

Bradford Prevent Advisory Group (BPAG)

Terms of Reference

Draft

1) Background

Prevent is a distinct part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST. It focuses on early intervention through strategies which reduce the likelihood of individuals supporting a violent extremist ideology or becoming terrorists. The aim of the *Prevent* strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from all forms of terrorism, by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Bradford Council and partners have always sought to tailor the Prevent programme to the needs of the District's communities, providing grass roots projects to help build resilience and to ensure support is offered to vulnerable people of all ages and backgrounds. We have continued to make efforts to engage communities and elected members and to build awareness of and engagement in the programme. This has been welcomed by all.

The programme in Bradford has been made transparent with local Prevent Delivery Plans being made available to the public. There has also been significant engagement with the local democratic framework via regular reports to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

To further increase our transparency and accountability we have decided to establish an Advisory Group consisting of local representatives, community leaders and lay people. The group will assist in reviewing, discussing and advising on the effectiveness of current work to protect vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism and make recommendations for future work.

This will allow local communities to contribute ideas on delivering effective work in their neighbourhoods and increase trust in the Prevent.

2) Group Aims/Objectives

- To meet twice a year to help support, advise and improve delivery of the Bradford Prevent Team's work
- Provide a sounding board, acting as 'critical friends', whilst partaking in discussions and contributing advice to help the Bradford Prevent Team to understand the potential impact of projects and other activity on communities
- Actively share information circulated by the Bradford Prevent Team widely with communities and partners, and relaying information, concerns and tensions back to the Bradford Prevent Team
- There are many misconceptions around Prevent and the BPAG will provide a forum for

community members to hear what delivery actually looks like on the ground and contribute to making the Bradford District a safer place to live.

3) Roles and Responsibilities

- Advisors are not answerable to the Bradford Prevent Team they are truly independent
- Advisors are encouraged to engage with individuals and communities who are diverse from themselves, below are some non-exhaustive suggestions:
 - Alternative religion or belief system to their own or organisation that they represent;
 - Different sex, gender, alternative sexuality or lifestyle from their own;
 - Different age group from their own generation;
 - People with special needs, disabilities that they do not have;
 - Different socio-economic range to their own;
 - Different profession or employment;
- Bradford Prevent Team expects that advisors will pro-actively seek the views and opinions outside of their existing organisation/profession and work cooperatively with other advisors.
- Advisors will be encouraged to build relationships and have an ongoing dialogue to gather the views from a diverse group and in some cases engage with groups who have contrary opinions, viewpoints and lifestyles to their own.
- The group will be supported by staff from the Bradford Prevent Team

4) Office Bearers

- The group will elect a chair and vice chair who will be supported by the Bradford Prevent Team staff to run the order of business for each meeting. Notes will be taken for each meeting.

5) Attendance

- Members of the advisory groups are expected to attend two meetings per twelve month period and involve themselves in other wider Prevent activity as agreed at meetings.
- The group may agree to invite visitors/others to meetings to inform the work of the group

6) Declaration of Interest

All declarations of interest and/or conflict of interest should be announced and recorded at the beginning of each meeting

7) Meeting Arrangements

We will hold two meetings every twelve months to be agreed by the group with the location to be agreed by the group. Each meeting should consist of at least five group members

8) Meeting Basic Conduct

- Members are asked to respect each other's opinions and direct comments and questions via the acting chair person.
- To ensure confidentiality on items during meetings. No content of the meetings shall be divulged to any second parties unless the group has made a decision to do so or someone is at risk of significant harm.
- All meetings will be serviced by Bradford Council.
- All phones should be turned to silent during meetings.
- Notes shall be taken of each meeting.
- Notes shall be a brief record of the meeting.
- Notes and papers for all regular meetings shall be circulated no later than one week before the next meeting via e-mail wherever possible.

9) Dissolution

- The group will be affective for the period of the Prevent Programme. The group will not hold any monies. Any responsibility of the group will be passed to the Local Authority should it dissolve, with the creation of any new entity agreed by the Local Authority.

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