

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 the progress report submitted to Committee in October 2016.

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 progress report submitted to Committee in October 2016.

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.
- 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 proactive in addressing future challenge).

3 Progress against Recommendations

- 3.1 There were a total of 13 recommendations identified as part of the Review and these were aligned to the 3 themes identified in the national Prevent guidance: '*Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities*'.
- 3.2 The following actions have been carried out relating to 'Leadership':

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A self-assessment was carried out in October 2016 by Community Safety to ensure local activity meets national Prevent standards. |
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- The self-assessment is an ongoing process and will continue to be formally completed / updated annually (to ensure compliance with legislation and to address emerging or changing threats).
- Informal assessments are carried out on an ad-hoc basis by Community Safety, in conjunction with Special Branch, and/or 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 (to those identified as part of the OSC Review process).

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 have received training in relation to 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent' and further sessions have been planned throughout the next 12 months.
- A 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 services.
- All referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub are assessed for potential extremism and discussions take place with Special Branch on a regular basis.
- The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) has been shared with interim Chief Executive and a sanitised version will be provided to Community Safety Board to support ongoing development work. Briefings will be arranged for the new Chief Executive to take place in coming months.
- Train the Trainer Sessions have been rolled out to increase the number of practitioners (both from within the Council and partner agencies) so that are able to deliver accredited Home Office training in 2017/18. There are specialist trainers located across Communities and Environment and Care, Wellbeing and Learning.
- 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. Stronger links have been made between Community Tensions Framework and Resilience and Emergency Planning.
- Training has taken place in a number of schools/colleges with Designated Safeguarding Leads to increase understanding of Prevent. Further work will be planned to take place with Governors.

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 has been planned for Councillors relating to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile – which will provide Councillors with a greater understanding about the nature of risk in their local area and the work being done to address any identified risks.
- A Members Seminar session has also been 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 and Centre for Public Scrutiny are in the process of producing guidance for Councillors in relation to Prevent/Counter Extremism – and have established a checklist for Councillors to help scrutinise the work undertaken by Local Authorities (which will be included as part of the Members Seminar that has been planned outlined above).
- The LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board are currently looking to recruit a number of 'Elected Member Champions' for Prevent/Counter Extremism and a series of regional workshops are being planned.
- 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).
- A tailored session has been planned on hate crime and tension monitoring for Councillors, which will be delivered 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.
- 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.
- Continue to liaise on a regular basis with Special Branch colleagues.

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

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

- Show Racism the Red Card have delivered a series of training sessions to local voluntary and community groups around hate crime awareness – which included elements of challenging stereotypes. Due to high demand, the training has been extended for 2017/18.
- Gem Arts delivered a programme of activity with children and young people designed to highlight the importance of integration and multi-cultural society.
- Gateshead Council, in collaboration with all Tyne and Wear local authorities, submitted 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.
- A regional funding bid is being developed 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 is now routinely shared with neighbouring authorities, particular Newcastle – facilitated by Central Engagement Team at Northumbria Police.
- 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).

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

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 300+ 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 been developed for health professionals in collaboration with 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 the 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 with Council services (such as ICT) and this is similar trend across Northumbria.

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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