

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **4 February 2021**

Due to current government guidance on social-distancing and the COVID-19 virus the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2021 will be held virtually online. The press and public will be able to watch the meeting live via the Council's online webcast channel: www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast

Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, John Kent, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

Councillors Terry Piccolo, Sue Shinnick, David Van Day and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

Page

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

5 - 16

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 December 2020.

3. Items of Urgent Business

To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Declaration of Interests

5.	Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update	17 - 40
6.	Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent	41 - 72
7.	Contract Renewal for Litter Enforcement (to follow)	
8.	Work Programme	73 - 74

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **27 January 2021**

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

Due to current government guidance on social-distancing and the COVID-19 virus, council meetings will not be open for members of the public to physically attend. Arrangements have been made for the press and public to watch council meetings live via the Council's online webcast channel: www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast

Members of the public have the right to see the agenda, which will be published no later than 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Recording of meetings

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded with the video recording being published via the Council's online webcast channel: www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings

The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

- You should connect to TBC-CIVIC
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point at Kings Walk.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



You can view the agenda on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#) with the free modern.gov app.

Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

To view any “exempt” information that may be included on the agenda for this meeting, Councillors should:

- Access the modern.gov app
- Enter your username and password

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest at a meeting?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- **Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;**
- **Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and**
- **leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon**

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services
3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 December 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, John Kent, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

In attendance: Jahur Ali, Recreation and Leisure Manager
Gary Crooks, ERDF Business Manager
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Gavin Dennett, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager
Grant Greatrex, Sport and Leisure Policy Development Manager
Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Stephen Taylor, Strategic Lead of Economic Development
Cheryl Wells, Emergency Planning and Resilience Manager
Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin, Essex Police
Acting Superintendent Richard Melton, Essex Police
David McHendry, Knight Kavanagh & Page
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live streamed to the Council's online webcast channel.

72. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 1 October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

73. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Democratic Services announced that Appendix to Item 7 in the agenda was not complete. An updated version had been sent to Members prior to the meeting and would be available on-line.

74. Declaration of Interests

There were no items of urgent business.

Democratic Services announced that Appendix to Item 7 in the agenda was not complete. An updated version had been sent to Members prior to the meeting and would be available on-line.

75. Thurrock Active Place Strategy

Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection introduced the report that identified as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan the Council commissioned the Thurrock Active Place Strategy (APS), a suite of studies to act as an up to date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes. The Local Plan, once adopted, would replace the currently adopted Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development and would become the statutory planning document for Thurrock.

The APS consisted of four discrete strands covering Open Space and Play areas; Indoor and Built Sports Facilities; Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport; and an Active Travel Strategy, each of which included a separate assessment of current provision and a strategy report setting out strategic recommendations and targeted specific actions for how each could be improved/increased/ delivered over the Local Plan period.

The APS had not only been developed within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and vision for Health and Wellbeing, but also within the context of consultation with key partners who would share the responsibility for the delivery of the strategic outcomes.

Knight Kavanagh & Page were invited to present. This presentation can be found on-line from the following link:

<https://thurrockintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MIId=5794&Ver=4>

Councillor Redsell thanked officers for the report but stated the Council had been in the same place a few years ago and it had been a shame this had not moved forward and hoped this could now move forward and questioned whether all the key parties had been picked up and spoken to. Councillor Redsell also questioned whether it was quality rather than quantity going forward and also asked about the cycle paths in Thurrock. David McHendry stated he had met Councillor Redsell before as part of the Friends of Blackshots and that engagement had been undertaken with as many organisations that could be identified by the Council. One of the challenges had been that the process had started some while ago and this was now the refreshed position.

Councillor Fletcher thanked officers for the report and raised concern on the lack of activities in the report being identified for the use by elderly residents and questioned how this was going to be addressed. Councillor Fletcher also noted that there had been no mention in the report of Public Health or any of the aged charities and questioned whether these had been consulted. David McHendry stated that Public Health had been an integral part of the team in terms of the delivery of this project. In regards to the elderly population, the wording of activity space could accommodate any program and should be looked that where those activities would be held. That the walking and cycling infrastructure formed part of the active travel where it had been identified that

routes need to be updated and improved across Thurrock. Councillor Fletcher suggested that the element for activities for elderly people needed to be drawn out more clearly.

Councillor Lawrence thanked officers for the in-depth report but questioned whether this was actually going happen and what the timescales would be. David McHendry stated the challenge was now for the Council to deliver in partnership with their partners and stakeholders.

Councillor J Kent stated the report was a useful document as a baseline that told us where we were now and had some useful stats which provided a good opportunity to measure the progress made over the year and had identified these as highly valued. These needed to be preserved and investments made into them whilst encouraging residents to take ownership and improving them. Councillor J Kent stated his disappointment with the report that on active travel there had not been sufficient information as to where the Council was now. David McHendry stated it was very difficult to measure how many people were using an informal network and that the active travel study had been built on the previous cycling strategy. Councillor J Kent stated he understood how difficult it might be to get a sense of how many people were using the cycle paths but when a lot of money had been spent monitoring car journeys it would not have been beyond the Council to physically count the number of users and not particularly difficult to measure the miles of cycle paths and to be able to map these. All of this information was helpful to set a baseline of data and to enable better facilities to be provided. Councillor Redsell agreed with Councillor J Kent that the Council would know the number of paths there were as the Council had put them in. David McHendry stated that document contained a strong evidence base and had covered off the terms of the active travel in regards to the amount of provision the Council had with 150km of public footpaths, 17km of bridleways and 293km of cycle ways and 87km of those were traffic free.

Councillor Rigby referred to the open spaces and the quality in-value percentages and questioned what criteria was used to set those. David McHendry stated those were the standards used within the PPG17 guidance document with the value rating and scoring would be picked up through the consultation work. Councillor Rigby questioned how Thurrock figures rated against national figures. David McHendry stated there were no national figures and stated that Thurrock had its own challenges in terms of the quality of its open space sites in comparison to other similar studies undertaken.

Councillor Hague thanked officers for the presentation and stated that this should not just be a tick box exercise but to take those strategic observations and recommendations and putting those into a delivery plan. Leigh Nicholson referred Members to page 31 of the agenda which referred to the Local Plan and how this study would work with other studies to build up that picture so when growth was made in the borough this was supported by the right infrastructure upfront.

Councillor Fletcher referred to travel to work and requested that the highlights be summarised and for the report to be used by all the departments of the Council to ensure they were talking to each other and to ensure that green spaces were maintained.

Councillor Redsell stated this was a good report but the report had to have a broad range of sports and activities but had to be actioned as soon as possible.

Councillor Lawrence asked for clarification on when items came to planning whether this would be part of S106 money or when in Thurrock, builders would be told what the criteria was and questioned what they could do for the borough without this money coming out of the S106 monies. Leigh Nicholson stated this allowed conversations to take place between landowners, developers and communities about what facilities were needed at a strategic level and to see what was required to support that growth.

RESOLVED

That the Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content and recommendations contained within this report.

76. Council Funded Police Update Report

Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager, provided background to the Council funded additional Essex Police Officers, deployed as part of the Town Centre Team (TCT) within Community Policing in Thurrock. The Council recognised that anti-social behaviour had always been a key priority for residents, and in January 2019, the Leader, within his Portfolio Holder Report announced that revenue surplus funding of £750,000 be committed to provide additional Police Officers recognising resident concerns and their request to have an increased visible Police presence.

Since that commitment, in March 2019 the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner also announced additional Police Officers and the introduction of Town Centre Police Officers patrolling our borough, with effect from July 2019 when seven Officers were introduced in Grays, South Ockendon and Stanford Le Hope. The Council funded additional four officers who commenced in January 2020.

Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin, Essex Police and Acting Superintendent Richard Melton, Essex Police briefed Members on the key points within the report providing an outline of the activities and successes of the officers and the impact on the Police Public Perception Survey.

The Chair thanked Essex Police for their briefing and noted the good work being undertaken by the enforcement officers in Thurrock.

Councillor Lawrence thanked Essex Police for the briefing and for all the hard work being undertaken by the Police in Thurrock and how pleasing it was to

see Police out in the borough which gave residents confidence and safe. Councillor Lawrence stated that she had seen a lot of incidents on social media of burglaries where animals were being stolen and asked for an update of this in Thurrock. Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin stated that they had not seen a large increase of burglaries and incidents were not being reported on a regular basis in Thurrock. Although there had been a high profile case in Basildon this had not been seen in Thurrock.

Councillor J Kent echoed the thanks already made for the work being undertaken by the Police Officers for work being undertaken in this very tough year and the extra work that they have had to carry out.

Councillor J Kent asked for clarification on the Council's contribution to Police Officers that £750,000 of funding had been put aside, over three years for the funding of four extra Police Officers which would have been over and above if the Council had not put that money in. Councillor J Kent asked for clarification on the costings as each Police Officer would be costing £62,000 per year. Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin stated that wages would not be the main contributor as additionally there would be other contributions around funding of officers around training costs and equipment. Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin would be happy to share that information outside the meeting if appropriate and necessary.

Councillor J Kent had concerns over the £750,000 funding that came from the revenue surplus and referred to the cabinet meeting scheduled for next week where it was looking for agreement to defer or cancel all revenue surpluses. Councillor J Kent questioned whether this £750,000 was going to be allocated in one payment or yearly so that some reassurances could be given that this funding would not be withdrawn and therefore the four Police Officers would also not be withdrawn. Michelle Cunningham stated the funding was over four years, with the initial plan being over three years, but with the introduction of the town centre seven it had reduced the number of Police Officers to four and had been extended to four years. With the additional Police Officers continuing to be funded from the reserve within the members surplus. So all accounted for at present and agreed that the £750,000 came in one payment. Councillor J Kent stated that this was some comfort that this was from last year's surplus but raised concerns that the report had been based on three years but to be told this evening this was over four years.

RESOLVED that the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1. Note the positive approach taken by this team to community engagement.**
- 2. Promote the work of Town Centre officers to their residents to improve public confidence in local policing and encourage reporting of concerns.**

At 8.21pm, Acting Chief Inspector Paul Austin, Essex Police and Acting Superintendent Richard Melton, Essex Police left the meeting.

77. Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2021/22

Jahur Ali, Recreation and Leisure Services Manager, presented the report. The Appendix shown in the agenda had set out the fees and charges in relation to services within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the Environment and Highways directorate. The fees and charges in relation to services within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the Place directorate had been omitted from the agenda to which Jahur Ali stated there had been a few increases and would provide details. The fees and charges that were charged fell into three categories – statutory – regulatory and discretionary. There was one increase within the statutory area which was the COMAH emergency planning charge which had three charges in that area. Two of those charges were being recommended for removal and the remaining charge to be increased to allow re-charges to cover the staff member costs who undertaking that service.

There were 74 increases within the discretionary charge related to services the Council provided. The anticipation would be to make sure that all discretionary services broke even and became cost neutral. Members were referred to the following areas of interest - outdoor sports and open spaces – with proposals to increase the fees and charges between 4% and 5%. This was one area that was not cost neutral at this time but a lot of work was being undertaken to try and reduce those costs with it potentially taking Thurrock three years to become cost neutral in those areas. Other areas to have small increases were allotments from 4% between £2.50 and £5.00 and burials with a 1% to 3% increase between £2 and £56. There were other areas that were statutory charges which had been set by government legislation. That out of the 551 items within this overview and scrutiny remit only 75 had been increased with the overall majority of the charges not changing.

These charges would take effect from the 5 April 2021 unless otherwise stated. In preparing the proposed fees and charges, directorates had worked within the charging framework and commercial principles set out in Section three of the report. Also taken into account was the effect that Covid-19 had and would continue to have on services, residents and the local economy.

Councillor Redsell questioned the proposed increase in burials to which Jahur Ali stated this had been increased in line with inflation and that a benchmark exercise had been undertaken with neighbouring boroughs and Thurrock was in line with those. Councillor Redsell stated that she felt this increase was inappropriate at this time.

Councillor Fletcher questioned whether the members of the committee this evening were being expected to note or challenge the report. Jahur Ali confirmed that the fees and charges were being presented to members this evening and Daren Spring stated this was part of the committee's role to scrutinise the report and to comment accordingly.

Councillor J Kent agreed that all would like to see cost neutral if possible but stated he could not agree those above inflation increases. That the Council should be encouraging sport, exercise and healthy activities not making it more difficult by increasing the charges.

Jahur Ali mentioned the support for sports clubs and groups provided by the Council. Over £50,000 had been secured for local clubs and were supported to apply to Sport England, ECB grants and other discretionary grants to which Councillor Redsell confirmed clubs mentioned had received support.

Members had a discussion on recommendation 2 in regards to the director delegated authority being sought via Cabinet to allow Fees and Charges to be varied within a financial year in response to commercial requirements. Members stated their disagreement with this and agreed the recommendation should be refused and reworded.

Jahur Ali confirmed that any new charges being brought in would need to follow the process of being presented at this committee. The director delegated authority was for charges that happened in year and for these items that needed urgent decision.

The Chair referred Members to the recommendations to which Members agreed to recommendation 1 and disagreed with recommendation 2 and have therefore reworded to reflect their comments.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the revised fees, including those no longer applicable; and comment on the proposals currently being considered within the remit of this committee.**
- 2. That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted that director delegated authority would be sought via Cabinet to allow Fees and Charges to be varied within a financial year in response to commercial requirements. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Committee considered this recommendation and ask Cabinet to refuse this recommendation as the committee were not in agreement.**

78. Establishment of the Climate Emergency Taskforce

Stephen Taylor, Strategic Lead of Economic Development and Gary Crooks, ERDF Business Manager, presented the report that set out the collaborative approach to tackling climate change utilising the recently established Climate Change Partnership and Officer Groups and proposed that climate objectives be considered within an economic development and green growth context. Members were updated on the approach and the activities that had taken

place so far to address the requirements that had been set out in the motion proposed to Council.

The Chair thanked Officers for the good report and hoped that this could now make a difference in the borough and referred to her motion on planting a wood in Thurrock and how primary school children were being encouraged to plant trees.

Councillor Lawrence also agreed on the importance of trees and how hedgerows were being planted in Kent and hoped that this initiative could be used in Thurrock to help with pollution. Councillor Lawrence stated that other areas, such as the escalation of pollution within the borough particularly on the A13, should be considered as part of this report. Stephen Taylor stated that the partnership group had decided that the first place to start would be looking at emissions from the Local Authority and then to look at emissions across the borough as a whole and what the Council could do to influence businesses and others to help reduce overall emissions. In regards to the air quality around the A13, work was being undertaken by colleagues elsewhere in the Council. Stephen Taylor agreed with Councillors Redsell and Lawrence comments on the importance of trees and hedgerow and stated that was on the partnership group's radar. Councillor Redsell thanked officers for the comments and stated the move forward to using river taxis was being addressed to get vehicles off the road. Councillor Hague stated that Thurrock was an industrial area with busy motorways going through the borough and asked what realistically would need to be undertaken to offset those levels. Councillor Redsell stated that Thurrock had already planted approximately 1000 trees and Daren Spring stated that where trees had been taken out over the last few years had been replaced with new ones and the planting of new trees over the coming years would continue but was unsure how many trees would need to be planted to offset the emissions. Gary Crooks stated that a climate change officer groups had been set up with colleagues from all directorates who met monthly to consider ways to support the partnership group and to reduce Council emissions. Tree planting had been considered by that group. Councillor Redsell questioned what Member involvement was in that group to which Gary Crooks stated there were two groups, climate change partnership group with a cross party membership with the support from officers to address issues and another supporting officer group that would support the work coming out of the climate change partnership group.

Councillor J Kent welcomed the approach of the report and it was noted that work was following the approach recommended by the Carbon Trust with the six meetings and their themes looking right. Councillor J Kent was pleased that there was now an officer group looking at climate change but asked that group to report publically to ensure members were aware of what was discussed and asked where this group fits in with the broader Council strategy for example the report on the "facilitating the roll out of electric charging points" to Cabinet next week. Councillor J Kent also questioned what the first steps would be towards getting the Council to net zero emissions. Stephen Taylor stated the officer group would undertake the role in understanding what other directorates were working on and joining things up and report back to

the partnership group so Members of that group would be fully aware of what was happening.

Councillor Rigby questioned what education programmes were being ran by the Council that were aimed at residents to encourage the planting of trees and hedgerows. Gary Crooks stated there were pockets of activity to educate both schools and residents but stated this could form-part of a strategy which could be followed, picked up and developed.

Councillor Lawrence asked that residents be notified of any areas of tree planting being worked on as she was sure there would be lot of volunteers and questioned whether local farmers had been contacted regarding the planting of hedgerow around field borders. Gary Crooks agreed with the comments and the benefits of hedges and hedgerows in regards to both air quality and carbon prospective.

Gary Hague stated for the Council to be serious about climate change he challenged the officer group to conclude on what the carbon emissions were in the borough in regards to industry and traffic and then how many trees and what other areas could be addressed to offset the carbon emissions as planting trees and hedgerows was good but this was only tinkering around the edges. Councillor Redsell stated it was important that residents were aware of that was happening to encourage them to do more.

Councillor Fletcher stated that he would like to add a new recommendation to this report to ask the Climate Change Partnership Group to benchmark and baseline what the carbon omission situation is now so that a clear idea could be given to what the Council would be dealing with.

Councillor Rigby referred to the carbon emissions in regards to car usage and questioned how much had the fine for idling of engines impacted on the level of carbon emissions since it had been introduced. Gary Crooks stated it was impossible to measure on a car-by-car, street-by-street basis on the measure and the affects.

Gary Crooks referred to previous questions around the Council's ambition around the carbon reduction activities and stated there were a lot of potential projects that could be proposed as part of the process and the first thing would be to benchmark and baseline the current situation and then carbon pathways would be produced to get to zero emissions. That Thurrock was very well placed to capitalise putting in the technologies to reduce Thurrock emissions.

Stephen Taylor stated the work programme set the baseline and decarbonisation pathways would be developed with a range of measures that could be considered by Members who would be able to see the impact of those measures and what timescales they would take to be implemented against the costs and benefits.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and commented on the approach and activity being taken to address the requirements set out in the Council motion to declare a climate emergency.**
2. **That the Climate Change Partnership Group to benchmark and baseline what the carbon omission situation was now so that a clear idea could be given to what the Council would be dealing with.**

79. Environmental Health Jurisdiction : DP World Distribution Park

Gavin Dennett, Strategic Lead Public Protection, presented the report following the request from the Corporation that their jurisdiction for Environmental Health matters at London Gateway be extended beyond the immediate area of the dock to include the Distribution Park currently being developed, as indicated on the map in Appendix 1. Members were provided with details of this proposal and its implications for Thurrock Council and to consult Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to seeking a decision from Cabinet on this matter.

Gavin Dennett made Members aware that recommendation should reference the Assistant Director Law and Governance rather than Head of Legal.

As there were no questions, Members were asked to agree the recommendation.

RESOLVED that Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content and proposed recommendation to Cabinet as follows:

Cabinet authorise the Director of Place, in conjunction with the Assistant Director Law and Governance and Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour, to enter into a formal agreement on behalf of Thurrock Council with the Corporation of London to transfer jurisdiction for Environmental Health Matters pertaining to enforcement of food law within the DP World Distribution Park from Thurrock Council to the Corporation of London.

80. Work Programme

Members discussed the work programme.

The meeting finished at 9.23 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

This page is intentionally left blank

4 February 2021		ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Michelle Cunningham – Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Strategic Lead: Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead – Community Safety, Emergency Planning & Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2020 and provides insight into the priorities for the Partnership for 2021/22.

There are certain caveats and limitations to the data currently available within this report as the restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 have impacted on levels of crime committed and reported in 2020. This has resulted in crime types experiencing unprecedented significantly reduced or increased levels. As restrictions have changed, crime levels have continually readjusted. This report therefore provides a greater focus on activity than data.

The previous Strategic Assessment for Thurrock dated January 2020 was published shortly before the pandemic restrictions were implemented on 23 March 2020. As the current data set significantly reflects crime within a pandemic environment the data may not accurately inform priorities for the following year where similar restrictions may not be in place and therefore Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership Board has agreed to retain the priorities identified in the previous assessment for the year 2021-22.

Therefore, as last year, the priorities for the coming year for Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will remain as:

1. Violence Against Women and Girls – including domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and rape of all genders
2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability
3. Local Community and Visibility
4. Tackling Offending and reducing Residential Burglary
5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

The increased investment from Thurrock Council has continued to support an ASB Officer within Community Safety Partnership (CSP), 4 additional town centre police team officers, Op Caesar throughout the summer of 2020, and the role of the gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation lead which has now become a permanent post.

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Board, of which Thurrock is a Partner, have received £1.16m of funding in the year 20/21 for both proactive and reactive work in tackling Serious Violence whereby this is defined as “Community Violence – acts of interpersonal violence committed in public spaces”.

We continue to work alongside Essex Police who have invested the following into Thurrock in 2020:

- Two local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) who work closely with the local CSP in trying to improve confidence in the local area and promote the work they are undertaking.
- They have developed Op Bluebird, which is Essex Polices response to clandestine entry through our ports and road networks, to share information and intelligence widely amongst statutory and law enforcement agencies to make our communities and Ports safer, ensuring a joined up multiagency approach to tackle organised immigration crime and to address the increasing threat of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- A business crime team who are working to tackle and prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour with a focus on Grays High Street so that every Business feels safe without the fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour committed by the minority. They are also currently working with local shops in Purfleet specifically on the Garrison Estate.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2020 and support the retention of the 5 priorities of the Community Safety Partnership for the year 2020/21, which are:

- 1. Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls**
- 2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**
- 3. Local Community and Visibility**

4. **Tackling Offending**
5. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism**

- 1.2 **That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny committee recognise the changing environment and risks that poses to keeping communities safe.**
- 1.3 **That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the requirement to continue to work collaboratively across Essex on the Police and Fire Crime Commissioners Violence and Vulnerability framework and to deliver on the recommendations within the Annual Public Health Report on Serious Youth Violence.**
- 1.4 **That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny understand the impact on the Council of the Domestic Abuse Bill.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Priorities for the CSP for 2020/21 were agreed as:
 1. **Violence Against Women and Girls** – including domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and rape of all genders
 2. **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**
 - Tackle Violence with and without injury
 - Tackle gang related activity and offensive weapons
 - Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime
 - Raise awareness of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery
 3. **Local Community and Visibility**
 - Identify & tackle Anti-social Behaviour
 - Community Engagement / Increased Visibility
 4. **Tackling Offending** and reducing Residential Burglary
 5. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism**
 - Preventing Violent Extremism locally

These are summarised in Appendix 1: Plan on a Page.

- 2.1.1 In addition, the risk matrix identified the Emerging priority of **arson** and we committed to investigate the data further. On investigation this was a change to recording and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) assured us that there hadn't been a spike in arson incidents in 2019 but that all incidents been attended were now been recorded. They have continued to work with operational crews, fire investigators and safer communities' team to target arson along with accidental fires.

- 2.2 These five core priorities will all support the Chief Constables vision with regards to a focus on the four V's, namely:
- Violence
 - Vulnerability
 - Visibility
 - Victims
- 2.3 The CSP must pay due regard to the The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities which have been extended within his Police and Crime Plan following the delay in the PFCC election due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹
- 2.4 The Extended Plan builds on the priorities set out in the 2016 Police and Crime Plan and sets ambitious new goals. The plan notes that whilst significant progress has been made there is still more to do and of particular focus in the next year will be our joint efforts to reduce violence and violent crime in our communities. This work is being led by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership and involves strong preventative action to stop young people and the vulnerable being drawn into a life of crime.
- 2.5 Another increasing area of focus in the Extended Plan is the need to break the cycle of domestic abuse and we continue to work through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) and with Essex Police to achieve this by preventing it happening in the first place, supporting victims, and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- 2.6 The approach of the PFCC continues to be based on building positive local relationships and collaboration with key partners to deliver collective success against our shared priorities. The priorities remain as:
1. More Local, visible and accessible policing
 2. Cracking down on anti-social behaviour
 3. Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
 4. Tackling gangs and serious violence
 5. Disrupting and preventing organised crime
 6. Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm
 7. Improving safety on our roads
- 2.7 Thurrock's CSP, Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care and Public Health Director all continue to work closely with the Violence and Vulnerability Unit who in their model for 2020-21 included the following six work streams:
- i. Influence and help shape wider parts of the system (especially in terms of universal and early intervention)
 - ii. Targeted locations, programmes of work in targeted locations, geographical 'hotspots' and / or targeted 'reachable' moments

¹ Source: Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

- iii. Workforce Development
- iv. Better understanding:
 - of provision in Essex and whether it is effective
 - ongoing & improved data analysis
- v. High risk; known to be at risk; and involved in violence / crime, working with individuals who are causing the most harm through violence in Essex
- vi. Voice of communities, working with the voluntary and community sector to shape our approach to violence reduction

2.8 Summary of **crime performance** for 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2020 compared to 2018/19²:

Victim Based Crime	Offences			
Crime Type	2018/19	2019/20	# diff.	% diff.
Violence Against the Person	6428	6328	-100	-1.6
Sexual Offences	373	385	12	3.2
Robbery	229	191	-38	-16.6
Burglary (all types)	1183	756	-427	-36.1
Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	2277	1785	-492	-21.6
Theft	3451	2587	-864	-25
Criminal Damage incl. Arson	2027	1678	-349	-17.2
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	242	227	-15	-6.2
Domestic Abuse	3113	2772	-341	-11
Possession of Weapons	171	156	-15	-8.8

2.9 This crime data comes with the caveat that it reflects that from 23rd March to 4th July there were exceptional circumstances with people working at home and all non-essential venues closed. The only crime showing an increase in reports to police data is sexual offences, conversely Essex as a force is showing a reported reduction. Some reports are of offences that were committed historically. A detailed analytical report on these offences has been produced and will be reviewed by the CSP and Sexual Violence and Abuse Board.

2.10 Across Essex, **Anti-Social Behaviour** (ASB) reporting increased by 11.76%³, with 48,233 calls in the period 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2020 compared to 43,158 the previous year. In comparison Thurrock increased by 18.93%. This was mainly due to the pandemic where there has been a rise in complaints of ASB. These have been in relation to breaches of Covid rules and this is anticipated to continue as new restrictions are imposed there will be further complaints of individuals failing to comply.

² Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

³ Source: Essex Police Storm system

2.11 The four new ASB categories recorded by Essex Police in relation to Covid are:

New categories	No	Explanation
Covid breach	80	Includes premises open when prohibited, failure to wear masks etc.
Covid Quarantine	23	Persons not quarantining on return from listed countries
Social distancing	381	Dwelling, business and public spaces where Social Distance guidelines are not met
Rule of Six	16	Groups/gatherings in excess of 6 permitted persons

2.12 Overall, there were 5,064 ASB incidents in the District and the highest ASB types, excluding Covid specific types, were Disturbance (1,057) and Nuisance (1,025). There were 226 Nuisance Neighbour calls. Nuisance Vehicle calls increased to 519 this period compared to 250 in the previous year, equating to a rise of 48.28%.

2.13 The total number of anti-social behaviour cases reported to Thurrock Council's ASB team from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 was 474. There has been a rise in the number of complaints about drug related activity in South Ockenden (122) and is second to Tilbury (132) for the number of reports. The main category for reports was in relation to drugs (62) followed by youth nuisance (48) and Harassment (43).

2.14 Essex Police monitor **public perception** of crime by regularly surveying residents across the County to gather and evaluate efforts to address crime. Responses to Quarter 1, 2020/2021 survey which include the initial pandemic lockdown provide the following insights across the County⁴:









- 80% of countywide respondents agreed that the police understood community issues.
- 69% of respondents felt that Essex Police and partner organisations were dealing with ASB.
- 63% felt the same partners were working to prevent crime.
- Essex residents who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem continued to decrease significantly from 27% in the same quarter 2019/20 to 20% in 2020/21.

⁴ Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

2.15 In addition to the regular questions the survey asked Covid19 specific questions:

- 73.3% of those surveyed have confidence in the approach Essex Police is taking in pandemic policing.
- 78.5% fully support the Essex Police approach to the pandemic.
- Complaints about police in relation to Covid19 were led by lack of face coverings and social distancing by Essex Police officers.

Thurrock Q2 2020/21 Public Perception Survey Results ⁵

Question	Year ending Sept 2019	Year ending Sept 2020	% Change
Confidence in local Policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	56%	62%	6% 
Importance of a regular uniformed police presence in the area (% very important)	71%	74%	3% 
Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	56%	70%	14% 
Feel informed about what the Police are doing in my local area (% very/fairly informed)	36%	43%	7% 
Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job	60%	66%	6% 
Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	42%	51%	9% 
Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in your area in the last 12 months	41%	33%	-8% 
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	67%	66%	-1% 

⁵ Source: Thurrock Community Safety Engagement Officer

Key Insights

- The biggest improvement has been seen in Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community with 14% more agreeing with this statement
- There has been a slight dip in those being confident that they will receive a good service from Essex Police.

3. Activity by Priority in 2020

3.1 Violence Against Women and Girls - Covid-19

3.1.1 The unprecedented global pandemic and national lockdown changed the world in March 2020. Individuals working in safeguarding roles had no choice but to move predominantly to online processes of engagement. Understandably, this lack of physical contact with some clients was a serious concern for all. TCSP worked closely with our partners both internally and across Essex to continue service delivery and to respond and safeguard victims of VAWG crimes. As a member of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB), Thurrock domestic abuse practitioners and partners contributed towards the coordinated approach across Essex. This coordination and monitoring was replicated across several internal services to capture changes in demand and emerging concerns.

3.1.2 Achievements across the VAWG agenda

- Training delivered on domestic abuse through 'J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training' to professionals as well as developing and delivering community focused J9 awareness sessions. Sexual violence and abuse awareness delivered through 'Challenging Myths Changing Attitudes'. Both programmes were adapted to enable virtual delivery.
- We played an active part in celebrating International Women's Day and promoted '16 days of activism'.
- Thurrock DAIT (Domestic Abuse Investigation Team) were successful in obtaining the first Stalking Protection Order in Essex.
- Thurrock Public Health completed a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into Sexual Violence & Abuse which was launched at the Thurrock Sexual Violence and Abuse Summit in March 2020. The recommendations will be delivered through the Sexual Violence and Vulnerability Partnership.
- Op Goldcrest (allowing young people the opportunity to anonymously provide evidence of experiences without involving the Police) and Op Encompass (sharing information with schools in relation to incidents of Domestic Abuse) were piloted in Thurrock.
- The Housing Safeguarding Team have supported an increase number of survivors of domestic abuse with some month's caseload figures doubling since last year. During Covid-19 lockdown they have conducted out of hours patrols for safeguarding to be able to make contact and visits in evenings when it may be more convenient for residents.

3.2 Gang related violence and offensive weapons

- Our Operational Gang Related Violence Group has continued to meet and in 2019/20 the group managed 66 cases of which 25 were highlighted as Red i.e. high risk. 21 re-offended which is 32% of the cohort (below the national average for re-offending by generic adult and juvenile offenders), 31 nominals underwent gang intervention, knife prevention programmes, intervention from a GRV partner or a 3rd party commissioned by the CSP. 5 nominals are recorded as having exited gangs, however it is difficult to evidence this on a long term basis.
- Since April, Op Raptor have continued to enforce the Gang Injunctions obtained on 11 members of the C17 gang and further interim injunctions have been served.
- Thurrock has an experienced gangs and Criminal Child Exploitation lead who is working across professionals within Children's social care to develop mapping processes around young people at risk of or involved in exploitation and or gang related violence. A monthly report is produced in relation to contextualised safeguarding and as a result CSP has worked with licensed premises and British Transport Police in areas of concern identified.
- Through the funding provided by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit we have commenced Localities work in Grays, Tilbury and Purfleet, which includes additional outreach work being provided by Red Balloon.
- Thurrock Council's youth services deliver detached youth work across the borough on 3 evenings and Sundays and share concerns and intelligence regards County Line activity. They have continued to deliver a Mentoring Programme to young people with 5 young people currently being supported with 4 pending referrals from the out of court disposal panel. 8 young people were engaged in the CREW+ project (Group mentoring plus activity) during the summer holidays.
- Following identification that Cuckooing was an emerging risk for vulnerable members of our community a working group put in place a protocol, flow process for managing and method of capturing intelligence.

3.3 Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime

- We now have 224 Hate Crime Ambassadors in Thurrock following more training being delivered virtually during hate crime awareness week in Oct 20. All training now includes hate crime.
- In addition we have 9 Hate Incident Reporting Centres
- We have managed 8 referrals to our Locality Action Group in relation to racism (4), Transgender (1), sexuality (1) and due to vulnerabilities linked to disability (2).

3.4 Anti-social behaviour

- In the 10 months to end of October 2020 the CSP received 54 referrals from partners who have concerns around individuals for discussion at our Locality Action Groups which are attended by multiple statutory and

voluntary agencies, this has resulted in successful outcomes for our vulnerable victims.

- In 2020, Thurrock Council received 11 requests for an anti-social behaviour case review. Two of these were followed up with successful outcomes, including Community Protection Warnings being served.
- The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Grays High Street was reviewed and extended in April 2020, a total of 52 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served to members of the public linked to breaches of the order and 119 warnings were issued, after the disposal of their alcohol and offenders were moved on from the PSPO zone.
- The PSPO in place to address car cruising in West Thurrock has been tested over the summer but has been robustly enforced by the Community Policing Team, in partnership with the Environmental Enforcement Team and operations resulted in 30 Fixed Penalty Notices being issued.
- Our youth services offer Street Football sessions as part of their detached/ outreach work in the four identified areas of social deprivation in Thurrock; Purfleet, Aveley, Grays and Tilbury, and on a weekly basis, support young people who are at risk of offending and criminal activity.
- We have strived to improve public confidence and satisfaction by engaging with local residents by developing local actions plans in ASB hotspots. Chadwell St Mary was identified in last year's needs assessment as having an increase of ASB, a street meet was held with residents and target hardening measures put in place.
- Prior to lockdown we were working closely with 3 secondary schools to identify young people at risk of exclusion or offending in their local community actions put in place The ASB analytical report 2019 identified a reduction in ASB in Tilbury Riverside Ward which had decreased by 34.9% and Ockendon ward by 37.9%. We believe positive partnership working with schools in the areas contributed to this reduction.
- The Private Housing Team has granted 147 HMO licenses under Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing. The scheme has encouraged residents to report complaints about poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents and pests. Going forward they will use new powers to tackle rogue landlords including the use of civil penalty notices for housing offences
- The council CCTV service captured a total of 2078 incidents on camera for Police and Council investigation. Where ASB hotspot areas are highlighted, we use mobile CCTV cameras to gather further intelligence.
- In 2020, we have implemented target hardening measures to 12 areas which were vulnerable to fly tipping, unauthorised encampments and off road motorbikes.
- We have successfully applied to the High Court for an interim injunction prohibiting unauthorised encampments. It is anticipated that Thurrock will apply for the full injunction in early 2021. This has led to a reduction of 12 unauthorised encampments in 2020 compared to 2019 (accepting that some of this is in relation to Government guidelines in relation to Covid-19.)

- Following surplus funding made available by members to address ASB in Thurrock an ASB officer was employed in Oct 2019 to investigate cases where the complainants are privately renting or owner/occupiers. We have seen an increase in reports due to Covid- 19 with the cases relating predominantly to noise nuisance, neighbour disputes, drug taking and youth congregation. Between January and October 2020 these investigations have resulted in:
 - 2 Community Protection Warnings being issued
 - 23 Noise Warning letters issued
 - 9 referrals to multi-agency Locality Action Group
 - 6 Safeguarding referrals
 - 2 referrals to the Restorative Justice service

The CSP team also work closely with Essex Police's new business crime unit to tackle offences committed in business premises across the borough.

- Through additional Council funding in 2019/20 the Community Safety Partnership resourced Operation Caesar, run by Essex Police to tackle the nuisance caused by off road vehicles behaving in an anti-social manner. Funding enabled operations to run until September 2020 with the following results:

ACTION TAKEN	Jul 19 - Jun 20
Incidents attended	124
Fail to stop	86
S 59 warnings	43
Intel reports	33
Stop search	29
Other traffic process/offence	19
Careless driving	18
Words of advice (engaged whilst setting up to ride)	13
Arrests	7
S165	6
Stolen vehicle recovered	5
Vehicle search	4
Prohibition notice	4
Excess Speed	3
CPWs	3
Vehicle seized	3
Driving otherwise than in accordance with a license	3
No seatbelt	1

3.5 Community engagement and increased visibility

- Essex Police have this year invested in local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) of which there are 2 in Thurrock who work closely with the local CSP in trying to improve confidence in the local area and promote the work they are undertaking.
- They have provided regular and varied posts on Facebook and as a result seen page likes up by 60% and post engagement up by 56%. Followers have increased from 7,890 in July to 9,346 in Dec.
- Working closely with Thurrock Council's resident engagement team 4 socially distanced street meets have been held. Rather than choosing a town centre these meets are held in a street that has been highlighted with issues by either local councillors, LAG meetings, CSP manager or Community Policing Team (CPT). A leaflet drop of around 30/35 addresses is made before the meet and so far these have been well attended and positively received. They are held in partnership with CSP, Thurrock council teams covering ASB, Housing, Estates & Resident engagement which has led to a focus on long term solutions to the issues raised.
- In thinking how to engage with the public differently a virtual question and answer session on ASB in Tilbury has been held.
- Engagement has started with groups within Thurrock such as Thurrock BME Ltd, Thurrock NGC (Nepalese & Gurkha community), and Tilbury educational & cultural association.
- As part of black history month in October, an online event – Let's Talk Policing in Thurrock, A conversation with BAME community leaders was held and has led to the setting up of Thurrock's Fairness & Equality Challenge Panel, which held its first panel in December.
- Prior to National Lockdown, working with Thurrock CVS we had held one community workshop to look at the issue of serious youth violence
- Our Independent Advisory Group has continued to meet and discussed numerous topics in relation to the varied work in Essex Police, including the role of the Missing Person Liaison Officer.
- The CSP has supported the Well Homes project to protect vulnerable residents and older people through targeted visits, fire risk assessments and winter warm initiatives and since January 2020, 185 Well Homes Assessments have been carried out.

3.6 Tackling Offending

- Reducing reoffending is a statutory duty of both Local Authorities and CSP's
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company have delivered the following interventions aimed at reducing re-offending:
 - Since Oct 19 CRC are delivering interventions to BAME offenders using 4Front – this is currently being evaluated.

- Working with partners to offer women only environments for our women service users and Open Road have just completed their first Women's Programme in Thurrock. Due to C-19 capacity was limited to 5 with 100% completing
- A Homeless Prevention Taskforce was established for those at risk of homelessness upon release from HMP. To date 1 Thurrock resident has accessed the funding and was released to accommodation in Thurrock where he remains
- Project in a Box has allowed community payback work to continue during the pandemic with service users involved in mask making, keeping in touch cards and making Christmas presents for children in refuges. These items are then sold in charity shops, given to refuges and provided to prisoners who are unable to receive visits to keep in touch with families etc.
- There has been a continued focus on the promotion of Restorative Justice and we have hosted training for 35 attendees – mainly from housing, and it is envisaged this will see an increase in our referrals.
- The Public Health Well Homes project provides temporary housing accommodation to prolific ex-offenders and works closely with IOM and Thurrock Inclusions to provide employment and training interventions to increase their employment opportunities.

3.7 Counter Terrorism and Extremism

- Training has been developed into virtual learning with 2 sessions delivered and 2 more planned. Meanwhile the Home Office on line training has been promoted
- Thurrock Council's events protocol and checklist now reflects checks required to ensure compliance to the Local Duty with regards to Prevent.
- Our member working group on Prevent have had a briefing from the Counter Terrorism team, attended hate crime awareness training and ideology training with Me and You Education

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Apart from the ongoing impact that Covid-19 continues to have on services, resourcing multiagency response through face to face meetings, residents engagement, increased and more high risk complex in nature cases of domestic abuse, and increased ASB- primarily in relation to neighbours and/or noise nuisance other key risks identified by the partnership are detailed in appendix 2 (horizon scanning – PESTELO) the Over view and scrutiny committees attention is drawn to the following areas of change / risk.
- 4.2 **DA Bill – Statutory Duty for LA's:** Part 4 of the 2020 Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities, placing clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England. Under this new duty Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking

local needs assessments, including developing and monitoring local strategies. We are also required to effectively commission services based on a robust needs assessment, and report back annually to Government. Subject to the successful passage the new duty will commence in April 2021. Government has announced that Tier 1 authorities will receive a one off payment of £50,000 to help prepare them for the duty. ^[1] The fund is required to be spent or allocated by April 2021, with a report to government on the expenditure due July 2021. The capacity building fund is not associated with the functions of the new duty and local authorities are not expected to deliver the duty before it comes into force.

- 4.3 Thurrock Council have the responsibility to deliver the requirements of the new duty and is in a very unique and encouraging position regarding the existing provision of safe accommodation. Whilst many other local authorities have had to rely on MHCLG funding to fund safe accommodation on a year-to-year basis, Thurrock Council have prioritised this area of support. In 2016, the Housing department established a Housing Safeguarding Team, frontline professionals dealing with domestic abuse victims and survivors. More recently in 2018 the department recommissioned the local women's refuge, safe accommodation, which is delivered by our local partner, Changing Pathways. The proposal for spending the capacity fund is in 3 key areas, Flexible Funding, Training & Awareness and Survivor Voices. *"Flexible funding is a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily for victim/survivors."* The implementation of flexible funding in the pilot sites has validated the need for this fund to be accompanied by high quality specialist domestic abuse support. Thurrock are already in this position with our dedicated Housing Safeguarding Team.
- 4.4 A percentage of this funding will enable Thurrock to expand the offer of the J9 programme or other specialist domestic abuse training to frontline staff and individuals with line management responsibilities. Voice and experience of survivors is paramount. The new duty calls for victim and survivor voices to be heard within both the needs assessments and the Board that exercises the functions delivering the duty. Thurrock have many providers who have their own groups that collate and have access to survivor voices, but most collate this information independently. The aim is to establish a central forum.
- 4.5 A proposal for spending the capacity building fund is in draft, and it comprises of elements including, but not limited to, additional domestic abuse training, victim/survivor voice forum and a domestic abuse flexible funding trial. All are still a proposal for now and for agreement in the coming weeks.
- 4.6 All members of the CSP are aware of the potential for increased risk of community tensions and Hate Crime reporting in relation to EU Exit. Robust monitoring is in place to ensure an appropriate response to any concerns raised.

^[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-capacity-building-fund-for-local-authorities/guidance-for-local-authorities-on-the-domestic-abuse-capacity-building-fund#the-purpose-of-the-6-million-capacity-building-fund>

- 4.7 Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National road network and has been identified as a hot spot for human trafficking. The District Commander for Thurrock continues to lead on Portswatch improving the sharing of information between agencies and response to incursions. We are working with crimestoppers on launching a campaign aimed at improving harnessing community intelligence.
- 4.8 Lack of housing options in London leading to families moving out to Thurrock, increasing pressure on resources, particularly in terms of social care, youth offending and housing.
- 4.9 The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst the injunctions placed on members of C17 continues to be enforced and have had a positive impact it has left a void in the market which will be exploited by others. The gang and criminal exploitation lead is working with OP Raptor (Essex Police response to gang related violence) and Children's Social Care to identify those at risk of being exploited and put in place interventions. The localities work funded by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit concentrates preventative work in Grays, Tilbury and Purfleet.
- 4.10 Last year's report recognised that the biggest challenge facing the CSP was to improve public confidence to continue to report community issues either to the Police, Council or anonymously to crimestoppers.
- 4.11 Essex Police have made a number of improvements to how they respond to contact from members of the public which can be seen in the Call Centre Stats below:

Essex Police Call Centre Stats	YTD	YTD Last Year*
FCR⁶ Call Handling (999)		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:00:07	00:00:10
FCR Non-Emergency (101)		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:02:59	00:03:39
Resolution Centre Call Handling - Public Calls		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:03:25	00:14:44

* These are up to 12th Dec 2020 for both this year and last year.

- 4.12 The FCR non-emergency calls are ones which need attendance but on a standard response, whereas the Resolution Centre are reports of crime that require recording but not necessarily any attendance. Calls to the Resolution Centre are the ones that have seen the most significant reduction year on year which is where previously residents may have experienced long wait times. In addition, Live Chat, was introduced in April 2020. It is staffed by Force Control Room operators which operate a digital 101 service from 7am to 11pm every day. On average there are 50 chats per day taking place. This

⁶ Force Control Room

number is steadily increasing due to promotion of the tool via Essex Police and partners. This is a way that the public can make contact to ask for advice without having to ring 101 or visit a police station. 92% of users say they would use the service again and 92% would recommend it to a friend. 71% of users say that had it not been available they would have rung 101, 5% would have visited a police station, 10% would have emailed officers / departments. 14% did not respond.

- 4.13 Members of the public can now also report Anti-Social Behaviour online via the Essex Police website. The reports go directly into the Force Control Room and are assessed for the most appropriate response. Again this reduces need for people to ring 101 to report an issue. We will continue to promote all ways that residents can contact the Police.

5. Key areas of work planned to deliver on priorities in 2020/21

- 5.1 **Violence Against Women and Girls** - The key focus will be on continuing to deliver on the action plan which accompanies the 2020/23 strategy and ensuring compliance to the changes within the Domestic Abuse Bill

- 5.2 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability - gang related violence** - Thurrock's Director of Public Health has published the Annual Public Health Report on Youth Violence and Vulnerability: The Crime paradox and a Public Health Response. This report makes 31 recommendations which alongside partners we are developing actions plans to respond to in relation to:

- Surveillance: understanding and monitoring the problem at a population level.
- Primary Prevention: "inoculate" the wider community against the risk of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.
- Secondary Prevention: intervention with those with existing risk factors to mitigate risk.
- Tertiary Prevention: "treatment" of perpetrators and victims of violence to reduce further harm.

- 5.3 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability – Hate Crime** We will continue to expand our Hate Crime Ambassador training and raise awareness of reporting. Our stay safe events for service users of Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions will be moving on line.

- 5.4 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability – Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery** we will support the work of OP Bluebird, Portswatch and crimestoppers to increase information flow between our communities and professionals to safeguard victims from this organised form of criminality.

5.5 Local Community and Visibility

- We are looking to launch a public consultation into a Public Space Protection Order against which will prohibit dog fouling across the borough, dogs from play areas and place restrictions on dogs being on leads in cemeteries or when required to do so by an authorised person.
- We will continue to seek solutions to the motorbike nuisance issues in Thurrock and review the PSPO in place in West Thurrock.
- Implement a multi-agency plan in place to address an increase of ASB on the Garrison estate in West Thurrock and South Stifford ward.
- Work with the resident engagement team and Community Safety & Engagement Officers to develop alternative ways of engaging with all communities as well as develop the work with Thurrock's Fairness & Equality Challenge Panel.

5.6 **Tackling Offending** - We will continue to promote Essex Restorative Justice and mediation services to victims of ASB, utilise Community Justice Panels and encourage this as an option for hate crime. The Integrated Offender Management Programme will be expanded to include gang nominal and become the Prolific Offender Team. NPS and CRC will be coming together again as one service.

5.7 **Counter Terrorism and Extremism** - We will continue to respond to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and develop our communications plan and embed the statutory guidance in relation to Channel Panels.

5.8 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted that there is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm and that older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders. Young people are at greater risk of exploitation including sexual, trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation and gang related violence. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender and sexual orientation communities continue to have low rates of reporting. Learning disabled are at risk of "cuckooed" in relation to gang violence. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. There continues to be a gap around information about same sex domestic abuse victims.

6. Reasons for Recommendation

6.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on why our priorities for 2020/21 remain as current.

6.2 This report outlines the risks to the safety of our communities and the actions taken to mitigate those risks.

6.3 The response to "Community Violence" requires a multi-agency coordinated both proactive and reactive approach across Essex.

- 6.4 Members of the CGS O & S need to be aware of the implications of the Domestic Bill 2020 on the Local Authority.

7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 7.1 N/A

8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 8.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
- 8.2 We are working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to draft a narrative on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026 proposed new domain in relation to Community Safety, Development and Cohesion which, if agreed, will focus on the wider determinants of health including domestic violence, exploitation, ASB, safe places, feeling safe, gangs and county lines

9. Implications

9.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

The CSP has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,347 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

The PFCC and partners have been successful in obtaining additional funds to support targeted work to tackle violence and vulnerability.

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law

There do not appear to be any direct legal implications arising from this report.

9.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The gaps identified in 3.15 with regards to equality are addressed within the action plans.

9.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Children Looked After)

This report outlines the Council and its Partners commitment to ensuring they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act legislation.

10. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- DRAFT Partnership Strategic assessment 2020 (not yet published)
- Partnership Delivery Plan 2020/21
www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership
- Annual Public Health Report for Thurrock 2020
- Police and Crime Plan
www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/

11. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - CSP Priorities on a page

Appendix 2 - Horizon Scanning PESTELO

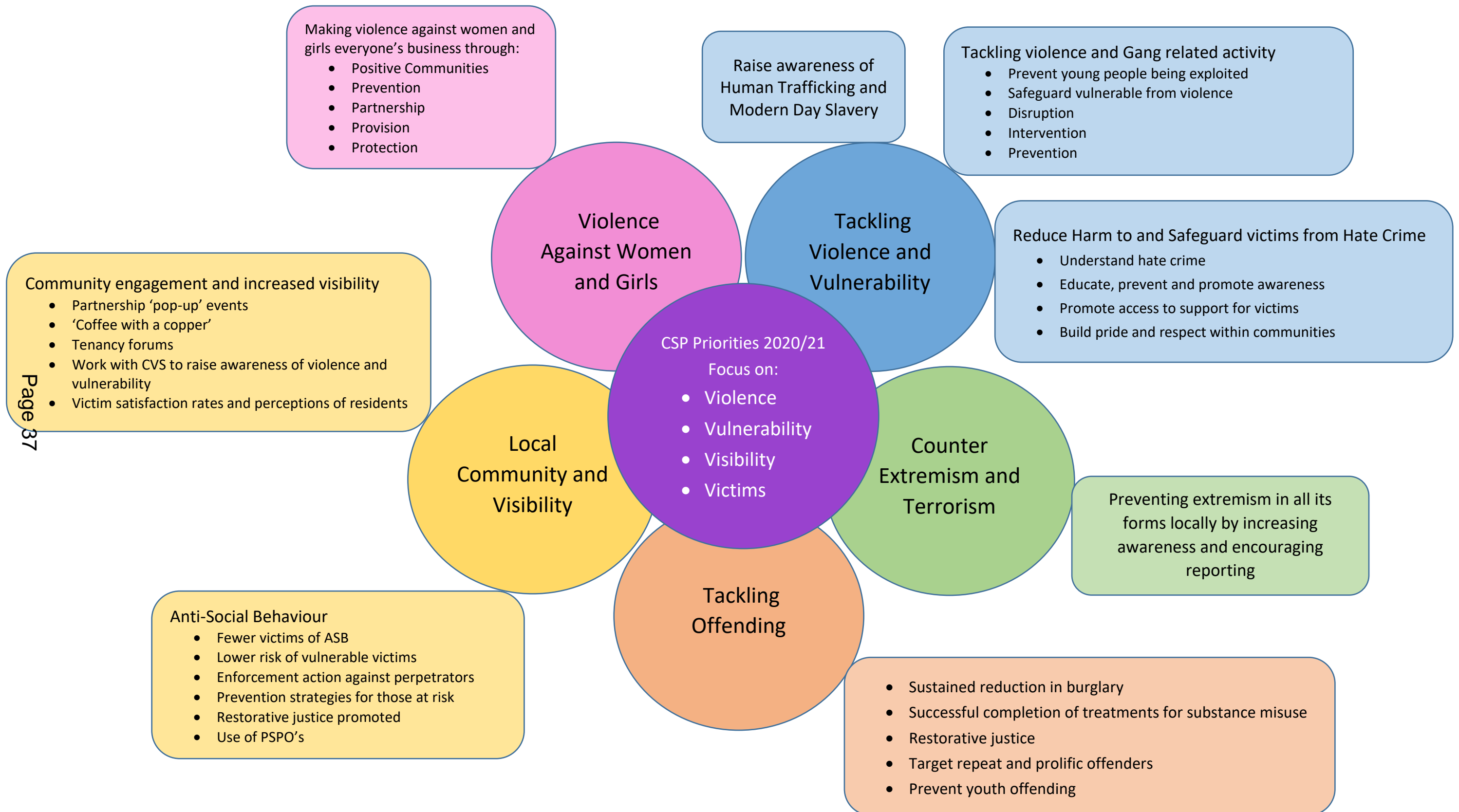
Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager

This page is intentionally left blank

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2020 - 2021



For more information follow us: @ThurrockCSP / @ThurrockCPT

This page is intentionally left blank

1.1 Horizon Scanning – PESTELO

Political	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased threat level in relation to Counter Terrorism meaning attack highly likely. Risk is from Self-Initiated Terrorism. There is no current specific threat to Thurrock 2. Risk of increased community tensions and Hate Crime reporting in relation to EU Exit Jan 21 3. PFCC and Local Elections in May 2021 potential change in administration & priorities
Environmental	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Building developments across Thurrock including housing and industrial 5. Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National road network and has been identified as a hot spot for human trafficking 6. Buckles Lane - options in relation to enforcement are being considered 7. Off rd. motorbikes continue to damage open spaces and concern for resident safety 8. Risk to road users from metal theft increase in relation gulley's
Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Lack of housing options in London leading to families moving out to Thurrock, increasing pressure on resources, particularly in terms of social care, youth offending and housing 10. There is a heightened risk that there are unidentified victims of Human Trafficking within Thurrock 11. The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock 12. The impact of Covid-19 on our communities both in the short and long term as well on ability to deliver services 13. Young people are being housed in the borough from London authorities without adherence to the memorandum of understanding and informing YOS in timely manner
Technological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Due to home education and socialising risk of increased online exploitation 15. Car key hacking and cloning increase theft of motor vehicle
Economic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Financial pressure places on all public services and voluntary sector as a result of Covid-19 may impact on resources to implement the strategy
Legislative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Ongoing changes to guidance in relation to Covid-19 which requires policing 18. Bill aimed at tackling Domestic Abuse to be introduced, currently delayed due to General Election
Organisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Changes within probation with planned reintegration of NPS and CRC 20. impact of budget pressure through Covid-19 on staffing within all partners

This page is intentionally left blank

4 February 2021		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This annual report provides the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the Councils response to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and ensure that:

- i) We understand the local threat; and
- ii) Judge whether the strategy and actions planned will address that threat.

The recently published Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members (Appendix 1) says: *“Elected Members are crucial for successful delivery of Prevent, by overseeing and scrutinising local plans which ensure that citizens are kept safe, and vulnerable people are given safeguarding support from the harms of radicalisation. Elected Members also play a critical role in representing members of their local community. They act as both a voice of local citizens; raising issues and concerns, whilst speaking on behalf of the Local Authority to communicate how policies and programmes operate.”*

The handbook outlines three key roles for Elected Members in shaping and delivering Prevent activity locally:

- 1) Leadership and Direction**
- 2) Community Dialogue**
- 3) Scrutiny:** *Elected Members may also consider their role in providing transparency and accountability in delivering Prevent through formal scrutiny procedures. By holding to account the local delivery of Prevent, improvements*

can be made to implementation, and communities can be reassured by increased transparency.

This paper allows Elected Members the opportunity to scrutinise the local implementation of Prevent in Thurrock

The *Prevent* strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims work in partnership to identify and safeguard those vulnerable to radicalisation and to manage that risk through diversion and disruption.

On 3/11/20 the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) upgraded the UK national terrorism threat level from SUBSTANTIAL to **SEVERE**. This means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. The increased threat level was following on from 2 terrorist incidents in France and Islamic State Group claiming responsibility for attack in Vienna. There is no specific threat to the UK and the threats remain from ISIS and extreme right wing groups alongside the threat from individuals.

The fact remains we should be vigilant to all potential risks from extremism and terrorism.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 created a new duty on Local Authorities, and partners to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

In November 2020 the Home Office published Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. This document provides statutory guidance for Channel panel members and partners of local panels. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act sets out the duty on local authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. In England and Wales, this duty is met through Channel panels.

Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally, remains one of the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2020/21.

Thurrock's *Prevent* strategy was refreshed in October 2020 and outlines our multi-agency response to tackle extremism and respond to the duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Protecting children and vulnerable adults from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the Councils wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting them from any other harms be that whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The CSP has a Strategic Prevent Board which meets quarterly and is chaired by Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing. The CSP board chair, Prevent chair, Channel Panel chair and CSP manager support a member working group on Prevent which is chaired by Cllr Ralph.

1. Recommendation(s)

That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee members:

- 1.1 Note the increased National risk.**
- 1.2 Understand the implications for the Local Authority in relation to the Channel Duty Guidance.**
- 1.3 Consider the ratings and actions reported in the self-assessment Prevent duty toolkit for Local Authorities.**
- 1.4 Support the members working group to promote the important role that members play in raising awareness of Prevent, community tension monitoring and reporting concerns.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The PREVENT strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. CONTEST is structured around a 4P approach to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism:
 - Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
 - Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks.
 - Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
 - Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
- 2.2 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, of which Local Authorities are one, in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This *Prevent duty* guidance¹ states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.
- 2.3 The other specified authorities in the Act who are also subject to the *Prevent* duty include criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police.
- 2.4 Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. According to the 2020 Channel Duty guidance the most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations associated with Al Qa’ida, Daesh, terrorists associated with extreme right-wing ideologies and lone actors inspired by such organisations.²

¹ *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales 16th July 2015 revised 2019

² This list is not exhaustive. Risk and threat to the UK is subject to constant review and updated accordingly.

- 2.5 In order to prevent terrorism the Government is clear that this will mean challenging extremist (and non-violent) ideas that are also part of a terrorist ideology, including instances of unclear, mixed or unstable ideology whilst remaining committed to protecting freedom of speech.
- 2.6 The foundation of delivery of Prevent is based on early intervention and safeguarding. Prevent also facilitates interventions to stop people moving from extremist activity to terrorist-related activity.
- 2.7 Channel panels form a key part of Prevent. This is a multiagency approach to i) identify those individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism ii) assess the nature and extent of that risk and iii) to provide early support to those identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. There is no defined threshold to determine whether an individual is at risk of being drawn into terrorism as there is no one profile of a terrorist. Channel is a voluntary process and offers early support regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background. Channel allows individuals to receive support before their vulnerabilities can be exploited and before they potentially become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.
- 2.8 In 2015 Thurrock CSP adopted Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally as a priority and it remains one of our priority areas
- 2.9 Our *Prevent* strategy 2020/23 (Appendix 2) was published in October 2020. We have aligned our local strategic objectives to the national strategic objectives which are:
1. **Identify:**
 2. **Safeguard:**
 3. **Manage Risk:**

To deliver these National objectives in Thurrock we will:

1. **Identify:** We will promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working
 2. **Safeguard:** We will ensure that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism
 3. **Manage Risk:** Through our Channel Panel we will take a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- 2.10 Local risks are reviewed and updated quarterly through the strategic governance board for Prevent and the action plan reviewed accordingly and are based on the Eastern Region Counter Terrorism Local Profile. Our action plan was refreshed in line with the strategy and reflects the strategic

objectives outlined in 2.4 as well as **Monitoring:** Managing the approach to Prevent in Thurrock through the Local Authority Toolkit

- 2.11 The Home Office have developed a *Prevent* duty toolkit, which the Prevent strategy group rated as follows (Dec 20):

	Benchmark	RAG Rating
1.	Local Risk Assessment	Green
2.	Multi Agency Partnership Board	Yellow
3.	Prevent Partnership Action Plan	Green
4.	Referral Process	Green
5.	Channel Panel	Green
6.	Prevent Problem Solving Process	Green
7.	Training Programme	Green
8.	Venue Hire	Yellow
9.	Community Engagement	Yellow
10.	Communications	Green

The following are within our action plan to achieve green RAG ratings for all areas:

- Develop links to communities through member engagement.
- Council's policy on venue hire has been refreshed in line with the Prevent duty. Next steps are to promote and cascade internally and develop for community groups, licensed premises and schools.
- Nationally it has been recognised that Prevent is poorly understood, with many never having heard of the programme.³ In recognising this the Home Office have recently launched ACT Early <https://actearly.uk/> and there is a need to promote this to all communities locally.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Summary of Activity Delivered in 2020

- Training has been developed into virtual learning with 2 sessions delivered and 2 more planned. Meanwhile the Home Office on line training has been promoted.
- Thurrock Council's events protocol and checklist now reflects checks required to ensure compliance to the Local Duty with regards to Prevent.
- Our member working group on Prevent have had a briefing from the Counter Terrorism team, attended hate crime awareness training and ideology training with Me and You Education.
- Our member working group developed and agreed a 5 point pledge card (Appendix 3).

³ Past, Prevent and the Future: Tony Blair Institute for global change Sept 2020

- Prevent is included within the monthly contextual safeguarding report written by Children's Social Care and is included within the exploitation risk assessment.
- Our commissioning processes ensure that any placements for young people outside of Borough have Prevent awareness training.
- Resources on digital safety and Prevent were shared with schools.
- Prevent is now recognised and monitored through the corporate risk log.
- Chair of Prevent Board attends the Essex Contest Board to ensure consistency and share best practice.

3.2. Work planned to deliver in 2021/22

- Continue to respond to the quarterly Counter Terrorism Local Profile, revise action plan if new risks and threats identified, and update and share as appropriate the situational risk assessment for Thurrock.
- Event policy to be cascaded to community premises for hire, sports settings, playing fields and theatres.
- Guidance on event bookings and booking form to be drafted and shared with faith groups, schools and licensed premises.
- Working with the communications team and resident engagement team to promote ACT Early and increase awareness within communities.
- Support the Members working group to develop their work plan to reach out to all communities on this agenda.
- Continue with monthly programme of training for professionals.
- Children's social care will continue to raise the profile of Prevent in relation to exploitation and safeguarding.
- Briefing for the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police planned for January.
- Review new Channel duty guidance, complete self-assessment when issued and respond to any gaps identified.

3.3 Channel Panel

- The Home Office in November 2020 published Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. (Appendix 4) Section 36 of the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (CT &S) sets out the duty on Local Authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. In England and Wales, this duty is met through Channel panels. Within this guidance, the term 'Channel' refers to the local authority-led support and the duty as set out in the CT&S Act.
- As a designated statutory duty, the requirements of Channel should be reflected in relevant local policy, guidance and the local authority's constitution.
- Some of the key practical requirements for local authorities include:
 - Designating a Channel chair and deputy chair; core competencies have been introduced covering skills, training and experience to fulfil the roles.

- Embedding Channel within local governance arrangements.
 - As a statutory function, ensuring Channel is incorporated within Local Authority constitutions.
 - Updating local Data Protection Information Notices (privacy notices) to reflect Channel panel and the use of personal data.
- Summary of key changes in updated guidance:
 - Greater emphasis placed on the statutory nature of panels , the requirement to have regard to the guidance and expectations on local ownership and delivery.
 - Introduces arrangements for monitoring local compliance with Channel.
 - Introduces the concept of minimum core competencies for panel chairs and deputy chairs, directing levels of skills, experience and completion of Home Office training for these roles.
 - Introduces guidance for local governance and proposes minimum requirements to direct panel form and function, including audibility
 - Provides opportunity for chairs to gain UK National Vetting Security Check clearance from police.
 - Extends availability of referral data to panels from police, to support practice delivery, governance and performance oversight.
 - Sets the expectation that local authorities inform the Home Office of their named chair and deputy chair, and that the Chief Executive of the local authority is satisfied with the appointment.
 - Introduces the expectation to convene panel meetings monthly where a live case is held.
 - In reviewing the guidance in relation to Channel we can assure members that:
 - We have an appropriately designated chair and vice chair.
 - The chair has security clearance and has completed all required training.
 - Our panel meets monthly and has appropriate representation.
 - Governance is in place through the Prevent Strategic Board.
 - Our peer review in February 2020 found:
 - Good representation across all agencies.
 - Confidentiality agreement in place.
 - Summary clearly presented and all able to input to discussion.
 - History and concerns well-presented alongside Police who provided a good update with discussion and involvement of all present and that outcomes are either managed by individual agency or Intervention Provider is required and appointed.

3.4 Equality Impact Assessment

The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment 2020 (within Appendix 2, strategy) highlighted:

- There is no age profile and applies to all age groups, however the action plan has a clear focus on prevention of radicalisation of young people and in particular focus is the local duty in educational establishments.
- Prevent needs to support people vulnerable to radicalisation due to learning disabilities or mental health and therefore may have a positive impact on this group.
- There is a concern nationally that Prevent stereotypes the Muslim community and therefore has a negative impact on the Muslim population. A positive benefit of the strategy is to encourage dialogue between all communities.

3.5 Summary

- The current threat level nationally is severe and this is why the *Prevent* agenda remains a priority for the CSP in Thurrock.
- There is no identified greater risk to the community of Thurrock than elsewhere in England.
- The key challenges faced by the CSP for the coming year are to:
 - Increase awareness of communities and the *Prevent* agenda.
 - Embed the new Channel guidance.
 - Review the training offer in line with Home Office updates to increase awareness amongst professional.
- The key message for members and communities is that “Communities Defeat Terrorism” and that if you act early help is available to families and friends.

4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 To ensure members understand the current risk both Nationally and Locally and are satisfied that we are responding appropriately.
- 4.2 That members understand the Statutory Duty placed on Thurrock Council with regards to Channel Panels.
- 4.3 That members are appraised of current fulfilment of statutory duties and are satisfied actions are in place to close the gaps.
- 4.4 To equip members to champion the Prevent agenda within our communities who are often first to spot the signs of change and need to know how to recognise and seek support.

5. **Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 The strategy was shared with the Members working group for an opportunity to comment before it was signed off by partners at the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board and Directors Board.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
- 6.2 In implementing the *Prevent* strategy in Thurrock there is an opportunity to increase awareness of Prevent, dispel any myths and safeguard those vulnerable to radicalisation.
- 6.3 Historically when there has been an International or a National terrorist attack Thurrock has experienced a spike in hate crime. As part of *Prevent* awareness training we include an awareness of hate crime and how to report, based on the “Stop the Hate” campaign. We also monitor and report on any community tensions.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Ian Hunt**
**Assistant Director of Law and Governance and
Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Members have the opportunity to scrutinise the Council's arrangements through the current Member working group and the Council's wider Scrutiny arrangements in line with the guidance.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
**Community Development and Equalities
Manager**

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) identified in 3.4 are recognised within our action plans.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

This report will help the Council and its Partners ensure that they are delivering on its commitments to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales revised 2019
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>
- Thurrock's *Prevent* Strategy
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/prevent-strategy-v03.pdf>
- Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2020/21
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2020-v01.pdf>
- Government *Prevent* duty tool kit for Local Authorities
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736759/Prevent_Duty_Toolkit_for_Local_Authorities.pdf

9. Appendices to the report

1. Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members
2. Thurrock's Prevent Strategy and Equality Impact Assessment
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/prevent-strategy-v03.pdf>
3. Pledge Card
4. Channel Duty Guidance
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928326/6.6271_HO_HMG_Channel_Duty_Guidance_v13_WEB_English.pdf

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud

This page is intentionally left blank



Home Office

PREVENT

Handbook for Elected Members



CONTENTS

The UK Counter-Terrorism Landscape	3
What is Prevent?	4
<i>a) The Prevent Delivery Model</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>(i) Tackling the Causes of Radicalisation</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>(ii) Early Intervention</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>(iii) Rehabilitation</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>b) The Prevent Duty</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>c) Prevent, Counter-Extremism and Integration</i>	<i>9</i>
Local Authority Partnership Self-Assessment Tool	10
The Role of Elected Members	11
Resources Available to Elected Members	13
Myths and Misconceptions	14
Glossary	15
Further Information	16

Prevent - Handbook for Elected Members

The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard vulnerable individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, by engaging with people vulnerable to radicalisation and protecting them from being targeted by terrorist recruiters.

Prevent uses a similar approach to public health models, which focus on prevention rather than treatment. Focusing solely on confronting ideologies alone will not undermine terrorism. Prevent provides holistic support to address some of the personal and social conditions which make vulnerable people receptive to radicalisation.

Alongside other public-sector bodies such as policing, healthcare and education institutions, Local Authorities play a vital role, and have a legal duty to implement Prevent to protect vulnerable people and manage the threat from terrorism.

As leaders and representatives of local citizens, Elected Members have the reach and understanding to create and maintain meaningful relationships with their communities. Although tackling radicalisation may appear to be distant from the typical day-to-day role of Elected Members, the delivery of Prevent requires the support of local communities, local partnerships and local leaders to be implemented effectively.

This document provides information for Local Authority Elected Members about the context, purpose and implementation of Prevent. It looks at the important role that Local Authorities and Elected Members can play at a local level, and how they can lead the vital work that is necessary to safeguard individuals against radicalisation.



THE UK COUNTER-TERRORISM LANDSCAPE

The Threat

- The UK is currently facing a number of different terrorist threats, ranging from Daesh and Al'Qa'ida-inspired to right-wing terrorism.
- The current level of threat from terrorism in the UK is substantial - which means an attack is considered likely.
- The threat has mainly been caused by Daesh (also known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - ISIL). Their ability to direct, enable and inspire attacks makes the group the most significant global terrorist threat.
- There is also a growing threat from right-wing terrorism. The Government has banned three right-wing terrorist groups - National Action, Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) and Feuerkrieg Division (FKD).
- Since 2017, there have been nine Daesh-inspired attacks and two right-wing terrorist attacks in the UK. These attacks have resulted in the tragic loss of many lives, as well as severe injuries and psychological impacts for victims.
- Terrorism also represents a huge cost to the country financially, with the direct and indirect costs of the 2017 attacks alone running into the billions of pounds.
- Some online spaces are used by terrorists to spread sophisticated propaganda designed to radicalise, recruit and inspire people, and to incite or provide information to enable terrorist attacks. Since 2010, over 310,000 pieces of illegal terrorist material have been removed from the internet by the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU), a body set up by the Home Office to help counter the spread of terrorist propaganda online.

CONTEST

- The UK combats the threats from terrorism through CONTEST, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk of terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.
- The most recent version was published in June 2018 as a result of a review of all aspects of counter-terrorism. The review was undertaken to ensure that Britain has the best response to the heightened threat, seen through the attacks in London and Manchester in 2017.

The framework for CONTEST, is made up of four 'P's:

Prevent:

to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Pursue:

to stop terrorist attacks

Protect:

to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

Prepare:

to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

WHAT IS PREVENT?

The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard people who are at risk of radicalisation and to stop them from being exploited by people who would want them to support terrorism. It is also about building resilience in communities through a variety of projects and civil society organisations.

The Prevent programme uses early intervention to protect individuals and communities from the harms of terrorism. Prevent works in a similar way to programmes designed to safeguard people from other harms, such as gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse, by tackling the underlying causes of radicalisation. Intervention support for vulnerable individuals is both confidential and voluntary. Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public-sector institutions.

Prevent work also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism through the Desistance and Disengagement Programme. This programme is a new element of Prevent that provides a range of intensive tailored interventions and practical support, designed to tackle the drivers of radicalisation. Support could include mentoring, psychological support, theological and ideological advice.

PREVENT IS:

- An extension of existing multi-agency safeguarding principles
- Working with communities and local civil society to build resilience to terrorist narratives
- Promoting debate in schools and universities
- Tackling terrorism in all its forms

PREVENT IS NOT:

- A spying mechanism
- Focussed on any particular religion or ethnicity
- Stifling free speech in higher education

Success in Preventing Terrorism

Over 310,000 pieces of terrorist material removed from the internet, since February 2010

203 community based projects were delivered in 2018/19 reaching over **142,000 participants**

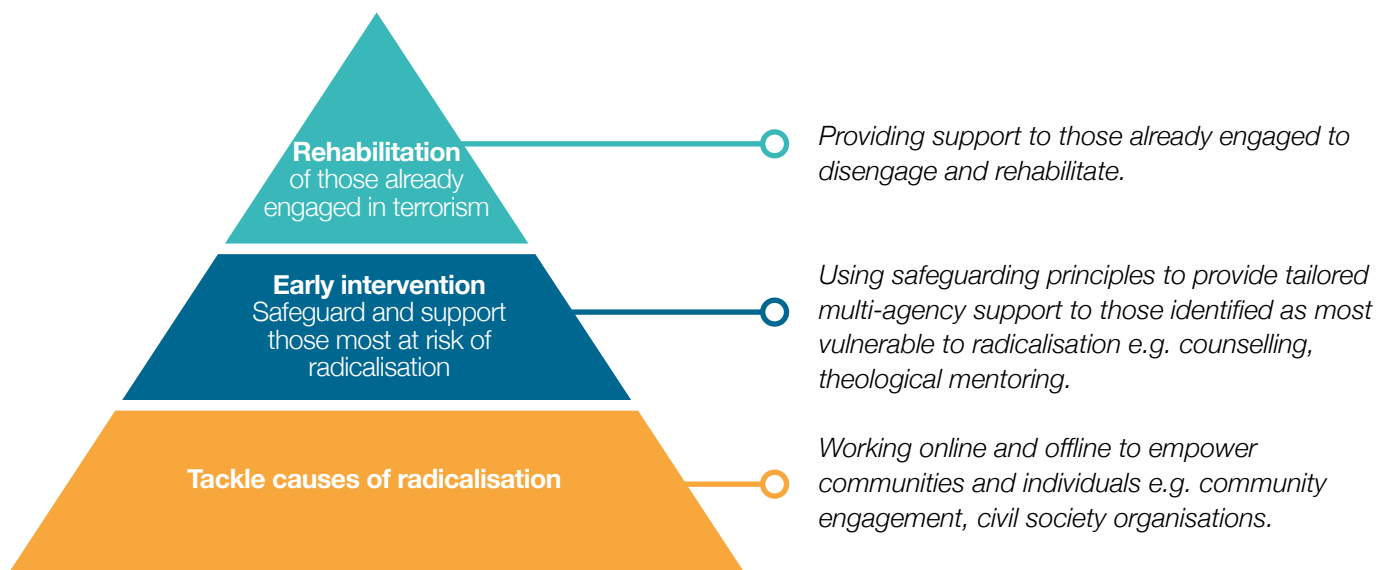
Over 100 children safeguarded by the Courts from being taken to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria since 2015

2,200 people adopted onto Channel since 2012

Prevent training has been completed **over 1.1 million times**

The Prevent Delivery Model

Prevent is risk-based and proportionate. The Prevent delivery model sets out how a broad range of Prevent initiatives tackle both the causes and risk factors that can lead an individual to become radicalised, and directly support those who are at risk through early intervention. Prevent also aims to rehabilitate the relatively small number of higher risk individuals who have already engaged in terrorism.



Tackling the causes of Radicalisation

Civil Society Organisations – what is their role in the delivery of Prevent?

Prevent works with a broad range of civil society organisations. In 2019/20 there were 226 community-based projects across the country with over 142,000 participants, addressing vulnerabilities from social isolation to substance misuse.

These civil society organisations play a vital role in building community resilience to extremist narratives and increase the understanding of the risks of radicalisation across the community. They can be key to providing holistic support to vulnerable individuals.

Case study: Prevent-funded Civil Society Organisations

Kikit Pathways is a Prevent-funded Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) specialist drug and alcohol support service that provides a range of services to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

Based in the West Midlands, Kikit work with mosques and communities to provide mentoring and support for individuals who are vulnerable to terrorist recruiters, particularly those suffering problems with drug and alcohol abuse – who can be targeted by recruiters. Kikit then help to establish referral pathways to the relevant safeguarding services, including Channel early intervention support where appropriate, so that individuals can get the assistance that they need.

The project provides specialist practitioner support and tailored mentoring for those exhibiting signs of radicalisation and grievance and, once assessed, beneficiaries are provided with holistic support to reduce their vulnerabilities. Kikit have a strong track record, including in preventing people travelling to Syria to fight for Daesh.



See some examples of the civil society organisations in your local area below:
(Please fill the below section in with examples of civil society organisations in your local area including, who they are, what they do and how they can help vulnerable individuals).

Example 1

.....

.....

.....

Example 2

.....

.....

.....

Early Intervention

What is Channel?

Channel is an early intervention safeguarding programme and the element of Prevent which provides bespoke support to children and adults identified as vulnerable to radicalisation, before their vulnerabilities are exploited by terrorist recruiters who would encourage them to support terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

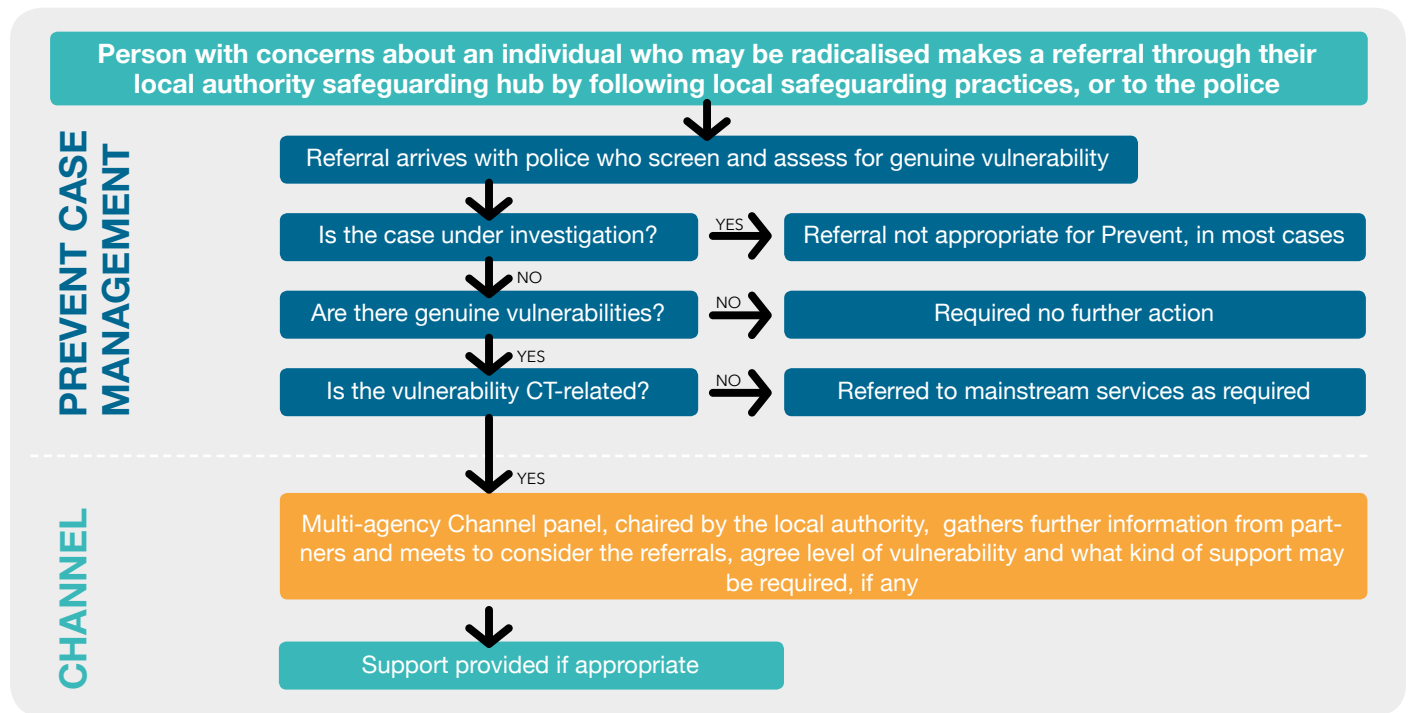
Channel works like other safeguarding interventions, identifying individuals at risk through referral, assessing the nature and extent of the risk and then by developing a support plan for the individual concerned. It is a voluntary and confidential programme.

Channel takes a multi-agency approach, involving a range of partners including the local authority, the police, education, social services, health providers and others to tailor the support plan to the individual's needs.

The type of support available is wide-ranging and bespoke. It can include help with accessing other mainstream services, such as education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug/alcohol abuse, and theological or ideological mentoring from a specialist Channel Intervention Provider, who works with the individual on a one-on-one basis.

In 2018/19, 561 individuals were adopted as Channel cases nationally. Of these, almost half were referred for concerns related to right-wing extremism, higher than the number who were referred for Daesh or Al Qa'ida-inspired extremism.

In 2018/19, 11% of Prevent referrals came from Local Authorities, while the education sector accounted for 30% and the Police 29%. Of individuals adopted as Channel cases in 2018/19, 88% were male and 66% were aged 20 years or under.



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Leon'

Leon was referred by teachers to Prevent at the age of 15, after searching for extreme right-wing material on the school internet. He had also been disclosing to staff that he felt angry and intimidated because he is a minority in his classes.

Leon disclosed that he hates all Muslims because 'they are all ISIS', and that he was part of an extreme right-wing group on Facebook. He also expressed his interest in football violence and gang culture, and that he felt picked on by teachers.

Through Prevent, a range of actions were undertaken as part of Leon's package of support, including providing mental health services to treat his anxiety and insomnia, a specialist Channel mentor who was able to discuss the origin of his views, and advice on internet safety for his parents. The local Prevent team also helped Leon enrol on the work placement scheme of a national construction company, which included support from a careers mentor, and onto the Premier League Kicks programme with his local football team.

Leon's case was successfully concluded and his behaviour in school noticeably improved, with no further issues of him being involved in anti-social behaviour. His mother expressed her gratitude for the intervention, saying "without the intervention from the Prevent team my son wouldn't be on the path he is now on".



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Misbah'

Misbah came across extremist propaganda online while struggling with his identity as a British Muslim teenager. He started to become supportive of the extremist material he was viewing online as it made him feel part of a bigger cause and gave him the direction he had been lacking.

After making worrying comments in class about terrorism, Misbah's teachers became concerned about him and his vulnerability to radicalisation, and he was referred to the local authority Prevent team.

Through the voluntary and confidential Channel early intervention support, Misbah was offered a specialist mentor who met with him weekly and with whom he discussed a range of issues from theology to his future ambitions.

The mentoring allowed Misbah to gain valuable knowledge and exposed him to new and challenging ideas which he may not have had the opportunity to consider otherwise. Misbah found it easy to relate to his mentor, who had a similar background, and they forged a relationship of mutual trust.

This, coupled with support from a teacher at his school, ensured that Misbah had positive influences which helped him overcome the negative ones, and he was able to reconsider his worldview.

Misbah went on to study interfaith reconciliation at university. He reported that he now has a clear direction in life and is considering a career in counter-extremism after graduation.



Rehabilitation

What is the Desistance and Disengagement Programme?

The Desistance and Disengagement Programme focuses on rehabilitating individuals who have been involved in terrorism or terrorism-related activity and reducing the risk they pose to the UK.

The programme works by providing tailored interventions which support individuals to stop participating in terrorism-related activity (desist) and to move away from terrorist ideology and ways of thinking (disengage). The programme aims to address the root causes of terrorism, build resilience, and contribute towards the deradicalisation of individuals.

The Prevent Duty

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced the Prevent Statutory Duty. The Duty requires Local Authorities, schools, colleges, universities, health bodies, prisons and probation and police to consider the need to safeguard individuals from being drawn into terrorism, embedding Prevent as a part of their wider existing day-to-day safeguarding duties. The roll out of the Duty has been supported with guidance for each sector and a dedicated training package.

Prevent, Counter-Extremism and Integration

HM Government's Prevent Strategy, Counter-Extremism Strategy and Integrated Communities Strategy all play important roles in tackling terrorism, challenging extremism and building stronger, more cohesive communities that are resilient to divisive narratives. Whilst these strategies are complementary, they each have distinct, separate objectives:

- **The Prevent Strategy** aims to safeguard those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- **The Counter-Extremism Strategy 2015** aims to protect the values which underpin our society - the rule of law, individual liberty, democracy, mutual respect, tolerance and understanding of different faiths and beliefs – by tackling extremism in all its forms. It addresses the promotion of hatred, the erosion of women's rights, the spread of intolerance, and the isolation of communities all of which can increase the risk of hate crime.
- **The Integrated Communities Strategy 2018** aims to create communities where people, whatever their background, live, work, learn and socialise together, and where many religions, cultures and opinions are celebrated. This is built upon shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities and underpinned by the shared British values that champion tolerance, freedom and equality of opportunity.

Integrated communities provide an important protective factor against the threat of terrorism, because of the association between support for divisive terrorist narratives and the deliberate rejection of strong and integrated societies. Marginalised communities who do not or cannot participate in civil society are more likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

As Prevent is largely a locally-led programme, Local Authorities are at the forefront of tackling radicalisation using their local knowledge, expertise and networks. While national Government provides a framework, guidance, support and funding for Prevent, it is essential that local partners develop responses to tackling radicalisation that are tailored to their local area.

To enable effective delivery of Prevent, the Home Office has worked with a range of local partners to produce the Prevent Duty Toolkit. It has been designed to enable Local Authorities to assess Prevent delivery in their local area against statutory requirements and examples of best practice from peers around the country.

All areas are expected to have Prevent plans in place that are proportionate to the local risk – that might mean some areas where the risk of radicalisation is higher should plan to exceed the delivery outlined in the benchmarks below.

Here is a summary of key benchmarks expected of Local Authorities in delivering Prevent activity:

1. The organisation has a local risk assessment process reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
2. There is an effective multi-agency partnership board in place to oversee Prevent delivery in the area.
3. The area has an agreed 'Prevent Partnership Plan' – this is a local delivery plan, developed against an assessment of local risk, which drives activity where it is most needed in an area.
4. There is an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation.
5. There is a Channel Panel in place, meeting monthly, with representation from all relevant sectors.
6. There is a Prevent problem solving process in place to disrupt radicalising influences.
7. There is a training programme in place for relevant personnel, mostly frontline staff such as nurses and teachers – so that they understand the signs of radicalisation and the referral process for vulnerable individuals.
8. There is a venue hire policy in place, to ensure that premises are not used by radicalising influencers, and an effective IT policy in place to prevent the access of extremist materials by users of the networks.
9. There is engagement with a range of communities and civil society groups, both faith-based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent Duty and local delivery.
10. There is a communications plan in place to proactively communicate and increase transparency of the reality and impact of Prevent work and support frontline staff and communities to understand what Prevent looks like in practice.

Full details corresponding to the benchmarks are provided in the Prevent Duty Toolkit, which was published by the Home Office in September 2018 (a web address can be found in the 'Further Information' section of this document).

ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Members are crucial for successful delivery of Prevent, by overseeing and scrutinising local plans which ensure that citizens are kept safe, and vulnerable people are given safeguarding support from the harms of radicalisation. Elected Members also play a critical role in representing members of their local community. They act as both a voice of local citizens; raising issues and concerns, whilst speaking on behalf of the Local Authority to communicate how policies and programmes operate.

There are three key roles for Elected Members in shaping and delivering local Prevent activity:

1) Leadership and Strategic Direction

Elected members can use their authority and legitimacy to challenge extremist narratives in the community by building community trust and ultimately, community resilience. In this vein, they can work with individuals and the Local Authority to amplify counter messaging to those aiming to harm the community and misrepresent its values through extremism.

Council Leader

The council leader has overall responsibility for setting the strategic direction of Prevent in their area. As a figurehead for the local area, the Leader of the Council has responsibility for ensuring understanding of Prevent services and activities locally. By explaining Prevent's position in the context of wider safeguarding practices, the Leader can become best positioned to talk about Prevent as a vital means to protect people from those looking to harm vulnerable individuals and protect the local community's values. The Leader can also consider the risks, demands and resourcing of Prevent in the broader context of service delivery across the borough.

Portfolio Holder

The portfolio holder with responsibility for Prevent plays a vital role in the delivery of Prevent locally. They ensure that the local authority is fulfilling its statutory obligations in delivering the Prevent Duty, through holding to account officials and supporting those holders of related portfolios (for example, Children's Services or Health) to meet their responsibilities. The portfolio holder should seek to stay updated on the work of the multi-agency partnership boards with responsibility for the governance of Prevent. They can provide advice and insight into how Prevent should be delivered in line with the Council's strategic direction of travel.

2) Community Dialogue

As representatives of their local communities, Elected Members often understand the challenges, tensions and concerns facing the local area. This means that they are well positioned to listen to and raise community concerns, and to be identified as the public face of Prevent delivery for the area. This provides the opportunity for Elected Members to talk to communities openly about Prevent, to listen to their concerns, explain the duty and role of the Local Authority in protecting individuals, and help to raise awareness about referral mechanisms and supportive interventions.

Elected Members should have the confidence and knowledge to engage the community, address concerns and answer questions about Prevent in any forum. By acting as the point of contact between the community and council through ward surgeries, regular emails and general local visibility, Elected Members can help diffuse tensions and misconceptions about Prevent. In some areas, Elected Members chair regular Prevent Advisory Groups; regular community platforms that provide the public with opportunities to play a role in shaping local Prevent plans, plus forums for dialogue.

It is vital that Elected Members understand their local Prevent referral processes in order to give the best advice and assurance to vulnerable individuals, and to those concerned about those individuals. Given this, Elected Members can enhance the number and quality of Prevent referrals from the community allowing an increasing number of vulnerable individuals to be supported.

3) Scrutiny

Elected Members may also consider their role in providing transparency and accountability in delivering Prevent through formal scrutiny procedures. By holding to account the local delivery of Prevent, improvements can be made to implementation, and communities can be reassured by Increased transparency.

Elected Members have the opportunity to scrutinise the local implementation of Prevent as part of a Scrutiny Committee - these offer a continuous review and evaluation of local Prevent programmes.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Members should be able to access:

- A version of the local area's Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) and/or the risk assessment based on the CTLTP. The CTLTP is produced primarily by local counter-terrorism policing with input from the Local Authority and provides insight on the local threat picture. The risk assessment based on the CTLTP can be more widely shared and should inform the Prevent Action Plan (see below).
- The Local Prevent Action Plan. This document is informed by the CTLTP and outlines how Prevent is going to be delivered locally, including aspects such as Prevent projects, Channel and community engagement. This plan should reflect the risks highlighted in the CTLTP and risk assessment.
- Prevent training delivered by Local Authority officials specifically for Elected Members. It is best practice that officials provide training opportunities to Elected Members on Prevent. This should not take the same format as WRAP training, which is used for statutory partners.
- Minutes of the multi-agency group responsible for Prevent. In some areas, Prevent may come under the Crime and Disorder group however, others have a group dedicated to Prevent work.

Case study: Luton – Elected Member

Luton Council's 'Member Prevent Engagement Group' (MPEG) provides Elected Member-led support, advice, challenge and scrutiny of the council's Prevent Board, which coordinates Prevent activity across Luton.

The MPEG is a sounding board on sensitive community issues linked to terrorism and radicalisation and as a conduit for direct and best practice on engagement with local people and institutions whilst being responsive to local and national requirements. The group is chaired by the Prevent Portfolio Holder and is made up of cross-party members.

MPEG's role is to:

- Advise on Prevent communications and engagement activity, including reviewing plans and messages.
- Participate in engagement on Prevent with local stakeholders.
- Help the Prevent Board to develop counter narrative messages against extremist rhetoric.
- Provide a focal point for Elected Members on Prevent, including support for training and development, as well as Member-Led scrutiny and challenge.



Priority Areas Only

Overview of Prevent Staff in the Local Authority

(Please fill this section in with a list of funded posts in the local area, who is occupying them and their contact details)

.....

.....

.....

.....

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

There are widespread misconceptions surrounding Prevent. These myths do not reflect what the Prevent programme is or how it operates. Some common questions are outlined below:

Does the Prevent strategy target Muslims?

Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group - it deals with all forms of terrorism, including right-wing. Rather, Prevent protects those who are targeted by terrorist recruiters. Although right-wing terrorism is a growing threat, currently the greatest threat comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh and Al Qa'ida. Prevent will necessarily reflect this by prioritising support for vulnerable British Muslims.

Anyone who is at risk of any type of radicalisation can receive support from Channel. In 2018/19, almost half of those who were adopted as Channel cases were related to right-wing radicalisation, more than those related to Daesh and Al Qa'ida-inspired radicalisation.

Is Prevent doing enough to tackle right-wing extremism?

Prevent is implemented in a proportionate manner that takes into account the level of risk in any given area or institution. In some areas the risk of right-wing terrorism may be significant and Prevent activity will therefore focus on this threat – including protecting those most likely to be vulnerable to it. In 2018/19, 561 individuals were adopted as a Channel case. Of these, almost half were referred for concerns related to right-wing extremism.

Does Prevent encourage spying?

There is nothing in law, in the guidance, or in any form of training that requires, authorises, or encourages any form of spying whatsoever in connection with the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty does not require teachers to spy on pupils or to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life. It is about ensuring that teachers know how to identify behaviour of concern and how to refer pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation for appropriate support.

Does being on the Channel programme mean you get a criminal record?

Being referred or supported by Channel is not any form of criminal sanction; Channel is a safeguarding programme and not a programme to further an investigation. It will have no bearing on a person's education or career prospects.

Isn't the Prevent Duty an attack on freedom of speech in universities?

The right to free speech and protest are cornerstones of British democracy, which the Government has committed to protecting. Universities in particular represent one of the most important arenas for challenging extremist views and ideologies. The Prevent strategy in no way, shape or form undermines this commitment.

In 2019, the Government published guidance to help protect and enhance free speech on campus, to ensure they remain forums for open and robust enquiry. The Prevent Duty explicitly requires further and higher education institutions to have regard to their duty to secure freedom of speech and to have particular regard to the importance of academic freedom.

GLOSSARY

Counter radicalisation – refers to the process of protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist related activity.

Extremism – is defined in the Prevent Strategy as vocal or active opposition to fundamental shared values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Interventions - projects intended to divert people who are being drawn into terrorist activity. Interventions can include mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, developing support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).

Islamism – this term refers to the interpretation of Islam as a utopian model of politics, law and society superior to any other model. Islamists - those that follow the ideology of Islamism - seek to overturn systems based on non-Islamist values, which they consider to oppose their political interpretation of divine law and theology. Islamism is a political ideology and it is wrong to equate it to the Islamic faith.

Radicalisation - refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Right-Wing Extremism – in the UK can be broadly divided into three strands;

- Cultural Nationalism is a belief that Western culture is under threat from mass migration into Europe and from a lack of integration by certain ethnic and cultural groups.
- White Nationalism is a belief that mass migration from the 'non-white' world, and demographic change, poses an existential threat to the 'white race' and 'Western culture'.
- White Supremacism is a belief that the 'white race' has certain inalienable physical and mental characteristics that makes it superior to other races.

Terrorism – an action (defined in the Terrorism Act 2000) that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of the threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing political, religious or ideological cause.

Vulnerability - within Prevent, describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Prevent: An Introduction - Home Office produced video explaining how Prevent works
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otc2eaRY32s&feature=youtu.be>

Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities and Partner Agencies

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities-and-partner-agencies>

Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Channel Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>

Prevent E-Learning

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

Freedom of Speech Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-speech-to-be-protected-at-university>

Let's Talk About It – Counter Terrorism Policing website to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

<https://www.ltai.info/>

Educate Against Hate - Department for Education and Home Office website giving teachers and parents advice and resources on protecting children from radicalisation.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Safe Campus Communities - Provides access and links to a range of guidance, resources and case studies for the Higher Education sector.

<https://www.safecampuscommunities.ac.uk/>





Home Office

COMMUNITIES DEFEAT TERRORISM

call the police, in confidence,
on **0800 789 321** or visit **gov.uk/ACT**

 thurrock.gov.uk

5 point pledge card for communities

1. Report suspicious activity of someone, such as:

- Appearing to carry out surveillance, e.g. taking photos of security arrangements;
- Has firearms, or has shown an interest in them;
- Has bought or stores large amount of chemicals, fertilisers, gas cylinders for no apparent reason;
- Has undergone extreme and unexplained change in behaviour.

2. Report visible extremism e.g. graffiti, stickers, flags in relation to proscribed groups

3. Report change in community tensions, such as:

- Public speaking causing tensions between communities
- Social media concerns about a particular community
- Rumours of a planned march which may cause tensions

4. Be a Hate Crime Ambassador and challenge discrimination – report on line at report-it.org.uk

5. If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, **act on your instincts** and call the police, in confidence, on **0800 789 321** or visit **gov.uk/ACT**

Learn more at: www.gov.uk/government/news/act-awareness-elearning

This page is intentionally left blank

**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2020/21**

Dates of Meetings: 2 July 2020, 1 October 2020, 3 December 2020 and 4 February 2021

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
2 July 2020		
Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, 2019/20: Serious Youth Violence and Vulnerability	Ian Wake	Officers
Gang Related Violence Update Report	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
The Work of Trading Standards	Gavin Dennett	Officers
1 October 2020		
Cross Party Waste Working Group and Municipal Waste Strategy for Thurrock 2021-2031	Daren Spring	Officers
CCTV Public Identification Policy Update Report	Dulal Ahmed	Officers
Public Protection work involving Animals	Gavin Dennett	Officers
A collaborative approach to Arts, Culture and Heritage in Thurrock	Stephen Taylor	Officers
3 December 2020		
Council Funded Police Update report	Michelle Cunningham / Police	Officers
Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2021/22	Julie Rogers	Officers
Establishment of the Climate Emergency Taskforce	Stephen Taylor	Members
Thurrock Active Place Strategy	Leigh Nicholson / Jahur Ali	Officers

Environmental Health Jurisdiction : DP World Distribution Park	Andy Millard / Gavin Dennett	Officers
4 February 2021		
Contract Renewal for Litter Enforcement	Phil Carver	Officers
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent	Michele Cunningham	Officers

Reports for 2021/22

Food Waste

Air Quality Modelling Assessment and Associated Work Update Report
Impact on Air Quality in lockdown in the borough

Clerk: Jenny Shade
Last Updated: September 2020