

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Early Intervention & Support	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12/10/2017

COUNTER TERRORISM/PREVENT UPDATE OCT 2017

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on work undertaken to meet the council's duties with regard to counter terrorism and the 'prevent duty'.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To note the work that has been undertaken by the Council since 2015 in ensuring that officers are trained in Prevent, referral mechanisms are in place, single points of access are provided, information shared with other councils and partners including Lancashire Police, and amendments are made to the safeguarding policy.
2. To note the audit actions and recommendations for a revised action plan which addresses some improvements in the Prevent Strategy in operation across the council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. This report provides a summary of the work undertaken since the commencement of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015, the audit of this work and recommendations for the future to improve our response along with partners to countering terrorism via Prevent.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	√	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

BACKGROUND

5. The topic of Counter Terrorism in terms of the council's duty specifically relates to Prevent, which is a statutory duty under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This act sets out how authorities in the UK will pursue (stop), protect (strengthen against attack), prepare (mitigate) and **prevent** radicalisation and subsequent terrorism across the UK (known as the 4 P's).
6. The UK Counter Terrorism Strategy is known as 'Contest' which aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives

freely and with confidence. The Lancashire Contest Board, made up of senior managers at chief executive level from councils and partner organisations such as health, police, schools, colleges and universities in Lancashire concentrates on this mission and the delivery of the 4 P's as described above.

7. In addition, as a result of the Act and Home Office guidance, a specific referral mechanism was established within Lancashire Police that was available to all agencies to refer into should there be concerns raised regarding individuals or groups being radicalised and drawn into terrorism. This is known as Channel and there is a specific co-ordinator for the Channel referral process based in Lancashire Police who pulls together a multi-agency case conference and suitable intervention for individuals identified as needing support. This is a voluntary early intervention process and therefore non-criminal.
8. Within the Act, there is a specific requirement for all local authorities to give due regard to the need for people being radicalised and drawn into terrorism. The 'Prevent Duty' commenced for local authorities on 1 July 2015. This is a new area of responsibility for the Council which required new ways of working, data sharing, processes and training which have been developed in partnership with other councils and Lancashire Police.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

9. Set out in this section is an overview of the work that has been undertaken by the council to ensure that it is meeting its obligations under the Act.

Year 1: 2015-16

10. For the period after the Act was passed in July 2015 up to July 2016, Chorley Council worked with the 13 other local Councils, Lancashire Police, LCC, Schools, VCFS and the Home Office to agree a deliverable Lancashire Prevent Plan.
11. The plan, focussed on what we collectively should and must do as local authorities and partners and attracted funding for each local authority of up to £10,000 from the Home Office.
12. Within Lancashire, the Contest Group took responsibility for the strategic governance of the Lancashire Prevent Plan and the implementation of the Counter Terrorism Strategy, with the Prevent Group of managers from all councils and partners services taking responsibility for operational delivery within their own organisations. The Chief Executive and Neighbourhoods Manager from Chorley Council were the representatives at these groups.
13. In 2015-16, this funding was utilised in Chorley to support the work undertaken with other Lancashire partners; the development of a training programme on Counter Terrorism with particular reference to Prevent; printing of Prevent information leaflets for dissemination across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP); and commissioning of an interactive learning toolkit for young people.
14. At the end of March 2016, a Prevent check list was completed which provided the council with an action plan covering the essential elements of the local authority Prevent duty. This action plan is outlined below

Prevent Duty Requirement Topic	Action	By when
Partnership – local authorities should establish or make use of multi-agency groups to coordinate and monitor Prevent related activity.	Completed through Integrated Action Team approach	March 2016
Risk Assessment – local authorities should use Counter-Terrorism Local	Completed Lancashire Police Counter Terrorism Analyst	March 2016

<p>Profiles known as CLTP (England and Wales) or Emerging or Residual Threat Local Profiles (Scotland), to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in their local area. This risk assessment should also be informed by engagement with wider partners in the local area including schools, childcare providers, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and youth offending teams.</p>	<p>Team provided a draft local risk profile for Lancashire. Intelligence sharing links established in Chorley with local counter terrorism unit covering key themes of; violence and disorder, extremist travel, extremist online activity, community influence, geographic profile, risk and areas of potential emerging risk .</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Counter Terrorism Local Profile cites there is minimal risk within the area of Chorley. However, analysis of a recent case that did not meet Channel threshold but required a step down approach demonstrated that several vulnerability factors emerged for an individual teenager that contributed to the risk of being radicalised, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> break up of family; Mum’s isolation and health needs; drug use (cannabis) and petty crime activity Excessive, unsupervised social media /internet Disengagement from education <p>This young person was therefore supported by the early action police team as a specific intervention to address the issues outlined above, ensure that the risk of being radicalised was reduced and supported to continue at college which was a protective factor.</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<p>Staff Training - local authorities will be expected to ensure that appropriate frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent and are trained to recognise the vulnerability to</p>	<p>Single point of contact (SPOC) and the council’s two Intervention and Prevention Officers are Home Office approved to deliver the standardised WRAP Prevent</p>	<p>March 2016</p>

being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue. Local authority staff will be expected to be aware of, and make appropriate referrals to Channel.	Training across the council and to other organisations. 85 Chorley Council staff who have extensive contact with members of the community, visit resident's homes on a regular basis were trained in the first year (2015/16).	
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.	Action: Ensure that the current policy and practice for internet security meets Prevent requirements. Ensure that current policy and practice of booking of venues and commissioning of services meets Prevent/ CT requirements.	Ongoing
Other agencies and organisations supporting children – a range of private and voluntary agencies provide services or exercise functions for children, for example children's homes, independent fostering agencies, and bodies exercising local authority functions. These bodies must ensure as part of their local authority safeguarding arrangements that staff are aware of Prevent.	Action: Agreed within Prevent and Contest meetings that the remit of ensuring that this category of children and young people's service provision professionals are aware of Prevent and safeguarding arrangements are in place, is that of Lancashire County Council. Chorley Council along with partners will be responsible for the embedding of Prevent and Safeguarding procedures within the future Youth Zone in Chorley in partnership with On-Side and LCC	Ongoing Ongoing

15. Resulting analysis of the Prevent work undertaken at end of March 2016 concluded that our future Prevent action plan in Chorley over the next eighteen months would need to focus on four key areas of; **increased partnership and community awareness**; (particularly mothers and females) about how to report concerns to the police and local authority; **community cohesion and tolerance** ; improved **internet security in public buildings** and wifi areas provided by local authorities; **review of child and adult safeguarding** policy to include Prevent.

Year 2: 2016-17

16. 3 key members of staff including the Head of Service were trained to deliver the Prevent Home Office Training and to date this has been delivered to 114 colleagues (including the 85 already reported in year 1) across the Council and partner services

17. Also, eleven elected members attended and were trained in the same Prevent training programme in August 2017.
18. The council's online training system for all staff also includes a module on 'preventing radicalisation.'
19. A specific reference to Prevent is now contained in both our adult and child safeguarding revised policy.
20. In June 2017 an internal audit was completed to provide assurance that the council's arrangements, procedures and processes in relation to delivering the Prevent Duty are robust, efficient and effective
21. The review was assessed as a major system and amber 5 rating with some recommendations for improvement that are now being carried out as part of our Prevent actions, as follows:
- Developing Prevent referral procedures for Designated Safeguarding Officers
 - Extending the use of web filtering to include mobile devices and public WIFI points.
 - Adopting a corporate standard clause for property (commercial/other) and hire leases/agreements prohibiting the use of Council property for any extremist purposes.
 - Ensuring that relevant frontline staff, of commissioned services, meet the Prevent Duty training requirements and know who to contact should an issue arise.
 - Agreeing a Prevent training strategy and programme (for Officers, Members, casual and voluntary staff) that is appropriate to roles and the delivery of a refresher training programme.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

22. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area	✓	Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

23. No comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

24. No comments.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DIRECTOR OF EARLY INTERVENTION & SUPPORT

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