

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 15th September 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: Update on the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Contact Officer: Rob Vale, Head of Trading Standards & Community Safety
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: All wards

1. Reason for report

To update Members on the implications of the Government's Prevent Strategy and the duty placed on local authorities by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the statutory obligations placed on the local authority and agree the following:

- 2.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership will be lead on the governance of the PREVENT duty
- 2.2 The training of LBB front line staff will be co-ordinated by the HR organisational Development Team although the overall responsibility of the implementation of the requirements of the Act sit with the Executive Director of Environment & Community Services through the Community Safety Team.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Safer Bromley:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: The cost of demonstrating compliance with the statutory duty is estimated to be £10k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Community Safety Management
 4. Total current budget for this head: £10k
 5. Source of funding: £10k grant funding from the Home Office
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 40
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough Wide
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: NA

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 PREVENT is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST, which is led by the Home Office. It is the national strategy to respond to the threat of extremism and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- 3.2 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which came into force in July 2015, places a general duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (section 26). A specified authority includes London Borough councils. Statutory guidance has been issued under section 29 of the Act and is attached to this report.
- 3.3 In order to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, local authorities will be required to fulfil a range of responsibilities as articulated in the Prevent Guidance. Broadly, this work falls into the following categories:
- 3.4 **Partnership** – local authorities should establish or make use of multi-agency groups to coordinate and monitor Prevent related activity. There are a number of multi-agency forums which may be appropriate to lead on the governance of the duty, for example the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group, or either of the Children or Adult Safeguarding Boards.
- 3.5 **Risk Assessment** – local authorities should use Counter-Terrorism Local Profiles to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in their local area. The CTLP informs the local PREVENT partnership of the threat from terrorism and non-violent extremism and should be used to develop an appropriate local response. Where a risk has been identified, an action plan should be developed
- 3.6 **Action Plan** – Using the risk assessment, if the local authority assesses a risk in the local area, a Prevent action plan should be developed to prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism in the local authority.
- 3.7 **Staff Training** – The purpose of the training is to ensure all front line staff, and those of any contractors for the authority, have a good understanding of PREVENT and are able to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism. Where there are concerns, staff should be aware of the CHANNEL referral process and the programmes available to deal with the issue.
- 3.8 **Use of local authority resources** – local authorities will be expected to ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a profile for extremists. Consideration should also be given as to whether IT equipment available to the general public should use filtering solutions that limit access to terrorist and extremist material. New contracts for the delivery of services in a local authority should reflect the principles of the duty in a suitable form.
- 3.9 Local authorities are required to organise and chair a multi-agency panel (CHANNEL) in their area (section 36). The purpose of the CHANNEL is to ensure any vulnerable child or adult at risk of being drawn into terrorism receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited.
- 3.10 In order to ensure the effective and controlled sharing of personal data, authorities must introduce local information sharing agreements are in place, taking into account necessity and proportionality, consent, the power to share and the Data protection Act and Common Law Duty of Confidentiality.
- 3.11 There is an expectation that local authorities maintain records demonstrating compliance with their responsibilities and provide reports on request. Those authorities identified as priorities

for this programme will receive central support from the Home Office. The London Borough of Bromley is not a priority borough.

- 3.12 Existing safeguarding policies should incorporate the PREVENT duty, in particular those policies for children at risk.
- 3.13 In addition to a one off £10k grant for non-priority boroughs, a support package may also be available to some areas which will cover access to training, regional awareness raising events, a peer support network and an innovation fund available to authorities and third sector groups.
- 3.14 The HR Organisational Development team are likely to co-ordinate the training of front line staff.
- 3.15 It is the Governments view that the mainstay of this work will not constitute a significant burden on local authorities. It sees Prevent work normally falling under the jurisdiction of the community safety department. It should be noted the Community Safety Team presently consists of 1.0fte Community Safety Co-ordinator (on maternity leave until February 2016), one Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, one ASB case officer.
- 3.16 All local authorities will be expected to assess the threat of radicalisation within their areas and take action as appropriate. This will include senior management time, the implementation of action plans (if appropriate), chairing Channel panels and staff training. The financial implications will vary with the level of the threat. The Department for Communities and Local Government have estimated costs for non-Priority areas as ranging from £4k-£40k per authority. For Bromley, the estimated costs are expected to be £10k.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Reducing crime and disorder and providing reassurance to the people of Bromley are key elements of Building a Better Bromley.
- 4.2 All local authorities have a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of training the front line staff is expected to be £10k which will be funded from the Home Office grant. The £10k grant should cover the costs of activities required to commence the Duty.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which came into force in July 2015, places a general duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (section 26). A specified authority includes London Borough councils.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The authority will need to ensure the effective delivery of training to all front line staff in order that it demonstrates due regard to the duty. Consideration will need to be given to the options available to deliver the training, in particular the co-ordination and recording of staff who have been trained, in order that the authority is able to produce evidence of compliance.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]