

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES****30 September 2014****Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities****PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM - INPUT TO SCHOOLS****1 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.

2 Information and Analysis:

In January 2014, Cabinet approved the use of £20,000 from the Communities Budget to commission Zebrared to deliver a series of sessions on Preventing Violent Extremism to targeted schools in Derbyshire. The latest version of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy CONTEST including a revised Prevent strand of the strategy was published in June 2011. The Government 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.

Four secondary schools, Mill Hill School in Ripley, Aldercar School in Langley Mill, Heanor Gate School and John Flamsteed in Denby were originally targeted as they were seen to be at most risk. With the exception of Heanor Gate School all of them have received the inputs from Zebrared regarding Right Wing Extremism, Bullying and Racism. Heanor Gate will receive their sessions in September 2014, when the new term commences. To date, thirteen sessions involving over 740 students have been delivered. Feedback from students, staff and Elected Members who attended the sessions has been excellent.

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, this work enables him to have a unique insight into current issues in Derbyshire specifically. Other members of the ZebraRed team include an experienced facilitator who is integral to the delivery of the sessions in schools and a former member of an Extreme Right Wing group who has been through the Channel Project and is now de-radicalised. Given the nature of the threat in the county around right-wing extremism this is a key aspect of the workshop.

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 community initiative, already supported by the County Council's Community Safety Department as well as district and borough councils.

The extension of the project will deliver a further 33 days training for years 7 to 9 (dependent on the individual schools needs / wishes) in targeted schools across Derbyshire 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 has a proven experience and expertise of providing bespoke and specialist training sessions on Preventing Violent Extremism to targeted schools in Derbyshire. Although other comparable providers exist they do not provide a bespoke Derbyshire experienced package, or bring the real life experience around right-wing extremism so are therefore considered to be unsuitable to provide this type of training.

3 Financial Considerations:

The proposed funding of £30,000 can be met from the Communities Budget. The exact cost incurred will be dependent on there being sufficient take up by schools.

4 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.

5 Other Considerations:

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

6 Background Papers:

None

7 Key Decision:

No

8 Officer Recommendations:

- (a) To approve the waiving of the Council's Standing Orders in Relation to Contracts; and,
- (b) To approve the award of a contract for £30,000 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**