

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

03 March 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

COUNTER TERRORISM PREVENT DUTY

1 Purpose of the Report:

To update the Cabinet Member on the implications of the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill in relation to Prevent.

2 Information and Analysis:

Prevent is a key strand of the national Counter Terrorism Strategy 'Contest', together with three other strands, Prepare, Protect and Pursue. Prevent aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by responding to and challenging radical ideologies and those who promote them. Prevent has been seen as a multi-agency responsibility requiring cooperation for it to be effective. The Government's view is that levels of commitment and cooperation are not currently consistent across the country.

Consequently, the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill, currently in the House of Lords, will introduce a new mandatory Prevent duty for a number of agencies including all local authorities, together with, schools, higher and further education establishments, police, prisons and some NHS bodies. The new duty will require the identified bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. It will also allow the Secretary of State to issue guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled and gives the Secretary of State power to take direct action to enforce compliance where it is felt that the body has failed to discharge the duty.

The Home Office, Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) is currently undertaking national consultation regarding the guidance document and the Assistant Director Community Safety attended a consultation event in Birmingham on 26 January 2015 to feed in comments. The guidance is not currently clear on a number of issues such as: Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP), these are risk assessments which do not currently identify individuals at risk, but in order to fulfil the duty areas will need a more detailed profile: monitoring requirements - seem to be heavily focussed on outputs and not

outcomes/changing attitudes: lack of clarity on who is the lead agency for Prevent, police or local authorities and: lack of clarity on holding areas to account where the Home Office does not provide any resource to support Prevent activity.

Thirty local areas are currently classed as Prevent 'priority' areas (including Derby City) and these receive direct funding from the Home Office for a local Prevent Coordinator. These 30 areas, plus another 14 'supported' areas, are eligible for Home Office funding for Prevent projects. Derbyshire County is not one of these areas. However, the OSCT has indicated that some further funding has been identified which should see all areas receiving some funding for Prevent activity in the next financial year.

In Derbyshire Prevent activity is coordinated through the Safer Derbyshire Partnership, reporting to the Safer Communities Board (SCB). The annual CTLP is produced by the police regional Counter Terrorism Unit and this is shared with all Derbyshire local authority chief executives (or responsible officers) as well as appropriate security cleared community safety and emergency planning leads in an annual briefing. The SCB signs off an annual plan of activity in relation to Prevent. The Safer Derbyshire Partnership ensures delivery of the plan on behalf of all the districts/boroughs. The main focus of the plan is delivering training and awareness raising sessions for multi-agency staff, ensuring individuals deemed to be at risk of radicalisation are supported through the local Channel project and delivering bespoke training (Zebrared) to targeted schools and other establishments where extremist views may be promulgated. This includes far right extremism.

Channel is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face and safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity before illegality occurs. It will assess the nature and extent of that risk and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Our local Channel Project is chaired by the Derby City Prevent Coordinator. In January 2015, eight of the 19 cases discussed in Derby, as either, Channel or the lower level Prevent Case Management cases were County referrals.

The County Council currently funds approximately £20k per annum to deliver the bespoke targeted training, whilst other training is provided from existing Safer Derbyshire resources. There is concern that the burden of additional activities arising from the new Prevent duty will fall to top tier authorities in two tier areas, without necessarily any additional funding to support it.

3 Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, legal, finance, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

4 Key Decision:

No

5 Call-In:

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

6 Background Papers:

Draft Prevent Duty Guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388934/45584_Prevent_duty_guidance-a_consultation_Web_Accessible.pdf

7 Officer's Recommendations:

1. That the work currently undertaken by the County Council/Safer Derbyshire Partnership in relation to Prevent is noted.
2. To agree a further update report on the progress of the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill/New Prevent Guidance and any financial implications this may have in due course.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**