

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>18 June 2019</p>		
AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE PREVENT TEAM		
Report of the Deputy Leader - Councillor Sue Fennimore		
<p>Part Exempt Report <i>Appendix A is exempt as it contains confidential information regarding local Prevent delivery.</i></p>		
<p>Classification: For review and comment</p> <p>Key Decision: No</p>		
<p>Consultation: N/A</p>		
<p>Wards Affected: ALL</p>		
<p>Accountable Director: Matthew Hooper, Chief Officer - Safer Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services</p>		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The report details the work undertaken by Prevent during the 2018/19 financial year and provides details about the performance of the team and details of the outcome of the Prevent Peer Review.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of the report.

3. OVERVIEW

Introduction and Background:

- 3.1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has made it a legal requirement for local authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (known as the *Prevent Duty*).
- 3.2. The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) is made up of four strands of which Prevent is one. The Prevent Strategy aims to stop people being drawn into or supporting terrorism of all kinds (whether it be the from the Extreme Far-Right, or inspired by Daesh or Al-Qaeda). As per CONTEST 2018, the objectives of the Prevent Strategy are to:
 - a) Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
 - b) Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
 - c) Enable those who have engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.
- 3.3. Local authorities play a crucial role in delivering the first two strands of the Prevent Strategy, notably through the offer of safeguarding support to residents who may be at risk of radicalisation.
- 3.4. As well as the Prevent Duty, there is also a duty on local authorities to run a Channel Panel to assess the extent to which individuals may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and to offer tailored safeguarding support to identified individuals.

Prevent delivery during the 2018/19 financial year:

'We will protect residents from being victims of radicalisation.'

The Administration's 2018-2022 manifesto – The Change We'll Bring Together

- 3.5. **Safeguarding:** At the heart of Prevent is a commitment to offer safeguarding support to individuals vulnerable to radicalisation.
- 3.6. **Training:** Most of the training provided by the team is the Home Office designed Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). The team trained 493 staff in Hammersmith and Fulham, consisting of 394 local authority staff and 99 external staff working in the borough.
- 3.7. **Community Engagement:** The team undertook 237 instances of community outreach in H&F, with 144 instances of face-to-face outreach in the borough. In addition, the team is in the process of creating an H&F Faith Forum.
- 3.8. **Education:** 923 education staff were trained in 38 briefing/training sessions in Hammersmith & Fulham.
- 3.9. Additional details regarding local Prevent delivery can be found in Appendix A.

Outcome of the Prevent Team's Peer Review

- 3.10. The Home Office operates a Prevent Peer Review to evaluate Prevent delivery structures and processes with the aim of developing recommendations for improvement and promoting best practice.
- 3.11. The team's peer review took place from the 20 to 23 November 2018. Seven external practitioners reviewed over 65 documents, interviewed 47 stakeholders and attended several meetings.
- 3.12. The Peer Review found that local Prevent delivery was of a very high standard and generally excellent, particularly noting:
 - a) 'A strong approach to Prevent with highly skilled professionals demonstrating genuine leadership and excellence in delivery';
 - b) 'World-leading community engagement around Prevent' that 'should be an exemplar to all practitioners seeking means to deliver Prevent in partnership with communities';
 - c) 'Engagement with schools [as a] particular area of excellence';
 - d) 'A firm understanding of risk and threat across the area'.
- 3.13. The Peer Review report also makes a range of recommendations for the continued improvement in local delivery. Chief amongst these is a recommendation for the team to strengthen its communication and partnership work with relevant Council stakeholders and boards, with a particular emphasis on strengthening elected Member engagement through scrutiny and Member training. This should notably seek to foster greater information sharing and consultation about local risks, alongside greater mainstreaming of Prevent delivery.
- 3.14. In light of this recommendation, the Prevent team has undertaken additional actions in partnership with Council leadership. These include:
 - a) An increase in engagement with and opportunities for scrutiny afforded to the Deputy Leader;
 - b) Attendance and participation in Community Safety Partnership board meetings alongside standing membership of safeguarding adults and children's boards;
 - c) Embedding the team to a greater extent within Council management processes;
 - d) One training session for elected Members occurred in May 2019 and was attended by one Member from the Opposition and eleven Members from the Administration (including two Cabinet Members). The feedback from this training was very positive and a further session is being scheduled in September 2019. The process to make this training mandatory for elected Members is ongoing;
 - e) Formalising the team's governance processes, notably through the creation of a new and revised Hammersmith & Fulham Prevent Steering Group (PSG). A detailed representation of the team's threat and risk reporting structure can be found as an Appendix to this report.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1. The Prevent team engages with the Prevent Advisory Group (PAG) - a group of community organisations that scrutinise local Prevent delivery. They meet monthly to determine areas of risk and any community concerns.

5. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The Council, when making decisions in relation to any of its functions, must comply with its public-sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 5.2. The work of the Prevent team, referred to in this report applies to individuals across the borough and officers treat all cases equally according to the facts of each case.
- 5.3. Due to the sensitive nature of the Prevent agenda, there is a high risk that this work could have a disproportionate impact on some individuals or groups in the community who share 'protected characteristics' (namely: race; religion or beliefs) protected by the Equality Act. Prevent team decisions are taken and work carried out in accordance with the team's Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 5.4. To counterbalance any adverse negative impact, the Prevent team work hard to engage with the local community (including with families), schools, different community groups, various organisations/agencies and faith leaders to dispel any myths and to minimise community tensions and any other adverse impact.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is the Prevent Duty.
- 6.2. Statutory guidance is issued under section 29 of the Act and provides sector specific guidance for local authorities carrying out their Prevent Duty. The Act states that the authorities must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their Prevent Duty.
- 6.3. Central monitoring of Prevent work locally is overseen by the Home Office and the Prevent Peer Review programme is one of the mechanisms by which the Home Office provides support to local authorities in delivering their Prevent Duty. A Peer review is not an inspection and the recommendations in the resulting report are advisory only with the aim of improving and promoting best practice and are not binding on local authorities.
- 6.4. *Implications verified/completed by: Ms Ashley Sault, Senior Solicitor – Tel/Mobile: 07768357619*

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Officers in the Prevent team, and the projects that the team deliver, are funded fully by the Home Office in a grant agreement which is agreed on a yearly basis. Whilst the Council expects to be fully grant funded in 2019/20 the Home Office have not confirmed details of the grant agreement to date.
- 7.2. Officers within the team are engaged on short-term contracts that are aligned with the grant funding to minimise the risk of additional budget pressures on the local authority. However, there is a risk that in the event posts are no longer funded, redundancy costs may be incurred by the Council where officers have been on fixed term contracts for over two years.
- 7.3. Implications verified by: Gary Hannaway, Head of Finance, the Environment, 020 8753 6061 and Emily Hill, Assistant Director Corporate Finance, 020 8753 3145.

8. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

- 8.1. The Prevent team works predominantly with residents/families and local community organisations, therefore the impact on and implications for businesses is limited.
- 8.2. The team does, on an ad hoc basis, provide support, training and briefings for businesses, to raise awareness about Prevent and the work that we do.

9. IT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Council should consider a process to test council-owned IT provision for access to extremist material. IT Services can work with the Prevent team to define the process.
- 9.2. The Prevent team uses a locally-created application which helps identify hot spots of possible activity. The data is all anonymised but the application should be reviewed from a service resilience point of view.
- 9.3. If the next phase of work results in the Prevent team gathering any personal data which can be used to identify individuals, then a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) will need to be completed or the existing PIA reviewed to ensure all potential data protection risks are properly assessed with mitigating actions agreed and implemented.
- 9.4. *Implications verified/completed by: Veronica Barella, Chief Information Officer, Tel 020 8753 2927.*

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1. Communities also often provide localised solutions to countering radicalisation.

- 10.2. Effective dialogue and engagement with communities reinforces the success of the Prevent Team's delivery. The Prevent Team also provide an effective programme of action and mechanisms to allow for the regular reassessment of the risks against emerging national and local information, enabling the programme of action to be realigned as risks remain fluid.
- 10.3. Channel identifies individuals at risk, assesses the nature and extent of that risk and aims to ensure that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism or they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.
- 10.4. As funding for the Prevent Team is provided by the Home Office this contributes to the Council's Being Ruthlessly Financially Efficient priority by identifying alternate sources of funding for the benefit of the local area.
- 10.5. Other sources of assurance include but are not limited to:
- The Prevent team's detailed counter-terrorism risk register, which is based on threats identified in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile alongside real-time information shared by the Metropolitan Police's Counter-Terrorism Command and the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism.
 - A programme risk register, which is also in place to identify risks to Prevent delivery in the borough.
 - A regular review of risk registers on a quarterly basis at the Prevent Steering Group.
- 10.6. *Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager, telephone 020 8753 2587*

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

11.1. Final Peer Review Report

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Additional details regarding local Prevent delivery [exempt]

Appendix B: Prevent Accountabilities: Threat and Risk Reporting Structure in Hammersmith & Fulham