

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO HOLDER
FOR PRE-DECSION SCRUTINY BY THE PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY PDS COMMITTEE ON

Date: 6th March

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

Title: PREVENT UPDATE

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 Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report updates a report in March 2017 when the Portfolio Holder was asked to approve the Prevent Strategy.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the recommendations for the key priorities going forward for the next 12 months at para 3.10.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

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

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Further Details: to ensure children and vulnerable adults at risk to being drawn into terrorism are referred existing pathways.
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Safe Bromley Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Community Safety Management (Project expenses)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £8.3k
 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: section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
 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:

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Prevent is one of the four strands of the government’s counter terrorism strategy, and aims to stop people becoming terrorists and supporting terrorism. The other three strands are

- PURSUE: to stop terrorist attacks
- PROTECT: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks
- PREPARE: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.

3.2 “Having due regard” means that the authority should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when we consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

3.3 The Act further sets out statutory guidance which requires local authorities to, amongst other things, ensure elected members are engaged in Prevent, establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk, co-ordinate and monitor Prevent activity and use the Counter Terrorism Local Profile to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.

National and local position

3.4 The national threat level remains SEVERE meaning an attack is highly likely. The level was briefly raised to CRITICAL following the Manchester and Parsons Green attacks. There have been five incidents in 2017 resulting in 14 killed and more than 180 injured.

3.5 The main influencing factor to extremism is via the internet, along with vulnerable individuals, particularly those with mental health issues. Vulnerability to extremist narratives online continues to be flagged as a radicalising factor across both Islamist extremists and XRW referrals.

3.6 Bromley enjoys low levels of community tension, however tensions were elevated following specific incidents including gang violence, and after the London Bridge terror attacks. Bromley has relatively low levels of hate crime and no emerging trends have been highlighted.

Prevent activity in Bromley

3.7 A Prevent Case Management panel is now well established with core members from adults and children’s safeguarding, mental health, education, community Safety and police. PCM is a national framework which aims to help prevent and disrupt all extremist activity by focussing on individuals and institutions of concern. The framework allows action to be taken to mitigate the risk of extremist activity, including by referral into the Channel programme where appropriate.

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)

3.8 WRAP is a Home Office initiative which is delivered to front line practitioners to raise awareness of Prevent and ensure staff are aware of the referral pathways.

3.9 A number of train the trainer events were also arranged in order that partners such as schools and healthcare organisations were able to ensure their safeguarding leads could deliver the WRAP within their own organisations.

Priorities going forward

3.10 Bromley continues to be classified as a non-priority borough and as such receives no financial support to deliver a Prevent programme. Accordingly, the following priorities for this borough over the next 12 months are recommended:

- Maintain a robust Prevent Case Management board
- Maintain close working with local SO15 officers
- Attend monthly London Prevent Network meeting to keep abreast of regional developments
- Raise awareness of Prevent through the delivery of WRAP
- Contribute to consultation process on the implementation of the Dovetail project, which is looking to place a greater responsibility on local authorities to deal with PCM and CHANNEL referrals
- Update the Prevent Action Plan to reflect achievable outcomes over the next 12 months
- Provide engagement session for all new elected Members following the local elections in May 2018

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 There is no specific funding available to implement the Prevent duty, however there is a budget of £8.3k within Community Safety that is available for small items of expenditure if required as well as existing staff time.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A local authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel and Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]