

TITLE OF REPORT: PREVENT Review – Progress Update

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling
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Summary

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed that its review for 2015/16 would focus upon the Prevent agenda – which is one of four key elements of the national Counter Terrorism Strategy. Members received the Final Report in March 2016 which set out a number of recommendations to help build upon, and strengthen, our existing approach to Preventing Violent Extremism within Gateshead. This report provides an update on the work/activity that has taken place in order to implement the recommendations along with any further developments that have taken place – and builds upon previous progress reports submitted to Committee in October 2016 and April 2017.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the work/activity that has taken place to address the recommendations outlined within the Final Report (of the review of Preventing Violent Extremism that was carried out in 2015/16) and builds upon the previous progress reports submitted to Committee back in October 2016 and April 2017.

2 Background / Context

- 2.1 As a brief reminder for members, the Final Report concluded that there were multi-agency arrangements in place to meet the statutory responsibilities set out in the national Prevent Duty Guidance.
- 2.2 The Review identified no significant gaps but felt that a self-assessment should be undertaken on regular basis to ensure that we continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism (and to help demonstrate that, as a Council, we are being proactive in addressing future challenges).
- 2.3 There were a total of 13 recommendations identified as part of the Review (and have been set out in the Appendix for information). The recommendations were aligned to the 3 x themes identified in the national Prevent guidance: (1) Leadership; (2) Working in Partnership; and (3) Capabilities.

3 Progress against Recommendations

3.1 A wide range of actions have been carried in relation to the recommendations – and examples of the work undertaken have been provided in the Appendix for information.

3.2 For reassurance, work has progressed in relation to all of the recommendations and a self-assessment continues to be updated on a regular basis. Some of the highlights include:

- Self-assessment is carried out by Community Safety on a regular basis to ensure local activity meets national Prevent standards.
- Frontline practitioners in key services across the Council continue to receive training in relation to 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent'. Formal sessions are planned for next 6 months and we are currently arranging to undertake more informal sessions with specific designated teams.
- Home Office-accredited Train the Trainer Sessions have increased the number of practitioners (across Communities and Environment and Care, Wellbeing and Learning) able to deliver WRAP training
- Anecdotally, we are experiencing an increase in the number of 'advice'-related calls made into Community Safety – which is a good barometer of increased awareness with practitioners.
- Earlier in the year, Council approved a motion relating to impact of hate crime, condemning all forms of hate crime and violent extremism and setting out our position in relation to challenging narratives and negative views that impact on integration and cohesion.
- A tailored session on hate crime and tension monitoring for Councillors was delivered by Show Racism the Red Card.
- Secured national funding which has enabled us to commission the voluntary and community sector to support the delivery of bespoke activity:
 - Show Racism the Red Card to provide a targeted service to support young people who are expressing extreme/racist ideas and attitudes;
 - Newcastle CVS to develop a set of online resources that will enable community based workers and volunteers to be able to confidently challenge extreme language, behaviour and attitudes to support community tension/cohesion, violent extremism and hate crime.
 - Building a Stronger Britain Together to undertake a qualitative study to help ascertain the level of negative stereotypes in communities and to challenge views that, in some cases, have been compounded by Brexit.
 - Learning Disability toolkit is being developed specifically for people with Learning Disabilities to (including how to report hate/mate crime) as well as to help understand and recognise how their vulnerabilities could be exploited for extremism.
- The Community Tensions Framework continues to provide a mechanism for sharing of key issues in a timely and effective manner.
- Community Safety has been working with colleagues in Resilience to ensure effective join-up between different strands – particularly in relation to the Community Tensions Framework and the sharing of WRAP/Operation Griffin training materials.

3.3 In relation to the future focus/gaps identified – which need to be progressed in the next six-months are:

- Community Safety is to re-establish PPP (Prevent, Protect and Prepare) Sub-Group and Contest Board by the end of the year.
- Strengthen our internal data collection and identification method to ensure that we are capturing all referrals.
- Practice Guidance Note produced to help officers understand the processes involved in referring an individual to Prevent remains still relevant – but may need to be amended to reflect ongoing changes to the Early Help and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub models.
- A Members Seminar will be arranged with Special Branch to share findings of the Local Counter Terrorism Profile and to provide an updated picture of local/national threat.
- Further work to be undertaken with key services to ensure Council utilises its full authority and legitimacy to increase awareness and understanding of the Prevent agenda.
- Commission and deliver further training sessions in relation to WRAP – targeting those areas of greatest need.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Discuss and comment on the contents of the report;
- (ii) Agree to receive an progress update in relation to the progress made against delivering the recommendations at future meeting – March 2018;

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* Appendix 1 – Activities/Updates against OSC Recommendations

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Undertake a robust self-assessment to ensure appropriate activity has been developed in relation to responsibilities outlined in Prevent Duty Guidance – and to remain proactive in addressing future challenges/issues.

- The self-assessment is an ongoing process and is carried out by Community Safety on a regular basis to ensure local activity meets national Prevent standards.
- We will formally complete / update on an annual basis (to ensure compliance with legislation and to address emerging or changing threats).
- Informal assessments are carried out following any international or national event(s), which may lead to increased concerns / tensions.
- The current self-assessment coupled with the findings outlined in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) has revealed no additional concerns or issues (that we aren't already aware of).

Ensure all departments and/or services in Gateshead Council have a clear awareness of their role and responsibilities in complying with Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

- Frontline practitioners in key services across the Council continue to receive training in relation to 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent'. Formal sessions have been planned for next 6 months and we are currently arranging to undertake more informal sessions with specific teams.
- Training has taken place in a number of schools/colleges with Designated Safeguarding Leads to increase understanding of Prevent.
- Home Office-accredited Train the Trainer Sessions have increased the number of practitioners (across Communities and Environment and Care, Wellbeing and Learning) able to deliver training
- All potential extremism referrals continue to be discussed via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and discussions take place with Special Branch on a regular basis.
- Anecdotally, we are starting to see an increase in the number of 'advice'-related calls made into Community Safety – which is a good barometer of increased awareness.
- Stronger links have been made between Preventing Violent Extremism, Community Tensions and Resilience and Emergency Planning Frameworks.

Briefing sessions are arranged to ensure local Councillors understand about the nature of risk in their local area and the work being done to address any identified risks.

- A Members Seminar session was arranged earlier in the year relating to Operation Griffin in April 2017, which is linked to Prevent, and provides details on the threat from terrorism to the UK, reporting and recognising signs of suspicious activity as well as guidance on what to do in the event of a terrorist incident taking place.
- The LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board have recruited a number of 'Elected Member Champions' for Prevent/Counter Extremism. A series of regional workshops are being planned for local Councillors from the LGA in the coming year. Details will be circulated, as necessary.
- Members will continue to receive briefings, as necessary, following any national/local event that might cause for concern (e.g. demonstrations, increases in Syrian refugees, hate crime etc.).

Ensure Gateshead Council utilises its full authority and legitimacy to challenge narratives of radicalisers and extremists, puts forward positive alternatives and works closely with local communities to condemn activities of individuals who misrepresent extremist views.

- Earlier in the year, Council approved a motion relating to impact of hate crime, condemning all forms of hate crime and violent extremism.
- Work continues to take place with a range of partners to challenge narratives and negative views that impact on integration and cohesion (e.g. proactive approach to demonstrations/marches).
- Tailored sessions on hate crime and tension monitoring have been delivered for Councillors by Show Racism the Red Card.

Ensure strategic and operational links to relevant partnerships and Boards including: the Community Safety Board, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Youth Crime Management Board and others, where necessary.

- Comprehensive guidance has been produced for Safeguarding Adults Board, which sets out the process undertaken by practitioners if a Prevent referral should be received. This will need to be reviewed and amended in light of the recent changes to Early Help and MASH models.
- There are sections within the LSCB Procedures Manual that relate specifically to 'Safeguarding Children and Young people against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism'.
- Preventing Violent Extremism continues to be captured via the statutory Strategic Assessment process – and was identified as one of the top priorities for the Community Safety Board last year. Initial horizon scanning for 2017/18 suggests this will be the same.
- Continue to liaise on a regular basis with Special Branch colleagues. Re-establishing the PPP (Prevent, Protect and Prepare) Group and Contest Board will also strengthen the strategic links.

Undertake a programme of targeted activity in order to challenge negative stereotypes (particularly with children and young people).

- Similar to the previous update: Show Racism the Red Card continues to deliver training sessions to local voluntary and community groups and schools around hate crime which includes elements of challenging stereotypes
- Gem Arts delivered a programme of activity with children and young people designed to highlight the importance of integration and multi-cultural society. This work took place in 2016/17 but the work produced continues to be used in relation to the promotion of hate crime.
- Gateshead Council, in collaboration with all Tyne and Wear local authorities, were successful in a joint bid for Show Racism the Red Card to provide a targeted service to support young people who are expressing extreme and racist ideas and attitudes and who are vulnerable to radicalisation. SRtRC have created an outreach education service to support children and young people in mainstream and alternative educational provision – which will involve education for all pupils on extremism and radicalisation as well as targeted work for individuals that require a tailored / personalised intervention.
- Newcastle CVS, in collaboration with Gateshead and Newcastle CSPs, were successful in a funding bid to develop a set of online resources that will enable community based workers and volunteers, across both local authority areas, to be able to confidently challenge extreme language, behaviour and attitudes to support community tension/cohesion, violent extremism and hate crime agendas. The project will also include a short qualitative study with local communities as well as training programme that will be delivered by the voluntary and community sector to raise awareness of hate crime and extremism. Both of these projects are near completion, and the findings will be published during hate crime awareness in October 2017.
- A regional funding bid was submitted to increase the provision available to support those adults that do not reach thresholds for Prevent/Channel but still hold challenging views and beliefs that, in some cases, have been compounded by Brexit. Awaiting outcome.

- A toolkit is being developed specifically for people with Learning Disabilities to help educate and challenge against negative stereotypes (including how to report hate/mate crime) as well as to help understand and recognise how their vulnerabilities could be exploited for extremism.

Greater dissemination of key messages contained within the CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile) in order to raise the profile of the localised context to Prevent and to support the risk assessment process.

- Upon receipt of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, we have refreshed local training to ensure it remains accurate – and updated in line with the national threat level and/or to include most up to date details of incidents. Informal training continues to be updates on a regular basis to bring it up to date; while examples are also shared at the formal WRAP training sessions.
- Further work is being prepared to highlight the incidents that have taken place within the region to demonstrate the impact that terrorism/extremism can have locally. This was in direct response to one of the WRAP training sessions. Tailoring the training sessions to provide specific examples linked with practitioners area of work is likely to result in increased understanding and a greater likelihood of increased referrals.

Continue to proactively share knowledge of possible community tensions across Council services and partner agencies to ensure all concerns can be reviewed, and actions to address issues can be implemented, in a timely and effective manner.

- The local Community Tensions Framework continues to provide a mechanism for sharing of key issues across key Council services in a timely and effective manner.
- Information continues to be routinely shared with neighbouring authorities, particular Newcastle – facilitated by Central Engagement Team at Northumbria Police. Gateshead has a dedicated Engagement Officer – and we are working closely with this individual to promote Prevent and its associated workstreams (including hate crime, tensions and challenging negative stereotypes).
- Community Safety is working with Resilience to ensure effective join-up between different strands – particularly in relation to the Community Tensions Framework. Initial conversations have also started to explore opportunities for WRAP/Operation Griffin training materials to be merged.

Formalise Gateshead Council processes in relation to Channel to ensure all Prevent referrals are reviewed in a consistent and structured way.

- Comprehensive guidance has been produced for Safeguarding Adults Board, which sets out the process undertaken by practitioners if a Prevent referral should be received.
- Referrals are triaged in the first instance, in collaboration with Special Branch, using the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- These will need to be reviewed and amended in light of the recent changes to Early Help and MASH models to ensure they remain appropriate.

Continue to undertake training to upskill staff and ensure a plan is in place to train targeted staff and frontline practitioners.

- All training is included within the LSCB and is targeted towards frontline practitioners who are working with adults and children. 12 x 'formal' sessions have been planned in for 2017/18 – and an 'informal' timetable has been drawn up for Community Safety to attend specific departments and services Team Meetings so that we can target training to specific areas.
- WRAP training continues to take place on a regular basis throughout the year – and uptake of training remains very good – with 200+ individuals trained in 12 months.

- Special Branch has delivered Train the Trainer sessions in order to increase local capacity to deliver future WRAP training – and includes staff from both Council and partners.
- Bespoke training sessions have taken place with Designated Safeguarding Leads within schools and childcare providers.
- E-learning packages, developed by the Home Office, continue to be promoted with partners and Council staff.
- Discussions have taken place at a regional level to ensure training is consistently being delivered throughout Northumbria – and to explore opportunities for joint working.

Develop appropriate guidance and literature on the Prevent agenda.

- Gateshead Council has produced a short leaflet to raise awareness of the signs of Prevent which includes key contact details and warning signs.
- A document has previously been developed for health professionals in collaboration with the Safeguarding Lead at QE Hospital.
- Discussions are taking place at the Regional Prevent Working Group to explore how this could be undertaken regionally – so that the messages relating to Prevent are consistent.

Consider wider elements of Prevent (e.g. ensuring that organisations who are currently contracted to work with/for Council are not engaged in any extremist activity or disseminate extremist views).

- A regional piece of work has been commissioned to provide consistency across Northumbria in terms of a generic clause that could be included within commissioning contracts to increase uptake of Prevent training as well as a guidance document for commissioners. The first draft was completed in March 2017 and has been shared with relevant officers within Council. Further work needs to be undertaken in this area and is to be completed in line with commissioning cycle.
- Further work needs to be undertaken with Council services (such as ICT) and this is similar trend across Northumbria.