaired by to the multi-faith group 'Communities Together' who played an active role in the task group. The meeting is attended by a local Neighbourhood Inspector who receives up to date information from the Community Cohesion Officer on any emerging trends or hot spot areas and feeds this into the meeting together with any action taken. Any concerns are minuted and forwarded to the relevant department for their attention. Specific attention should be given to the assessment of the needs of children of mixed parentage and refugee children to ensure that their welfare is promoted. The Prevent Agenda takes into account the cultural vulnerabilities of individuals to become radicalised with the appropriate wrap around support and specialist intervention.

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Children who have been trafficked or unaccompanied asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and maltreatment and will be appropriately supported.

When there are concerns about a child or young person the Referrals Procedure should be followed and the need for interpreters or advisors on cultural issues will be considered and appropriately risk assessed. Where written information is needed in a different language this should also be considered at an early stage because there is often a delay in organising this. Family members or members of the same community will not be used as interpreters; in no circumstances will children be used to translate for their parents. All interpreters and translators will be DBS checked and have received some basic child protection training.

All organisations working with children and young people within the Safeguarding Children Boards' area must address institutional racism: defined in the Macpherson Inquiry Report, 2000 as

“the collective failure by an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people on account of their race, culture and /or religion.”

Since the publication of the Macpherson report all Police staff receive training on all cultural issues. Partner agencies and the Local Authority take all forms of Hate and Discrimination Crime seriously with robust internal policies and disciplinary procedures for all forms of discriminatory behaviour. All assessments, enquiries and meetings such as Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups must ensure that they are inclusive and respectful to all participants and address any issues of racism, culture and religion whether it concerns the child, family or any other participant.

All managers of staff have a responsibility to tackle any issue around racism or institutionalised racism at the earliest opportunity regardless if it is developing or prevalent. This is also applied to clinical supervision and training which considers the issues not only of institutional racism but also of the effects of racism in relation to the child and his or her family.

4. MAIN REPORTING CENTRES

These centres will be happy to take the details of any hate incident / crime.

Reporting Centre	Address	Area	Telephone
Shoreline Housing Partnership	Balmoral House, Balmoral Avenue, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN34 4JH	Grimsby	0845 849 2000
Foresight	60 Newmarket Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN32 7SF	Grimsby	01472 269666
Longhurst & Havelock Housing	Hamshaw House, Brighowgate, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN32 0QE	Grimsby	01472 256405
Cleethorpes Library	Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 8LG	Cleethorpes	01472 323650
North East Lincolnshire Council – Customer Access	Civic Centre, Pelham Road,	Immingham	01472 313131

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Point	Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, DN40 1QF		
Police Station – Cleethorpes South	45-47 Princes Street, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 8AW	Cleethorpes	101
Police Station – Cleethorpes North	Hamilton Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN32 7RS	Grimsby/Cleethorpes	101
Police Station – Grimsby Central	Victoria Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1PE	Grimsby	101
Police Station – Grimsby North	394 Cromwell Road, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 2BN	Grimsby	101
Police Station – Grimsby South	Laceby Road, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN34 5LT	Grimsby	101
Police Station – Immingham	Humberville Road, Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, DN40 1AS	Immingham	101
Waltham Parish Council Office	Kirkgate, Waltham, North East Lincolnshire, DN37 0LS	Grimsby	01472 826233

There are additional reporting centres that services users only are able to report to. These are the Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education, Franklin College and the Family Hubs formerly known as Children’s Centres.