

North Yorkshire County Council**Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****18 January 2016****Prevent****Purpose of the Report**

1. To brief the Committee on implementation of the statutory Prevent Duty.

Background

2. The Government's counter terrorism strategy is called CONTEST and organised around four work streams:
 - PURSUE - To stop terrorist attacks;
 - PREVENT - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
 - PROTECT - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and
 - PREPARE - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
3. The current threat from terrorism and violent extremism in the United Kingdom is severe - an attack is highly likely. Vulnerable people, including children, are at risk of becoming involved in extremist activity.
4. Following a review in June 2011, CONTEST and Prevent now address all forms of terrorism, including the extreme right wing. Prevent also addresses non-violent extremism where it creates an environment conducive to terrorism and popularises ideas that are espoused by terrorist groups.
5. The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:
 - Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
6. With effect from 1 July 2015, Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty¹ on the county council and other specified authorities (local authorities, education, health, prisons, probation and the

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

police) in exercising their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

7. The police have an important role in the development of Prevent, but it is not a police programme. The success of Prevent is dependent on partnership working across local authorities, statutory agencies and community organisations. Prevent centres on early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before a crime occurs.
8. Supporting vulnerable individuals requires clear frameworks - including guidance for practitioners on how to identify vulnerability and assess risk, and to be clear on what to do with any ‘concerns’. It also requires training and awareness raising across directorates and agencies. Information sharing and work directly with communities should enhance a better understanding of the levels of risk and support across the county.
9. Actions undertaken so far relate to the key areas of the statutory guidance:
 - Governance and working in partnership
 - Risk assessment
 - Guidance and support
 - Channel Panel
 - Training
 - Links with communities

Governance and working in partnership

10. The York and North Yorkshire multi-agency Prevent Strategic Board has the strategic lead. Clear reporting structures are being developed across the Community Safety Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and their equivalents within the City of York. Six district based multi-agency Local Prevent Groups regularly meet. The NYCC Prevent Practitioners Group co-ordinates the work of officers within the county council.

Risk assessment

11. The police produce a counter-terrorism local profile (CTLP) on an annual basis. CTLPs seek to identify the threat and vulnerability from terrorism and extremism relating to terrorism in local areas, helping local partners understand and prioritise threat and vulnerability. The County Council has contributed to the development of the profile since 2011 via the NYCC Prevent Practitioner Group. Future CTLPs can be enhanced by using community information more effectively. The CTLP should direct future service planning, shape training and inform process development.

Guidance and support

12. The NYCC Prevent Practitioner Group has developed multi-agency guidance for both the children and adults workforce. This guidance will go to the Prevent Strategic Board in January 2016 for approval. Once approved it will be shared with other strategic partnerships. Appendix 1 is an adaptation of a newsletter that is being developed and includes information on what to do if you have a concern.

Channel Panel

13. 'Channel' is the name for the multi-agency process of identifying and referring a person at risk of radicalisation for early intervention and support. The Channel Panel is made up of multi-agency representatives and meets on a monthly basis to collectively assess the risk and decide whether the person:

- Is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and therefore appropriate for the Channel process;
- Should be referred to a different support mechanism; or
- Should exit the process.

14. For those adopted as 'Channel' the Panel will need to develop an appropriate support package based on the assessment of their vulnerability of being drawn into radicalisation.

Training

15. Training plans are being developed with workforce development teams. WRAP 3 (Home Office approved training) has been delivered to teams and some staff have accessed 'train the trainer' programmes. There is a need to evaluate and develop the current picture to ensure people are able to access the training relevant to their role, that the training is of a good quality and reflects the correct procedures.

16. In 2014 'Making the Link' conferences took place across North Yorkshire and 800 practitioners were able to access these events. Planning meetings have been initiated for 'Making the Link 2', and this would be an effective platform to launch the procedures that are being developed.

Links with communities

17. Prevent work conducted through local authorities will often involve, as well as have an impact on local communities. Effective dialogue and co-ordination with community based organisations will continue to be essential.

18. Prevent is an integral part of the work undertaken by the NYCC Community Cohesion Team. Community Cohesion Officers engage with the Local Prevent Groups in Scarborough and Craven and influence local action.

Recommendations

19. It is recommended that:

- a. The Committee receives and considers the report; and
- b. The Committee considers recommending that a session on Prevent is included in a future members' seminar.

Neil Irving

Assistant Director Policy and Partnerships

24 December 2015

Report author: Odette Robson, Head of Safer Communities

Appendix 1 – Radicalisation and what to do if you have a concern

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What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will inevitably be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risks of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/ her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Indeed, some of the factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead individuals towards involvement such as gangs, drugs and sexual exploitation.

Who does it affect?

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive an individual towards becoming radicalised. It can affect impressionable young boys and men and also impressionable young girls and women.

What factors might contribute towards radicalisation?

Below are some of the factors that might contribute towards an individual becoming radicalised. These are include in the Channel Vulnerability Assessment Framework

www.gov.uk/government/publication/channel-guidance

This is not an exhaustive list and the presence of these factors does not necessarily mean that he/ she will be involved in extremist activity. However, a combination of many of these factors may increase the vulnerability to extremist activity.

- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- A need to dominate and control others
- A desire for political or moral change
- Family or friends' involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Being influenced and controlled by a group
- Relevant mental health issues
- Over-identification with a group or ideology
- 'Them and Us' thinking
- Dehumanisation of the enemy

- Feeling under threat
- A desire for status
- Opportunistic involvement
- Attitudes that justify offending
- Harmful means to an end
- Harmful objectives

What does the law say about radicalisation and extremism?

The Prevent Strategy 2011 www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It tackles all forms of extremism, including Al Qaida influenced extremism and far right extremism. From 1 July 2015, statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the 'Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015' requires a range of specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The specified authorities include those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children, young people and adults.

What should practitioners do?

Notice - practitioners should make themselves aware of the factors that might drive somebody towards extremism so they are able to notice them should they present themselves. However, staff using their skill, expertise and professional judgement is crucial in not stigmatising individuals that may display some of the vulnerability factors highlighted.

Check - if a practitioner is concerned about an individual (child or adult) who is being drawn towards extremist activity, they should check their concern with their organisation's Prevent lead and/ or safeguarding lead officer (if available) to ensure their concerns are valid and well informed.

Share - where it is recognised that an individual (child or adult) is indeed at risk of radicalisation and involvement in extremist activity, a referral should be made to NYCC Customer Contact Centre.

Channel is a multi-agency partnership that develops a proportionate package of support and interventions to draw a vulnerable individual away from being radicalised and being involved in extremist activity. The Channel Chair in North Yorkshire can be contacted by emailing odette.robson@northyorks.gov.uk