

<b>4 July 2019</b>		<b>ITEM: 9</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the Councils response to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and ensure that:

- i) We understand the local threat; and
- ii) Judge whether the strategy and actions planned will address that threat.

The *Prevent* strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and work with organisations where there are risks of radicalisation.

The current terrorist threat to the UK is at severe and has been since 2014, meaning that an attack is highly likely. In 2017 it was raised to critical, the highest level, twice.

Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally, remains one of the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2019/20.

Thurrock's *Prevent* strategy outlines our multi-agency response to tackle extremism and respond to the duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Protecting children and vulnerable adults from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the Councils wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting them from any other harms be that whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The CSP has a Strategic Prevent Board which meets quarterly and is chaired by Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

**That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee members:**

- 1.1 Note the National risk.**
- 1.2 Note the ratings and actions against the benchmark in the *Prevent* duty toolkit for Local Authorities.**
- 1.3 Support the Local Authority to fulfil its obligations through encouraging members to attend the Member working group on *Prevent*.**
- 1.4 Complete the online training at [www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk)**
- 1.5 Promote the important role that members play in community tension monitoring and reporting.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, of which Local Authorities are one, in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This *Prevent duty* guidance<sup>1</sup> states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.
- 2.2 The other specified authorities in the Act who are also subject to the *Prevent* duty include criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police.
- 2.3 Thurrock’s priority is: Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally.
- 2.4 The strategic objectives outlined in our *Prevent* strategy 2017/19 (Appendix 1) are to:
  1. Promote, challenge and develop communities’ capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working
  2. Ensure that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism

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<sup>1</sup> *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales revised 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015

2.5 The aims of the action plan are to:

- Identify threat and monitor
- Encourage greater community awareness and challenge
- Support cohesion and integration between different communities in Thurrock
- Ensure professional awareness and ability to act appropriately
- Safeguard those vulnerable to extremism
- Deliver appropriate interventions

2.6 Through these actions we aim to reduce the threat, harm, and risk to our communities.

2.7 The *Prevent* duty places a requirement on each Local Authority to have a Channel Panel in place. Channel forms a key part of the *Prevent* strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or supporting violent extremism in all its forms. It should be noted that this is pre criminalisation and provides access to a Home Office accredited Intervention Provider to deter those at risk before criminalisation.

2.8 The *Prevent* strategy 2011 makes it clear that Channel is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, and this relies on intervention to prevent people moving into extremist groups or from extremism into terrorist-related activity. Where people holding extremist views appear to be attracted to, or are moving towards, terrorism they clearly become relevant to Channel.<sup>2</sup>

2.9 This panel is scheduled to meet monthly and hear referrals from all agencies and then make a collective decision on whether to escalate to Channel. Previously this decision was taken by the Police and Channel chair only and may not have all the relevant information. Engagement by a nominal is voluntary.

2.10 The Home Office have developed a *Prevent* duty toolkit, which the *Prevent* strategy group has rated as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> HM Government Statutory guidance

<b>1.</b>	<b>Local Risk Assessment</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: all complete Comments: within action plan and reported quarterly to Directors Board
<b>2.</b>	<b>Multi Agency Partnership Board</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b> Action: North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) need to identify rep and attend Comments: members working group to develop to promote Prevent
<b>3.</b>	<b>Prevent Partnership Action Plan</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: to embed in service plans, linked to Section 17 Duty
<b>4.</b>	<b>Referral Process</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: 6 month review of process in Oct 19 Comments: New referral process in place – to be reviewed by Prevent Board
<b>5.</b>	<b>Channel Panel</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b> Actions: 6 month review of revised process in Oct 19 Comments: Refreshed – monthly meetings in place from 29/3/19
<b>6.</b>	<b>Prevent problem Solving process</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Training Programme</b> RAG Rating: <b>Red</b> Actions: To plan with my learning for 2019/20 Comments: uncertainty due to decommissioning of WRAP
<b>8.</b>	<b>Venue Hire</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b> Actions: to work with community development team to promote and cascade
<b>9.</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b> Actions: to work closer with housing and civil society groups
<b>10.</b>	<b>Communications</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

#### **3.1 Summary of Activity Delivered in 2018/19**

- Delivered Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) to 120 professionals.
- Completed the *Prevent* duty toolkit and refreshed the action plan

- The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is being disseminated, as appropriate, and the risk assessment and action plan updated quarterly accordingly
- Refreshed the Channel Panel and adopted new process for referrals
- Promoted the Act Now campaign (Appendix 2) to communities through the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police and Housing Tenants Conference

### 3.2 Work planned to deliver in 2019/20

- Continue to disseminate the CTLP and refresh strategy in line with current threat
- Continued engagement with members through the working group and developing a 5 point pledge card
- Engage communities and the voluntary sector through the offer of Counter Terrorism awareness training
- Continue to drive professional development through the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) programme and ideology training
- Promote referrals to the Channel Panel and deliver interventions as appropriate

### 3.3 Equality Impact Assessment

The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment 2017 highlighted:

- There is no age profile and applies to all age groups, however the action plan has a clear focus on prevention of radicalisation of young people and in particular focus is the local duty in educational establishments
- Prevent needs to support people vulnerable to radicalisation due to learning disabilities or mental health and therefore may have a positive impact on this group
- There is a concern nationally that Prevent stereotypes the Muslim community and therefore has a negative impact on the Muslim population. A positive benefit of the strategy is to encourage dialogue between all communities
- Prevent does stereotype men at greater risk of radicalisation, and more likely to be subject to stop and search. There is an opportunity to empower women to challenge extremism

### 3.4 Summary

3.4.1 The current threat level nationally is severe and this is why the *Prevent* agenda remains a priority for the CSP in Thurrock.

3.4.2 There is no identified greater risk to the community of Thurrock than elsewhere in England.

3.4.3 The key challenges faced by the CSP for the coming year are to:

- Increase awareness of communities and the *Prevent* agenda
- Embed the new Channel referral process
- Refresh our local strategy
- Review the training offer to increase awareness amongst professional

3.4.4 The key message for members and communities is that “Communities Defeat Terrorism and that if you see or hear something that could be terrorist related you need to Act Now”.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 To ensure members understand the current risk to Thurrock and are satisfied that we are responding appropriately.

4.2 That members are equipped to champion the Prevent agenda within our communities.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 Thurrock Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

**People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

6.2 In implementing the *Prevent* strategy in Thurrock there is no community impact, however if Thurrock were to be the target of a terrorist incident or a terrorist cell was living in amongst us this would have a huge impact on our communities.

6.3 Historically when there has been an International or a National terrorist attack Thurrock has experienced a spike in hate crime. As part of *Prevent* awareness training we include an awareness of hate crime and how to report, based on the “Stop the Hate” campaign.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Management Accountant**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Assistant Director of Law & Governance**  
**& Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Manager**

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) identified in 3.3 are recognised within our action plans.

### **7.4 Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

This report will help the Council and its Partners ensure that they are delivering on its commitments to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

## **8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales revised 16 July 2015
- Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2019/20  
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2019-v02.pdf>
- Government *Prevent* duty tool kit
- Hate Crime awareness [www.thurrock.gov.uk/hate-crime](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/hate-crime)

## **9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Prevent Strategy 2017/19  
Appendix 2 - Act Now Leaflet

**Report Author:**

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Environment and Highways