

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 22nd March 2018.

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Subject:

Progress Report on the Prevent Strategy in the Bradford District

Summary statement:

This report outlines the approach taken to delivering the Government's Prevent Strategy in Bradford District since Prevent became a statutory requirement in July 2015 and responds to the recommendations made at the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2017

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Portfolio:

Safer and Stronger Communities

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

1. **SUMMARY**

This report outlines the approach taken to delivering the Government's Prevent Strategy in Bradford District since Prevent became a statutory requirement in July 2015 and responds to the recommendations made at the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2017.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 A report on delivering Prevent in the District was presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2017. Committee requested a further report to be presented in six months' time highlighting the following issues:

- That this Committee seeks clarification on the reporting of progress against Bradford's Prevent Action Plans.
- That this Committee requests that all future Prevent reports contain a breakdown of grants that are made available for Bradford's Prevent Programme.
- That this Committee requests that training in relation to the Prevent Programme be presented to all the political groups.

2.2 **Prevent Delivery in Bradford District:**

2.2.1 There is a common desire to rid the District of all forms of extremism. Over the last two years (2015/16 and 2016/17) over 5300 staff across wide range of agencies have received the basic safeguarding training package to help protect vulnerable people against radicalisation. In the same time period our project work has engaged 5376 people, including many young people, to help build awareness and resilience to the different extremist narratives.

2.2.2 In response to the requirements of the Prevent Duty support has been provided to the six 'specified authorities' to develop their own Prevent Plan. Collectively, these plans form the District Prevent Action Plan 2015-17 (see Appendix One). This approach broadens accountability and ensures effective partnership contribution. The key themes of safeguarding, education, transparency, challenging extremist narratives and community engagement remain our top priorities.

2.2.3 Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism both physically or on-line is a Safeguarding issue. Prevent has been included in District Safeguarding procedures through both the Adults and Children/Young Peoples Safeguarding Boards. Concerns around radicalisation are reported through existing organisational safeguarding procedures just as they would be for other safeguarding concerns around maltreatment or abuse. Reports on the requirements of the Prevent Duty have been delivered to both the Districts Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards.

2.2.4 Bradford Council facilitates the Channel support scheme which provides support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by identifying individuals at risk; assessing the nature and extent of that risk;

and developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Participation in Channel is completely voluntary.

2.2.5 The number of Prevent referrals nationally is very small compared to other forms of safeguarding. In 2015/16 7,631 individuals were referred to Prevent whereas 621,470 children were referred to social services in the same period. Of these 35.3% resulted in no further action before or after assessment, similarly 36% of Prevent referrals required no further action.

2.2.6 Channel addresses all forms of terrorism, including Islamist and far right wing. Just over a quarter of all people supported in 2015/16 were the result of far right concerns.

3.0 Other Considerations

3.1 Prevent Action Plan

3.1.1 Following the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 September 2017, Bradford Council has worked alongside colleagues from the Home Office and other Councils to review and compare our approach to Prevent Delivery.

3.1.2 Following the review of approach it has been decided to amalgamate current Prevent Plans into a single document with its own performance management framework. This work is in progress with the support of Bradford Division Police colleagues and it is expected that the new plans will be approved in April 2018.

3.1.3 Work has also taken place to respond to the recommendations made by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.2 Elected Member Training

3.2.1 The issue of extremism, and how best to prevent it, is a complex, emotive, and highly debated one. The engagement and support of elected members is essential.

3.2.2 Following The recommendation of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee a Prevent training event for members was held in December 2017. This was supported by a senior team from the Home Office. The training session was attended by 22 councillors.

3.2.3 Following the success of the training session and in response to the Scrutiny recommendations a further elected member development session will be held in June, after the local elections, and annually thereafter. All councillors will be invited to these training events.

3.3 Prevent Projects and Grant Funding

3.3.1 Funding is provided by the Home Office to deliver local projects which contribute to local priorities that help minimise the risk of vulnerable individuals being drawn into terrorism

3.3.2 Key risk areas are identified by the North East Counter Terrorism Unit and projects

developed which will contribute towards mitigating this risk. The focus has been strongly on education and in engaging communities to help build confidence in support mechanisms available. A list of projects and the funding provided is situated at Appendix Two.

- 3.3.3 We have focused more energy on improving communications around Prevent so that more people are aware of the positive work being done. This has led to one of our projects receiving positive exposure on BBC Look North and Radio 4 Womens Hour. We will develop a Communications Strategy that will further promote more of the positive Prevent work being undertaken in the district

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There are no direct costs attributable to Bradford Council in relation to the engagement of the Prevent Coordinator function.
- 4.2 A central government grant of 85,000 is made available annually to Bradford to fund relevant posts including a Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator and support for the delivery of Prevent work.
- 4.3 A Prevent Education Officer has been recruited and commenced post at the beginning of January 2018. This is also funded by central government through the Department of Education.
- 4.4 Bradford Council can also apply for funding to deliver projects which contribute to delivering key Prevent objectives in the District. Bradford has secured funding consistent with other local authority areas in the region and delivered seventeen projects over the last five years. Funding provided by central government in 2017/18 enabled us to deliver seven local projects costing £142,080 (see appendix two)
- 4.5 Partners across health, education, probation and the Police have dedicated resources to ensuring safeguarding processes are in place and, where appropriate, that education services seek to steer people away from extremism and towards a more cohesive society

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 Governance - Local delivery of the strategy is overseen through the Bradford CONTEST governance mechanism, see (appendix three). The structure involves partnership at all levels with a wide range of agencies needed to ensure that we successfully deliver CONTEST in Bradford and the Prevent Strategy within this.
- 5.2 The CONTEST structure is led by the Gold group which provides strategic lead and direction to the work in the District. The CONTEST Silver group provides operational lead and both these groups rely on the input of strategic partners. Partners should be commended for the commitment and resource they have dedicated to making this structure an effective one.

- 5.3 Two strands of the CONTEST Strategy Protect and Prepare deal with emergency planning, civil contingencies and business continuity. The Bradford District Contest Gold Group has a strategic overview and oversees risk management.
- 5.4 It is now intended to establish stronger links between the CONTEST governance and the Council's Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership, where an annual report will also now be presented for consideration, in addition to Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 puts the Prevent programme on a statutory footing and makes delivering the Channel scheme a legal requirement. Specifically, the Act:
- Creates a new duty on certain bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The duty will apply to bodies including local authorities, the police, prisons, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, and universities.
 - Allows the Secretary of State to issue guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled.
 - Gives the Secretary of State power to direct a body to take certain action, which would be used to enforce compliance where the Secretary of State is satisfied that the body has failed to discharge the duty.
- 6.2 The Channel scheme becoming statutory has:
- required local authorities to ensure a multi-agency panel exists and chair the panel;
 - required the panel to develop a support plan for accepted cases and signpost to other support where cases are not accepted;
 - ensured consent is sought prior to support being provided;
 - placed a duty to cooperate on panel partners;
 - required partners to pay due regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State; and
 - allowed the Secretary of State to indemnify intervention providers that provide ideological/ theological support for the Channel programme.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 7.1.1 Despite the increased emphasis on far right extremism, the Government believes the main threat to UK is through terrorism inspired by Daesh or groups with a similar ideology.
- Threat conditions can change very quickly but the context which shapes Prevent delivery is focused where risk actually exists. This is evidence based and not influenced by propaganda or media reporting but using the information that is available across agencies.

Partners across Bradford District work hard to engage communities in Safeguarding whilst at all times ensuring that any actions are in line with equality and diversity policies.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications apparent.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no Greenhouse Gas implications apparent

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 The Prevent Strategy for Bradford District is central to reducing the threat of terrorism and extremism through a partnership structure engaging a wide range of agencies including West Yorkshire Police

Prevent sits within the context of the District's Community Safety Plan and reports periodically to the District's Safer and Stronger Community Partnership. Tackling the threat to community safety and harmony is central to Prevent delivery in the district.

It is now proposed that an annual report will be presented on the work of Prevent to the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Terrorism has an impact on human rights, in particular the rights to life, freedom, respect and expression. Terrorist acts can destabilise Governments, undermine civil society, jeopardise peace and security, threaten social and economic development, and can affect the strength and resilience of our communities.

The Prevent Strategy provides a means for developing our partnership arrangements and ensuring we build resilience in the community and put in place effective counter terrorism measures.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications apparent

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The nature of patterns of extremism in the District means that certain wards are more prone to extremist activity, whether this is extreme right wing, Islamist or other. This will impact on the levels of engagement required to mitigate any emergence of extremism and can change over time. Prevent work, however, does

take place widely across the district, for example, through education programmes in schools.

Following the elected member training event, where some criticism was made about lack of awareness, we will ensure that all key partners, including ward councillors are notified of project work taking place in their wards before it takes place.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the delivery of Prevent Work across Bradford district and make any recommendations for further consideration

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee acknowledge the progress on work undertaken in implementing the Prevent agenda in Bradford and its approach to supporting vulnerable people.
- 10.2 A report is presented in twelve months' time giving a progress update.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix One – Bradford District Prevent Delivery Plans:
 - District Prevent Plan – Local Authority*
 - District Prevent Plan – Police*
 - District Prevent Plan – Health*
 - District Prevent Plan – Schools*
 - District Prevent Plan – Further/Higher Education*
 - District Prevent Plan – Probation*
- 11.2 Appendix Two – Prevent Projects delivered in 2017-18
- 11.3 Appendix Three – Bradford CONTEST Governance Chart

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 28 September 2017