

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 5th February 2020

Subject Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy

Report by: Rachel Roberts, Head of Mental Health, Safeguarding and Learning Disability Service

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full council decision: No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 Seeks approval for the recommendation outlined below

2 Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 2.1 For the board to note the contents and provide governance to the Prevent Delivery Board
- 2.2 Each responsible agency to undertake a Prevent training audit
- 2.3 Each responsible agency to communicate the referral process for raising concerns of radicalisation (Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub - MASH)

3 Legal Duty

- 3.1 The Prevent strategy is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the national counter terrorism strategy, covers all forms of extremism and has three strategic objectives:
- a. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
 - b. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate support; and
 - c. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address
- 3.2 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed responsibilities on "specified authorities" in the exercise of their functions to

have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This became a legal requirement on the 1st July 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>. Specified authorities include the local authority, criminal justice, including prisons, education sector, health and social care, police

- 3.3 In complying with the duty, all specified authorities' should demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area. The guidance identifies sector specific duties with three themes throughout:
- a. Effective leadership - those in leadership positions to have mechanisms to understand the risks, ensure staff have the capabilities to respond to risk, communicate and promote the importance of the duty and implement the duty effectively.
 - b. Working in partnership - demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships
 - c. Appropriate capabilities - ensure frontline staff have the training and skills to be aware of Prevent, how to challenge the extremist ideology and able to respond obtain support for people who may be exploited by radicalising influences.

4. Current Arrangements in Portsmouth

- 4.1 Portsmouth established a Prevent Delivery board in 2015 and has representatives from the specified authorities;

Local Authority (to represent relevant departments)
Youth Offending Team
Health
Education representation (to represent schools, FE & HE)
Regional Prevent FE/HE lead
Portsmouth University
Portsmouth Channel Chair
Probation
Community Rehabilitation Company
Police

- 4.2 A monthly Channel panel is established in Portsmouth and considers individual cases where there are concerns of radicalisation.

5. Our priorities

- a. To raise awareness of violent extremist ideologies.
- b. Encourage reporting where there are concerns of radicalisation.
- c. Encourage reporting of hate crime and ensure that all parts of the community are aware of reporting mechanism and can access them.
- d. Promote integration and tolerance in communications and through local Initiatives.
- e. Promote initiatives that strengthen communities and their place in society, to

re-inforce social ties.

6. Project Orpheus

- 6.1 In January 2019, Portsmouth City Council secured 3 year EU funding to tackle radicalisation in partnership with EU coastal cities. Project Orpheus will work with other coastal cities and universities within France, Belgium and Netherlands to develop online and offline methods to build resilience within young people. The project will consider online safety and will develop an EU prevention model for violent extremism. The project is supported by local charities and schools, in addition to the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

7. Community Cohesion and Counter Extremism

- 7.1 The Community Coordinator for Countering Extremism has been in post since April 2017. This role is responsible for local delivery of the Government's Counter-Extremism Strategy, which aims to counter extremist ideology; promote partnerships and networks between groups and organisations committed to challenging extremism. There is also a focus on building resilient, cohesive communities and on disrupting extremist-related activity using existing powers.
- 7.2 In Portsmouth this includes tackling social isolation and segregation, raising awareness of hate crime and working with partners to curb its prevalence, working together to address the rising challenge of the far right and other extreme narratives, and promoting awareness of harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

8. Channel and Safeguarding

The Channel process, including the Channel panel, is part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process is a multi-agency safeguarding approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism. Channel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs. The three key stages of Channel are:

Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.

Assess the nature and extent of risk; and

Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel addresses all forms of violent extremism. Referrals can come from a wide range of individuals and partners and could include youth offending teams, social services, health, police, education and local communities. If appropriate,

a multi-agency panel is convened to provide appropriate support and intervention.

In Portsmouth the panel is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding Mental Health and Learning Disability. The panel have a schedule of monthly meetings and there is good representation from local partners. There are no cases currently sitting within the Channel Panel in Portsmouth.

9. Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)

A Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is an assessment of risk that informs planning and delivery locally. The CTLP is presented to the Prevent Delivery Board by Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTP-SE) on an annual basis. A version that is approved for wider circulation is then sent out to partners.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As this report is an update on current arrangements for the Prevent Strategy an EIA is not required.

11. Finance Comments

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

12 Legal Comments:

The legal basis for the recommendations are contained and referred to in the report and reflect the direct legislation on the issue. The current arrangements and priorities do not present a risk to the Authority and are a positive attempt to engage with the current primary legislation.