

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

**For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Public Protection & Safety
PDS Committee on**

Date: Wednesday 29 March 2017

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: PREVENT STRATEGY/CHANNEL REFERRAL PROCESS

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

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

This report outlines the Council's approach to comply with the Prevent Duty and what the council is doing to meet the duty. It updates the Committee on a verbal report which was presented in March 2016.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the Prevent Strategy as set out in the appendix to this report and support the approach being taken.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is an overriding professional duty for local authority, health and social care practitioners. Prevent action works in the pre-criminal space, before someone has committed a substantial crime and is about safeguarding those who may be susceptible to radicalisation.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: To ensure concerns about children and vulnerable adults at risk to of being drawn to extremism are referred through existing pathways.
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Safe Bromley Supporting Independence Healthy Bromley:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Community Safety Management
 4. Total current budget for this head: £141k
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue Budget 2017/18
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3.3
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: NA
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: NA
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All residents
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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

Overview

- 3.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on local authorities and other specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The authority must have regard to the Prevent Duty Guidance when carrying out the duty.
- 3.2 Prevent comprises one aspect of the government's overall counter terrorism strategy called CONTEST. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting extremism. It addresses all forms of terrorism but at present the most significant threat to the UK comes from forms of the ISIS and groups associated with Al Qa'ida.
- 3.3 Prevent is in essence a safeguarding duty. Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm. It has three specific objectives:
- A: Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
 - B: Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring 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

National position

- 3.4 As a nation the current threat level for international terrorism is severe, meaning an attack is highly likely. The largest threat is from Daesh, i.e. ISIS, however, far right extremism is very much a live problem.

Local context

- 3.5 The Home Office recognises Local Authority areas across the UK on the basis of risk as either Priority (Tier 1 and 2) or non-Priority (Tier3) areas and Bromley has been deemed to fall within Tier 3. As such, this authority receives no specific funding for Prevent activity. The responsibility of ensuring the local authority responds to its duty sits with Community Safety and this is being managed through existing resources.
- 3.6 Whilst designated a low risk borough, it is important to acknowledge that no area is risk free and levels of risk can change. Like the rest of the UK, which is on a severe risk threat level, Bromley is at risk from the threats arising from conflicts in other countries, lone actors, extreme right wing groups and the increasing threat of vulnerable people being exposed to internet propaganda and social media.

Progress so far

- 3.7 The statutory guidance provides three themes which local authorities will need to give due consideration. These are: effective leadership, working in partnership and appropriate capabilities. Some of the main areas of work to date include:
- A report has been presented to the Chief Executive's Corporate Leadership Team, which agreed to act as the strategic Prevent panel, and will receive an annual update on the authority's response to the duty;

- An Action Plan has been prepared;
- The Safer Bromley Partnership will oversee the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Action Plan – Prevent is a sub group within the Partnership and is one of the priorities set out in the SBP Strategy;
- WRAP workshops and staff briefings are being delivered across the workforce, co-ordinated by the HR Organisational Development Team;
- Briefings are being delivered to key leaders within the authority, including Members, and senior managers within adults and children’s social care;
- The authority chairs an effective Channel Panel which meets monthly to review an active caseload;
- A Prevent strategy and Channel Referral Protocol has been drafted (see Appendix 1);
- Work is taking place to support schools to implement their own Prevent response.

The Prevent Strategy

3.8 This strategy is set out in Appendix 1. This, together with the Action Plan (see Appendix 2), will form part of the evidence to demonstrate compliance with our responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 Some crimes need little persuasion, for example gangs, drugs, organised crime and terrorism. The real masterminds don’t put themselves in harm’s way, they convince and bully others to do so. They may find someone who is impressionable or vulnerable and needs help and abuses that, turning them to crime, often for the first time. When a vulnerable person does get involved with gangs or other crime types, they may genuinely see this relationship as a good thing and a means to fit in, or a chance to take control of their life, without seeing where it is heading.

4.2 Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is an overriding professional duty for health and social care practitioners, and all LBB employees. Prevent is safeguarding and works in the pre-criminal space, before someone has committed a substantial crime and is about safeguarding those who may be susceptible to radicalisation.

4.3 Local authorities are expected to ensure appropriate front line staff have a good understanding of Prevent and are able to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism. Referral pathways, which exist for concerns about children, vulnerable adults and adults working with children, are also available to raise concerns under Prevent.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In line with Government guidance, the Councils policy is to ensure the authority has due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The local authority receives no specific funding to implement the Prevent duty. The duty is co-ordinated using existing resources within the Community Safety budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A local authority must, in their exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- 7.2 Where a local authority is not complying with the Prevent duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the Government may use a power of direction under section 30 of the Act to impose specific actions upon them.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel and Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	National Prevent Strategy https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents/enacted Prevent Duty Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance