

Scrutiny Board

8 September 2015

Report title	Tracking and Monitoring of the Prevent Scrutiny Review	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Health and Well Being	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Community Safety	
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Report to be/has been considered by	n/a	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Consider progress made to implement recommendations from the Prevent Scrutiny Review which concluded in 2013.
2. Agree to close down the review on the basis that the recommendations have been implemented and proposals for sustainable delivery developed.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on implementation of recommendations resulting from the Prevent Scrutiny Review undertaken during 2012/13, as requested at the Scrutiny Board meeting on 17 June 2014.
- 1.2 To seek sign off of the review on the basis that the accepted recommendations have been completed and steps are in place to embed multi-agency delivery of Prevent across the City.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 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

- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 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.

3.0 Scrutiny Review 2012/13 and Progress Summary

- 3.1 Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of local Prevent arrangements during 2012/13 to determine whether these met with national policy objectives. The review findings were presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 22 May 2013 and whilst it accepted that local plans supported delivery against the national strategy, it proposed a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening the Local Authority response.

- 3.2 From the 16 recommendations proposed from the Scrutiny Review, 14 were accepted to be taken forward; although the two remaining recommendations have also been actioned following implementation of recent legislation. Progress to date has resulted in all recommendations being completed. A summary of the Prevent Scrutiny Review recommendations and a brief update on progress against each is provided at Appendix A.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 13 March 2014, Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel received a progress update on implementation of the scrutiny review recommendations. Scrutiny Panel were positive about the steps taken and assured that the recommendations outstanding at that point were being actively progressed.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 17 June 2014, the Scrutiny Board considered progress of implementing the recommendations and requested a further report before sign off of the review.

4.0 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- 4.1 Since completion of the Scrutiny review in 2012/13, significant steps have been taken to raise the profile of Prevent and embed it into mainstream delivery across a range of partners. The introduction of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (The Act) has compelled many agencies to engage with this agenda.
- 4.2 The Act introduced a raft of measures to strengthen the national response to terrorism and build local resilience and created a statutory duty for Local Authorities to have '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'.
- 4.3 In addition to Local Authorities, the following were also impacted by the new duty:
- Higher education providers
 - Further education providers
 - Schools
 - The health sector
 - Prisons
 - Probation providers
 - Police
- 4.4 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 came into force on 1 July 2015. The Act also places Channel Panel (see below) on a statutory footing under Local Authority responsibility.

5.0 Channel Panel

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 Channel provides a non-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.
- 5.3 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. There were 21 referrals made during 2014/15 with 18 of those received during Quarter three and Quarter four

6.0 Wolverhampton's Risk and Threat Level

- 6.1 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. It 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.
- 6.2 Prevent is led by the Community Safety service, within Public Health and 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.

7.0 Implementation of the Prevent Duty

The following work has been either completed or is planned to ensure compliance with the duty:

- 7.1 A refreshed annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is being developed, providing an updated risk and threat analysis for the city. A request has been sent to partners to feed in intelligence and data to help shape this. The stakeholder briefing will be arranged for the autumn 2015.
- 7.2 Audits have been completed spanning the various partners impacted by the duty; these will be used to inform both a Council implementation plan (to address internal requirements such as revisions to Council policies and contracts, extend IT filters on all Wolverhampton City Council computers) and development of a city-wide Delivery plan; these plans are to be finalised following the CTLP risk assessment.
- 7.3 Awareness Raising and Training:
- Prevent training sessions delivered for Councillors in March 2015; 24 serving Councillors attended and provided positive feedback on the training. Further follow up training will be made available to remaining Councillors in Sept/Oct 2015.
 - A briefing note has been circulated to all Councillors and information included in the briefing pack for newly elected councillors.
 - A mandatory e-learning resource has been developed for use by all staff and Councillors to raise general awareness of Prevent and Channel.
 - An awareness event was held in March 2015 for organisational safeguarding leads.

- Trainer capacity has been increased within all agencies affected by the duty – the national view is that Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) teams should withdraw from delivery of training with immediate effect; as a consequence, 45 multi-agency trainers have been trained to deliver future Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training to respond to future training demand; this includes an increased capacity within school standards and the school workforce team, and independent schools sector.
- Prioritise training delivery to front-line services operating in areas where there is a heightened risk (geographic and sector-specific).

7.4 A communications plan is in development; a press release outlining the city's readiness to comply with the duty and briefing notes to Councillors and staff have been issued as interim measures. Additional communications will be coordinated with National Prevent Awareness week during 7 – 11 Sept.

7.5 There is a commitment to establish a multi-agency CONTEST Board for the city under the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership structure to avoid duplication of resources and effort, and adopt a coordinated multi-agency approach to planning and delivery across the city.

7.6 There are proposals to strengthen the role of communities through engagement with established networks (e.g. Community Cohesion Forum) and delivery of Upstanding Neighbourhoods Programme which provides training and support for community leaders to challenge extremist ideology.

7.7 Early Identified Support for Schools:

- 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 into the autumn term.
- School training – CTU have delivered 20 training sessions to schools in the 2014/15 academic year (covering staff, governors and pupils). Since completing the train the trainer course, the schools standards team had delivered WRAP3 training to an additional 30 schools 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. Delivery of further schools training is planned for the autumn term.
- The Home Office are making available a national repository where free support resources to aid delivery of Prevent can be accessed. Information detailing access will be circulated to schools via the School Post in September.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Scrutiny Board is asked to sign off the Scrutiny Review in light of the full delivery of the recommendations, the significant change in the policy and legislative landscape within which Prevent is now delivered and with the assurance that plans are in place to progress multi-agency delivery across the city through the CONTEST Board.

9.0 Financial implications

- 9.1 Wolverhampton has not been assessed as a Home Office priority area, so will not be in receipt of additional funding for a Prevent Coordinator.
- 9.2 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/13082015/Z]

10.0 Legal implications

- 10.1 This report supports the duties under sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the Council and others to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area.
- 10.2 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/10082015/S]

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.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 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.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no implications for the Council's property portfolio.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

- Prevent Strategy Task and Finish Group Final Report – Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel, 14 March 2013
- Prevent Strategy Task and Finish Group Final Report – Cabinet, 22 May 2013

- Progress Update – Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, 13 March 2014
- Prevent Scrutiny Review Update – Scrutiny Board, 17 June 2014

Appendix A
Prevent Task and Finish Review – Executive Response Progress Update

Prevent Scrutiny Review – Executive Response				
Recommendations to Cabinet	Accepted or Rejected (comments)	Reason for Rejection (if appropriate)	Lead Director/ Organisation	Progress
Understanding of, and engagement with, Muslim communities				
1) The Task and Finish Review Group (TFG) recommend that the Wolverhampton Prevent Delivery Plan 2012-13 is amended to include a reference to specific actions aimed at sustaining the improvements in working relationships between local mosques.	Accept		WCC Prevent Lead/CTU Police Lead	Completed - included in the revised plans for 2014 and an ongoing commitment made to more actively engage with the faith sector and extend the role of communities. Proposals to increase capacity of the faith sector are underway which will include engagement with the the Wolverhampton Council of Mosques and Wolverhampton Muslim Forum.

<p>2) The TFG recommend consideration being given to the council promoting the use of community resources developed as a result of the Prevent funded work. The resources should be available to promote a better understanding between different communities and to help the council meet its responsibilities.</p>	<p>Partially Accept</p>	<p>Agree use of trained Imams and college-based Prevent Champions and toolkit by arrangement with partners, however the community resources to support this delivery are limited</p>	<p>Prevent Coordinator</p>	<p>Completed – there is now provision to delivery Prevent training to community organisations operating across the city. Upstanding neighbourhood programme was delivered in Feb 2015 with a second round planned for autumn 2015.</p>
<p>Prevent Scrutiny Review – Executive Response</p>				
<p>Recommendations to Cabinet</p>	<p>Accepted or Rejected (comments)</p>	<p>Reason for Rejection (if appropriate)</p>	<p>Lead Director/ Organisation</p>	<p>Milestone</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding of the drivers and causes of violent extremism and the Prevent objectives</p>				
<p>3) The TFG recommend detailed discussions are held with key partners about the extent to which existing resources and or project learning can be used to improve the knowledge and understanding of the factors which create the conditions that may lead to violent extremism.</p>	<p>Accept</p>		<p>Counter Terrorism Unit Police Lead/Prevent Coordinator</p>	<p>Completed – the launch of mandatory Prevent e-learning to all staff and roll out of a programme of targeted training to services working with vulnerable individuals has commenced. The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 requires Prevent to be embedded as an extension of safeguarding.</p>

<p>4) The TFG recommend that all Councillors are briefed on the issue and updated on the work being done to deliver Prevent locally and ensure they have details of the referral process, if there are concerns. All Councillors to be briefed annually as part of induction process about their role in raising awareness of the issue and building links with different community groups. The briefing should include a reference to current view of the risk and threat levels facing the City.</p>	<p>Accept</p>		<p>Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) Prevent Lead</p>	<p>Completed - Prevent has been included within the revised Councillor Induction Programme.</p> <p>Briefing note circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>24 Councillors completed training in March 2015. Further scheduled sessions to be held in Sept and Oct 2015 for remaining Councillors.</p>
<p>5) The TFG recommend that a draft of the report to be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner for comments on the main findings and invited to respond with details of planned actions to address concerns highlighted during the review.</p>	<p>Accept</p>		<p>WCC Prevent Lead</p>	<p>Completed – Final report from TFG sent to Police and Crime Commissioner’s office.</p>

Prevent Scrutiny Review – Executive Response				
Recommendations to Cabinet	Accepted or Rejected (comments)	Reason for Rejection (if appropriate)	Lead Director/ Organisation	Milestone
Development of a risk-based preventing violent extremism action plan, in support of delivery of the Prevent objectives				
6) The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism in their evidence highlighted a concern about the need to improve the accuracy and quality of data as part of the Channel process to better identify and support vulnerable people at risk of being radicalised. The TFG recommend that SWP be tasked to develop an action plan to address this issue and report their progress.	Reject	Information sharing and trust in the Channel referral process amongst partners and the community is developing. Referrals are still very low indicating that there is still a lack of understanding. The development of a universal prevent referral form and roll out of training will support this.	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership	Prevent and Channel training will increase awareness of the need to refer individuals for support. Channel Referral Form and Guidelines have been promoted more widely amongst partners. Ongoing work with communities will build confidence in reporting and feeding in intelligence.
7) The TFG recommend that project leads funded by Prevent are invited to contribute their ideas to a refreshed delivery plan as part of efforts to improve knowledge and understanding of the drivers of violent extremism; whilst acknowledging that it is a low risk area.	Accept		WCC Prevent Lead	Completed - Project leads were invited to input ideas for inclusion in the revised Delivery Plan.

8) The TFG welcome the planned appointment of a Prevent Higher Education Coordinator and would welcome a report on the progress made as part of a briefing to Councillors on key areas for action and proposals to strengthen working relationships between the University and other agencies involved in the Prevent work locally and to help identify and support potentially vulnerable people.	Accept		Prevent Higher Education Coordinator	Completed – Verbal briefing included in update to VSSC Scrutiny Panel. The geographic remit for this post holder is too large to progress any meaningful local delivery, however both the University, City of Wolverhampton college and Adult Education Service are full engaged with Prevent, are delivering staff training.
9) The TFG recommend that consideration being given to apply the principle of the need to share the information where appropriate rather than a need to know basis.	Partially Accept	Concerns around the vulnerability of individuals is shared amongst vetted Channel panel members for collective assessment purposes. The restricted CTLP has been shared widely with partners who	Prevent Co-ordinator	Completed - Wider inclusion of partners for CTLP Briefings in Nov 2013 and Oct 2015. Proposals to follow this practice for future CTLP briefings.

		contribute to prevent. Any further requests for information are assessed by the CTU, Local police lead and the Local authority where applicable. The need to know principle does apply when dealing with personal information and national security.		
Prevent Scrutiny Review – Executive Response				
Recommendations to Cabinet	Accepted or Rejected (comments)	Reason for Rejection (if appropriate)	Lead Director/ Organisation	Milestone
Effective oversight, delivery and evaluation of Prevent in Wolverhampton				
10)The TFG recommend that the Head teachers Forum are asked to consider a proposal that schools are encouraged to review their existing safeguarding arrangements with specific reference to include a reference to the Prevent agenda.	Accept		Prevent Co-ordinator/CTU Lead	Completed – attendance at Headteachers Forum June 2014. Delivery of Homeland – a week long programme engaging 10 schools and over a 1000 pupils successfully delivered Feb 2015. Inclusion of Prevent within the Ofsted framework has required Prevent and the promotion of British values to be included in all school policies and delivery.

				Extensive training for schools has been delivered from April 2015 and will continue into autumn 2015.
11)The TFG recommend that the current delivery plan be extended to include working with primary schools.	Reject	Cohesion and integration/citizenship focussed activities should complement this agenda and be more suitable for the age range. Home Office products are limited for the age range and the risk and threat locally does not justify such interventions.		Inclusion of Prevent within the Ofsted framework has required Prevent and the promotion of British values to be included in all school policies and delivery. Extensive training for schools has been delivered from April 2015 and will continue into autumn 2015 – this now includes all primary schools.
12)The TFG recommend informal discussions with the Head teachers Forum to discuss their concerns about inviting projects which support the national objectives for delivering Prevent and possible options to move this forward.	Accept		CTU Lead/Prevent Co-ordinator	Completed - attendance at Headteachers Forum June 2014. Inclusion of Prevent within the Ofsted framework has required Prevent and the promotion of British values to be included in all school policies and delivery. Extensive training for schools has been delivered from April 2015 and will continue into

				autumn 2015
13)The TFG recommends that a progress report on work done to, meet the objectives detailed in the engage with schools is presented at the end of the year.	Accept		Prevent Coordinator	Completed. Report to VSSC Scrutiny Panel March 2014.
14)The TFG recommends that the Prevent lead be asked to report on progress in encouraging partner agencies to re-prioritise mainstream resources to support the work of Prevent.	Accept		Prevent Coordinator	Completed. The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 requires Prevent to be embedded as an extension of safeguarding. Oversight will continue via CONTEST Board.
15)The TFG recommend that councillors in Wards where there are risks should be provided with an appropriate brief on key issues arising from CTLP. The TFG accept that there is a need to consider the confidential and sensitive nature of the document before determining what information should be shared with councillors.	Accept.		WCC Prevent Lead	Completed - All Councillors whose wards featured within the CTLP were invited to attend a briefing in Nov 2013; this was extended to include all councillors in Oct 2014.

<p>16)The TFG recommend that all the newly elected councillors are briefed, as part of their annual induction process, about their responsibilities to promote community cohesion. Councillors to be reminded of their responsibility to reassure themselves that the necessary progress is being made to achieve the stated objectives of Prevent.</p>	<p>Accept.</p>		<p>WCC Prevent Lead</p>	<p>Completed - Prevent has been included within the revised Councillor Induction Programme. E-learning is available to all councillors; 24 councillors have completed the Prevent training, with remaining councillors invited to attend sessions scheduled for Sept and Oct 2015.</p>
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