

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 24th November 2021

Subject Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy

Report by: Rachael Roberts, Deputy Director, Adult Social Care

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full council decision: No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Local Authority's plans to meet the Prevent statutory duty.

2 Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board to endorse:

- a) That ASC take on the strategic lead for the Prevent Duty with operational line management for the operation delivery sitting with the Deputy Director.
- b) That the Deputy Director for Adult Social Care collaborates with the Deputy Director for Education to ensure the service continues to be responsive to the needs of schools and colleges.
- c) That delivery and funding options post Autumn 2022 are researched and are presented within a report to the H&WB. This will include opportunities to generate income.

3 Background

- 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 of July 2015¹. Specified authorities include the local authority, criminal justice, including prisons, education sector, health and social care and the 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 Local Authority delivery benchmarks

The Home Office have designed the following benchmark to enable local authorities and their partners to assess Prevent delivery in their local area against statutory requirements and best practice delivery:

- a) The organisation has a local risk assessment process reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
- b) There is an effective multi-agency partnership board in place to oversee Prevent delivery in the area.
- c) The area has an agreed Prevent Partnership Plan.
- d) There is an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation.
- e) There is a Channel Panel in place, meeting monthly, with representation from all relevant sectors.
- f) There is a Prevent problem solving process in place to disrupt radicalising influences.
- g) There is a training programme in place for relevant personnel.
- h) There is a venue hire policy in place, to ensure that premises are not used by radicalising influencers, and an effective IT policy in place to prevent the access of extremist materials by users of networks.
- i) There is engagement with a range of communities and civil society groups, both faith based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent Duty.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

- j) There is a communications plan in place to proactively communicate and increase transparency of the reality / impact of Prevent work, and support frontline staff and communities to understand what Prevent looks like in practice.

The local authority is currently meeting these benchmarks, coordinated by the Hidden Harm Coordinator, however funding for this role ends in December 2022. There is a well-attended and effective Prevent Delivery Board which oversees delivery in Portsmouth and creates a Prevent Partnership plan. A revised training, communication and community engagement plan are in development in partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Prevent Board.

5. Project Orpheus

- 5.1 In January 2019, Portsmouth City Council secured 3-year EU funding to tackle radicalisation in partnership with EU coastal cities. Project Orpheus works 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 a 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. This funding is £120,521 a year, funds the Hidden Harm Coordinator and Hidden Harm Education Officer roles, has a 40% contribution from Portsmouth City Council reserves and ends in December 2022

6. Current Arrangements in Portsmouth

- 6.1 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

7. 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:

- i. Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.
- ii. Assess the nature and extent of risk; and
- iii. 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.

A Channel panel is established in Portsmouth and considers individual cases where there are concerns of radicalisation. This is chaired by Rachel Roberts, Deputy Director Adult Social Care, with Dave Richards, MASH Manager Children's Social Care, as deputy chair. The panel have a schedule of monthly meetings and there is good representation from local partners.

8. 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. The CTLP recommendations and identified risks are used to form the basis of the Portsmouth Prevent Delivery Plan.

9. Future strategic and operational delivery of Prevent.

Prevent is a statutory duty that is currently not strategically embedded or mainstreamed within PCC. Alison Jeffrey, previous director for Children Social Care, had provided the strategic lead, with support from CSC and ASC colleagues prior to her departure. Operational delivery is currently strong however is reliant on the Hidden Harm Coordinator and Hidden Harm Education Officer posts, who were initially funded by the Home Office and are now currently funded via an EU external grant and a 40% contribution from the Community Safety portfolio reserves. This funding ends in December of 2022.

10. Integrated Impact Assessment

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

11. Finance Comments

No comment, please see Section 2, Recommendation C.

12 Legal Comments:

- 12.1 As indicated in the body of the report, section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the Act") places a duty upon "specified authorities", in exercising their functions, to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is referred to as the "Prevent Duty".
- 12.2 The City Council is such a "specified authority" in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Act.
- 12.3 The Home Office has issued statutory guidance to authorities regarding the Prevent Duty under section 29 of the Act. Under section 29(2) of the Act, authorities must have regard to that guidance in carrying out the duty.
- 12.4 The recommendations in this report are intended to ensure that the responsibility within the Council, at officer level, for providing the strategic lead for the carrying out of the Prevent Duty is clear and that the future funding of the work is given appropriate consideration.

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Signed by: Rachael Roberts, Deputy Director, ASC

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: