

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING	<b>Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING	<b>25<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	
TITLE:	<b>'Prevent': radicalisation and extremism</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> <b>Appendix 1 - Channel referral flowchart</b>		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 To provide an update on work being undertaken to tackle radicalisation and extremism in Bath and North East Somerset; the 'Prevent Strategy': [gov\\_uk Prevent Strategy](#)
- 1.2 To describe the partnership approach lead by B&NES Council and Avon and Somerset Police to identify and tackle radicalisation and extremism across the B&NES area.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the impacts of Prevent on the Council, particularly relating to:
  - a) Assessing, understanding and acting on the degree of risk
  - b) Training
  - c) Impacts on organisations the Council works with
  - d) Referrals to the "Channel" process
- 2.2 To note the good practice of joint working with South Gloucestershire Council on co-ordination of Prevent.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 A Home Office grant of £10,000 has been made available to manage Prevent in acknowledgement that it requires "senior management time, the implementation of action plans, locally funded projects, for example with faith institutions, charring Channel panels and staff training", in addition to the training identified above.
- 3.2 In December 2015 B&NES joined in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, to work together on Prevent and have appointed a co-ordinator to work across both authorities. The B&NES commitment to the post is temporary and part time (2 days per week), expiring in March 2017.

- 3.3 All costs associated with the work around this strategy, including our joint working with South Gloucestershire Council, are managed within existing budgets and the £10,000 Home Office funding received.

## **4 THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The *PREVENT* strategy is part of the national counter-terrorism strategy, *CONTEST*. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 puts Prevent on a statutory basis by placing a duty on “specified authorities” (including local authorities, Probation, Prisons, the Police, Universities, Health Trusts and many others including education providers), in the exercise of their functions, to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”.

- 4.2 ‘Specified authorities’ must give the “appropriate amount of weight” to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Guidance states that specified authorities, as a starting point, should:

*“Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution or body. This risk will vary greatly and can change rapidly; but no area, institution or body is risk free. Whilst the type and scale of activity that will address the risk will vary, all specified authorities will need to give due consideration to it”.*

## **5 IMPLEMENTING PREVENT**

- 5.1 The Guidance sets out the types of activities “specified authorities” should be carrying out to fulfil the duty.
- 5.2 The Council has in the last 7 years put a number of measures in place to implement Prevent, commensurate with the risk identified in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile produced by the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit (CTIU). A cross-agency Prevent Board meets regularly and built a working dialogue with partners (including a number of those to which the Prevent duty now applies). The Prevent Board is serviced and chaired by Inclusive Communities Manager, Strategy & Performance.

## **6 KEY ISSUES IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTY**

- 6.1 The Prevent Board monitors its action plan which assists in the development of its work on understanding risks, community engagement and partnership development; with a number of simple actions such as ensuring contracts include Prevent issues; Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training and internet filtering.
- 6.2 The duty to incorporate Prevent into existing policies (e.g. Safeguarding Plans, 16 - 19 Strategy, Youth Justice Plan and Early Help Strategy) is achievable but needs to be delivered pragmatically, as is the requirement to produce a detailed action plan containing local projects.
- 6.3 There is an opportunity to further embed the “one Council” way of working; Prevent is integrated with safeguarding and related initiatives (including child sexual exploitation; modern slavery and people trafficking work) as well as with frontline services such as libraries, environmental services and licensing. This can build on initiatives such as CSE training for taxi drivers. However, the requirement to “ensure appropriate frontline staff, including those of its contractors, have a good

understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue” has potentially a significant resource implication.

## 7 ENFORCEMENT OF THE DUTY

7.1 The Home Office will monitor and assess *Prevent* delivery. Where a specified body is not complying with the duty, the Prevent Oversight Board may recommend that the Secretary of State use the power of direction under section 30 of the Act. This power would only be used “when other options for engagement and improvement had been exhausted”. Where there are concerns about compliance, the Government may also use the “best value” duty or powers relating to education, childcare or children’s social care.

## 8 OTHER ORGANISATIONS THE COUNCIL IS WORKING WITH

8.1 Many of the “specified authorities” are autonomous and are directly accountable for delivering their duties in the Act in the same way as the Council. Working collaboratively through the Prevent Board helps partners to work more effectively to meet our duties under the Act.

8.2 The Council has relationships and support roles with a number of bodies referred to in the Guidance including schools (maintained, academy and independent); other settings for children including supplementary schools and tuition centres and pupil referral units; registered childcare providers; providers of holiday schemes for disabled children; and independent fostering agencies. In many cases, the links to Prevent can be made through our broader safeguarding arrangements and other links. Service areas working with these bodies may also receive requests for additional training such as from schools. Further education institutions on the SFA register of training organisations are included, as are institutions preparing more than 250 students for qualifications regulated by OFQUAL. The Council has noted the need to engage with language schools on Prevent.

## 9 CHANNEL

9.1 Channel is a programme which provides support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Under the Act, a local authority must ensure a panel of persons is in place for its area with the function of assessing the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and also ensure that Channel is supported by the appropriate organisation and expertise (subject to consent). The process for referring to and convening Channel Panels is attached as Appendix 1.

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Consultation with Head of Legal and Democratic Services and s151 Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Samantha Jones, Inclusive Communities Manager <a href="mailto:samantha_jones@bathnes.gov.uk">samantha_jones@bathnes.gov.uk</a> 01225 396364
<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

APPENDIX 1

