

Social Care Services Board

9 December 2016

PREVENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Purpose of report:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an overview of the recent Counter Terrorism legislation, the duties and role of the Council and the work that has been and will be undertaken to implement the legislation and supporting guidance.

Introduction:

1. The Governments Prevent strategy, published in 2011, is part of their overall counter-terrorism strategy, called CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
2. The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:
 - a. respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
 - b. prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
 - c. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015:

3. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out the duty on local authorities and partners to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. This new local authority duty was in effect a transfer of responsibility from one that was previously held by the Police.
4. All local authorities are expected to assess the threat of radicalisation in their areas and to take appropriate action, for example to make checks on the use of their public buildings, their internet filters and any unregulated out of school settings, including after-schools clubs and groups, supplementary schools and tuition centres to support home education.
5. Local authorities across the UK are categorised by the Home Office on the basis of risk as either Priority or non-Priority Areas. The local authorities in Surrey are all classed as non-Priority Areas, however there are Priority areas our borders, for example Croydon and Hounslow to the north and Crawley to the south.

6. The [Prevent duty guidance](#), published alongside the act sets an expectation that local authorities will:
 - Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate prevent activity (these multi-agency groups, through local authorities, will be expected to put in place arrangements to effectively monitor the impact of Prevent work).
 - Use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
 - Engage with Prevent coordinators, schools, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and others as part of the risk assessment process.
 - Mainstream the Prevent duty so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, in particular children's safeguarding.
 - Any local authority that assesses, through the multi-agency group, that there is a risk will be expected to develop a Prevent action plan.
 - Ensure frontline staff 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

7. Schools are placed under a new duty of care to their pupils and staff. This includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism, which includes non-violent extremism. The guidance states schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

8. Government inspectorates are charged with ensuring the required plans are in place and actions are being taken. Discussion has taken place with council Prevent leads and using the simple template provided by the Home Office action plans have been progressed, an e-learning package for staff has been placed on the Skills Academy and there has been training offered to Councillors

9. Channel, which the 2015 Act put on a statutory basis, is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach, known as Channel Panels, to protect vulnerable people by:
 - a. identifying individuals at risk;
 - b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
 - c. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

10. The Counter Terrorism & Security Act requires Channel panels to be chaired by the responsible local authority. In the case of two tier authorities, it is the responsibility of the county council to chair the panel and take on the responsibilities. See appendix 1 for details of the responsibilities of the local authority chair

Channel Cases

11. Channel¹ is a programme that uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:
 - a. identifying individuals at risk;
 - b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
 - c. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.
12. In Surrey there have been small numbers of Channel cases, less than 10 a year to date, however referrals to the Police in the past 12 months have increased as a result of the CT & S Act 2015 and this in turn is expected to increase the numbers of cases that reach the Channel threshold.
13. Cases to date have been chaired by the Community Safety Manager, as the Prevent operational lead and in line with the requirement that in two tier authorities it is the responsibility of the county council to chair the panel and take on the responsibilities. As numbers of cases increase there will be a need to train additional chairs so that the Council can demonstrate its lead responsibility.
14. Issues arising from learning to date:
 - The need for a pool of trained Channel Panel chairs.
 - That all partners will contribute to Channel support plans and their delivery.
 - That the representative attending the Channel Panel needs to be of sufficient seniority to make decisions and /or access resources

15. Governance of Prevent in Surrey

16. The Surrey County Council strategic lead for Prevent is Yvonne Rees, Strategic Director for Customers & Communities, and the operational lead is Gordon Falconer, Community Safety Manager.
17. Following the transfer of lead responsibility for Prevent from the Police to Surrey County Council the Council acquired the lead responsibility for the County wide, multi-agency Prevent Group. This group was a large group involving a wide range of public sector organisations. Initial meetings of this group have been useful in getting a common shared understanding of the new duty and responsibilities. However as time has moved on the size of the group has meant meetings have become largely information giving sessions mitigating against meaningful discussion. In the summer of 2016 the group agreed to proposals to create a new structure of a smaller multi-agency executive group that would

¹ See appendix 1 for details about Channel

provide oversight of the delivery of Prevent, including Channel, in the County and which would report to the Community Safety Board.

- It was also agreed that there would be an annual Prevent seminar/learning event involving a wide range of organisations from across the County.
- Within Surrey County Council there is Prevent Group consisting of the Prevent leads from across all directorates who meet quarterly.
- All directorates are required to have in place a 'Prevent action plan' using the Governments pro-forma, see appendix 2.

Funding

18. In 2015-16 all local authorities were offered by the Government up to £10,000 to support their Prevent work. The twelve local authorities in Surrey worked together to pool the funding available and then worked in partnership to deliver a range of actions, the key ones being staff and Member training and awareness raising. There is no expectation of any further funding being made available by the government.

19. Funding opportunities will continue to be explored, whether from central government or other sources, as this is an important agenda which came with no additional resources and which will remain a high profile issue.

20. Links will also be made with other related important agendas, for example, Modern Slavery, CSE, to explore opportunities for mutual funding bids.

Adult Social Care's Response

21. The Counter Terrorism Act of 2015 places a duty on the Local Authority and its partners to provide support for people who are liable to be drawn into terrorism.

22. Within Adult Social Care the lead person for co-ordinating the PREVENT response is currently the Strategic Head of Safeguarding and QA, Vernon Nosal who is responsible for ensuring that links between the children and adults board are established and maintained.

23. There is e-learning available for staff and PREVENT is "championed" by the locality safeguarding advisors. PREVENT and staff responsibilities are also included in the Adult Safeguarding Multi- Agency Procedures.

24. In response to a request from the Community Safety Partnership it has been agreed that each panel will be able to call upon the attendance of a local safeguarding advisor when cases arise and this advisor will be able to give advice and guidance and/or arrange for the appropriate local response to, or on behalf of, individuals who may be involved in terrorism at the outer margins.

25. In partnership with a range of agencies, locality teams will be able to provide assessment and services as and when deemed to be appropriate to the situation.

26. The Adult Social Care Plan for 2015 – 16 is attached in appendix 2

Future

Nationally:

27. The Government is presently reviewing its counter terrorism strategy, 'Contest'. It is not expected that there will be significant changes and despite calls in some quarters to alter or abandon Prevent it is unlikely that there will be a change in direction. What is expected is that there will be greater scrutiny of local authorities as to how they are managing and delivering the Prevent programme.

28. Before the summer the Government was proposing an Extremism Bill, including the promotion of British values, however there has been no information following the post Brexit changes of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Locally:

29. The new county wide multi-agency Prevent executive group will be holding its first meeting at the beginning of January 2017 and will then meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the delivery of Prevent across the County. There are also plans being made for a county wide Prevent seminar, in 2017, to share the learning to date and discuss how we might be more effective in tackling the circumstances that lead to someone becoming radicalised.

30. Channel Panels will be established to manage cases as and when notification is received from the Police.

31. The Surrey County Council Prevent Group, which has quarterly meetings planned throughout 2017, will be reviewing the progress on the directorate's Prevent action plans.

Conclusions:

32. The report has provided the Board with an overview of the Counter Terrorism legislation, the duties and role of the Council and the work that has been and will be undertaken to implement the legislation and supporting guidance.

33. Officers have, within existing resources, made a good start on managing this new duty whilst providing training and e-learning opportunities to staff.

34. The recent review of the Prevent governance structure and the implementation of new structures both across the County and within the Council will, it is expected, make a difference.

Recommendations:

That the Board agrees to receive a further report at the end of 2017 outlining the progress made within the Children's and Adult's Directorates and the Council as a whole on the implementation of Prevent.

Next steps:

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Sources/background papers:

- Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/counter-terrorism-and-security-bill>
- Prevent Duty Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

“The Local Authority Chair

The Channel Panel Chair is responsible for:

- a. having oversight of all Channel cases in their area;
- b. ensuring that the appropriate representatives are invited to each meeting as panel members;
- c. establishing effective relationships across statutory agencies to ensure effective co-operation over information sharing and attendance at panel meetings;
- d. establishing the appropriate support plan for identified individuals by using the expertise of the panel;
- e. ensuring that risks of persons being drawn into terrorism are identified and are referred to the appropriate agencies for action;
- f. ensuring an effective support plan is put in place, and that consent is sought from the individual before that plan is put in place; and
- g. ensuring individuals and/or organisations on the panel carry out their elements of the support plan so that an effective support package is delivered.

The Chair should be fully briefed by the Channel Police Practitioner on every referral discussed at panel so that they can assess all aspects of the case with rigour and agree the most effective support plan.”

HM Government – Channel Duty Guidance

Sector: Local authorities – County Council (Adult Social Care)			
Action	Owner	Update	Status
Surrey Partnership			
Identify and maintain a Prevent lead to act as a single point of contact on Prevent matters	Vernon Nosal		Complete
Prevent to sit as a standing item on the County wide Community safety board.			
Maintain a link between the Prevent partnership board and both Children's and Adult safeguarding boards.	Ditto		Ongoing
Maintain a county wide, multi agency, Prevent partnership group to monitor and assess the impact of Prevent work			
Maintain a Prevent action plan to effectively manage local risk, threat and vulnerability	Ditto	E-learning suite set up in July 2015. Incorporated into induction pack for all new ASC staff	Ongoing
Agree proportionate arrangements for sharing risk assessment and agreeing Prevent action plans with Borough and District authorities			
Internal and external procedures in place to share information about vulnerable	SSAB	PREVENT initiative included in Surrey Multi-Agency procedures	

individuals including information sharing agreements.			
Support the Channel project by chairing multi agency Channel panels and ensuring the panels are fit for purpose.			
Ensure involvement of local communities within Prevent and assess local impact of activity on these communities			
Risk assessment			
Support the process of the CTLP including attending multi agency briefings and providing relevant information and input to the process	Vernon Nosal		Complete
Incorporate Prevent duty into local authority led safeguarding policies such as those identifying children at risk	Ditto		See above
Staff Training			
Ensure front line staff have a good understanding of Prevent and are able to recognise vulnerabilities.	Ditto	e-learning and involvement in WRAP training Training offer made to Safeguarding Advisors who are the lead contact personnel	Ongoing
Ensure front line staff understand the referral process into Channel and how it manages individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism	Ditto	Ditto	

Use of Local authority premises			
Ensure publicly used premises are not used by extremist organisations			
Ensure organisations working with the local authority are not engaged in extremist activity			
Safety Online			
IT equipment available to the general public should use filtering solutions to limit access to extremist material			
IT policies in place to ensure staff are protected from terrorist related content			
Local authority to host Prevent related material on its public facing website			
Supporting children			
Private and voluntary organisations providing children's services are included and aware of local authority safeguarding policies			
Gain understanding of out of school settings including supplementary schools, youth groups and tuition centres			
Ensure these locations have appropriate safeguarding measures in place			

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