

TITLE OF REPORT: PREVENT – Progress Update (March 2018)

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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 2017/18.

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 in 2017/18..

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, with the most recent actions highlighted in red.
- 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:
- Frontline practitioners in key services across the Council continue to receive training in relation to 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent'.
 - We have also developed an informal training session which can now be delivered to specific teams.
 - Information on Prevent and the referral process has been given to Facilities Management who have agreed to cover this in their team meetings with Gateshead Council's 400 cleaners and will feedback on attendance.
 - Gateshead have supported Show Racism the Red Card, who have received additional funding for 2018/19 from the Home Office Building a Stronger Britain Together fund to continue to the delivery of the Routes project, a targeted service to support young people who are expressing extreme/racist ideas and attitudes;
 - Attended and presented at the launch of the Newcastle CVS 'Conversation not Confrontation' which contains tools for Voluntary and Community groups to challenge people expressing extreme views and ideas.
 - Community Safety have delivered WRAP training to members of New Vision, a training group of individuals with a Learning Disability. New Vision are now developing an interactive version of the training which can then be delivered to a number of Learning Disability Groups across Gateshead, with particular focus on recognising and reporting any Prevent concerns.
 - To comply with Prevent requirements, the Procurement and Legal Teams will now be amending the bespoke Terms and Conditions for Residential Homes and Home Care Providers to include a clause around adhering to the principles of Prevent. Clauses are already included in all other Terms and Conditions.
 - An online animation has been created which takes the viewer through the process of making a Prevent referral, including information on what happens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sssbAX4sr6U&feature=youtu.be>
 - In order to continue to raise awareness of Prevent, the Community Safety Team's page on Gateshead Council's website has been refreshed to include additional information around Prevent and will go live in 2018/19.
 - A business card has been developed in partnership with Safe Newcastle, which includes information on 'Notice, Check, Share' and the different ways in which to make a Prevent referral in Gateshead and Newcastle. These business cards will be given out to delegates attending WRAP sessions as an aid memoir to increase awareness.
 - Community Safety are working with the ICT Security Team and Facilities Management to ensure Gateshead Council's ICT, venues and resources are not used as a platform for extremists to disseminate views.

- We have established a multi-agency forum to allow us to identify what other statutory agencies are doing to meet their Prevent obligations. We have worked proactively with these agencies to develop a Prevent Strategy Group which will be made up of the Prevent Statutory Authorities and a number of other agencies, with a view to capturing where each agency is at in terms of meeting their Prevent requirements as well as focusing on developing a Gateshead Prevent Action Plan.
- Creating a leaflet for parents and carers which focuses on 'Keeping Children and Young People Safe Against Radicalisation and Extremism'
- Discussions are ongoing regarding reconvening the Gateshead Contest Board and this will be discussed at the first Prevent Strategy Group meeting.

Operation Dovetail

- The Home Office piloted a new approach to Channel Panel's (Operation Dovetail) in nine local authorities during 2017 to test how local authorities could take more responsibility for running the programme.
- The Home Office are now consulting with Gateshead Council and all other Local Authorities around the creation of a regional Channel Co-ordinator post that would be hosted by a Local Authority and would help support the delivery of Channel across all local authorities in a particular region.
- The introduction of Operation Dovetail isn't expected to cause Gateshead any significant difficulties at this stage; however, as referrals to Prevent increase, we will need to be mindful of how we can equitably access the centralised Channel Co-ordinator role. Gateshead Council will continue to work with the Home Office and other LAs across the North East region to ensure that the rollout of Operation Dovetail at a local level is successful.

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

- Strengthen our internal data collection and identification method to ensure that we are capturing all referrals.
- A Members Seminar will be arranged with Special Branch to share findings of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) and to provide an updated picture of local/national threat. This was included in the last update in October 2017 and we wanted to obtain the most recent CTLTP before arranging the seminar. The CTLTP was received in January 2018 and we are continuing to work through this before arranging the session.
- Prevent Strategy Group developing a revised multi-agency Prevent Action Plan for Gateshead.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

Appendix 1 – Activities/Updates against OSC Recommendations

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. The most recent self-assessment was completed in January 2018 and showed that we continue to meet the requirements in the Prevent guidance, with some key focus areas identified for the next 6 months.
- 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'.
- We have also developed a shorter, more informal training session which can now be delivered to specific teams.
- A business card has been developed in partnership with Safe Newcastle, which includes information on 'Notice, Check and Share' and the different ways in which to make a Prevent referral in Gateshead and Newcastle. These business cards will be given out to delegates attending WRAP sessions as an aid memoir to increase awareness.
- Information on Prevent and the referral process has been given to Facilities Management who have agreed to cover this in team meetings with Gateshead Council's 400 cleaners and will feedback on attendance.
- An online animation has been created which takes the viewer through the process of making a Prevent referral in Gateshead, including information on what will happen next. This can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sssbAX4sr6U&feature=youtu.be>
- In order to continue to raise awareness of Prevent, the Community Safety Team's page on Gateshead Council's website has been refreshed to include additional information around Prevent and will go live in 2018/19.
- Although Gateshead Council is complying with the specific Prevent requirements, we have recognised the need for a multi-agency forum to allow us to identify what other statutory agencies are doing to meet their Prevent obligations. We have worked proactively with these agencies to develop a Prevent Strategy Group which will be made up of the Prevent Statutory Authorities and a number of other agencies, with a view to capturing where each agency is at in terms of meeting their Prevent requirements as well as focusing on developing a Gateshead Prevent Action Plan.
- 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 Prevent 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 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.

- Community Safety have delivered WRAP training to members of New Vision, a training group of individuals with a Learning Disability. New Vision are now developing an interactive version of the training which can then be delivered to a number of Learning Disability Groups across Gateshead, with particular focus on recognising and reporting any Prevent concerns.
- In 2017, 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).

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.
- Although Gateshead Council are complying with the specific Prevent requirements, we have recognised the need for a multi-agency forum to allow us to identify what other statutory agencies

are doing to meet their Prevent obligations. We have worked proactively with these agencies to develop a Prevent Strategy Group which will be made up of the Prevent Statutory Authorities and a number of other agencies, with a view to capturing where each agency is at in terms of meeting their Prevent requirements as well as focusing on developing a local Prevent Action Plan.

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 in 2017/18. Gateshead have supported Show Racism the Red Card, who have received additional funding for 2018/19 from the Home Office Building a Stronger Britain Together fund to continue to the delivery of the Routes project, a targeted service to support young people who are expressing extreme/racist ideas and attitudes;
- 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 included a short qualitative study in 2 communities in Gateshead. Attended and presented at the launch of the Newcastle CVS Conversation not Confrontation website, which contains tools for Voluntary and Community groups to challenge people expressing extreme views and ideas.
- In the process of creating a leaflet for parents which focuses on 'Keeping Children and Young People Safe Against Radicalisation and 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 updated on a regular basis to bring it up to date; while examples are also shared at the formal WRAP training sessions.
- We have also developed an informal training session which can now be delivered within specific team meetings and is bespoke to different areas of work

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
- An online animation has been created which takes the viewer through the process of making a Prevent referral in Gateshead, including information on what will happen next. This can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sssbAX4sr6U&feature=youtu.be>
- In order to continue to raise awareness of Prevent, the Community Safety Team's page on Gateshead Council's website has been refreshed to include additional information around Prevent and will go live in 2018/19.

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. 6 x 'formal' sessions have been planned in for 2018/19 – 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).

- To comply with Prevent requirements, the Procurement and Legal Teams will now be amending the bespoke Terms and Conditions for Residential Homes and Home Care Providers to include a clause around adhering to the principles of Prevent. Clauses are already included in all other Terms and Conditions.
- Community Safety are working with the ICT Security Team & Facilities Management to ensure that Gateshead Council's ICT, venues and resources are not used as a platform for extremists to disseminate extremist views.