

Adults & Safer City Scrutiny Panel

14 July 2015

Report title	Preparing for the Prevent Duty	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Samuels Tel: 01902 551341 karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Head of Community Safety
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team - 27 April 2015 Strategic Executive Board - 26 May 2015 Place Leadership Team - 1 June 2015 Corporate Leadership Team – 1 June 2015	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Consider the corporate implications of the duty and identify ways in which implementation can be supported.

1.0 Background

1.1 Prevent is a strand of the government CONTEST strategy, aimed at stopping people being drawn into terrorism.

CONTEST is organised around four principal workstreams:

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent:** to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact

1.2 The Police, intelligence, civil contingencies and national agencies tasked with protecting and promoting the resilience of the UK's national infrastructure are responsible for delivering the Pursue, Protect and Prepare workstreams. Local Authorities are responsible for leading on Prevent.

1.3 The national Prevent strategy focuses on three key areas which are:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it.
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

1.4 The current threat to the UK and its interests from international terrorism is severe. This means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. One of the security concerns is the potential for British citizens and residents to become radicalised and commit acts of violence or terrorism. There is also a heightened concern about travel to Syria and Iraq where terrorist organisations are active and the potential risks from returnees.

2.0 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

2.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduces a raft of measures to strengthen the national response to terrorism and build local resilience. The Act creates a statutory duty for Local Authorities to have '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'.

2.2 In addition to Local Authorities, the following are also impacted by the new duty:

- Higher education providers
- Further education providers
- Schools
- The health sector
- Prisons
- Probation providers
- Police

2.3 Guidance has been issued which sets out clear expectations for these organisations/sectors to evidence effective leadership, how they work in partnership, how they are developing organisational capabilities, sharing information and undertaking monitoring and enforcement. This element of the Act is expected to come into force in July 2015. Prevent duty guidance can be accessed here: [Prevent Duty Guidance](#) . The Act also places Channel Panel (see below) on a statutory footing under local authority responsibility.

3.0 Channel Panel

3.1 Channel is a multi-agency panel held bi-monthly to review cases where people have been identified as being at risk from radicalisation. The nature and extent of that risk is assessed and a support plan developed to meet the needs of the individuals concerned.

3.2 Channel provides a pre-criminal space for safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It delivers early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

3.3 There is already a well-established Channel Panel in operation in the city. Whilst Prevent referrals in Wolverhampton have historically been very low, there has been a marked increase in new referrals seeking support since November 2014.

4.0 Wolverhampton's Risk & Threat Level

4.1 Although the national threat level is severe, Wolverhampton continues to experience low levels of extremist activity when compared to other areas of the West Midlands. The local risk and threat is classed as low, based on the demographic profile and historic levels of referrals.

4.2 Wolverhampton is one of only two local authorities in the West Midlands that has not been classed as a priority area by the Home Office, and consequently, will not receive Home Office funding under the Act to support implementation of the duty. There is some doubt that this assessment accurately reflects the risk and threat level in the city, however, a proportionate response to the new requirements will need to be adopted.

4.3 Prevent is led by the Community Safety service, within Public Health & Well Being; whilst there are clear links with community cohesion and safeguarding, the council will need to evidence compliance with the Prevent duty across all its service areas.

5.0 Preparing a Corporate Response

5.1 The attached Appendix A summarises implications of the duty on the City Council, our current position in relation to this and identifies further areas for development.

5.2 Briefings have been delivered to each of the Council's Leadership teams to provide an update on the requirements, seek input into the areas for development, consider potential service-specific implications and identify options to support implementation.

- 5.3 Responses will shape both a Council implementation plan and development of a city-wide plan spanning the various partners impacted by the duty.
- 5.4 Whilst work to pull together the council's implementation plan continues, the following preparatory work has already started:
- Prevent training sessions delivered for Councillors in March 2015; 30 Councillors attended and provided positive feedback on the training. Further follow up training will be made available to remaining Councillors.
 - An updated briefing note has been provided for inclusion in the briefing pack for newly elected councillors.
 - Workforce Development Team is supporting development of an e-learning resource for use by all staff and Councillors to raise general awareness of Prevent and Channel – available for launch June 2015.
 - Prevent training to be included on the Safeguarding training programme.
 - Both Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards have indicated their support for integrating Prevent within existing safeguarding practice. An awareness event was held in March 2015 for organisational safeguarding leads.

6.0 Preparing the City-wide response

- 6.1 To avoid duplication of resources and effort, it is important that a more coordinated multi-agency approach is adopted across the city. As a non-priority area, and the financial implications of this, Wolverhampton will be more reliant on the willingness of partners to work collaboratively and adapt mainstream approaches to comply with the duty.
- 6.2 A scoping meeting was held with partners affected by the duty on 13 April 2015. Consensus was reached on the need to coordinate city-wide delivery of Prevent with overwhelming support for development of a Prevent Board (with the view that this could be expanded to include the government's wider CONTEST remit). Further discussions are underway with those partners who were not in attendance to gauge views before this is developed further with organisational endorsements for the approach being sought.
- 6.3 It was agreed that each agency takes stock of where they are against the duty by completing an audit of current provision. Audit returns will be collated by the end of May 2015.
- 6.4 There is an existing Prevent Delivery Plan in place (largely Police-led) which is very limited in scope. The audit returns will be used to further develop this into a city-wide plan to coordinate delivery across agencies.

7.0 Early cross-agency priorities

- 7.1 A number of early priorities have been identified to be progressed in tandem with the revised Delivery Plan. These are:
- The need to raise general awareness of Prevent and the referral pathway to Channel as an extension of safeguarding practice.
 - Increasing trainer capacity within all agencies affected by the duty to deliver future Prevent training – the national view is that Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) teams should withdraw from delivery of training with immediate effect – local negotiations have been undertaken to facilitate a further training session to grow our city-wide bank of accredited WRAP3 trainers to meet future demand.
 - Prioritise training delivery to front-line services operating in areas where there is a heightened risk (geographic and sector-specific).

8.0 Early Identified Support for Schools

- 8.1 Inclusion of Prevent and the promotion of fundamental British values as part of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development delivered in schools have already been introduced as part of the Ofsted Inspection framework. Work to identify the early support needs of schools has started and will continue up to the end of the summer term with a view to continuing delivery at the start of the autumn term. The split between those schools coming under Local Authority control and independent schools raises difficulties around identifying appropriate representation for engagement and delivery of training. So far, the following steps have been taken or are planned:
- 8.2 Train the trainer – One staff member within school standards team has undertaken train the trainer training in February 2015. Capacity will be extended for additional trainers within school standards to be trained and scope to include the school workforce team and independent schools in the next round of train the trainer scheduled for 3 July 2015.
- 8.3 School training – CTU have delivered 20 training sessions to schools so far this academic year (covering staff, governors and pupils). Since completing the train the trainer course, the schools standards team will have delivered WRAP3 training to an additional 30 schools approx. before the end of summer term and have distributed support material to schools to aid evidence gathering for delivery of the 'British values' element of the Ofsted requirements. A further training session led by CTU is scheduled for 50 school governors on 3 June 2015 with a further follow up session to be arranged.
- 8.4 The Home Office are making available a national repository where free support resources to aid delivery of Prevent can be accessed. This should be fully operational in June 2015. Information detailing access will be circulated to schools via the School Post as soon as it becomes available.

9.0 Financial implications

- 9.1 Wolverhampton has not been assessed as a Home Office priority area, so will not be in receipt of funding for a Prevent Coordinator. Safer Wolverhampton Partnership has agreed an allocation of £35,000 from the 2015/16 Community Safety Fund to establish a 12 month fixed term contract to support implementation of the duty.
[NM/29062015/H]

10.0 Legal implications

- 10.1 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty on the City Council and other designated bodies to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'; section 29 of the Act provides guidance for these bodies and details the expectations of compliance.
[TS/26062015/F]

11.0 Equalities implications

- 11.1 The introduction of this legislation is aimed at strengthening the responsibilities of Local Authorities and other bodies to deliver against the national Prevent strategy. An equalities screening of the local implementation of Prevent reflects local compliance with this national policy.

12.0 Environmental implications

- 12.1 There are no environmental implications.

13.0 Human resources implications

- 13.1 The Community Safety Team will be appointing a fixed term 12 month Prevent/Cohesion Officer to support implementation of the Prevent duty and revised Prevent Delivery Plan.

14.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 14.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

15.0 Schedule of background papers

- 15.1 None.