

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

21 January 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Health and Communities

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM - INPUT TO SCHOOLS

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to waive Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts in order to engage 'Zebrared' a specialist training consultant to deliver a series of sessions on Preventing Violent Extremism to targeted schools in Derbyshire.

Information and Analysis

The latest version of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy CONTEST and a revised Prevent strand of the strategy was published in June 2011. The Government now wants to include prevention work around all types of extremism, including Far Right activity. Far Right activity in Derbyshire has historically been centred in the Amber Valley area of the county.

This area is served by four secondary schools, Mill Hill School in Ripley, Aldercar School in Langley Mill, Heanor Gate School and John Flamsteed at Denby. These schools are keen to receive an input from Zebrared regarding right wing extremism. Zebrared's training consultant, Dr Manny Barot is highly regarded in this field of expertise having previously worked at the Holocaust Centre at Newark, the East Midlands Community Contact Unit (EMCCU), presented workshops at Prevent Conferences in Derbyshire and is directly involved in the County's Channel Project, which works to engage with identified individuals at risk of radicalisation. Other members of the ZebraRed team includes a former member of an Extreme Right Wing group who has been through the Channel Project and is now de-radicalised and an experienced facilitator who is integral to the delivery of the sessions in schools. Schools will define the number of sessions they require to be taught across their year groups.

In 2011 using funds from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Zebrared was commissioned to deliver training in Derbyshire. The latest Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) has a recommendation to support the Derbyshire Project HAMMERS in Amber Valley and Erewash. Project HAMMERS is a Derbyshire Constabulary initiative aimed at combating Extreme Ring Wing (XRW) activity. Prevention work in targeted schools is seen as a vital area of work within the Prevent Agenda as education can be a powerful tool, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and reflex to think for themselves, to challenge and to debate.

The aim of these sessions is to raise awareness of the Extreme Far Right and increase KEYSTONE Intelligence which is the counter terrorism and the community initiative, which is already supported by the County Council's Community Safety Department as well as district and borough councils. The project will deliver 22 days training for years 7 to 9 (dependent on the individual schools needs / wishes) in targeted schools across Derbyshire. Initially targeting the four schools mentioned and then to extend this to other schools where there is a risk that students could be susceptible to the ideology of the Extreme Right Wing.

In seeking to identify a suitable supplier it was thought essential to identify a supplier who was able to provide credible and relevant experience of the issues to be covered in the training and therefore was able to engage with students effectively.

Zebrared have proven experience and expertise of providing bespoke and specialist training sessions on Preventing Violent Extremism to targeted schools in Derbyshire. Zebrared uses the personal life journey of their team to connect with the students and clearly show the life choices that can lead to so often lead to criminality or ultimately tragedy. As such they offer a unique service which is difficult to replicate. Although other comparable providers exist they do not provide the bespoke package and real life experience required for the area in which the service provision is being delivered so are therefore considered to be unsuitable to provide this type of training.

Financial Considerations

The proposed funding of £20,000 can be met from the Communities Budget. The exact cost incurred will be dependent on there being sufficient take up by schools.

Legal Considerations

The Council's Constitution permits the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member to waive any requirement of Standing Orders Relating to Contracts only where they are satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying exemption and such exemption shall be recorded in the Minutes. The Director of Legal Services has advised that it is justifiable for the Cabinet Member to waive the requirement to seek competitive tenders for the proposed training services given circumstances set out in the report.

Other Considerations

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

Background Papers

None

Key Decision – No**Officer Recommendation**

That the Cabinet Member will:

- (a) Approves the waiving of the Council's Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts; and,
- (b) Approves the award of a contract for £20,000 to commission 'Zebrared' to deliver a series of sessions on Preventing Violent Extremism to targeted schools in Derbyshire.

David Lowe

Strategic Director - Health and Communities