

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.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the work/activity that has taken place in the last three months in order to address the recommendations outlined within the Final Report (of the review of Preventing Violent Extremism that was carried out in 2015/16).

2 Background / Context

- 2.1 As a brief reminder for members, the Final Report concluded that there were strongly co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements in place in Gateshead to meet the statutory responsibilities set out in the national Prevent Duty Guidance. The Review identified no significant gaps but felt it prudent 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 proactive in addressing future challenge). Recommendations were aligned to the 3 themes identified in the national guidance including: Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities.

3 Progress against Recommendations

- 3.1 The following actions have been carried out relating to 'Leadership':

Recommendation	Progress/Actions Update
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mini self-assessment has been carried out by Community Safety Team to ensure activity meets national Prevent standards.• The Self-assessment revealed no additional concerns or issues (to those identified as part

	<p>of the OSC Review process).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The self-assessment is an ongoing process and will continue to be completed/updated at regular intervals throughout next 12 months (to ensure compliance with legislation and to address any emerging or changing threats).
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontline practitioners in key services across the Council have received training in relation to 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent'. • A comprehensive Practice Guidance Note was produced to help officers understand the processes involved, should a Prevent referral be received, which includes details of SPOC within respective service areas. • The Counter Terrorism Local Profile has been shared with Chief Executive; and a sanitised version will be provided to Community Safety in the coming weeks to help support ongoing development work. • 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.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A briefing session has been planned on the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and will take place with Councillors in October 2016 and further sessions will be planned, as required. • The LGA are producing additional guidance for Councillors in relation to Prevent/Counter Extremism.
<p>Ensure that 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 EDL campaigns and/or marches)
<p>Ensure strategic and operational links are made 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 (e.g. MAPPA).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive guidance has been produced for Safeguarding Adults Board, which sets out the process undertaken by practitioners if a Prevent referral should be received. • Community Safety is working with Resilience to ensure effective join-up between different strands. Initial conversations have started to explore opportunities for WRAP/Operation Griffin training materials to be merged. • Preventing Violent Extremism is captured via the statutory Strategic Assessment process.

3.2 The following actions have been carried out relating to 'Working in Partnership':

Recommendation	Progress Update
Undertake a programme of targeted activity in order to challenge negative stereotypes (particularly with children and young people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Show Racism the Red Card to deliver a series of training sessions to local voluntary and community groups around hate crime awareness – which included 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. • A regional funding bid is being developed to increase the provision available to support those individuals that do not reach thresholds for Prevent/Channel but still hold challenging views and beliefs that, in some cases, have been compounded by Brexit.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon receipt of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, the Board will produce an action plan for how to raise the profile of the localised context of terrorism. • Refresh of local training has been undertaken to ensure it remains accurate.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 is now routinely shared with neighbouring authorities, particular Newcastle – facilitated by Central Engagement Team at Northumbria Police.
Formalise Gateshead Council processes in relation to Channel to ensure all Prevent referrals are reviewed in a consistent and structured way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • A similar referral process is being drawn up for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

3.3 The following actions have been carried out relating to 'Capabilities' (including training and use of Council resources):

Recommendation	Progress Update
Continue to undertake WRAP training (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) and/or utilising suitable materials (e.g. use of online resources, toolbox talks etc) to upskill staff/practitioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRAP training continues to take place on a regular basis throughout the year. • All training is advertised through the LSCB Training Directory. Uptake of training is good

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – with 340+ individuals trained in 12 months. • We have arranged for Special Branch to roll out Train the Trainer sessions to staff in Adult Social Care to increase the local capacity to deliver future WRAP training. • Bespoke training sessions have taken place with Designated Safeguarding Leads within schools and childcare providers.
Ensure that a plan is in place to train targeted staff and frontline practitioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All training is included within the LSCB and is targeted towards frontline practitioners who are working with adults and children. • Training covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understanding Prevent ○ raising awareness of the Council's duty; ○ recognising risk and vulnerability aspects of being drawn into extremism/terrorism – and the consequences of it; ○ how to challenge extremist ideology; and ○ how to respond and refer to services, when risk is identified.
Develop appropriate guidance and literature on the Prevent agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action remains outstanding. • Discussions have taken 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 the Council are not engaged in any extremist activity or disseminate extremist views).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action remains outstanding. • Further work will be undertaken with Council services (such as ICT and Commissioning) to progress.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

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