

TITLE OF REPORT: **Community Safety Sub Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of the Prevent Agenda**

REPORT OF: **Alison Elliott, Interim Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning**

Summary

The report provide details of the Final Report of the Community Safety Sub-OSC following a series of evidence gathering sessions that were held throughout 2015/16 in relation to its review of the Prevent agenda.

Background

- 1 As a reminder for members, in May 2014, the Council agreed to establish the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a Community Safety Sub-Committee to carry out the following functions on its behalf:
 - “to perform Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to the safety of communities and people in the Borough, including the functions of the crime and disorder committee, as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations”

Purpose of the Report

- 2 As part of its work programme for 2015/16, the Sub-Committee undertook a review into the Prevent agenda, which is one of the four key elements of the Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). The Review scrutinised the arrangements the Council and its partners have in place to support delivery of Prevent within Gateshead in order to identify potential service gaps, areas of duplication and/or opportunities to work more effectively.
- 3 The attached report sets out the key findings and recommendations of the Prevent review undertaken by the Sub-Committee.

Proposals

- 4 Following a series of evidence gathering sessions, the Sub-Committee identified no significant gaps in the current arrangements that are in place. However, in order to ensure we remain proactive in addressing future challenges and continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism, the Sub-Committee has identified a number of suggested actions.
- 5 The recommendations are designed to help build upon, and strengthen our existing approach and have been aligned with the three themes identified within the national Prevent Duty Guidance published by Government earlier in the year – and include: *Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities.*

Recommendations

- 6 The Committee is asked to note the findings and recommendations outlined within the Final Report of the Community Safety Sub-Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review into the Prevent agenda (as set out in Appendix 1) and note its referral to Cabinet.