

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 **3 February 2022**

**South Essex College, High Street, Grays, RM17 6TF in room W1.23**

### **Membership:**

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Jane Potheary (Vice-Chair), Steve Liddiard, Maureen Pearce, Elizabeth Rigby and James Thandi

### **Substitutes:**

Councillors Alex Anderson, James Halden, Victoria Holloway, John Kent and Graham Snell

### **Agenda**

Open to Public and Press

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the rescheduled 14 December 2021 Committee, held on the 20 January 2022 will be included in the first agenda of the next municipal year.

**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. To agree any relevant briefing notes submitted to the Committee.

**4. Declaration of Interests**

**5. Thurrock Councils response to Prevent Duty 2015**

**5 - 78**

**6. Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

**79 - 140**

7. **Scrutiny Review - Waste Strategy Implementation Updates - Verbal Update**
8. **Tree Strategy - Verbal Update**
9. **Work Programme** **141 - 142**

**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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

Agenda published on: **26 January 2022**

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1. If you are feeling ill or have tested positive for Covid and are isolating you should remain at home, the meeting will be webcast and you can attend in that way.
2. You are recommended to wear a face covering (where able) when attending the meeting and moving around the council offices to reduce any chance of infection. Removal of any face covering would be advisable when speaking publically at the meeting.
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# 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

<b>3 February 2022</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock Councils response to Prevent Duty 2015</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> all	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-key	
<b>Report of:</b> Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Les Billingham, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Communities		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm, and Chair of Community Safety Partnership		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Executive Summary

This report is to provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to fulfil their purpose as outlined in the Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members (Appendix 1) which states:

*“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 implementation of the Prevent Duty by Thurrock Council and to ensure that all elements of the Council work together to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties in regards to Prevent, in line with the Councils responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 That Members of the Committee scrutinise and assure themselves of the response to the self-assessment audit completed using the Local Government Association Toolkit and provided for scrutiny at Appendix 2**
- 1.2 That Members of the Committee scrutinise and assure themselves of the response to the Channel Panel self-assessment completed in April 2021 and provided for scrutiny at Appendix 3**
- 1.3 That Members are assured that the action plan in place through the Community Safety Partnership responds to the risks outlined in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and that these are routinely reviewed and are in line with increased National risk**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The PREVENT strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Government's 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* guidance<sup>1</sup> 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 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

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<sup>1</sup> *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 revised 2019



- ideology, including instances of unclear, mixed or unstable ideology whilst remaining committed to protecting freedom of speech.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Channel panels form a key part of Prevent. This is a multi-agency 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.
- 2.7 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 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. Our adherence to this guidance is measured through an annual self-assessment return and is provided at Appendix 3.

### Current Threat

- 2.9 Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. On 15/11/21 the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) increased the UK National terrorism threat level from SUBSTANTIAL to **SEVERE** meaning that a terrorist attack is **HIGHLY** likely. This change to the threat level was made in response to the murder of Sir David Amess and the attack in Liverpool.
- 2.10 There is no specific threat to the UK and no greater threat to Thurrock than anywhere else. The fact remains we should be vigilant to all potential risks from extremism and terrorism.
- 2.11 In response to the increased terror threat and the risks for Eastern Region outlined in the Quarter 2 Counter Terrorism Local Profile we have reviewed our action plan and will be strengthening it through:
- Identifying a Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) within each area of Council and an offer for them to attend champion training and be encouraged to

monitor and support concerns raised by officers in relation to any perceived threat

- To have a focus on vulnerabilities which may lead to self-initiated terrorism where mental health is an underlying factor
- Utilising the Communication Handbook (Appendix 4) to strengthen our local communication and engagement plan

### Governance and Strategy

- 2.12 Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally, is one of the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2021/22, and likely to remain so for 2022/23. It is also recognised within the Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25.
- 2.13 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. This is published on our web site: [Prevent Strategy 2020/23](#). 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:

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
- 2.14 Governance of Prevent is through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategic Prevent Board which meets quarterly and is chaired by Les Billingham, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care and Communities. The CSP board receive an annual report on Prevent and quarterly situational risk assessment updates. This Board has been strengthened by the Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee which exists to ensure that all elements of the Council work together to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties regarding Prevent, in line with the Councils responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- 2.15 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.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Local Government Association have put in place a self-assessment toolkit for Councils to benchmark themselves against over 10 key areas. Thurrock's Prevent Board have reviewed this with current situation as of December 21. The areas highlighted for further development and agreed actions are contained with Appendix 2 and summarised below:

<p><b>1. Local Risk Assessment</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: all complete Comments: Quarterly briefings, summarised within action plan and quarterly report to Directors Board</p>
<p><b>2. Multi-Agency Partnership Board</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Action: Increase member engagement through Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee Comments: The Committee will serve to aid Elected Members to drive the improvement of the services involved forward including by interacting with partners and stakeholders. Report received Oct 21</p>
<p><b>3. Prevent Partnership Action Plan</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: To embed in service plans, linked to S17 Duty Comment: Partnership strategy and delivery plan in place. Refreshed in line with situational risk assessment quarterly</p>
<p><b>4. Referral Process</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: Respond to audit findings in Q4 21/22 Comments: Referral process in place and embedded</p>
<p><b>5. Channel Panel</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions; Actions identified in self-assessment are now all completed Comments: Self-assessment completed April 21 and rated Green</p>
<p><b>6. Prevent problem Solving process</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: none noted Comments: Process in place to monitor including Afghan resettlement programme</p>
<p><b>7. Training Programme</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b></p>

<p>Actions: Needs assessment to identify gaps to be completed, results from schools audit awaited and champion training to be offered. Comments: Training offer is strong and continues to be delivered virtually. Will require review in line with Home Office updates</p>
<p><b>8. Venue Hire</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: Guidance to be shared with licensed premises and currently being trialled with community venues Comments: Policy in place within Local Authority and guidance shared with education settings. Community venues and licensing guidance drafted and currently being tested for promotion April 22</p>
<p><b>9. Community Engagement</b> RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b> Actions: To continue to identify gaps in opportunity for engagement and ongoing outreach work Comments: We are mindful that there is always more we can do to reach out to a wide range of our communities</p>
<p><b>10. Communications</b> RAG Rating: <b>Green</b> Actions: to refresh plans in line with the newly launched handbook Comments: To be in place by April 22</p>

3.2 The Home Office required the first assurance statement in relation to Channel Panels to be returned in April 2021. This forms part of a strengthened quality assurance framework for all Channel Panels across England and Wales, which includes an enhanced role for the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) in strengthening oversight of panels, enabling those requiring assistance and support to be identified. This recognises the importance of Channel Panels as part of Prevent delivery, and the related roles within them.

The areas which were highlighted for further development and agreed actions are contained with Appendix 3 and summarised below:

Ref	Key area of Control:	Compliance Rating	Areas for Improvement
1.	Legal Requirements under CTSA 2015		N/A
2.	Strategic Governance		An escalation process has now been added to the confidentiality and disclosure agreement
3.	Chairing skills / core competencies		N/A
4.	Panel Function and Form	Green as of Sept 21	Written consent is now provided.

			The process for consideration to families is to be reviewed
5.	Data Protection	Green as of Sept 21	SET wide Local Data Protection Notices to be signed up to. Support plans to be detailed for each individual

The Prevent Board is pleased to report that as of Sept 21 all areas are now rated green:

- Panel function and form: Sept 21 agreed processes now in place as identified through case audits
- Data Protection: This was signed and adopted in Sept 21

### 3.3 Summary of Activity delivered in 2021:

- Continued attendance at quarterly briefings and response to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, revise or action plan to reflect any emerging risks and threats, and update and share as appropriate the situational risk assessment for Thurrock
- Event policy drafted which is being trialled across some community premises.
- Guidance on event bookings and speaker booking form has been shared with educational settings and ready to go to licensed premises
- Ongoing promotion of ACT Early to increase awareness within communities
- Prepared and presented a report for the newly formed Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee to support Members to reach out to communities on this agenda
- Continued to offer training sessions in conjunction with my learning for professionals with 50 attending.
- Briefed the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police to maintain their knowledge

### 3.4 Summary of Planned Activity for 2022:

- Embed a new Chair and Vice Chair for our Channel Panel and utilise Regional training offer
- Work with our new Regional advisor (appointed to support non funded Prevent areas) to implement any National learnings and best practice.
- Utilise the Communication Handbook to improve our communication and
- Along with a focus regionally we will increase awareness with those working with under 18s and those who may be vulnerable due to Mental Health.
- We will review our Prevent Champions across the Council and ensure appropriately trained and encouraged to monitor and report concerns of staff and communities
- Continue to monitor communities for any tensions in relation to the Prevent agenda

- Continue to engage with the wider CONTEST agenda across Essex through Regional Forum

### 3.5 Equality Impact Assessment

The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment 2020 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

### 3.6 Conclusion

The current threat level nationally is severe and this is why the *Prevent* agenda is recommended to remain 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 in relation to Prevent are to:
  - Support the new Channel Chair to minimise level of risk
  - Continue to promote our training offer and review quarterly in line with identified threat
  - Work with the Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee to review the training offer in line with Home Office updates to increase awareness of communities and the *Prevent* agenda
  - Continue to respond to changing threat levels and risk
- Respond to the proposed Protect Duty - part of the Government's approach to improving protective security and preparedness at publicly accessible locations.
- 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. [Report terrorist or extremist content online – Action Counters Terrorism \(campaign.gov.uk\)](https://www.actioncounters.org.uk/report-terrorist-or-extremist-content-online) to be promoted widely

## 4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 Scrutiny of the self-assessment audit will provide the Committee an opportunity to be assured that Thurrock Council is meeting its statutory requirements placed upon it within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (CTSA) 2015.

- 4.2 Scrutiny of the Channel Panel self-assessment will provide the Committee an opportunity to be assured that Thurrock Council is compliant with Channel Panel requirements for the financial year 2020/21, as detailed within the Channel Duty Guidance 2020.
- 4.3 To enable Members to be confident that through the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and action plan that we are responding proportionally to identified risk and monitoring implementation of actions required to mitigate those risks.

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

- 5.1 The Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee were provided with the opportunity to scrutinise Prevent at their meeting in October
- 5.2 All partners within the Prevent Strategic Board have contributed to the self-assessments and reviewed. They monitor the actions identified through the local action plan.

## **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 ensuring that Thurrock Council fulfil their statutory duties outlined in the CTSA 2015 we can be confident in processes in relation to safeguarding those vulnerable to radicalisation.

## **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: **Courage Emovon**  
**Principal Lawyer / Manager**  
**Contracts & Procurement Team**

The Prevent strategy and associated action plans and self-assessments provide evidence that the Council is fulfilling its duties with regards to Prevent, in line with the Council's responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The report assures members of the committee of the Council's action plan as outlined in the recommendations and Legal Services is on hand to advise on any legal implications arising from this report and the Council's duties and responsibilities as provided under the Counter – Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project**  
**Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct implications in relation to diversity and equality from this report. The Prevent strategy has an Equality Impact Assessment in place.

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Looked After Children

This report will support Members in ensuring that they are delivering on 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):

- 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736759/Prevent_Duty_Toolkit_for_Local_Authorities.pdf)
- 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](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)



## **9. Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members
- Appendix 2: LGA self-assessment toolkit for Thurrock June 2021
- Appendix 3: Channel self-assessment for Thurrock April 2021
- Appendix 4: Communications Handbook

### **Report Author:**

Michelle Cunningham

Community Safety Partnership Manager, Public Realm

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Home Office

# PREVENT

Handbook for Elected Members



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# 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**

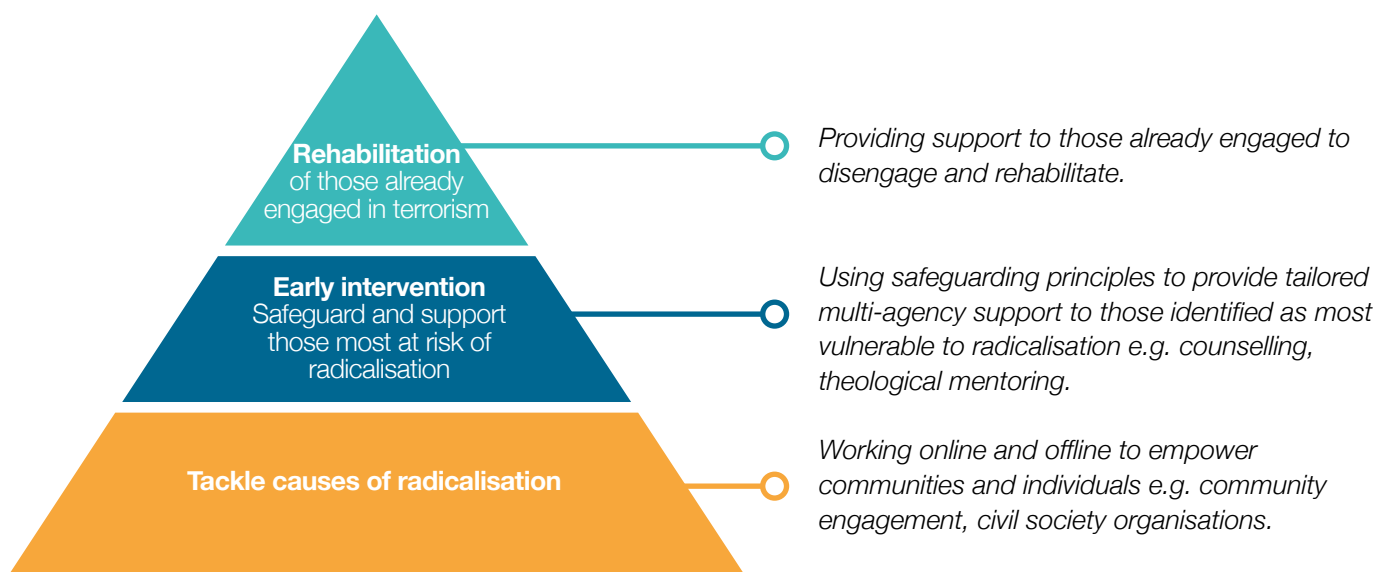
**Over 100 children** safeguarded by the Courts from being taken to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria since 2015

**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.

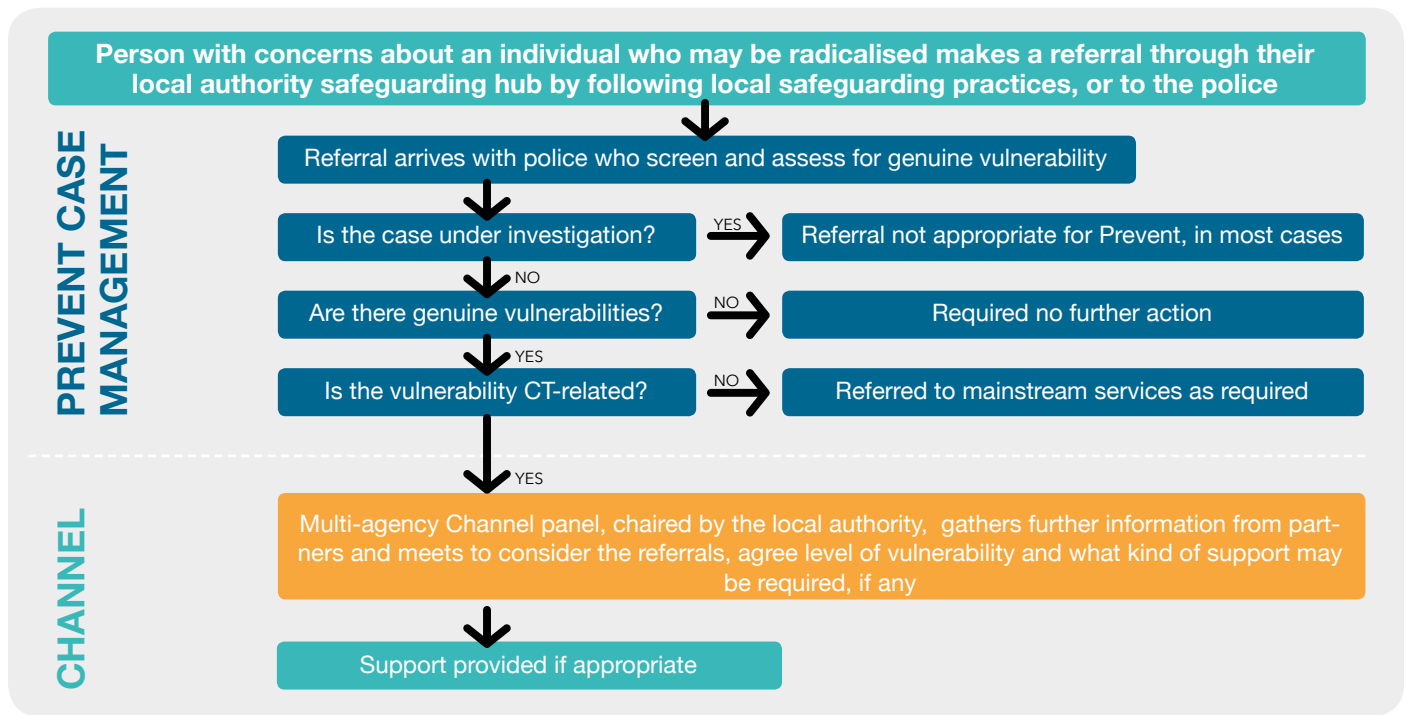
Channel works like other safeguarding interventions, identifying individuals at risk through referral, assessing the nature and extent of the risk and then by developing a support plan for the individual concerned. It is a voluntary and confidential programme.

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 (CTLP) and/or the risk assessment based on the CTLP. The CTLP 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 CTLP 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 CTLP 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 CTLP 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

Prevent Duty Tool Kit for Thurrock: Dec 2021

<p><b>1. Local Risk Assessment</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions: all complete  Comments: Quarterly briefings, summarised within action plan and quarterly report to Directors Board</p>	<p><b>6. Prevent problem Solving process</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions:  Comments: Process in place to monitor including Afghan resettlement programme</p>
<p><b>2. Multi Agency Partnership Board</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Action: Increase member engagement through Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee  Comments: The Committee will serve to aid elected members to drive the improvement of the services involved forward including by interacting with partners and stakeholders. Report received Oct 21</p>	<p><b>7. Training Programme</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b>  Actions: Needs assessment to identify gaps to be completed and exploring resilience training for schools.  Comments: Training offer is strong and continues to be delivered virtually. Will require review in line with Home Office updates</p>
<p><b>3. Prevent Partnership Action Plan</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions: To embed in service plans, linked to S17 Duty  Comment: Partnership strategy and delivery plan in place Refreshed in line with situational risk assessment quarterly</p>	<p><b>8. Venue Hire</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions: Guidance to be shared with licensed premises and currently being trialled with community venues  Comments: Policy in place within Local Authority and guidance shared with education settings. Community venues and licensing guidance drafted and currently being tested for promotion April 22</p>
<p><b>4. Referral Process</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions: Respond to audit findings in Q4 21/22  Comments: Referral process in place and embedded</p>	<p><b>9. Community Engagement</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Amber</b>  Actions: To continue to identify gaps in opportunity for engagement and ongoing outreach work  Comments: We are mindful that there is always more we can do to reach out to a wide range of our communities</p>
<p><b>5. Channel Panel</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions; As per self-assessment  Comments: Self-assessment completed April 21 and rated Green</p>	<p><b>10. Communications</b>  RAG Rating: <b>Green</b>  Actions: to refresh plans in line with the newly launched handbook  Comments: To be in place by April 22</p>

**Prevent Duty Tool Kit for Thurrock: Dec 2021**

<b>Benchmark 1</b>			
1. The organisation has a local risk assessment process reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. Outcome: The organisation understands local risk and this informs planning and delivery locally.			
1.1 is there a local risk assessment process which informs an action plan and is disseminated to partners?			
Expectation	Evidence	Action Rag	RAG
How are risks identified? Are risks captured effectively?	<p>The Eastern Region Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is shared quarterly to all partners who have signed up to receive this, both through a briefing and a report. This is summarised quarterly at the Strategic Prevent board by the Counter Terrorism Inspector.</p> <p>From this briefing the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) manager prepares a situational risk assessment. This assessment is updated within the action plan which is updated in line with any new identified risks.</p>	<b>None</b>	
Are risks adequately managed and directed to the right risk owners?			
Are the identified risks incorporated within the action plan?			
Risk assessments should be backwards at activity, and forwards to identify potential risks to the area.			
1.2 do officers responsible for delivering Prevent work proactively alongside their police colleagues to develop local CTLPs?			
Do CTLP authors provide opportunities for partners to contribute to the development of the CLTP?	<p>Alongside the quarterly CTLP is a questionnaire for completion. Action identified at meeting of 17/6/21 for 2 partners to input information shared within this survey. Quarterly meetings held with partners including a Q &amp; A session.</p> <p>The Eastern Region CTLP is seen as best practice by Home Office</p>		
Are the contents of CTLPs tested with partners prior to completion and publication?			
1.3 Are CTLP findings disseminated at relevant levels?			
Is there a stepped process enabling CTLP findings to be shared? This should include briefings to Chief Executives and senior officers on key risk and threat; versions with less sensitive data to be shared with partners; and generic findings to be made freely available.	<p>From quarterly CTLP the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) manager prepares a situational risk assessment which is shared with the Directors Board and the Strategic Board of the CSP. This assessment is updated within the action plan which is updated in line with any new identified risks.</p>	<b>CSP Manager</b> to share situational risk assessment with education settings once approved for release Complete for Q1	

	Generic briefings are provided to members through reports to committees, summarised within training sessions and one has been drafted for education establishments		
CTLP briefings should take place in a timely fashion.	Quarterly on publication & standing agenda item at quarterly board meeting		

**Benchmark 2:**  
 2. There is an effective multi – agency partnership board in place to oversee Prevent delivery in the area.  
 Outcome: the organisation leads a partnership of multi – agency stakeholders which ensure a collaborative approach to Prevent delivery.

2.1 Is there a multi – agency partnership board in place which oversees Prevent delivery in the area?

Does this board steer, guide and approve Prevent activity and the partnership plan?	There is a multi-agency prevent strategic board in place which meets quarterly. Evidence available through minutes. The governance is through the CSP Board. The Prevent strategy for Thurrock was developed by the Prevent Board and signed off by the CSP Board. The Prevent Board steer activity through a local delivery plan.		
What have been its significant outputs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have ensured that we have a relevant and up to date strategy and action plan in place for Thurrock which responds dynamically to new risks.</li> <li>• Coordinating the WRAP (workshop to raise awareness of Prevent) training which is now embedded through my learning.</li> <li>• Hosting ideology awareness session.</li> <li>• Auditing delivery of the Prevent agenda in schools.</li> <li>• Ongoing championing across respective departments of Prevent and how to report.</li> <li>• Creation of the Ideology manual for training which is owned by probation</li> <li>• Monitoring and reporting of community tensions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prevent Board</b> Event protocol and checklist to be shared with colleagues in education, and those managing venues with halls for hiring <b>COMPLETE FOR EDUCATION AND SHARED. CURRENTLY TESTING WITH LICENSED AND COMMUNITY VENUES</b></p>	

Prevent Duty Tool Kit for Thurrock: Dec 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a checklist for hosting events</li> <li>• Review of learnings from Channel cases audited</li> </ul>		
Does the board receive update on risk, including recent incidents recent incidents of note? Does the board agree and update the risk assessment? Does the board facilitate the sharing of information among relevant partners?	<p>National briefings shared with all partners when received</p> <p>Updates are a standing agenda item on quarterly meeting with opportunity for all partners to update on any community identified risks.</p> <p>Prevent is within the CSP's risk log which is updated annually and shared with the CSP Strategic Board and is included within the annual strategic assessment.</p> <p>Prevent was added to the corporate risk log on 1/7/20 and is updated quarterly</p>		
Does the board monitor the impact of Prevent? Is this information used to monitor future strategic decisions about Prevent delivery?	Yes through action plan, situational risk assessment, monitoring of community tensions and within annual strategic assessment for CSP		
Do all the relevant local partners regularly attend?	Good consistent attendance across all Council departments and agencies and at appropriate management level. Evidenced through minutes		
Does the board monitor and review performance?	Yes – receive quarterly reports on no. of reports, source and comparison to Essex.		
Is the board chaired at the appropriate strategic level?	Yes – A/Director for Adult Social Care and Communities		
2.2 Does the Prevent board have oversight of referral pathways, Channel and other statutory Prevent delivery?			
Referral data is brought to the Prevent board.	Yes – anonymised – standing agenda item		
Channel case studies and information about Channel referrals and brought to the Prevent board.	Yes – findings from case studies of children referred to Channel and audit of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker cases discussed at meeting 17/6/21	<b>Childrens Prevent Lead</b> to review cases open to CSC SEND team for recognition that aware of vulnerabilities <b>COMPLETE</b> to review any recommendations	



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2.3 Does the organisation seek and secure opportunities for partnership working with neighbouring local authorities?			
Do you share information and best practice across the region?	SET policy in place. Chair attends SET CONTEST Board quarterly Prevent lead for Essex Police has invite to our Prevent Board Have accessed LGA peer reviewers		
Do Prevent boards have an opportunity to network to share good practice?	Quarterly CTLP meeting SET CONTEST Board		
Have you initiated joint projects training or policies with other local authorities?	Not recently due to COVID limitations but in past have shared ideology training with Southend and conference and training through SET board		
2.4 Is a designated elected member proactively involved in Prevent policy – setting delivery and communications?			
Does the member work in collaboration with the organisations executive body and or board?	The PFH for community safety is briefed through the CSP Strategic Board, wrote the forward for and signed off the Prevent strategy. A Members working group was established and they had sight of strategy, opportunity to input and opportunity to attend training sessions on both Prevent and ideology. The newly formed Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee (HEHC) will now have oversight of this agenda.	<b>Chair HEHC</b> to review this audit and include relevant areas within the annual work plan.	
Do they encourage other members and or officers across the organisation to promote Prevent messages and objectives?	Members working group created guidance cards for engagement with all members The Cleaner Greener Overview and Scrutiny Committee received report in Feb 21 and requested mandatory training for members	To provide opportunity for all members to attend training or complete on line	

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<p><b>Benchmark 3:</b>          3. The area has an agreed Prevent Partnership Plan.          Outcome:          A delivery plan, developed against an assessment of local risk, will drive activity where it is most needed in an area and shape the work of the Prevent partnership.</p>			
<p>3.1 Do you have an agreed Prevent Partnership plan in place, which outlines the role of each local partner in delivering Prevent?</p>			
<p>Page 40</p>	<p>Please list the stakeholders who are encompassed within this partnership plan.</p>	<p>Police – Counter Terrorism and Community Police Team            Childrens Services: A/D education, Strategic Lead YOS and Prevention, YOS operations manager, Local Safeguarding Childrens partnership,            Adult Services: A/D adult social care, strategic lead adult safeguarding            TBC housing,            Strategic Lead community development,            Strategic Lead community safety and emergency planning            Public protection: Licensing,            The Probation Service            Health: CCG rep, Mental health services, NELFT            Thurrock colleges: TAC, SEC &amp; USP            Department for Education</p>	
	<p>Are all appropriate local partners engaged and involved?</p>	<p>Yes – good level of attendance and contribution</p>	
	<p>Are there strong and trusting relationships between officers responsible for delivering Prevent and partners within the organisation and externally?</p>	<p>Yes – confidence between teams, share concerns and engage outside of meetings</p>	
	<p>3.2 Are the organisations responsibilities on Prevent referenced in relevant corporate and service strategies plans and policies e.g. business plan, community safety strategy safeguarding etc.?</p>		
<p>How are these responsibilities referenced and or promoted?</p>	<p>This is a CSP priority and is referenced across the SET procedures for safeguarding within Childrens and adults.            Within service plan for Public Realm</p>		

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Does this ensure accountability for and ownership of Prevent throughout the organisation?	This is within SET safeguarding procedures for children and adults Cross directorate engagement through DB report and training flagged through Leadership Group (Feb20)	<b>Corporate-</b> action required to ensure referenced within individual directorate service plans	
3.3 Does the Prevent Partnership Plan acknowledge risks identified in the CTLP and allocate actions to tackle recommendations suggested within?			
Recommendations made within the CTLP are clearly marked within the action plan and activity to address them specific, with an owner and a timeframe.	Situational Risk Assessment updated within action plan and refreshed in light of CTLP quarterly as required e.g. During COVID communication to schools on online resources to utilise in relation to radicalisation		

<p><b>Benchmark 4:</b> 4. There is an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation. Outcome: Individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation are offered targeted and appropriate voluntary support by the multi – agency partnership.</p>			
4.1 Do you have an agreed process in place for the referral of those who are identified as at risk of being drawn into terrorism?			
How well does this process capture individuals at risk within the area?	Flow chart and agreed process and procedures in place, through MASH. Ofsted (2019 and 2021) gave positive feedback regards Prevent Referenced within SET safeguarding procedures and within TBC/LSCP and Adult safeguarding Board web sites	<b>Childrens:</b> ongoing awareness / training across Childrens services to ensure awareness maintained of process	
How well do all relevant stakeholders / partners understand and use this process?	School safeguarding leads had opportunity for refresher training ready for Autumn 21 term	<b>LSCP / CSP Manager</b> audits Nov 21 of internal awareness through training audit and through School safeguarding audits	
Is feedback given to those making a referral on outcomes?	Actively encourage queries through open communication		
Are referrals shared immediately with the Counter – Terrorism Unit for de confliction?	Yes		
Is this process incorporated into safeguarding procedures?	Yes SET wide procedures, and within training		

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4.2 Are referred individuals offered support that is appropriate to their needs?			
Are individuals who are not supported through Channel signposted to other multi – agency services where appropriate?	Recommendation given for either a CS assessment or safeguarding referral or Prevent team will visit family YOS work with some individuals utilising manual		
Are individuals whose activity is disrupted through Prevent Case Management processes referred for holistic support where appropriate?	Yes – and excellent feedback on use of Intervention Providers through Channel referrals		
Are broad ranges of support options discussed and offered?	Assessment and referrals as appropriate e.g. referral to Mental Health Team and action plan in place		
Do you have sufficient and appropriate interventions to offer individuals identified as being at risk / vulnerable?	Essex wide offer accessible and have a toolkit for prevention		

**Benchmarks 5:**  
 5. There is a Channel Panel in place, meeting monthly, with representation from all relevant sectors.  
 Outcome:  
 Individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation are offered targeted and appropriate voluntary support by the multi – agency partnership.

5.1 is there a Channel panel is in place, which is Chaired by a senior local authority officer, and has representation from all relevant sectors including health adults and children’s safeguarding, housing, probation providers and others?			
Does the panel meet at agreed regular intervals?	From March 2019 panel has been meeting regular Monthly meetings diarised & cancelled if not required Monthly contact of panel leads to discuss any concerns All referrals to Channel for decision on escalation Home Office peer review completed Feb 20, no issues identified		
Who is its Chair? Is it Chaired at the appropriate level?	Chaired by strategic lead Adult Safeguarding Vice Chair is YOS operations manager		

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Do all relevant sectors attend each meeting?	Yes – none attendance challenged and improved and no further concerns		
5.2 is there a robust understanding among Channel panel members of what constitutes the appropriate thresholds for Channel intervention? Does this understanding complement professional judgement and other relevant safeguarding vulnerability frameworks? Are referred individuals offered support that is appropriate to their needs?			
Is the understanding of what constitutes a Channel referral rigorous and appropriate?	Yes - all referrals deferred to Channel for decision		
Is the understanding considered alongside professional judgement professional judgement and other assessments? At Channel panel is there a full and effective consideration of an individual's vulnerabilities? Does the vulnerability assessment facilitate the Channel panel to make the most appropriate decision on the support an individual should receive?	Yes. Response driven by Vulnerability Assessment Framework		
5.3 Are there robust procedures, in line with data protection legislation in place for sharing personal information about an individual and their vulnerabilities with Channel panel members?	All partners signed up to the information sharing protocol and confidentiality and disclosure sheet shared at start of the meeting. Amended Apr 21 in line with Channel Panel self-assessment		
5.4 Does the Channel panel learn from previous interventions to improve future case management?			
Does the Channel panel undertake formal retrospective analysis of support offered?	6 monthly check after referral and also a review of those not making the criteria and the onward referral		
Is this shared with other local authorities to improve best practice learning?	Yes – looked at learning from Parsons Green and local action developed from it		
5.5 Are Channel panel decisions, and remaining vulnerabilities of the individual in question, regularly reviewed by police after 6 and 12 months? Is the result of this review briefed into the Channel Panel?			
Is this process overseen by the Channel Panel?	The chair and vice chair have oversight of other risk management processes in authority, and therefore oversight of adults and children's		

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5.6 Are agreed protocols are in place for sharing information about vulnerable individuals and shared risks between local authorities?			
Have these been tested and proven to work effectively?	Terms of reference in place for Channel Panel and all aware of their statutory duties. When called all those requested have attended and supplied information as relevant and proportionate		
Does this include cases where an individual's caseload is transferred between Chanel panels?	We have shared information where placed out of borough and received referrals back	<b>Board</b> consider if need for a protocol	
Are procedures in place for the transferral of Channel data between agencies?	Following examples of poor practice from transferring boroughs MASH or YOS ensure when cases are transferred contact is made with Prevent lead. All Procedures are in place to facilitate this		
5.7 Are relevant steps taken to both manage CT risks and to provide child protection / safeguarding support as appropriate where consent is not given?			
Are s.47 referrals considered where appropriate?	Yes – 1 example of consent where family involved. Process is in place		
Are partners involved in helping support vulnerability through Prevent Case Management processes?	Whilst Thurrock referrals are low Counter Terrorism Team are confident that panel are doing excellent work with those referred and have good ideas regards intervention. Case audit processes in place	<b>Board</b> to continue programme of case audits and implement findings	

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<p><b>Benchmark 6:</b>          6. There is a Prevent problem solving process in place to disrupt radicalising influences.          Outcome:          Partners can work together to disrupt the spread of ideologies in an area which may lead vulnerable people to become radicalised.</p>			
<p>6.1 Is there a formal mechanism or strategy in place for identifying and disrupting radicalising influencers, including individuals, institutions and ideologies present in the area?</p>			
<p>Are all local partners involved in the coordination and delivery of this strategy?          Is this in keeping with the mechanisms used by other partners?</p>	<p>Standing agenda item at Board for partners to raise. Community Tension monitoring process in place and adopted by partners. Community cohesion policy in place to bring together communities</p>		
<p>If existing partnership arrangements are not in place, are partners aware of method of responding tactically to radicalisers?</p>	<p>Due to no current risks no plan in place</p>		
<p>6.2 Is there a named operational Prevent lead in each local authority area that can receive briefings and work with enforcement agencies to disrupt radicalisers?          In the absence of the name lead, is there a deputy?</p>			
<p>Are named leads aware of the opportunities available to disrupt radicalisers?</p>	<p>Community tension monitoring and policy in place and relevant          Hate crime monitoring in place to identify emerging issues          Named leads across Council and this is captured within the bimonthly Childrens contextual safeguarding report for response</p>	<p><b>Adult Safeguarding / CSP manager</b>          to include within development of contextual safeguarding report in relation to adults</p>	
<p>Are named leads security cleared?</p>	<p>Yes Chair &amp; Vice Chair of Channel          No of officers and directors signed up to CTLP</p>		
<p>Are leads trained in disruption tactical options?</p>	<p>This would be managed through Channel process. Shared on a case by case process. If Police led, people who have declined Channel referral or have been recorded as a referral from e.g. M15          disruption tactics from partners required</p>		

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<p><b>Benchmark 7:</b>                  7. There is a training programme in place for relevant personnel.                  Outcome:                  The right people across the organisation receive the right level of training required to help them understand the risk of radicalisation and know how to access support locally.</p>			
<p>7.1 Are all relevant staff in the partnership and its commissioned services aware of the signs of possible radicalisation and understand the need to raise concerns?</p>			
Is there a formal training programme for staff?	Bi Monthly WRAP training delivered virtually by my learning & CSP manager. Online Home office training promoted and also included in adult safeguarding training	<b>CSP manager</b> will require updating in line with planned Home Office Changes – 2022	
Are steps being taken to ensure this being taken up by all relevant personnel?	There is a need to ensure robust monitoring of take up of training. Gaps to be identified and training recommended	<b>CSP manager</b> work with my learning to identify needs across Council through survey and provide training for any identified gaps	
Is training advertised proactively? Is it included in the induction of relevant staff?	Yes through my learning Section within managers handbook (drafted for new web version) on Prevent		
Is the level of understanding of radicalisation subsequently measured?	Refresh audit required– response to last audit prompted increase in offer of WRAP training.	<b>Prevent champions</b> – to refresh SPOC by team and provide training so can audit teams. To share all agencies	
<p>7.2 Do all relevant staff in the partnership and its commissioned services understands when and how to make referrals to Channel and where to get additional advice and support?</p>			
Do staff feel empowered to make referrals where appropriate, and know when it is not necessary to refer an individual?	Yes – confident to discuss outside of formal process first as well and raise query with MASH CSC evidence commissioned services provided: <a href="https://edrms.thurrock.gov.uk/id:A5897574">objective://edrms.thurrock.gov.uk/id:A5897574</a> Adult Social Care reviewing Existing requirements on providers regarding adult safeguarding and therefore the Prevent agenda will be bolstered through the	<b>A/D adult social care</b> Commissioning Team to satisfy the Board that all commissioned services have this in place <b>COMPLETE</b> evidence provided to December board	



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	standard contract and agreements used in adult social care		
How is the level of understanding of when to make referrals to Channel measured?	Referrals filtered beforehand so no inappropriate ones made. Measurement of no of referrals made v acceptance is only at County level		
7.3 Does the organisation measure and account for different levels of training need across different teams and sectors?			
Which targeted training offers are available for staff?	WRAP Sessions run bimonthly at variety of times and days On line training promoted Ideology training delivered annually Non front line receive community awareness i.e. ACT NOW	<b>CSP manager</b> identify new provider for ideology training	
How are levels of training need measured?	A survey has been developed and to be launched across TBC to identify needs	<b>CSP manager</b> to follow up on audit with my learning	
How does the organisation track which staff members have been trained and which are still to receive training?	This is an identified gap, note this is not mandatory	<b>Prevent Board</b> review how training is tracked and monitored	
How is information on training uptake recorded?	Manually from attendance, logged by My Learning		
How is this information used to ensure attendance to training by remaining untrained relevant staff?	Training offer shared with and cascaded by Leadership group Q4 19/20	<b>CSP manager</b> to carry out a needs assessment on training through audit & respond to any gaps	
7.4 is there an agreed education outreach programme, which works with a variety of educational institutions in the area to train staff members on identifying children at risk of radicalisation, and to build resilience in pupils?			

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<p>Does the organisation reach out to primary schools, secondary schools including academies and free schools, special schools, elective home education and PRUs?</p>	<p>Our WRAP training sessions are open to all schools to ensure they have a trained lead within schools. Advice and guidance published on policy / risk assessment and action plan. This is measured through safeguarding audit – biannual. Gaps are followed up on. <a href="#">Home education advice</a> <a href="#">Prevention of terrorism   Home education   Thurrock Council</a></p>	<p><b>LSCP / CSP Manager</b> audits Nov 21 of internal awareness through training audit and through School safeguarding audits</p>	
<p>Does the education programme include resilience training for staff, to strengthen relevant safeguarding procedures and equip staff to respond to issues arising from terrorist incidents or political events?</p>	<p>Our colleges attend briefings and training to equip them to respond. This needs to be explored across the rest of the sector.</p>	<p><b>A/D Education</b> organise with DfE to host a session with heads to discuss needs of education sector &amp; develop appropriate actions from this <b>Actioned Nov 21</b></p>	
<p>Have you agreed a mechanism with sector coordinators to inform them of relevant local threats, risks and tensions?</p>	<p>Yes – A/D for education is member of our board and would communicate through them. Utilise head teacher briefings (e.g. raised awareness of online concerns during COVID) and utilise safeguarding leads forum as required</p>		
<p>7.5 Does the organisation taking steps to understand the range of activity and settings of supplementary schools?</p>			
<p>Is consideration given to ensuring that children attending such settings are properly safeguarded?</p>	<p>Any concerns raised are followed up on and acted on. Our concern is that there is no process for identifying supplementary schools within Thurrock – the audit will cover those we are aware of. We need to support schools by giving them the tools to guide them on relation to venue hire. Our 3 colleges are included within all Prevent engagement with education</p>	<p><b>A/D education</b> draft guidance for schools on venue and speakers when hiring to be signed off and cascaded to education establishment. <b>Actioned</b> and shared Sept 21</p>	
<p>7.6 Is clear, accessible information and publicity material on Prevent widely available for staff within the organisation?</p>			
<p>Does this include online training e.g. e-learning?</p>	<p>On line training available and publicised and bimonthly virtual training offer which has good take up and includes hate crime awareness All publicity is on our web site <a href="#">Prevention of terrorism   Terrorism   Thurrock Council</a></p>		

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Does this communicate the importance of the duty?	Yes, and within CSP delivery plan, event protocol, and managers handbook /guidance		
Does it include how to make a referral? Does it include how to access further training?	Yes – on line training access at end of session		
7.7 Is a training or induction process in place for new officers who are responsible for delivering Prevent in the area?			
Does this include specific and in – depth training on terrorist ideologies, the local threat profile and the reasons an individual might be drawn into terrorism?	N/A no Prevent officers within organisation. All CSP team attend within induction period & regular updates at team briefings		
What other training might be needed for new Prevent staff?	N/A		
7.8 Are officers responsible for delivering Prevent in the area offered a programme of continued professional development?			
Does this include specific and in – depth training on terrorist ideologies, the local threat profile and the reasons an individual might be drawn into terrorism?	Prevent leads attended Hydra, MH and PTSD, national conference and annual ideology training and regional conferences.	<b>Police –CT team</b> delivering programme of CPD training. Relevant Board officers to attend	
What other development might be needed for existing Prevent staff?	Vice chair Channel to attend Hydra when next running No other gaps that we are aware of	<b>Channel chair and vice chair</b> to attend Synergy training when approved at National level	
7.9 Is there written guidance for related services on their responsibilities with regards to Prevent?			
Is this guidance used and adhered to?	Guidance to include within safeguarding procedures written for schools and voluntary sector Commissioning teams aware of need to include within contracts	All Thurrock care contracts should be under our regional T's &C's so this should be in all of our contracts	

**PREVENT DUTY**

The Provider shall:

comply with the requirements of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (“**CTA**”) as if it were a “Public Authority” within the meaning of the CTA and where necessary, comply with any modifications to this Contract to enable the Parties to comply with such obligations;

give all reasonable assistance to the Council necessary to enable the Council to comply with its obligations under the CTA;

comply with all reasonable directions given by the Council which the Council deems necessary to comply with its obligations under the CTA; and

not do or omit to do any act that that would put or would be likely to put the Council in breach of the CTA, in each case at all times, at the Provider’s sole expense, and in connection with the provision of the Services.

<p><b>Benchmark 8:</b>                  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 networks.                  Outcome:                  Awareness of Prevent is integrated and mainstreamed within the organisation and other relevant agencies.</p>				
<p>8.1 Do you have a venue policy in place which ensures that measures are taken to prevent local authority venues being used by those who might draw people into terrorism?</p>				
<p>Page 51</p>	<p>Is awareness of this policy spread throughout the organisation?</p>	<p>Policy in place with event hire and speaker policy. Community hubs have a policy: Libraries/hubs are a neutral space and should not be perceived to be promoting one entity over another. Bookings <u>will not</u> be accepted for meetings or events deemed to be of a political nature, or that promote any faith (including through worship). However, projects run by faith groups, such as a parent and toddler group, can be supported by the discretion of management. In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 we oppose all forms of prejudice and discrimination and promote diversity. We will endeavour to prevent the use of hub buildings by groups or individuals that seek to promote hatred or extremism against individuals or society.</p> <p>Would be picked up for larger organisations through the Safety Advisory Group</p>	<p>There are still some gaps in knowledge being highlighted and more promotion required</p>	
	<p>Have working communication links been created between the venue hire team and the local authority Prevent team?</p>	<p>Links clear between our community development team and Prevent. Strategy lead led on development of policy with CSP manager</p>		
	<p>Has this policy adequately prevented the organisations premises from being used by those who might draw people into terrorism?</p>	<p>We are confident that this policy if adhered to would reduce the risk of our premises being used to draw people into terrorism</p>		

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Does the policy include contract points at the CTU in order for checks to be made, or provide guidance on how open - source checks can be carried out?	Guidance is clear within policy on checks to be made and contact is CSP manager to discuss further who would escalate as appropriate for further support.		
8.2 Do you have an IT policy which prevents the access of terrorism – related content or the promotion materials by users of the organisations networks?			
How effective is this policy at preventing the access of terrorism – related or promoting materials?	Sites checked have been blocked. New groups proscribed immediately blocked		
Does this include libraries and WiFi hotspots?	<a href="http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/get-online-with-your-library/internet-acceptable-use-agreement">www.thurrock.gov.uk/get-online-with-your-library/internet-acceptable-use-agreement</a>		
8.3 Do you have a speaker policy which alerts venues in the area to the risks associated with designed speakers who are known to be radicalising influences?			
Has this policy been tested and proven effective at encouraging local venue owners to be aware of risks?	Licensing would pick up this at larger events, over 500 people, through a SAG if we were aware of the event. Our event policy is to be amended and signed off for sharing with community halls / licensed premises and education establishments	<b>CSP manager/ A/D education / licensing / community development</b> to amend policy for external venues and share <b>DRAFTED</b> to be tested and proven effective	
How have local venue owners responded to the policy?	Previous advice shared with licensed premises and no concerns raised	To be reviewed once new guidance published	Apr 22
Are venue owners aware of who they should contact if they require more information on a speaker?	This is within the policy		
Are the Regional Prevent Coordinators for FR-HE and NHS England informed when concerns are raised about a venue in their remit?	Would be through EP Prevent team and a community tension form submitted		
Have you provided guidance to Town and Parish Councils and community organisations in your area with rentable facilities?	N/A		N/A
Have you briefed hotels and licensed premises in your area?	Licensed premises were briefed through pub watch and statement provided. This is now to be further developed with a venue /speaker hire policy document	<b>CSP manager/ licensing /</b> to amend policy for external venues and share <b>Policy amended:</b> to be shared and tested	

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Are Prevent teams discussing reputational risk and equality and diversity considerations with local venues?	Wording has been shared but need to ensure has been adopted. Concerns are reported. New policy guidance will be stronger	Within new policy for testing and adopting	
Are Prevent teams offering support around open source due diligence when relevant?	This is within the policy		

**Benchmark 9:**  
 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.  
 Outcome: Engagement with a range of faith and community groups takes place in order to build community involvement and confidence in local Prevent delivery.

9.1 Does the organisation engage with a range of community and civil society groups, both faith – based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on Prevent?

What ways are you reaching out to community and civil society groups?	Through social media, resident community safety group and Independent Advisory Group (IAG) IAG meet bimonthly and Prevent is an annual agenda item.		
Are mechanisms in place to consult with community and civil society groups on Prevent delivery?	Yes through IAG, includes NASFAT, Mosque & Sikh Temple		
How else are civil society groups involved in local Prevent delivery?	All faith and civil society groups have been invited to ACT Now training, 51 people attended from a cross section of community		

9.2 Does a Community Advisory Group meet regularly to advise on Prevent delivery?

Is there a process for checking who the appropriate community partners to attend are?	There will always be identified gaps across communities and ongoing outreach work	Continue to reach out to communities through community builders	
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Are the appropriate community partners attending these meetings on a regular basis?	The CSEOs in Essex Police are reaching out to more diverse communities and always welcome new members to IAG and our challenge panel		
Is the advisory group continuously engaged in Prevent work between meetings?	Attended Essex wide Act Now event Regular reminders through ActNow bulletins	All encourage referrals from community & faith groups	
9.3 Does the organisation work with Civil Society organisations to deliver local projects to support those at risk of radicalisation?			
In what ways are you working with civil society groups?	No as not a prevent focus area		
Are mechanisms in place with civil society groups to consult and support local delivery in Prevent?	No as not a prevent focus area		
How else are civil society groups involved in local Prevent delivery?	No as not a prevent focus area		

**Benchmarks 10:**

10. There is a communications plan in place to proactively communicate and increase transparency of the reality / impact of Prevent work, and support frontline staff and communities to understand what Prevent look like in practice.

Outcome:

The organisation can effectively communicate its work on Prevent, resulting in confidence in local processes to reduce risk.

10.1 Does the organisation communicate Prevent activity in a way which is proportionate and relevant to the context of the local area?

What methods or platforms are used to communicate Prevent in the area?	All national campaigns promoted on web site. Twitter promotion regularly and promotion of hate crime reporting Use of business newsletter Web site updated with community ACT now		
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Is this tailored to the requirements of given situations?	Yes – increased if there is a spike in hate crime or a terrorist attack		
10.2 Does the organisation have a formal communications plan which proactively communicates the impact of Prevent to professionals and communications?			
What methods or platforms are used to communicate Prevent in the area?	This is documented within the Prevent action plan		
Does this plan involve input from services across the organisation? Does it highlight local delivery through civil society organisations and other partners?	Yes – it is a partnership action plan		

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## Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

### INTRODUCTION

This assurance statement captures local authority compliance with the requirements laid out under sections 36 – 41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) (as amended by the Counter Terrorism Border Security Act 2019) relating to Channel panels and improving outcomes for those identified individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. This assurance statement forms part of a self-assessment for local authorities capturing Channel practice within each local authority area and levels of compliance against aspects of Channel delivery articulated in the Channel Statutory Duty Guidance 2020. Section 36 (7) of the CTSA states that panels must have regard to this guidance.

This is the first annual assurance statement issued to local authorities, so will be used to set a baseline for local authority Channel practice from the financial year 2020/21; future submissions will capture assessments over the preceding year. The information gathered from this statement will also be used to identify where additional support to Channel panels needs to be undertaken, direct OSCT (Office for Security and Counter Terrorism) support, or provide a trigger for further reviews or observations, such as dip sampling. The statement forms part of the strengthened quality assurance framework for Channel panels across England and Wales with findings reported into OSCT business assurance arrangements.

The table below sets out key areas of control with assurance statements relating to standards to be achieved and options for assessment. Each local authority is asked to state the extent to which they believe their authority meets each of these standards and indicate the relevant RAG rating based on the definitions below. In the event of a combined panel – each separate authority serviced by the combined panel will be requested to complete the statement.

The evidential statement box is asking for evidence that shows how the authority has met the standard. It gives examples of ‘good practice’ evidence that would help to assure OSCT that the standard has been addressed. Where the assessment indicates that improvements are required, an outline of the steps needed with a timescale for completion is required. Please use an **X** to mark against the statement most applicable to your current position, providing a basis for the assessment and proposals (including a timeframe) for addressing areas of improvement. The statement should represent an honest critique of the arrangements in place at the end of the financial year 2020/21. Whilst evidence should be available to support your assessment, this is not required to accompany the statement submission, but should be reasonably accessible.

Chief Executive or Strategic Director level sign off is required for this assurance statement. Completion is required by all local authorities in England and Wales. Please return completed statements to [Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk) by **19 April 2021**.



### Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

#### Definitions for compliance ratings

**Green**

Able to give reasonable assurance that the key area is being applied.

**Amber**

Able to give reasonable assurance that the key area is being met. However, issues have arisen that may impact on this, and further explanation is provided in the assurance statement.

**Red**

Unable to give reasonable assurance that the key area is being met. Reasons for this are provided in the assurance statement.

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1	Key area of control – Legal Requirements under CTSA 2015	Compliance			Evidence for compliance rating	Areas for Improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
1.1	A panel is in place for the area (or combined area) with the sole purpose of providing support to those individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.				Monthly meeting & minutes	
1.2	Membership of the panel includes the local authority and police for that area which is wholly or partly within the authority.				Community safety inspector for district and LA attendees are authority area only	
1.3	Partners of the panel (as listed in Schedule 7 CTSA) act in cooperation with panel in carrying out its functions under section 36(4) CTSA. This includes the giving of information to determine whether an individual should be referred to the panel (section 38(3)). <sup>1</sup>				Attendees in minutes	

<sup>1</sup> All references to panel partners comprise those identified by the Channel chair, in addition to partners listed within Schedule 7.



**Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21**

1	Key area of control – Legal Requirements under CTSA 2015	Compliance			Evidence for compliance rating	Areas for Improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
1.4	Partners of the panel have regard to the Channel duty guidance issued by the Secretary of State.					
1.5	In the instance of combined panels, appropriate representatives from each local authority and Policing area covered within the combined panel geography attend panel meetings.	N/A			N/A	

2	Key area of control – Strategic Governance	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
2.1	Channel, as a local authority statutory function (Section 36 of the CTSA), is included within the local authority's constitution.				Manjira Grant legal has reviewed constitution: The Channel process forms a key part of the "Prevent" strategy and this is encapsulated within the Council's "Prevent" duties that are referenced in the constitution. As such, at this point	



Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

2	Key area of control – Strategic Governance	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
		Green			we feel that no further amendment is necessary.	
2.2	Channel Panel activity is overseen by a local strategic multi-agency partnership board where Channel is a specified agenda item. The Channel chair attends this board.	Green				
2.3	The chair for strategic governance does not hold responsibility for elements of Channel panel delivery or hold the Channel chair function.	Green				
2.4	An escalation process to strategic governance is in place for the Channel Panel. This process is publicised to panel members/partners and referred to in any relevant governance public facing websites.		Amber		Statement on escalation process to be added to the confidentiality & disclosure so all aware of process	For April 21 panel
2.5	Channel (as part of Prevent reporting) is included within the local authority's governance arrangements.	Green				



Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

3	Key area of control – Chairing skills / core competencies	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
3.1	The Chief Executive (or equivalent Head of Paid Service) has designated local authority officers as named chair and deputy chair, details of whom have been provided to OSCT. <sup>2</sup> a. Named Channel chair and email contact: .....fleddra@thurrock.gov.uk..... ..... b. Named Channel deputy chair and email contact: .....Jread@thurrock.gov.uk .....					
3.2	The Chair and deputy chair hold sufficient authority to direct multi-agency delivery.					
3.3	Chair and deputy chair have previous experience in chairing multi-agency panels or meetings.					
3.4	Chair and deputy chair have a sound understanding of Channel, Prevent and CONTEST strategies.					
3.5	Chair and deputy Chair have a degree of separation from any Home Office Prevent funded post in the local authority.					
3.6	Chair and deputy Chair are committed to completing training programmes requested by OSCT.					

<sup>2</sup> Changes to designated Channel chairs/deputy chairs must be notified to OSCT via [Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk)



Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

4	Key area of control – Panel Function and Form	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
4.1	The Panel assesses the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and creates a support plan to address identified vulnerabilities.					
4.2	All standing panel members are actively involved in panel discussion, decisions and delivery.					
4.3	Panel meets monthly (within 20 days of the Police Gateway Assessment) to oversee all Channel cases in their area where there are live cases for discussion, referrals for decision or case reviews to be undertaken.					
4.4	Information is effectively shared between panel members and partners and is facilitated by an information sharing agreement (ISA).					
4.5	Consent to receive support is obtained in writing and no later than 3 months after the panel first adopts a case and offers an individual support.				Consent was verbal but form now in place for CTCO's to gain written consent. This will be shared at next channel	
4.6	Consent is informed, explicit and freely given without coercion or duress. <sup>3</sup>					
4.7	Vulnerability Assessment Frameworks (VAF) are updated by the Channel Case Officer at least every 3 months or when any significant event impacts on the individual's vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism.					

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<sup>3</sup> Consent to access Channel support should not feature as part of any process whereby a sanction is imposed for non-compliance (e.g Child safeguarding arrangements, Probation or Youth Offending licence conditions, or court orders)





**Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21**

4	Key area of control – Panel Function and Form	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
4.8	The initial VAF is circulated to all relevant panel members and partners in advance of the meeting.					
4.9	Home Office approved Intervention Providers are considered for all cases where support is to be offered and the rationale for their use or preclusion is documented in the minutes.					
4.10	The support plan for individuals is kept under review to ensure individual needs are being met in line with identified or changing vulnerabilities. The panel assesses the impact of its actions or inactions when reviewing the support plan.					
4.11	The panel, in conjunction with counter terrorism police, keep the safeguarding risk and the terrorism risk under review when considering actions taken or proposed. Mitigating actions to reduce these risks are considered.					
4.12	Channel minutes accurately reflect decisions made by the panel and a rationale for those decisions. Minutes are taken by a dedicated minute taker and not a member or partner of the panel.					
4.13	All adopted cases are reviewed by the panel at least 6 and 12 months after closure which includes police checks, relevant service involvement, change of circumstances (including making family contact where appropriate), concerns arising since case closure and contact with initial referrer.					
4.14	Channel panel is proactive in considering families (where appropriate) within the assessment process and the support offer.				If the subject is a child or of vulnerability that would determine if they need an appropriate adult and	Any identified actions to develop from audit findings due June 21



Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

4	Key area of control – Panel Function and Form	Compliance			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for completion
		Green	Amber	Red		
					parents were acting in this capacity updates would be passed. This should be captured in the channel minutes and decision making process within channel setting Case audit findings will highlight any further steps required	
4.15	There is a structured, agreed process for providing updates to family members.				Police maintain contact with families but lacks consistency in feedback to panel	Process to be understood by panel members & feedback received June 21



Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21

5	Key area of control – Data Protection	Compliance Rating			Further details behind any amber or red entries	Areas for improvement and timescales for improvement
		Green	Amber	Red		
5.1	Management of data is compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations 2018.	Green				
5.2	Local Data Protection Information Notices have been updated to reflect Channel Panel functions and use of personal data.		Amber		These are in draft SET wide for sign up by each organisation	Sept 21
5.3	Local data protection policies are being followed for Channel data stored locally.	Green				
5.4	All relevant Channel case documents including minutes, VAFs, Intervention Provider reports and support plans are uploaded onto the OSCT-approved Case Management Information System.		Amber		To work with ERSOU on detailing a supportive plan in channel for each individual as oppose to uploading minutes	June 21
5.5	All individuals receiving support from Channel are signposted to the Home Office Channel Data Privacy Notice for the OSCT-approved Case Management Information System.	Green			Discussion between CTCOs and subject when they speak about consent and channel	



**Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement – 2020/21**

This assurance statement provides an accurate assessment of compliance with Channel panel requirements for the financial year 2020/21, as detailed within the CTSA 2015 and Channel Duty guidance 2020. A commitment is made for those areas identified for improvement to be progressed within the timeframes stated.

**Local authority Chief Executive/ Strategic Director Signatory:**

Signed .....

Date 14/04/2021 .....

Position ...Corporate Director of Resources & Place Delivery ...

Local Authority.....

Please indicate if part of a combined panel...Single Local Authority Panel

Please return completed statements to [Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Channel@homeoffice.gov.uk) by **19 April 2021**.



Home Office

# PREVENT

Community Events Handbook



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## Introduction to Prevent Engagement

Prevent safeguards people who are at risk of radicalisation, stopping them from being exploited into supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists. It is also about building resilience in communities, empowering them to tackle the causes of radicalisation locally through a variety of projects and civil society organisations.

The strength of Prevent comes from communities working together to ensure that people who are at-risk can be offered support. Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public sector institutions. Through these partnerships, almost 3,000 people have been adopted to Prevent's voluntary and confidential Channel programme since 2012, which supports people who are considered to be vulnerable to exploitation from terrorist influences.

## Community and Elected Member engagement

Community engagement is a core part of the Prevent strategy and, within the Home Office, is led by the Communities & Engagement team. Community engagement aims to build local awareness and knowledge of Prevent, and importantly, helps us within the Home Office to understand issues on-the-ground. As a locally driven programme, Prevent relies on relationships to operate. Every community is different, so it is important that Prevent delivery, including engagement, is tailored to each local area and reflects the specific challenges that they face.

Engagement is led by Prevent Coordinators and Community Engagement Officers across the country, who utilise their local networks and relationships to engage a range of different audiences. In the Communities & Engagement team, we can support this work by fielding speakers for locally-led events, forums and roundtables. Through engaging in this way, we hope that local areas will feel more empowered to help lead the important work that is necessary to safeguard individuals against radicalisation.

## What might engagement involve?

### Elected Members

Gaining buy-in from Elected Members can help to facilitate Prevent delivery, unblock issues, and can provide leadership and scrutiny locally to improve Prevent nationally. Areas can engage Elected Members through written briefings, scrutiny boards and roundtable events. We have developed an Elected Member handbook. Please get in touch with [preventcommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:preventcommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk) for a copy.

## **Community**

There are a range of different ways to engage communities locally, varying from communications products, one to one meetings with influential stakeholders, to larger roundtable events. By engaging consistently with communities, you help to build a trusted relationship which will not only assist with the delivery of Prevent, but can also increase people's confidence in the programme and the referrals process, and give insight into other community issues.

## **Prevent Advisory Groups**

Areas should consider what role sustained engagement could look like. Many Local Authorities have established a Prevent Advisory Group (PAG), which brings together stakeholders with an interest in Prevent on a permanent membership body to discuss, debate, and influence local Prevent delivery. Similar groups have been set up for Elected Members, however, these focus primarily on the statutory obligations that come with Prevent and scrutiny of the policy both locally and nationally. Over two-thirds of Local Authorities now have, or are setting up, a Prevent Advisory Group. If you would like support to create one in your area, contact the team!

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Stakeholder engagement will be led at a local level, and encompasses engaging not only with the civil society organisations and partners in your area (such as local pressure groups, academics and so forth), but with critics too. Stakeholder engagement is very broad, but generally involves holding stakeholder roundtables, engaging with studies and surveys, and PR activity such as partners' campaigns/social media posts.



## Why hold Prevent community engagement events?

Community engagement is a broad package encompassing all the work above, and events are an important part of that, helping to generate positive and long-lasting engagement activity:

- **90%** of attendees would recommend attending a Prevent roundtable event to their friends/family.
- **84%** of attendees report leaving with a more positive opinion of Prevent.
- **63%** of Prevent Priority Areas have reported that people are now more willing to engage with Prevent.

Community engagement events can help to:

### Ensure that those who need it accept support

Prevent is voluntary. It relies on people trusting the programme and accepting support. Having honest conversations about Prevent and Channel locally can help build understanding and confidence so that people who need Prevent support are more likely to accept it.

### Manage potential tensions

Having an open dialogue with communities on Prevent can help to dispel myths and misconceptions about Prevent and decrease tensions around the programme.

### Give reassurance and provide transparency

Having an open dialogue can provide reassurance about the local work being done to combat terrorism. This can complement other proactive communications such as newsletters, which highlight local activity, provide explanations of the programme, or celebrate success.

### Explain the referral process

Providing information about the referral process and discussing some case studies can help people understand who Prevent supports, as well as encourage quality referrals from the community.

### Meet area performance indicators

All Prevent priority areas, as part of their grant agreements, are required to develop and deliver a programme of community and Elected Member engagement. Regularly holding engagement sessions to create meaningful partnerships between Government, civil society and communities, will help you successfully meet these requirements.

## Organising a community engagement event

Organising a community roundtable is partly about staying on top of the logistics, such as making sure there are suitable speakers, a venue and refreshments, and sending invites out on time. But it's also vital to consider your strategic objectives; what your audience will want to hear, the message(s) you want to land and how to mitigate any risks. This handbook gives some general advice on both the logistical and strategic elements of community engagement.

The advice is not prescriptive, and we encourage all areas to use a model that suits their local experience - however we hope this will be a useful tool for considering the objectives and outcomes you want to achieve through community engagement events, plus some helpful tips on planning and logistics.

### First, consider your objectives

When organising a community roundtable, it's important to consider what you specifically want to achieve through this piece of engagement, and how it fits into your wider strategic objectives. For example, events can help to:

- Increase awareness of how Prevent works in the community or increase understanding of specific counter-terrorism related topics, such as extremists' use of the internet.
- Engage influencers to advocate more vocally for Prevent within the community.
- Myth-bust or de-escalate tensions following an incident.

If you know broadly what you want to achieve, you should narrow this down by setting out some SMART objectives. These are:

**S**pecific  
**M**easurable  
**A**ttainable  
**R**elevant  
**T**imebound

For example, your event could aim to:

- Raise awareness of the links between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation amongst safeguarding leads in 15 local schools, leading to an increased understanding by the end of the event (***this event will be used as an example throughout this document***).
- Support an increase in the number of Prevent referrals coming from community and family members by 5% over the next two years, by measurably improving trust and understanding among these communities.
- Recruit 5 members of a new Prevent Advisory Group, to be set up in the next month.

## Understand your audience

Once you know what you want your event to achieve, it's time to start considering who your audience should be and what they would benefit from hearing.

So, for the mental health event example above, your primary audience would be the education sector, and the profession would be teachers and safeguarding leads.

Next, it may be useful to consider more of the specifics of your audience. Some examples to consider are listed below:



### General

- What are they (vital statistics)?
- Who are they (characteristics)?
- Where are they (location, lifestyle)?

### Specifics

- Behaviours
- Attitudes
- Barriers
- Motivations/needs
- What do they care about?

### Delivery

- Where do they get info? How much do they want?
- When are they most receptive?
- Who influences them?

## Virtual or in-person?

The Covid-19 pandemic made in-person engagement events difficult, and at times impossible, to hold. However, this did not mean local engagement had to stop, and many areas extended their new virtual ways of working to holding innovative, online events for their local community.

These events have shown that we do not always need to hold events in-person for them to be effective, but it's important to weigh up the benefits of virtual vs in-person engagement before you start organising your event – please see the next page for some examples:

### Pros: Virtual

- Higher reach (but can exclude some demographics)
- Easier to secure a speaker
- No travel time required
- Less resource intensive and less cost implications
- Potential for greater frequency
- Easier to manage conversations and control the dialogue
- Less daunting for some

### Pros: In Person

- More engaging (and empowering)
- Body language cues (reading the room)
- Fewer distractions
- More nuance to the conversation
- Higher 'value' to the viewer (and the speaker)
- Conversations 'in the margins'
- More secure

## Setting the agenda

The considerations above should have helped you to narrow down what your event is setting out to achieve, the audience(s) you'll be inviting to come along, and whether you'll be hosting the event in-person or virtually. The next step in planning your roundtable is to flesh out the agenda of the event. There are three broad objectives the Communities & Engagement team find it useful to stick to when planning agendas, and these are to:



Set the scene



Land the key messages



Engage (Q&A)

### Setting the scene

- Welcoming a guest, such as from the Home Office, who set the strategic context.
- A video introduction, outlining what Prevent is and how the programme works (*please see the suggested resources below for examples*).
- An overview of the current threat to the UK from terrorism, and the wider strategic landscape within which Prevent operates.
- Outlining priorities for the Prevent programme.

### Landing the message

- Communicating in an emotive and impactful way, using case studies and real-life examples to add relatability.
- Utilising influential speakers where appropriate – consider your audience here, who they trust and listen to. This could be an academic, an official from another government department such as DfE or DHSC, or a local influencer.

### Engage

- Q&A session, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. This is the most important part of the roundtable, and it's vital not to avoid difficult questions, to respond fully, and follow-up on any actions highlighted during the session.
- Being inclusive – whether that's asking for written contributions beforehand, using the chat function or 'raise your hand' function online, or using tech such as Sli.do to allow for anonymous contributions.
- Collecting feedback (*see the feedback section and form at the end of this handbook*).

This example agenda can be amended as appropriate, though you should be mindful of leaving plenty of time for discussion – and always expect to overrun, so don't overfill the agenda with too many speakers! Two or three speakers should be enough.

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Introduced by</b>	<b>Timings</b>
1	Welcome and Introductions	Chairperson	10 mins
2	Overview of threat to UK from terrorism and Prevent response  OR  Thematic presentation decided in collaboration with the Local Authority.	Home Office Prevent	20 mins
3	Local Risk and Local Delivery	Prevent Co-ordinator	10 mins
4	Discussion and Q&A	All, facilitated by Chairperson	1 hour 10 mins
5	Closing Remarks	Home Office Prevent	5 mins
6	Expressions of Thanks and Next Steps <i>(This can also be an opportunity to ask attendees to fill in their feedback forms)</i>	Chairperson	5 mins

## Example schedule for organising an in-person event

This schedule will differ slightly for in-person and virtual events, and depending on whether the Home Office is speaking, but should be a useful reference point. If the Home Office will not be speaking, please just notify us of the time and date but you do not need to follow the other steps involving us:

### Week 1

- Local Prevent team gets in touch with Home Office Prevent to identify a suitable date and time. While events tend to take place in the evening (from 18:00-20:00), you should consider a morning or lunchtime event if your audience would be more receptive to this.
- Local team to send a draft list of names of speakers and attendees with organisational details to Home Office Prevent.
- Identify and secure a suitable Chairperson depending on the intended audience. For example this could be the Prevent Coordinator or a senior local authority figure.
- Check internal local authority clearance processes to ensure roundtable can take place in the below timeframe.

### Week 2

- Secure venue, IT equipment and book refreshments if required.
- Send invites at least two weeks ahead of event, including a link to Sli.do to allow collection of questions.
- Open up Sli.do to allow participants to submit questions ahead of time and set up the event feedback form.
- (If required/desirable) Secure the attendance of Prevent project provider and/or other local Prevent staff

### Week 3

- Local Prevent team updates HO Prevent on numbers for the event and chases up responses and/or sends additional invites.
- (If required/desirable, e.g. if the Chairperson is not the Prevent Coordinator), brief the Chairperson on the attendees and the final agenda (see below).
- (If required/desirable) Briefing provided by HO Prevent to senior officials.
- (If required/desirable) Briefing provided by Prevent Coordinator to senior local authority officers or locally elected members.

#### Week 4 – Final week

- Home Office Prevent sends PowerPoint slides and online films 24 hours prior to event. **NB: for an online event, we would recommend doing this in Week 3 to ensure there is adequate time to fix any tech issues.**
- Community Roundtable Event takes place.

#### Week 5

- Prevent Coordinator collates and evaluates attendee feedback forms.
- Prevent Coordinator sends copies of feedback forms to Home Office Prevent, highlighting anything which needs further action (e.g. follow up meetings) and recommendations for the next event.

## Invitations

Once you've sorted out the agenda and begun organising your schedule, you will likely want to draft an invitation to send out to invitees. It's always best to do this as early as possible, particularly if the event will be held in-person as this requires more diary time. You will know how best to communicate with your invitees, but the below invitation (which was for an Elected Members event) can be tailored for use during other community events and tweaked depending on whether the event is in-person or online.

Dear [XYZ],

#### Invitation to Prevent Roundtable with the Home Office

Prevent is one of the four stands of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. 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.

In [AREA NAME], we have been delivering on Prevent in partnership with our local communities, police and a range of statutory and third-sector organisations. The local response to Prevent is both focused and proportionate to risk, with commitment amongst the statutory partners to take decisions in an informed, transparent and open manner with clear accountability to local communities. Our purpose is to reach the small number of people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorist-related activities.

The [AREA NAME] Elected Members Discussion is an opportunity for elected members to meet with senior officials from the Home Office to have a dialogue about Prevent and be able to ask questions to better understand and influence the national policy and decision making. Councillors are well placed to

communicate the concerns of their constituents and share information on community tensions with the local authority.

In your position as an Elected Member you hold key relationships and influence in the community, and your support with delivering Prevent can help to safeguard vulnerable people in [AREA NAME].

This event will be held on [DATE / TIME/ LOCATION/ ONLINE LINK]. If you would like to attend this event, please contact [ORGANISER NAME AND DETAIL]

While those of us in offices are often glued to our emails, it may be easier to invite some attendees through different means, particularly if they are community members who may not have easy or regular access to the internet:

- Newsletters
- Website
- Flyers at CSO centres or offices
- Formal invite
- Word of mouth
- Social media

It's also useful to consider risks and mitigations – such as the event being joined and dominated by hostile groups or disruptive individuals if the invitation is shared too widely. One way to mitigate this could be through pre-registration, enabling you to keep track of who's planning to come along. You can then send a link (if the event is online) or specific address (if in-person) to those who have confirmed attendance closer to the time.

## Our offer to you

Community and Elected Member roundtables should be delivered locally as much as possible, with local experts and speakers presenting who will be tuned into the nuances of Prevent delivery in each area. However, the Home Office can also be a supportive voice in certain situations, representing Prevent at a national level and helping to address any misconceptions or concerns about the programme. Where there is a local need to do so, we are happy to field speakers from the Home Office to support local engagement events.

Over the past few years, the Communications & Engagement team have joined over 170 Local Authority community and Elected Member events. The Home Office presentation usually takes the form of either:

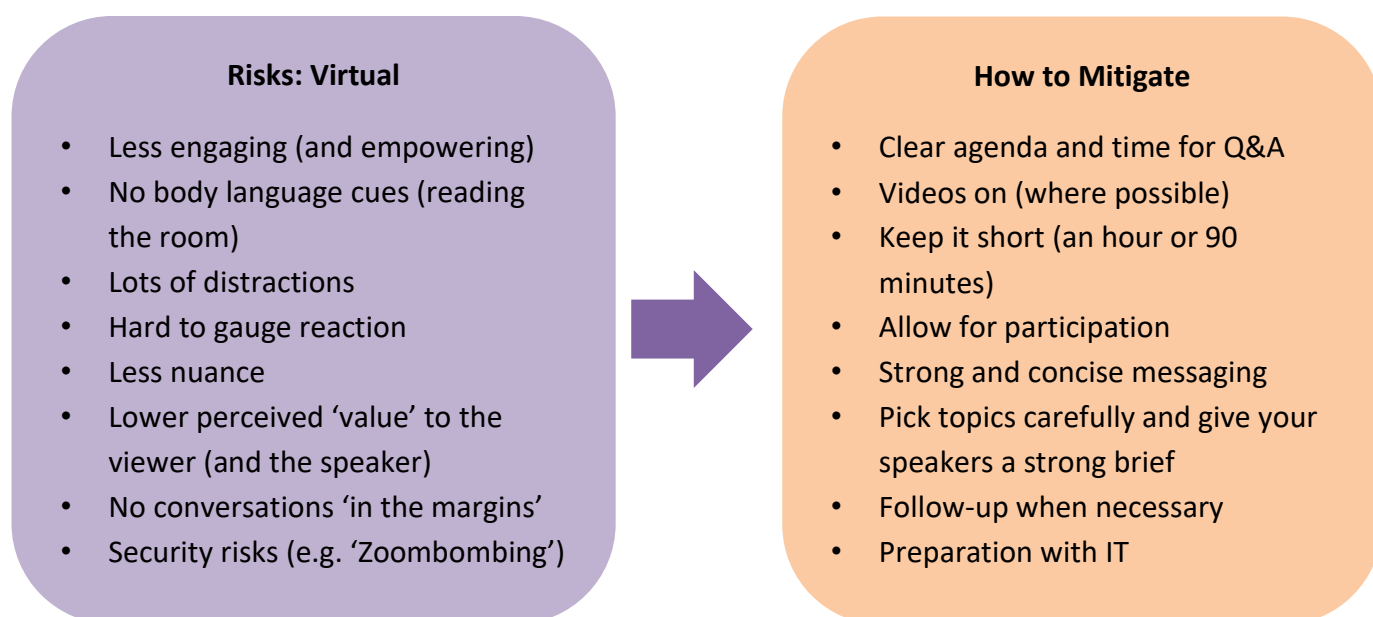
- 1) **A general presentation introducing Prevent.** This covers the threat from terrorism, the narratives of different groups, the model of radicalisation and how Prevent works. The presentation focusses equally on Daesh/Al Qa'ida-inspired and extremist right-wing terrorism, as well as other emerging threats, and is most appropriate for events where attendees are less familiar with the realities of Prevent.
- 2) **A thematic presentation tailored specifically to local risks or issues.** This could cover topics such as extremist right-wing terrorism, mental health, local project providers



or the role of friends and family in Prevent. This type of presentation may be more appropriate for a specific audience (such as local CSOs) with a base understanding of Prevent.

## Tips for running a virtual roundtable

If you choose to hold your roundtable virtually rather than in-person, there are some additional considerations to bear in mind. Below are some of the common difficulties you may run into with virtual engagement events, and some suggestions of how you could mitigate them, as well as some general tips for running events virtually. **A full list of resources and useful content for holding virtual events can be found at Annex B.**



- **Choose a suitable platform for your event and ensure there is adequate security.** There are various options to choose from – including Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Hangouts, WebEx, or Skype – and they each have unique benefits and risks. Speak to your Local Authority's IT team ahead of holding any event to make sure you get the right advice.
  - Be prepared to remove anyone who is being offensive or disruptive, and consider having back-up links in case you need to pause altogether.
- **Iron out technical problems ahead of time.** Make sure you can play (with sound) any videos included in the presentation, and run through the presentation slides to check that there's no time delay or other issues.
  - It's good practice to hold 'tech run-through', either on the day or in the days leading up to the event. This enables participants (such as the chair and speakers) to introduce themselves ahead of time, iron out any technical issues and ensure everyone is well-briefed on any topical sensitivities, such as recent incidents.

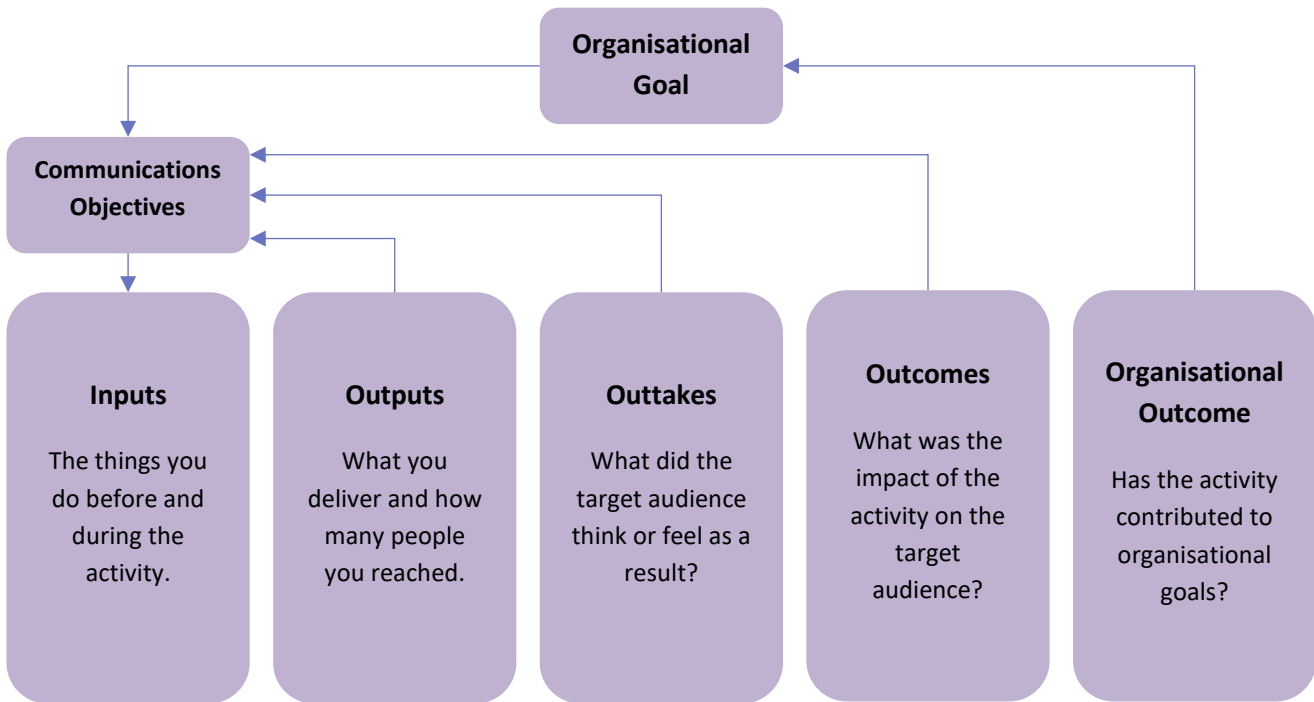
- **Establish expectations for the different roles – most of these points apply to both online and offline events:**

The Chair	The Speakers	The Audience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set the ground rules</li> <li>• Be authoritative</li> <li>• Treat all participants fairly</li> <li>• Be inclusive and give everybody a chance to speak - avoid one or two voices dominating the discussion</li> <li>• Know when it is time to move on</li> <li>• Take it offline if necessary</li> <li>• Remember the waiting room, and let people in!</li> <li>• Ensure Q&amp;A from each source (e.g. Slido, video, chat bar) are addressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be passionate, engaging and knowledgeable</li> <li>• Have videos on for virtual events</li> <li>• For longer presentations, consider slides or visual aids - but don't just read from them</li> <li>• Well-briefed on potential sensitivities (including local considerations) and appropriateness of content (e.g. does it need a warning?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about the build-up to the event</li> <li>• Can they be engaged beforehand?</li> <li>• Accept pre-submitted questions</li> <li>• Consider guided questions to aid discussion</li> <li>• Can you create moments for all to participate, e.g. through polls, chat function, raising hands</li> <li>• Ensure feedback is collected</li> </ul>

- **How would you like the Q&A session to run?** Most online platforms have a chat function where participants can ask questions, but it can quickly get crowded if lots of people have dialled in, making it difficult for the Chair to keep track. You should also consider whether attendees are likely to want to ask questions anonymously.
  - We recommend an online polling platform, such as using Sli.do, or other similar software. Sli.do allows guests to upvote questions, helping the most common queries to get answered, and allows hosts to monitor questions coming in. Participants may also wish to remain anonymous when asking questions, which a chat box doesn't allow. **If you need a Sli.do login, please get in touch with PreventCommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk.**
  - For an online event, paste your Sli.do link and code into the chat box and ask participants to ask questions there. You can post regular reminders throughout the meeting if necessary, and include the link in event invitations if you would like to give attendees the option of submitting questions in advance.
- **Remember to evaluate your meeting, just like you would in-person.** In addition to sending out a link to participants afterwards, consider sharing the evaluation form through Sli.do and allowing for an extra five minutes to allow guests to fill it in as the meeting takes place – you're likely to get more returns this way and it reduces the amount of follow up work you will need to do.

## Evaluating your event

After you've held your event, it's important to measure it against the objectives you set out at the very beginning so you can judge how to adapt and improve for next time. You may wish to consider evaluating your event using the below framework:



So, to take our original example, which was to *raise awareness about the linkages between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation amongst safeguarding leads in 15 local schools*, here you could take a look at measures such as:

- How many people attended the session? Were they from our target audience? Was there representation from all 15 schools, or were some not engaged?
- After asking for their feedback, have they reported an increased understanding of the links between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation? Is this understanding spread equally across all 15 schools, or might some need some follow up?
- Will this increased understanding impact the safeguarding leads' behaviour as they go about their duties? Do they know what to do with this information?
- How has this contributed to Prevent delivery in the local area and within my team?

## Collecting attendees' feedback

We encourage everyone to collect feedback from attendees after holding an event and ask that all feedback is shared with us – this is not used to judge individual events but rather to evaluate impact across the country and over time. It also ensures events are captured if the Home Office are not present, demonstrating a commitment to engagement which will be reflected in quarterly performance monitoring. It's always best to circulate the form as soon after the event as

possible, or even while it's still running (e.g. by circulating it through Sli.do) – participants are more likely to fill it in that way.

## Supplementary content

### Prevent videos

We have created a brief, five minute 'Introduction to Prevent' video that can be played at community roundtable events, which explains what the programme is and why it is so important through the voices of those that have come into contact with Prevent. The video can be found online on [YouTube](#), and we are also able to share copies via [Google Drive](#) (this link will take you to the videos)..

There are also shorter edits of the Prevent introductory video, focussing on education, healthcare, friends and family and extreme right-wing terrorism. These edits can also be downloaded through [Google Drive](#).

### Case studies

We have a number of case studies from a breadth of ideologies; and CSO work, which can be used for presentations. Please get in contact with [PreventCommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:PreventCommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk) for a copy.

## Prevent FAQs

There are some widespread misconceptions surrounding Prevent, which do not reflect what the Prevent strategy aims to do or how it works. Some of these are outlined below, with possible responses suggested to provide more accurate context and information. *Statistics are generally updated on an annual basis, so make sure to check for the latest releases when using these lines.*

### **Isn't Prevent a toxic brand? Why should communities trust it?**

Prevent, like any policy, isn't perfect – the challenges it is seeking to address are complex and shifting. We want to do the best we can to engage locally, communicate more effectively and be more transparent about the programme. We haven't historically done a good enough job, and awareness about the programme is generally low.

But Prevent is also subject to unfair and inaccurate media reporting and campaigning, which can create a tension between how people understand the programme locally and how it works in reality. Prevent works in a similar way to other safeguarding programmes; Channel is confidential and voluntary, it doesn't target any one community. Since 2012, almost 3,000 people have been adopted to Prevent's voluntary and confidential Channel programme, which supports people who are considered to be vulnerable to exploitation from terrorist influences.

And despite reporting that suggests this, Prevent isn't a 'toxic brand'. 58% of people who are aware of Prevent feel favourably towards it – compared with just 8% who feel unfavourably. That number rises the more we tell people about the programme, which is why community engagement is so vital. Getting out there, explaining what Prevent is and how it works, is a

really important way we can help people understand Prevent and protect people who are vulnerable.

### **Does the Prevent strategy target Muslims?**

Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group - it deals with all forms of terrorism, including extreme right-wing, mixed, unclear or unstable ideologies, and left-wing, anarchist, and single-issue (LASI). Prevent simply seeks to ensure that individuals who are identified as at-risk of radicalisation are offered support. Although extreme right-wing terrorism is a significantly growing threat, currently the greatest threat still comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh and Al Qa'ida.

Anyone who is deemed to be at risk of any type of radicalisation can receive support from Channel. In 2019/20, almost half of those who were adopted as Channel cases were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation (43%, or 302 individuals), more than those related to Daesh and Al Qa'ida-inspired radicalisation (30%, or 210 individuals).

### **Is Prevent doing enough to tackle Far-Right 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 extreme 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 2019/20, 697 individuals were adopted as a Channel case. Of these, 43% were referred for concerns related to right-wing radicalisation.

### **Why has the number of Prevent referrals related to a mixed/unclear/unstable ideology increased?**

The total number of referrals discussed at a Channel panel and adopted as a Channel case for individuals with a mixed, unstable or unclear ideology increased substantially by 680% (45 to 351) and 535% (20 to 127) from 2018/19 to 2019/20.

This is likely due to a formal recognition of this type of concern by Policing and the Home Office. Guidance around this category was shared with multi-agency partners in 2019 to help them recognise broader radicalisation concerns, where individuals showed an interest in violence, without a clear ideological attachment.

### **Will you consider a rebrand of Prevent?**

We recognise that there is some misunderstanding about what Prevent aims to do and how it functions in practice, which does not accurately reflect the reality of its work. This includes inaccurate media reporting and, often, the spreading of false stories about Prevent by individuals and organisations who seek to undermine the work Prevent is doing to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals.

However, Prevent is effective in its purpose of safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Since being launched in 2011, Prevent training has been completed over a million times to enable frontline practitioners, including teachers, to recognise the signs of

radicalisation so that they know what steps to take, including, where appropriate, how to make a referral.

We are also making the programme more transparent. We now publish data on Prevent and Channel referrals to increase transparency and understanding, and we will continue to do so on an annual basis. We will also continue to hold engagement events, and invite local communities around the country to learn more about Prevent and discuss and offer their views on the programme.

### **Does Prevent encourage spying?**

No. 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 concerns 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?**

Channel is completely confidential and voluntary. Being referred to 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.

### **Is Prevent an outlier in terms of referral numbers versus cases, compared with other safeguarding processes?**

Compared with other safeguarding services, Prevent makes up an extremely small percentage of overall safeguarding referrals, but for all safeguarding processes, including Prevent, the number of referrals outnumber the number of cases taken on. This is true across the safeguarding system, because after consideration by a local multi-agency safeguarding panel many referrals either require no further action, or are signposted to support elsewhere, such as mental health services.

As the quality of referrals improves, a greater proportion are progressing into Channel - in 2019-20, only 27% of Prevent referrals required no further action, which is less than the proportion of Child Safeguarding referrals (36.5%) with this outcome.

Over half (57%) of Prevent referrals not adopted as a case are signposted elsewhere in the safeguarding system – meaning that although these individuals are determined to not be in need of support for radicalisation, the multi-agency panel has determined that they do need help for other safeguarding concerns, which can be best managed through another appropriate safeguarding service. Sometimes, for example, a solution is rooted in social care, even though the referral initially presented as a radicalisation concern.

### **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 is 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.

### **How do you assess whether projects are effective in tackling radicalisation?**

Evaluations are commissioned centrally by the Home Office to assess how projects are meeting Prevent delivery objectives. Local authorities who lead on commissioning projects also have internal processes that manage project delivery against local risks and threats through regular project meetings, gathering of data and narrative reports. Prospective bidders are expected to clearly describe their capability and capacity to delivery Prevent objectives. Outlining their relevant experience, track record and success in safeguarding vulnerable people as well as working within the Counter Terrorism space.

### **Is there a link between mental health and radicalisation?**

Research on individuals who have engaged with terrorist activity demonstrates that there is no single socio-demographic profile or pathway that leads an individual to become involved in terrorism. Susceptibility to radicalisation depends on complex interactions between different risk factors.

There should be no assumption that an individual who carries out a terrorist act is suffering mental ill health, nor that someone with poor mental health is likely to carry out a terrorist act.

### **What is the Desistance and Disengagement Programme (DDP)?**

DDP offers a range of intensive, tailored interventions and practical support designed to tackle the drivers of radicalisation and enable those engaged in terrorism and/or terrorism related activity to desist and disengage. It is delivered with a range of partners and agencies, including the police, Ministry of Justice, and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, as well as academics and organisations outside of government.

The programme runs alongside existing statutory risk assessment and management processes to ensure it bolsters and complements work being done through existing frameworks. It is not a replacement for any police investigation or prosecution response to individuals who have committed terrorism offences, either abroad or at home.

## **Next steps**

We hope this will be a useful document and assists in planning your next community engagement event. We are always interested to hear your feedback and are available for any further support you need in setting up a programme of community engagement in your area – whether that's further resources, advice on who to invite to your first community event,

gathering feedback or suggestions of topics to discuss. Please get in touch with [PreventCommunications@HomeOffice.gov.uk](mailto:PreventCommunications@HomeOffice.gov.uk) where necessary.

We look forward to attending your community engagement events across the country, to help build on local understanding of Prevent and encourage further support for this important programme.



# Annex A: Community Feedback Form

Thank you for participating in the event and evaluation survey, your participation is both valued and important. These questions are to help us understand the usefulness of this event workshop so that we can improve the content and structure for future events. Please do not include your name in the survey, your responses are and will remain anonymous and confidential.

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1. What is your gender? Please tick one box.

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

2. What is your age? Please tick one box.

0 – 14 years

15 – 24 years

25 – 34 years

35 – 44 years

45 – 54 years

55 – 64 years

65 years and over

Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents the sector you currently work in? Please tick one box.

Charity

Health

Faith

Education (Primary/ Secondary/ Further)

Student

Private Sector

Education (Academic / Lecturer)

Retired

Unemployed

Social Care

Homemaker

Prefer not to say

Government and Public Administration

Police and Crime

Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did you hear about today's event? Please tick one box.

Local authority/council website

Facebook or Twitter

Noticeboard

Leaflet

Email

Phone call

Word of mouth

Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

5. How interesting did you find the event you just attended? Please tick one box.

Very interesting

Interesting

Uninteresting

Very uninteresting

Don't know

6. Would you recommend attending this kind of event to a friend or family member? *Please tick one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. (If video was played) Do you feel the video played during the session increased your understanding of Prevent? *Please tick one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

8. How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of:	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	Don't know
a. The Prevent programme <u>BEFORE</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Prevent programme <u>AFTER</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. How would you describe your opinion of:	Very negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very positive	Don't know
a. The Prevent programme <u>BEFORE</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Prevent programme <u>AFTER</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Which element of the event did you find most interesting? *Please tick one box.*

- Presentation
- Networking
- Meeting local Prevent Co-ordinator or local authority representative
- Q&A with Home Office representative (if applicable)
- Video (if applicable)
- Group discussion

## Annex B: Useful Resources

- [COVID-19 communications: Community engagement and local democracy | Local Government Association](#)
- [Slido - Audience Interaction Made Easy](#)
- [Video conferencing services: using them securely - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)
- [Remote Council Meetings: Video conferencing and audio platforms | Local Government Association](#)
- [The surprising secret to speaking with confidence | Caroline Goyder | TEDxBrixton - YouTube](#)
- [How to Keep Attendees Engaged During Virtual Events – Eventbrite](#)
- [How to Run a Great Virtual Meeting \(hbr.org\)](#)
- [How to avoid death By PowerPoint | David JP Phillips | TEDxStockholmSalon - YouTube \(google.co.uk\)](#)
- [How to avoid 'death by PowerPoint' - BBC News](#) (NB: sometimes attendees will ask for slides after the event has finished. If this is the case and they are suitable for sharing, you may wish to make them longer than this article, and the TEDx talk above, suggest).

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<b>3 February 2022</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Ewelina Sorbjan, Assistant Director Housing Management		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Executive Summary

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the areas of work associated with the Thurrock Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2020-2023. The current VAWG strategy and vision was agreed by members of this committee in February 2020, a month before the Covid pandemic brought unrecognisable change to the world. For many women and children who were experiencing VAWG crimes, staying at home was not a place of safety.

All forms of VAWG can affect anyone, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. However according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)<sup>1</sup> for the year ending March 2020 women are disproportionately likely to experience domestic abuse, repeat victimisation, be physically injured or killed as a result of domestic abuse and experience non-physical abuse - including emotional and financial abuse - than men. According to the CSEW for the year ending March 2020, around one in four women aged 16 to 74 (27.6%) had been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime whilst around one in seven men aged 16 to 74 (13.8%) had been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) through the VAWG Coordinator works to ensure that all partners, both statutory and voluntary work together to provide effective support and protection to victims, including children, and response to perpetrators.

<sup>1</sup> [Domestic abuse: draft statutory guidance framework \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-abuse-draft-statutory-guidance-framework)

With the restrictions imposed, it was important that victims and survivors knew that the isolation rules did not apply to victims of domestic abuse. Victim's access to support shrunk further due to increased social isolation. The decrease in social contact is now known to have had significant mental health impacts on the general population, and this is even more acute for survivors coping and recovering from trauma.

Crucial legislation and policies that were meant to increase support for survivors were delayed in receiving royal assent. The Domestic Abuse Act was enacted in late April 2021, accompanied shortly afterwards by an updated government VAWG strategy.<sup>2</sup>

Whilst the national and local strategies have a focus on women and girls, due to the disproportionate nature of the crimes committed against them, both strategies recognise that men and boys are also affected by these crimes. Government are expected to update the current men and boys' position paper<sup>3</sup> later this year, which will continue to be reflected within the Thurrock VAWG strategy. Thurrock's support services for all VAWG crimes are available to any victim or survivor.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 Note the progress on delivery of responsibilities detailed within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and scrutinise the recommendations**
- 1.2 Provide comment on the proposed Thurrock Community Safety Partnership priorities in relation to VAWG for 2022/23**
- 1.3 Note the key successes and the programme to deliver on the VAWG strategy for Thurrock 2020/23**
- 1.4 Request that members champion the VAWG agenda and raise the profile of the services that are available to Thurrock residents**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 National & Local Framework: The role of local authorities in the prevention of crime and disorder became a legal requirement under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. To meet this obligation, Community Safety Partnerships (as they are now known) were created, ensuring that the named 'responsible authorities' worked together on a statutory basis. Locally the VAWG work stream is a priority of Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and is delivered by the Thurrock VAWG Strategic Board. Thurrock are the only authority in Essex to have a longstanding VAWG strategy.

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<sup>2</sup> [HM Government: Tackling violence against women and girls strategy- July 2021](#)

<sup>3</sup> [HM Government: Male victims position paper \(March 2019\)](#)

- 2.2 In December 2020 for the first time, the Home Office opened a Call for Evidence to hear directly from the public their views on tackling violence against women and girls. Following the national outpouring of grief as a result of the tragic death of Sarah Everard, it was reopened in March 2021. This call for evidence received more than 180,000 responses. That is an unprecedented response. The full findings are not yet public, however reports include that many women and girls have bad experiences at school, at work, on buses and trains, on the street, and at home. Sadly this violence continues, at least 139 UK women were killed by men (or where a man is the principal suspect) in 2021<sup>4</sup>. Women are murdered on average every three days in the UK. Inside and outside of homes. By total strangers, and by people they know and trust.
- 2.3 On 26 March 2021, the Home Secretary commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to inspect how the police work with female victims, offenders and witnesses. HMICFRS concluded that there is an epidemic of offending against women and girls and a whole-system approach is needed to tackle it, involving not only the police but also other partners such as the Crown Prosecution Service, Health, Social Care and Education.<sup>5</sup>

In response to the findings, The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) announced the appointment of a National Police Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls to coordinate police action across England and Wales. The new role will be responsible for agreeing and delivering a new police strategy that will focus on interventions to prevent violence, target perpetrators and help victims achieve justice. Locally, Essex police have recently appointed a force lead for tackling VAWG within the force.

- 2.4 The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Crime Plan 2021-2024<sup>6</sup> recognises this agenda with the priority of **Reducing violence against women and girls**, stating that they will not tolerate male violence and abuse against women and girls in any form. This is in addition to the priorities of **Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse** and **Improving support for victims of crime**.

**Domestic Abuse** and **Rape** are also identified within the Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25 (Appendix 1) as 2 of the 14 thematic strands which Essex Police recognise not only pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, but also present the greatest opportunity for prevention.

- 2.5 **Violence Against Women and Girls** – encompassing: sexual violence, abuse and exploitation; stalking; sexual harassment; modern day slavery and human trafficking; domestic abuse; female genital mutilation (FGM); forced

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<sup>4</sup> [Karen Ingala Smith: CountingDeadWomen](#)

<sup>5</sup> [HMICFRS: Radical action needed to tackle crime epidemic against women and girls](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/what-we-are-doing/police-and-crime-plan/encouraging-volunteers-and-community-support/>

marriage and so called “Honour” based abuse of all genders, was identified as a Priority for the CSP for 2020/21 and extended to March 2022.

In line with National and Essex Police Fire Crime Plan, Thurrock CSP are considering separating Domestic Abuse from VAWG to individual priorities for 2022/23 namely:

- **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
- **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment

2.6 In April 2021, Government asked Ofsted to undertake a rapid review of sexual harassment in schools and colleges after anonymous testimonials of sexual abuse were published on the website ‘Everyone’s Invited’. The number of testimonies nationally currently stands at 54,046, with a further 99,600 from communities<sup>7</sup>. This review prompted The Department for Education to commission the NSPCC to launch a new helpline called Report Abuse in Education. Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships (LSCP) were tasked with providing information and guidance to schools and colleges on how to support young people who report experiences of being harassed or being a victim of sexual offences. Thurrock LSCP wrote to all schools and colleges outlining available guidance, support and resources for staff and young people. Support and information continues to be provided through Head Teacher networks and Safeguarding Leads Forums.

2.7 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis through the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. They are also undertaken where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship. Section 9 of the Act came into force on 13 April 2011 which requires Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to undertake a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria set. Within Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) it was agreed that this process would be centralised and coordinated by the SET Domestic Abuse team, which commenced in July 2017. In the year ending March 2021, almost half (46%) of adult female homicide victims in England and Wales were killed in a domestic homicide – 81 women.<sup>8</sup>

In 2021 Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) commissioned their first Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) under Section 9 of the Domestic

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<sup>7</sup> [Everyonesinvited](#)

<sup>8</sup> [DHR Network](#)



Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004 and the Thurrock Safeguarding Board agreed that the case also met the criteria for a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) as set out under Section 44 of Care Act 2014. It has been agreed that this review will be conducted jointly. This process is now underway and the TCSP and Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board will implement and identified recommendations accordingly.

2.8 There have been a number of key successes of the current Thurrock VAWG strategy and notable progression within other internal services that contributes to and has an impact on the response and support offered to victims of VAWG related crimes and behaviours.

- Thurrock commissioners worked with the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) and were successful in a bid for community based Respect accredited domestic violence perpetrator programme. This include a dedicated Integrated Support Service for victims of domestic abuse and their children. The programme is available for men, women, and those within same sex relationships. This programme is for those who want to stop being abusive towards intimate partners and are motivated to change their behaviour.
- Within the Housing Safeguarding team there are now Community Liaison Officers providing outreach support for domestic abuse victims. This is a developing initiative including reaching out to residents on the Thurrock Council managed traveller sites.
- Participation and contribution to numerous partnership groups such as Sexual Abuse Strategic Partnership, SET Domestic Abuse Board and the Domestic Abuse Best Practice Implementation plan. These forums ensure that Thurrock is involved in joint commissioning opportunities, working in a consistent way across SET and striving towards improved services for victims.
- There has been comprehensive training offer across VAWG including :
  - J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training: an initiative aimed at raising awareness of domestic abuse and to assist survivors to access support safely by training professionals and members of the community to recognise domestic abuse and respond to survivors
  - Sexual Violence awareness training ‘Challenging myths, changing attitudes’
  - Domestic Abuse and Stalking awareness – a new offer for this year which has seen approximately 150 professionals attend
  - Modern day slavery training: again a new offer with dates scheduled for early 2022 with Essex police delivering
- Annual promotion of initiatives such as ‘16 days of activism’, including a ‘Safer Streets’ community engagement event where 800 personal alarms were handed out along with a leaflet on staying safe. The SET wide stalking awareness campaign, International Women’s Day and Ask for Angela.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

#### 3.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>9</sup>

The Domestic Abuse Act introduced a new statutory definition of domestic abuse with an aim to ensure that domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes. Part 4 of the Act places a number of statutory duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within relevant safe accommodation. Local Authorities have been awarded 'new burdens' funding by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the new duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Thurrock's allocation was £366,530 p.a. Funding will be reviewed two years after implementation (Autumn 2023) with a view of integration into the Local Government Finance Settlement following the 2023 spending review. Thurrock Councils duties and responses are summarised below.

- 1) Appoint a multi-agency domestic abuse local partnership board to be consulted when performing certain functions. The terms of reference of the existing Thurrock Violence Against Women & Girls Strategic Board have been amended to reflect the duties of the act. The Board will assist the local authority in its functions of the newly required local domestic abuse partnership board. The Thurrock VAWG Board is the domestic abuse local partnership board for Thurrock and is chaired by the A/D for housing.
- 2) Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support of survivors and their children in their area, including the need of those coming from outside the area. Thurrock Council have completed a needs assessment of the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support of survivors and their children in their area, including the need of those coming from outside the area. Recommendations were agreed by the VAWG Strategic Board and current progress is detailed in section 3.2.
- 3) Develop and publish a strategy, by 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, for the provision of support. Thurrock CSP have amended the existing VAWG strategy (Appendix 2) to reflect the duties for local authorities under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The existing strategy already detailed support for domestic abuse victims including safe accommodation provision as defined by the Act. This strategy is an amendment of the current Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, with existing links to other work streams such as Modern Slavery, Community Safety, Victims Strategy, Housing and Homelessness Reduction and Safeguarding. The full VAWG strategy will be reviewed in 2023.
- 4) Give effect to the strategy by commissioning and de-commissioning services. Thurrock Council are in the process of commissioning new

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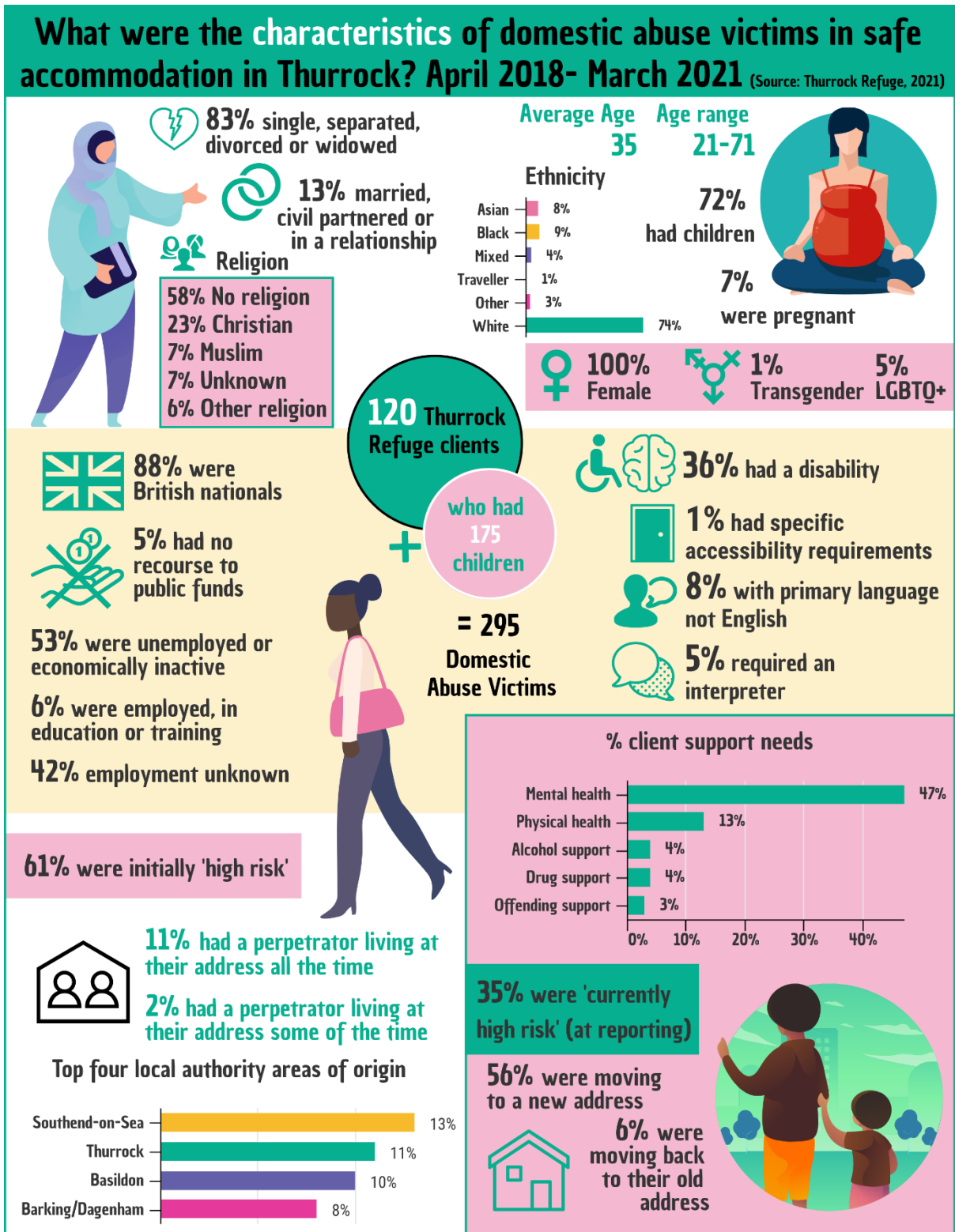
<sup>9</sup> [The Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

services of support as a result of the recommendations from the needs assessment.

- 5) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy and report back to central government and to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. Annual review dates will be scheduled within the VAWG Strategic Board to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy in order to report back to government within the timescales specified.

- 3.2 A full needs analysis focussing on safe accommodation was completed utilising data from a range of partners including: specialist domestic and sexual violence services; the Police; Health; Housing; Children and Adult Services; commissioned services and service users. The executive summary is provided at Appendix 3.

The characteristics of residents of safe accommodation in Thurrock are identified within the infographic below<sup>10</sup>:



<sup>10</sup> Source: Thurrock Refuge (Changing Pathways), 2021

- 3.3 This needs assessment has identified the following priority areas for victims whom are resident within safe accommodation.
- Support around financial inclusion for victims supporting access to education, training and employment in preparation for moving on from the refuge.
  - Support to increase staff knowledge and working practices around victims with physical and learning disabilities and mental health issues.
  - Specialist drug and alcohol support for resident adults & children.
  - Support to expedite the process of moving on from refuge to independent accommodation when safe to do so and to ensure support is continued once victims are settled.
  - Implementation of trauma informed psychological support for resident adults and children.
  - Specialist sexual violence counselling support
  - Increase in capacity of the existing children's worker to support parenting work.
  - Tutoring for resident children who as a result of moving into refuge have additional identified learning needs.

- 3.4 A range of developments are expected in the near future locally and nationally that will have an impact on the VAWG agenda.

The Department for Education introduced compulsory Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary pupils from September 2020. All schools were given a reprieve from the implementation date due to the pandemic. The statutory guidance states that 'pupils should know the concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships and Grooming, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, should also be addressed sensitively and clearly. The Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) are in the process of collating responses to a statutory audit with schools which will inform the current progress status of this duty within schools across Thurrock.

- 3.5 The project Operation Encompass is due an Essex wide review. This is a multi-agency approach to give early notification to schools, academies, colleges and nurseries that a child or young person has been present, witnessed or been involved in a domestic abuse incident. Nominated key adults within local schools will receive information from Essex Police and Thurrock Council Children's Services to afford them the opportunity of assessing the needs of the child during the school day and, should it be deemed appropriate to do so, to provide early support. This originally launched in January 2020, however was severely hindered by the pandemic as schools were closed. In spring term 2 from 1/3/21 a total of 7 notifications were received by participating schools in Thurrock.

- 3.6 A key area of work that continues to help with understanding of sexual violence is the 'Sexual Violence and Abuse: A Thurrock Joint Strategic Needs Assessment' (JSNA). The needs assessment led by Thurrock Public Health sought to further understanding of the nature, prevalence and types of sexual violence and abuse occurring locally in Thurrock. This assessment is a unique piece of work, engaging with local survivors and professionals. The recommendations are now progressing through a governance structure led by the Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership Board. The lead officers were recently successful in securing funding from the Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board to expand the training offer for sexual violence awareness for public and professionals so that it is reflective of the current offer for domestic abuse training. This area of work also links in with the new proposals within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh (Domain 6- Community Safety).
- 3.7 The murder of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the Everyone's Invited movement sparked a national conversation and an outpouring of grief, distress and anger about the violence and abuse that women and girls experience daily.

In response to this Synergy Essex (partnership of the three Rape Crisis Centres in Essex) produced a briefing into Male Sexual Violence and Abuse against Women and Girls and is at Appendix 4. The report recognised that whilst not perfect in its approach, Thurrock Unitary Authority has a Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, a Sexual Violence and Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and funding is made available to the Rape Crisis Centre based in Thurrock (SERICC)

The report made six clear recommendations which must be central to the development of any future Essex wide actions for addressing male sexual violence and abuse against women and girls:

1. We call on you to name the problem.
2. We call on you to insist on the development of educational programmes that use strong messaging that challenges rape culture, ensuring that male sexual violence and abuse will not be tolerated.
3. We ask you to prioritise the systems change required to tackle men's sexual violence and ensure that tackling male sexual violence is identified as a clear priority in strategic planning across Essex.
4. We call on you to do all you can to secure the future of the specialist sexual violence and abuse services women and girls need, as evidenced by the current demand.
5. We urge you to encourage specialist sexual violence and abuse training and awareness for frontline staff within your sphere of influence
6. We call on you to support and encourage the development of public awareness campaigns.

Thurrock is responding to these recommendations through the CSP Strategic Board of which SERICC are a member.

The evidence of need in Thurrock is provided at Appendix 5: SERICC data for – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

3.8 Following a “Call to Action” from specialist domestic abuse organisations for a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy, government have now committed to publishing a strategy. The perpetrator strategy will form part of the wider domestic abuse strategy and is due to be published by May 2022.

### 3.9 Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment for the VAWG strategy 2020/23 highlighted:

- There is a gender imbalance in relation to reported crime. Nationally, the majority of victims were female, and the majority of perpetrators are male
- Sexual exploitation adversely impacts young people
- Elder abuse is acknowledged as under reported and is being highlighted for action
- The scope of the 2020-2023 strategy now recognises gender reassignment
- Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse
- National research highlights that BAME, LGBT and disabled individuals face significant barriers when reaching out to seek help.
- The established religions do not condone the abuse highlighted within this strategy
- Domestic abuse affects all communities, certain wards have higher reporting levels.

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is committed to meeting the needs of all residents by tackling all forms of exploitation and abuse across Thurrock and by delivering preventative measures, protection, and legal redress for all.

## **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 This paper provides the committee with an opportunity to be assured that Thurrock Council is meeting its statutory requirements as detailed in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as outlined in 3.1.

4.2 This paper provides the committee with an opportunity to comment on the proposed priorities outlined at 2.5.

4.3 This paper provides the committee with a summary of the key successes and further planned delivery of the VAWG strategy 2020/23.

4.4 Leadership is required to be demonstrated in order to provide a Co-ordinated Community Response to VAWG. SERICC would be happy to deliver a briefing for members.

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

- 5.1 Annual reporting to the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership and the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.2 The VAWG Strategic Board members were consulted on the needs assessment recommendations and the amended VAWG strategy to reflect the Domestic Abuse Act duties and response.
- 5.3 Thurrock Council are currently consulting on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26, which includes the proposed priority of Provide safe, suitable and stable housing solutions for people who have or who are experiencing domestic abuse / violence and / or sexual abuse / violence.

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

- 6.1 The VAWG strategy 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. All elements of this priority are relevant to VAWG.
  - **Prosperity** - a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations. In particular 'vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all.' which provides victims with access further opportunities to help them rebuild their lives.
- 6.2 The VAWG action plan links closely to and supports delivery of the SETDAB Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2025. Within the PFCC Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 it supports the priorities of reducing violence against women and girls, protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and improving support for victims of crime.
- 6.3 We have worked closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop the proposed new domain in relation to Community Safety within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026. When agreed we look forward to the focus this will provide on the wider determinants of health including domestic and sexual violence and / abuse.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

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

Thurrock Council have received £366,530 New Burdens funding for 2021/22. The TCSP has committed £5k of funding for training and awareness raising and Public Realm contribute £17k for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service commissioned by the OPFCC.



## 7.2 Legal

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

This report provides Members with an update on progress of statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**  
**Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities**

There are no direct implications in relation to diversity and equality from this report. The VAWG strategy has an Equality Impact Assessment in place and summarised at 3.9

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Looked After Children

This report contributes towards 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):

- [HM Government: Tackling violence against women and girls strategy- July 2021](#)
- [The Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
- An assessment of the needs of domestic abuse victims residing in safe accommodation in Thurrock April 2018 – March 2021

## 9. Appendices to the report

1. Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25
2. <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/violence-against-women-and-girls/strategies-and-policies>
3. An Assessment of the needs of Domestic Abuse Victims residing in Safe Accommodation in Thurrock (Executive Summary)
4. Report of Synergy into Male Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls
5. SERICC data report 2020/21

**Report Author:** Priscilla Tsang, VAWG Coordinator, Community Safety Team, Public Realm

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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Chief Constable

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**Few would argue with the sentiment and approach of 'prevention is better than cure'. I see on a daily basis the impact that crime has on victims, their friends and families and the wider communities, the resources we plough into catching criminals and ensuring we do the best job possible to deliver the right outcome.**

Policing has seen significant changes over the last decade; the landscape of crime has shifted and our response has evolved to address this. Over the last year, significant global events have required us to change how and where we work, flex, learn and improve. Society has changed, we face a tough recovery from Covid but in every recovery there is opportunity to do things differently and this is what this new Crime Prevention Strategy presents: a new whole system approach to preventing and reducing the harm caused by crime.

This last year we have strengthened partnerships during crisis, seen the exceptional capabilities across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to respond to the biggest crisis of the modern day and respond together, as one team.

So what's different? The new strategy builds on the success of its predecessor and uses intelligence and evidence to predict our future challenges forecast over the next five years, and prepares us for the anticipated increase in volume and complexity of crime within a significant political, economic and community recovery period post-Covid.

As a force we continually strive for a safer Essex in which people feel safe and communities and businesses thrive. We know preventing crime is not a single agency endeavour. Everyone has a role to play in preventing crime and making Essex a safe place. That is why we have adopted a whole system approach to crime prevention - building on problem solving capabilities, developing proactive preventative activity, working with partners to co-produce sustainable solutions, identifying the most vulnerable and at risk, working towards cohesive communities and ones with reduced crime.

We recognise that the causes of crime are complex. This Crime Prevention Strategy forms part of a partnership approach to provide a whole system response to issues which present the most harm to our communities.

Whilst this list is not exhaustive, Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands which not only pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, but also present the greatest opportunity for prevention. These are:

Knife Crime	Rape	Night-Time Economy
Child Abuse / Child Sexual Exploitation	Domestic Abuse	Drugs & Alcohol
Mental Health	County Lines / Exploitation	Serious Organised Crime
Cybercrime & Fraud	Places	Burglary / Robbery
Prevent	Hate Crime	

**Essex Police is committed to doing everything it can to tackle the challenges we face. Helping people, keeping people safe and catching criminals through working in partnership to reduce and prevent crime is at the heart of what we do.**



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

**My vision for Essex is that safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and wellbeing for all.**

There is no better way to make our county safer than having a strategic commitment from all of our community safety partners to prevent crime from happening in the first place and we can do that using a model of targeted prevention and early intervention.

We need to help and protect those who are vulnerable and at risk, deliver effective interventions based on evidence, and work in partnership with our communities to identify where people are most exposed and keep them safe.

More investment is being made to prevent crime through neighbourhood policing. Building on the success of our Community Safety Partnerships, where local councils and voluntary groups work in partnership with police, we are targeting hotspots and known offenders to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and new Disruptor Teams for our district policing areas are working in local communities, using intelligence to deal with and prevent crime.

The recently established Essex Police Town Centre Teams are successfully reducing crime, using a highly visible and proactive approach. It is great to see the positive impact of their presence.

These officers are supported by Essex Police's Business Crime Team and Rural Engagement Team who are proactively working across Essex to beat both business crime and rural crime – a key element in both teams being crime prevention.

This Crime Prevention Strategy is an excellent document which sets out quite clearly our challenges in Essex and what we can all do together to prevent crimes from happening in the first place. A lot has been achieved but there is still more to be done and only by working together can we keep our communities and residents safe.

Roger Hirst

**PFCC**  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Chair of Safer Essex

### **We all have a part to play in making our communities safe.**

Through Safer Essex, our voluntary and public authority partners work together across Greater Essex to make our county a safer place for everyone. Its membership includes representatives from Community Safety Partnerships, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, health colleagues, criminal justice partners, probation, education and of course the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

This wide membership gives us a unique ability to pull together to effect change across our county. We have worked together to help create this updated strategy and are committed to delivering against its objectives, ensuring we can succeed.

Committing to this strategy together is a significant step for us as a partnership and shows the commitment and dedication our members have to preventing crime, keeping our communities safe and delivering the change we all want to see.

The strategy aligns how we will all work in partnership to respond collectively to the issues which present the most harm in Essex, as identified in the 14 thematic strands which have been outlined in this strategy.

It will be our job to monitor progress and support each other so we can create safer and stronger communities in which our residents and visitors feel safe and our communities and businesses thrive.

Essex does have challenges, but we have many more positives to build upon and we have shown repeatedly that we are stronger and more effective when we work together. As Safer Essex we will realise our partnership capabilities and capacity to support and deliver on what's needed. There's lots to be done but will do it together and make Essex an even safer place for all.

**Pippa Brent-Isherwood**  
Chair of Safer Essex



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Essex Police Force Plan 2020/2021

The Essex Police Force Plan summarises the priority areas of work and how Essex Police will deliver them. It should help to remind officers and staff why they are all part of Essex Police: to help people, keep people safe and catch criminals, and that everybody contributes to achieving those aims.

The plan was developed with input from staff and officers on what matters to them, and the force priorities align with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime plan.

The main effort helps focus energy on **our priorities** and think about helping victims, identifying vulnerability, preventing violence, and being visible in everything Essex Police does, whatever the role.

All of the work and the strategies across the force link to the Force Plan and this is the internal point of reference for **our priorities, main effort** and **how we work**.

### THIS STRATEGY RELATES TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF THE FORCE PLAN:

#### Our priorities:

- ▶ Prevent
- ▶ Violence in all its forms
- ▶ Online crime
- ▶ Anti-social behaviour
- ▶ Gangs
- ▶ Domestic abuse
- ▶ Burglary
- ▶ Visibility in communities



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## We are Essex



ONS population projections 2016 predict that by 2034 the total population will increase by another **195,160** people to a total of **1,650,500**



The proportion of the population classified as "Working Age" is **2%** lower than the national average whilst the population aged 65+ is **2%** higher



At the time of the 2011 census the BAME population of Essex was **9.2%** of the total population. More recent statistics are not available



Essex, Southend & Thurrock Councils cover approximately **3,670** square miles

In 2018 across Essex there were:

- **2,376** Looked After Children
- **28,225** adults receiving long term support



Average weekly earnings FTE higher than the national average at **£618.6/week** (higher than national average)



**72.1%** of children achieved a good level of development at the early years foundation stage in 2018, similar to the average for England



In 2018 there were **67** rough sleepers (equivalent to 1.08 rough sleepers/10,000 households). **1,560** households were classed as "homeless" regardless of statutory duty to be housed

Pan-Essex JSNA 2019

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## We are Essex

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**21.11%** of children in reception year were classified as overweight (including obese) **8.59%** were classed as Obese (including severely obese). By year 6 est. **32%** of children are overweight or obese with **17.9%** classed as Obese or severely obese



**63.6%** of adults were classed as overweight or obese (higher than the England)



Males from birth had a healthy life expectancy of **64.53 years** whilst females were slightly lower at **64.18 years**

The rate of GP registered children who have received both of MMR vaccination injections by age five is **89.4%**. This is higher than the England average (87.2%) but is well below the **95%** needed to eliminate measles within the population

Public Health England estimates that there was a three-year average of **475.2** Accident and Emergency attendances by children under the age of 5 across Essex as a whole compared to an England rate of **551.6**



ONS 2017 Crude Birth Rate was **11.3** (similar to England)



Essex Residents Survey 2018 showed **25.5%** of residents (aged 16 to 65+) reported feeling isolated from others



**12.5%** reported depression and anxiety



Rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm among persons of all ages across Essex was **156.98**

Pan-Essex JSNA 2019

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025
















## 2020/21 challenges



**SOURCE - 1\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20. Number of the KSI collisions where people were killed or seriously injured **2\*** SMSR Q2 2020/21 (Oct 19 to Sept 20) **3\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **4\*** Public Health England: NDTMS - National Drug treatment Monitoring System **5\*** From page 5 of the strategy report **6\*** www.gov.uk Statutory homelessness live tables **7\*** ONS Drug-related deaths by local authority, England and Wales 2019. Drugs misuse. Essex also includes Southend and Thurrock unitary authorities. Death classified as drug misuse must be a drug poisoning and meet either one (or both) of the following conditions; the underlying cause is drug abuse or drug dependence, or any of the substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are involved. Deaths classified as a drug poisoning must have an applicable International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code assigned as the underlying cause of death; this is determined by international coding rules from the condition or conditions reported by the certifier, as recorded on the certificate. Essex had 114 in 2019 versus 50 for Cornwall - Cornwall references drug misuse figures **8\*** ONS: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authorities and other geographies **9\*** English indices of deprivation 2019 (www.gov.co.uk) **10\*** Public Health England: NDTMS - National Drug treatment Monitoring System **11\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **12\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **13\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025













## FMS demand profiling

	CURRENT STATUS		FORECAST	
	TREND	CONTEXT	TREND	CONTEXT
 Knife Crime	INCREASING 	Improvements in data quality resulting in increases, previous status not known as a result.	STABLE 	Data quality improvements likely to even out any increases as data is reviewed and corrected.
 Rape	INCREASING 	Long term increases although smaller this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.	INCREASE 	Increases in reporting expected to continue. Spike in recent reporting expected in short term. Non recent domestic rape also expected to increase.
 Night-time Economy (NTE)	INCREASING 	Large decreases this year (Covid 19) but longer term increases. Strong correlation to violent crime.	STABLE 	Slow longer term stable increases expected. Sharp post-Covid-19 pandemic spikes expected as NTE opens more fully. Longer term less clear due to changes in behaviour and impact of pandemic on number of licenced premises.
 Cybercrime / Fraud	INCREASING 	Recent increases largely driven by Stalking and Harassment. Growing volume of sexual offences.	INCREASE 	A growth area as technology continues to become more integral to daily life and offending.
 Dwelling Burglary / Street Robbery	DECREASING 	Falls in the past few years further accelerated by Covid-19.	STABLE 	Short term spikes in offences expected post Covid-19 but longer term little change expected.

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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## FMS demand profiling

	CURRENT STATUS		FORECAST	
	TREND	CONTEXT	TREND	CONTEXT
 Hate Crime	INCREASING 	Year on year increases in hate crime recorded.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue.
 Child Abuse / CSE	INCREASING 	Child abuse increasing, Child Sexual Abuse (CSE) stable.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue longer term with child protection investigations. CSE stable. Reports of abuse / neglect likely to increase post Covid with higher harm due to delayed reporting.
 Domestic Abuse	INCREASING 	Large long term increases although by a smaller volume in the past year.	INCREASE 	Expected to continue to increase although at a slower rate than previously seen. Short term spikes and non recent reporting with higher harm expected post Covid-19.
 Mental Health	STABLE 	Long term increase in the volume of mental health incidents but now stable. Likely under reported.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue longer term. Long term impact of restrictions may have precipitated a mental health crisis, particularly among the young which will have longer term impacts on demand.

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### FMS summary only

 Drugs and Alcohol	Lack of data quality and analysis for demand forecasting. Crimes with an alcohol marker have increased in recent years.	 County Lines / Exploitation	FMS states urban increases in violence, County Lines, drugs supply and Serious Organised Crime.	 Serious Organised Crime	FMS expects urban increases in violence, county lines, drugs supply and Serious Organised Crime.
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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Strategic Aims

**We want a safer and stronger Essex in which our people and visitors feel safe and our communities and businesses thrive.**

**We want a whole system response to issues which present the most harm to our communities.**

**We will deliver in partnership a 5-asset approach across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to have the biggest impact and unlock the greatest potential to create a safer & stronger Essex**

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**We will promote safer communities**



**We will cut crime and criminality**



**We will evolve our workforce, culture and infrastructure**



**We will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity**



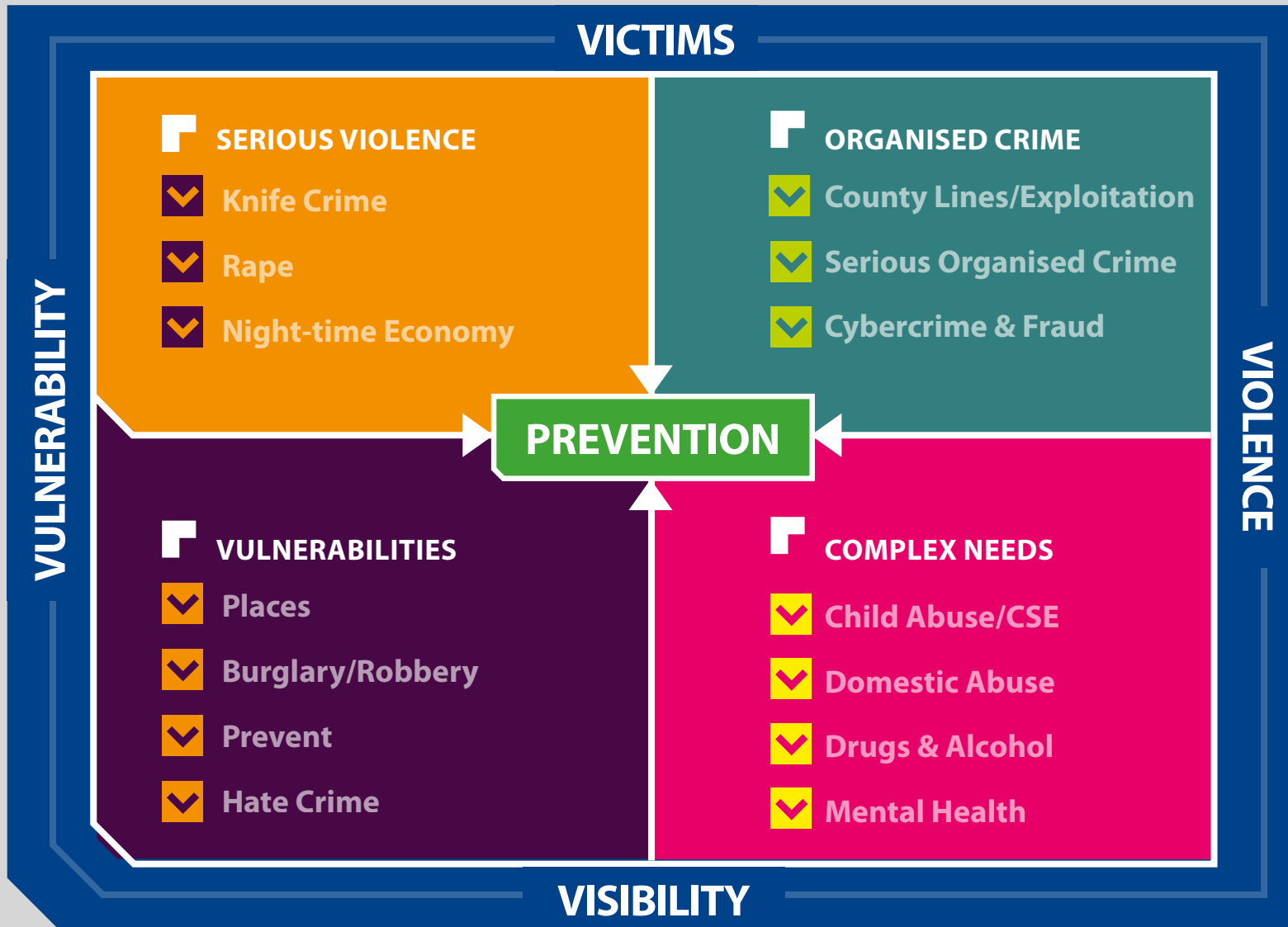
**We will support ECVS to unlock community potential, develop & deliver community led solutions**



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Threat, Risk and Harm

While these 14 thematic strands present the greatest potential threat, risk and harm to our people and communities, they also present the greatest opportunity for prevention.



**SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

# Knife Crime

To work with our partners and the community to tackle and reduce knife crime

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# Serious Violence

## Knife Crime

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Develop Integrated Offender Management processes with knife crime offenders to prevent reoffending



Deliver a consistent partnership media campaign looking at prevention



Ensure information sharing with key partners, especially A&E Departments, to understand and develop intelligence relating to knife crime



Work with education to develop a consistent knife crime education programme



Support local and national knife awareness and amnesty campaigns, highlighting the use of amnesty bins and preventing the circulation of knives



Enable prevention work through effective analysis, targeting high harm areas and individuals through Local and Force Tasking and working with Community Safety Partnerships



Ensure relentless enforcement and pursuit against knife crime offenders operating in Essex

**SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

# Rape

To continuously improve our services to victims and our approach to tackling Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

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# ✓ Serious Violence

## Rape



Focus on tackling repeat victimisation and offending to prevent rape and serious sexual offences



Work in partnership to support more victims of rape and serious sexual offences, by listening to their needs and experiences, improving victim satisfaction and public confidence



Enhance partnership working, information sharing, resources and expertise, improving the service provided to victims, quality of investigations and bringing more offenders to justice



Work in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), ensuring a cohesive approach in line with their Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) strategy



Make appropriate use of legislation allowing vulnerable victims and witnesses to provide evidence and cross examination via video recording in advance of trial, removing the need to attend court



Continuously improve and develop by learning from past experiences, seeking new ways of utilising evidence-based practice to inform our activity

SERIOUS VIOLENCE

# Night-time Economy

To prevent and reduce harm associated with the night-time economy, with a focus on tackling violence

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# ✓ Serious Violence

## Night-time Economy

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Identify Crime trends, patterns or hotspots and respond appropriately



Deliver joint tasking and co-ordination to proactively tackle Night-time Economy (NTE) issues



Improve data sharing with partners to inform the allocation and deployment of resources



Work collaboratively with partners to prevent and reduce sexual harm on the NTE



Reduce harmful effects of alcohol and drugs on the NTE



Reduce anti-social behaviour, supporting a healthy, happy and productive NTE

**ORGANISED CRIME**

# County Lines/ Exploitation

To work with our partners and the community to dismantle county lines, reducing the harm and exploitation that they cause

# Organised Crime

## County Lines and Exploitation



Ensure up -to-date effective Drug Market Profiling to understand the demographic of drug dependency with a view of reducing and supporting that user base



Working with our partners and the community to better understand and tackle the exploitation and harm caused by gangs and county lines



Ensure the Violence and Vulnerability Unit takes a collaborative public health approach to reducing serious violence through intervention, diversion, prevention and education



Learn from others by being actively engaging to identify and embed best practice from across the country



Ensure relentless enforcement and pursuit against county lines operating in Essex

## ORGANISED CRIME

# Serious Organised Crime

To reduce the threat, harm and risk posed to communities within Essex from organised crime by maximising crime disruption opportunities with the support of key stakeholders.



# Organised Crime

## Serious Organised Crime



Work with partner agencies within law enforcement and the financial industry to identify and focus on organised crime enablers



Increase the use of Serious Crime Prevention Orders to ensure continued disruption and targeting of career criminals engaged in organised crime



Support Youth Engagement Officers, schools and universities in educating young people of the dangers and consequences of organised crime



Ensure use of media to effectively update communities regarding the police response to organised crime

## ORGANISED CRIME

# Cyber Crime and Fraud

To work in partnership to reduce fraud and digital crime by supporting victims, reducing enablers and tackling offenders

# Organised Crime

## Cyber Crime and Fraud



Work in partnership to identify and safeguard those most vulnerable to fraud and repeat victims



Work in partnership to reduce the number of enablers of economic crime



Work with partners and wider law enforcement to identify those targeting the vulnerable through fraud and seek to bring them to justice



Work with local businesses to identify their network vulnerabilities and in turn help strengthen them against cybercrime



Work with partners and wider law enforcement to identify emerging trends and software and those involved in digital crime, and work to disrupt offenders



## VULNERABILITIES

# Places

To work in partnership to develop sustainable solutions that improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by targeting persistent problem places and people within the geographical areas



# Vulnerabilities

## Places

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Ensure a co-ordinated partnership approach to community safety issues, encouraging local ownership and leadership of community led solutions that provide public reassurance, reduce harm and protect the vulnerable



Ensure effective use of cross sector data and Residents Survey feedback to create place-based evidence profiles and identify key priorities within geographical areas



Develop and deliver communication plans with the public and stakeholders in line with 'you said, we did' to raise awareness of key issues, promote partnership work and reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour



Deliver targeted local interventions to raise awareness and draw vulnerable people away from serious and organised crime and assist their distancing from it.



Unlock community potential to co-produce place based responses to issues that matter to them.



## VULNERABILITIES

# Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery

To work in partnership across the public, private and voluntary sectors to reduce the volume, severity and adverse impact of house burglary and street robbery offending

# Vulnerabilities

## Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery

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Engage, support & safeguard victims and affected communities to prevent repeat and near-repeat victimisation, inspire confidence and reduce fear of crime



Ensure a high-quality response and investigation to bring offenders to justice



Work with our criminal justice and community safety partners to prevent reoffending



Collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence to identify and respond to emerging threats, hotspots, series and trends



Provide our communities with up-to-date crime prevention advice, information and resources so they take action to protect themselves and their property



Take an evidence-based design and problem-solving approach to reducing the factors and vulnerabilities that enable burglary and robbery crimes

## VULNERABILITIES

# Prevent

To work in partnership to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism



# Vulnerabilities

## Prevent

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Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism

To work in partnership to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism

Enable those who are already involved in or supporting terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Ensure the statutory Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 'PREVENT' requirements are met by Essex Police

Inform, monitor and respond to recommendations arising from the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)

Identify and embed best practise and learning arising from the PREVENT agenda

Identify emerging trends, threats and community tensions and hate crime relevant to the PREVENT agenda and ensure effective partnership response



## VULNERABILITIES

# Hate Crime

To work with partner agencies and communities to reduce hate crime and the harm caused by it, by bringing offenders to justice and educating people around the significant impact hate crime can have

# Vulnerabilities

## Hate Crime

Page 137



Build the trust and confidence of individuals and groups affected by hate crime



Reduce under-reporting, repeat victimisation and perpetration of hate crime



Provide high levels of victim care, safeguarding and support throughout the criminal justice process



Bring offenders to justice



Promote community cohesion



Promote hate crime awareness through effective partnership wide campaigning



Raise awareness of hate crime and educate people on the impacts hate crime has on victims, their families and their communities



Work in partnership with our communities to better understand violence, intimidation and abuse against women and girls



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

To continuously improve our services to victims and our approach to tackling Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

# Complex Needs

## Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

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Maximise opportunities for early interaction, intervention and prevention to reduce exposure to harm, including focus on repeat victimisation and offending to prevent child abuse and CSE



Make appropriate use of legislation allowing vulnerable victims and witnesses to provide evidence and cross examination via video recording in advance of trial, removing the need to attend court



Enhance partnership working, information sharing, resources and expertise, improving the service provided to victims, quality of investigations and bringing more offenders to justice



Work with partners to support more victims of child abuse and CSE, listening to their needs and experiences to shape our services and improve victim satisfaction and public confidence



Continuously improve and develop by learning from past experiences, seeking new ways of utilising evidence-based practice to inform our activity



Work in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), ensuring a cohesive approach in line with their Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) strategy.



## COMPLEX NEEDS

# Domestic Abuse

To work with partners and the community,  
to prevent domestic abuse by supporting  
victims and tackling offenders

# Complex Needs Domestic Abuse



Ensure effective working with partner agencies to provide quality service to victims through their entire experience from initial call for service through to court hearings and beyond



Ensure effective multi-agency approach to break the cycle of violence and offending against victims



Ensure we continuously improve and develop by learning from successes and failures, identifying and implementing multi-agency best practice



Ensure effective multi-agency approach to break the cycle of violence and offending against victims



Develop and ensure a 'differentiated response' to the types of domestic abuse



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Drugs and Alcohol

To work in partnership to reduce crime and harm caused by misuse of alcohol and use of drugs





# Complex Needs

## Drugs and Alcohol



Target enforcement action against individuals and groups willingly concerned in the production and supply of illegal drugs and those in breach of alcohol licensing legislation



Identify and protect vulnerable individuals and communities from the exploitation and harm caused by drug supply and use, and misuse of alcohol



Work in partnership to further develop and better utilise pathways into treatment for alcohol and drug misuse



Inform and influence the education and engagement of young people to divert them away from substance misuse



Develop an improved shared understanding of current local drugs markets and the impact of licenced alcohol sales to inform and direct partnership interventions



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

**Mental Health**

To ensure that any of us experiencing mental ill-health receive the best support.

# Complex Needs

## Mental Health



Working in partnership to maximise opportunities for early intervention with those who require support



Identify and share national and international best practice



Ensure that accurate data is collated by Essex Police and partners to inform decisions



Ensure that officers and staff are trained to identify and respond to incidents of mental health crisis



Improve the quality of investigations and outcomes of crimes for victims and witnesses

**If you are part of an organisation that you feel can lead or contribute to the delivery of aspects of our Crime Prevention Strategy please contact us.**

**We will endorse funding applications and work collaboratively to support delivery.**



Do it online at:

**[essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)**



# An Assessment of the needs of Domestic Abuse Victims residing in Safe Accommodation in Thurrock

## Executive Summary

### Background

There are some 2.3 million victims of domestic abuse a year aged 16 to 74 (two-thirds of whom are women) and more than one in ten of all offences recorded by the police nationally are domestic abuse related. Two women a week die at the hands of their partners or ex-partners, and one in five children experience domestic abuse growing up. Nationally, victims and survivors face what is viewed as a postcode lottery in accessing life-saving support. In 2017 government committed to reviewing the provision available to victims of domestic abuse. Following the completion of stakeholder engagement and responses to consultations the Domestic Abuse Bill set out 123 commitments both legislative and non-legislative. The Bill was passed into law as the Domestic Abuse Act April 29<sup>th</sup> 2021. The Act places a statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability. A requirement of the act is for all tier one authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area. This will be supported by funding from central government titled the New Burdens Fund. This assessment consists of data from April 2018-March 2021, unless otherwise stated.

Thurrock Council is a tier one Authority, geographically placed within the two tier County of Essex. Whilst many other local authorities have been dependent on the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government finances to fund safe accommodation on a year-to-year basis, Thurrock have prioritised this area of support. In 2016 the Housing department established a Housing Safeguarding Team, frontline professionals providing a community response supporting domestic abuse victims and survivors. More recently the housing department recommissioned Thurrock's women's refuge which is delivered by our local partner, Changing Pathways. This is the sole safe accommodation provision in Thurrock, as defined by the Act.

Across Thurrock, there are many different organisations working to protect and respond to survivors of domestic abuse. The Thurrock Violence Against Women's and Girls Strategic Board provides local strategic oversight and direction for this area of work, working alongside our community and accommodation support providers. Thurrock Council are members of the Countywide Southend. Essex, Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) where all the tier one authorities across Essex strive towards achieving shared priorities in preventing and responding to domestic abuse.

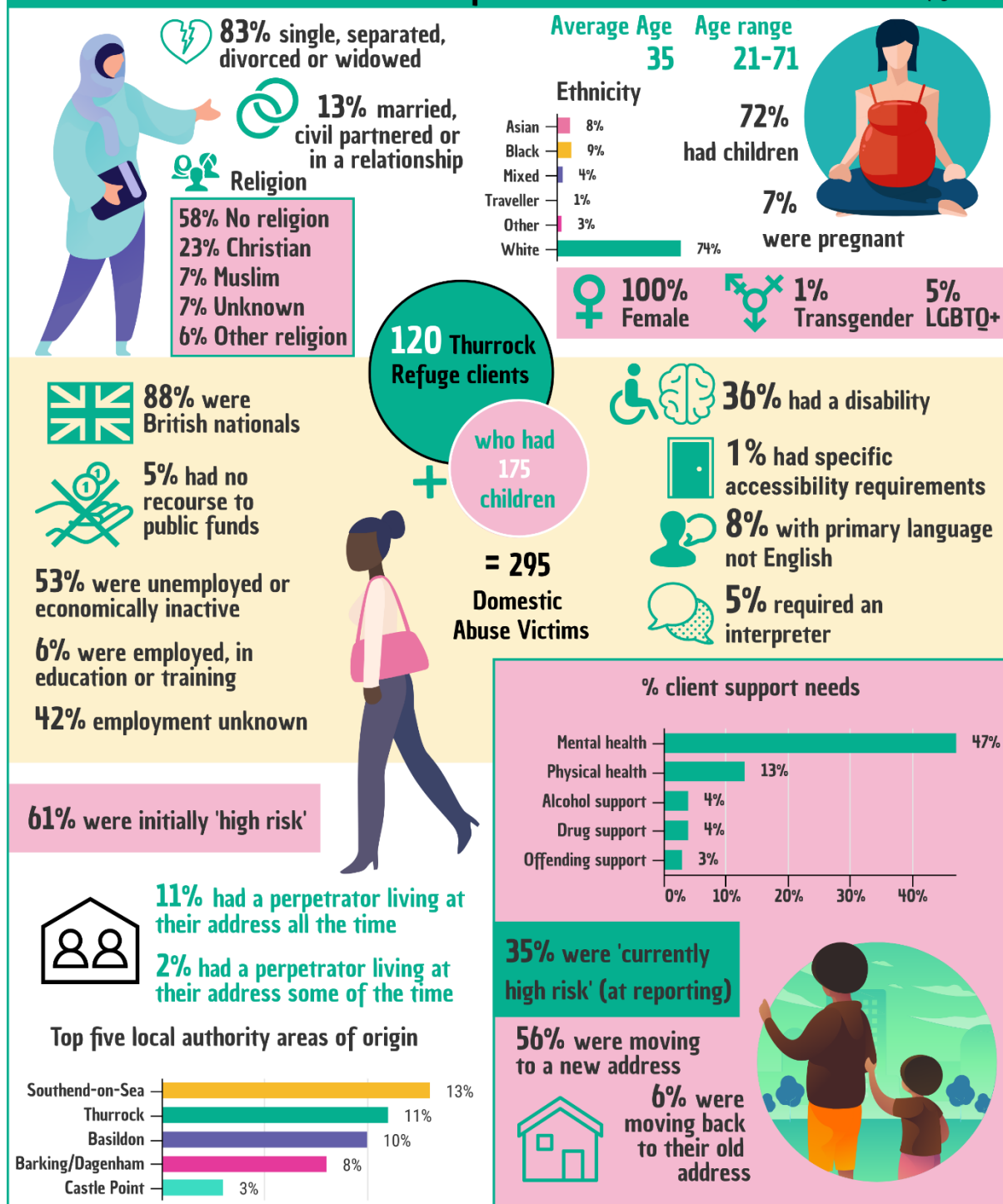
### Key findings from the needs assessment

1. The top four areas (unitary or district level local authority) where Thurrock's Refuge residents were most likely to come from: Southend-on-Sea (13%), Thurrock (11%), Basildon (10%) and Barking and Dagenham (8%). Combined, these areas made up approximately two-fifths of all victims staying in Thurrock.
2. There is a strong association within some data sets and the deprivation levels across wards in Thurrock. On average, 52% of residents in safe accommodation in Thurrock were

unemployed while approximately 42% of residents' employment status was unrecorded in the same time frame (based on the three year cohort). The unemployment rate is high which could be for a range of reasons, such as mental health needs, or given that 5% of residents required an interpreter and 9% of residents' first language was not English all are potential barriers in accessing and navigating employment or being financially able to continue to alternative accommodation.

3. Individuals identifying as having a disability was an emerging trend in the data. Although numerically small numbers, there is limited understanding of what these needs are and this requires greater focus. Mental health emerged as the largest need for residents, corroborated by the understanding that emotional/psychological and jealous/controlling behaviour abuse types affecting over half of residents each year.
4. The Act has defined children victims in their own right, therefore data recording across agencies will have to capture this with greater accuracy for future assessments. The specific needs of children residing in refuge is not known and will be a focus for future assessments.
5. This assessment has highlighted that there is a need for a regular multi-agency analytical product, overlaying partnership data sets and reviewing them all together rather individually within own organisations. This would be of enormous benefit to the local domestic abuse partnership board in assisting the local authority to deliver the duties under the Act.
6. Some out of scope matters were recognised in this assessment. No space/ or capacity to support was the second most recorded reason for being refused safe accommodation. There is a lack of specialised accommodation for minority groups or individuals who face additional barriers to reporting, or cannot/may not feel comfortable residing in current safe accommodation provision, such as LGBTQ+/Males/Male teenagers. Extending safe accommodation buildings/capital spending is outside the new burdens funding remit, however this has emerged as gap in current service within Thurrock and will require further exploration.

## What were the characteristics of domestic abuse victims in safe accommodation in Thurrock? April 2018- March 2021 (Source: Thurrock Refuge, 2021)



## Recommendations

### Thurrock Council will spend the New Burdens allocation 2021/22 to fund the following recommendations.

- Any underspend will be offset against current Thurrock Council commissioned domestic abuse services where the support offered meets the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This approach is in line with that of Essex County Council and other Eastern Region Authorities.
- It is envisaged that any monies released from other funds as a result of offsetting will be reinvested to expand the Thurrock Council domestic abuse services offer, including, but not limited to, perpetrator provision services, noting the commissioning expectations within the draft Domestic Abuse Act statutory guidance.

### Recommendations to Improve data collection and data sharing

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility
1) Data recording of domestic abuse against adult and children victims (children experiencing at home and children experiencing within their own relationships) is inconsistently recorded across agencies.	All agencies who record domestic abuse to review recording processes to ensure that data, including children, is captured accurately and reflective of the true nature of domestic abuse concerns.	VAWG Strategic Board: A Data Task and finish group to be convened for data recommendations
2) Data is currently viewed only by the agency that records it. This does not provide an accurate view of prevalence and wider issues that are a concern across various agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-agency data analytic product to be created and updated and used by the local partnership board as an informative data source. This will provide a strengthened partnership overview of data from multiple sources.</li> <li>• Employ an analyst to produce data products for the quarterly board, annual reviews and 3 year assessments</li> </ul>	VAWG Strategic Board. Data Task and finish group Contributors will include all stakeholders contributing to this needs assessment
3) There are some discrepancies in the data pulled from the	Thurrock Housing Safeguarding Team to review the effectiveness of the system	VAWG Strategic Board. Data Task and finish group Housing Safeguarding Team



system that records the Housing Safeguarding Team data on domestic abuse cases.	used for case management of domestic abuse cases	
Recommendations to improve provision to meet the needs of those residing in safe accommodation		
Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility
1) There is a relatively strong association within police data and housing safeguarding data between domestic abuse and deprivation. Residents from Thurrock are the second largest group that reside in refuge.	Employ a financial worker within refuge to strengthen financial stability of residents in refuge	VAWG Strategic board- VAWG coordinator Changing Pathways
2) Data identified that 36% of residents in refuge within the data period had disability. This has increased as a percentage year-on-year. We do not have an in-depth knowledge of what the disabilities are and how best to support them.	Further scoping exercise within refuge to establish nature of disabilities presented and create range of support options to meet these.	Housing Department (commissioner of refuge) and Changing Pathways
3) Data identified that 41% of residents in refuge in the data period had mental health needs, this has increased as a percentage year-on-year. Respondents to national surveys also reported deteriorating mental health, less able to cope with abuse and that the pandemic triggered abusive memories.	Further scoping exercise within refuge to establish nature of mental health needs presented and create range of support options to meet these.	Housing Department (commissioner of refuge) and Changing Pathways
4) Data identified that alcohol and drug support were	Further scoping exercise within refuge to establish nature of drug and alcohol	Housing Department (commissioner of refuge) and Changing Pathways

identified needs for residents of Thurrock refuge	issues presented and create range of support options to meet these.	
5) Residents in refuge are experiencing a complexity of needs and would benefit from additional support to help assist them	Employ complex case workers to assist individuals within refuge in pursuing the additional help they require within refuge or at point of move on and resettlement	Thurrock Housing safeguarding Team to recruit 2 workers.  Changing pathways to identify individuals within refuge that would benefit from additional support
6) 175 children resided in refuge during the data period. Under the Act children are now victims in their own right, experiencing domestic abuse. Children need an increased level of support as a direct victim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling to be offered to all children in refuge as a victim of domestic abuse or sexual abuse in domestic settings.</li> <li>• Employ a Childrens worker based in refuge to work alongside existing worker</li> <li>• Tuition for children so they are supported whilst waiting for school places or they need extra educational support due to disruption to school provision.</li> </ul>	Childrens commissioning
Mental health was identified as the largest need for residents. The offer of counselling will contribute towards addressing mental health linked with trauma.	Counselling to be offered to all adults in refuge as a victim of domestic abuse or sexual abuse in domestic settings.	
<b>Recommendations to review current safe accommodation options to increase accessibility for all</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1) Extending safe accommodation buildings is outside the new burdens funding remit, however this has emerged as gap in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council to explore other safe accommodation and funding options to expand safe accommodation provision for specific groups who are not</li> </ul>	VAWG Strategic Board Housing Department (commissioner of refuge)

<p>current service in the Borough.</p> <p>No space/capacity to support' was the second most recorded reason for being refused safe accommodation and represents unmet accommodation and support need.</p> <p>There is a lack of safe accommodation for specific groups, e.g. LGBTQ, Men/ male teenagers/ Gypsy Travellers or individuals heavily using drugs and/or alcohol.</p> <p>Nationally, teenage boys are not accepted to refuge post age 16.</p>	<p>currently accessing it or are unable to reside in it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock to explore opportunities to extend overall capacity of safe accommodation offer within the borough</li> <li>• Work with Childrens social services to have a memorandum of understanding in place with refuge provider regarding support that can be offered to children unable to stay at refuge</li> </ul>	<p>Childrens Social Services Changing Pathways</p>
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# SYNERGY

Providing rape and sexual abuse support services across Essex

## **Male Sexual Violence and Abuse against Women and Girls Synergy Essex Briefing: April 2021**

### **Background and current situation in Essex, Southend and Thurrock**

SYNERGY Essex is the partnership of the three Rape Crisis Centres in Essex offering free, confidential specialist sexual violence and abuse counselling, Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy and support to adults, young people, children and their families across Essex. Over the last year, Synergy Essex provided services to just under 5,000 victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse, 88% are women and girls and in 98% of cases, the sexual violence and abuse they have suffered has been perpetrated by men.

The demand for Synergy Essex's services has increased exponentially over the last five years and it is an ongoing struggle to maintain sufficient resources and capacity to respond to this rapidly increasing demand. We currently have over 1,350 victims and survivors waiting for our services, the events of the last few weeks have further increased referral rates and we are anticipating that some victims may have to wait for up to 9 months for some of our services.

The killing of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the [Everyone's Invited](#) movement have sparked a national conversation and an outpouring of grief, distress and anger about the violence and abuse that women and girls experience daily. The level of attention we have seen on these issues in recent weeks is long overdue, this is a watershed moment.

**We have serious concerns about the current response at an Essex-wide level to male sexual violence against women and girls.** The understanding and acknowledgment of the often-complex needs of victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse and the specific requirements of women and girls within all statutory agencies across Essex and Southend-on-Sea Unitary Authority is extremely limited and leadership is severely lacking in terms of implementing effective action. Whilst domestic abuse is, rightly so, recognised as being a concern, sexual violence and abuse against women and girls in all its forms remains totally marginalised in all key stakeholder policy and planning. Whilst not perfect in its approach, Thurrock Unitary Authority has a Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, a Sexual Violence and Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and contributions towards funding are made available to the Rape Crisis Centre based in Thurrock (SERICC) from the Local Authority, Children's Services, Housing and Thurrock CCG. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the rest of Essex or Unitary Southend. This ongoing situation means that services are significantly under-resourced and this is causing a 'post code lottery' of service availability for victims and survivors.

Synergy Essex has been working closely with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in Essex for over 5 years, attempting to encourage statutory partners such as Essex County Council and the CCGs to step up and take shared responsibility for this issue, alongside the PFCC. This has not happened.

### **Synergy Essex Recommendations**

We write with six clear recommendations which must be central to the development of any future Essex-wide actions for addressing male sexual violence and abuse against women and girls.

#### **1. We call on you to name the problem.**

We urge you and your agency/team to state clearly in all your communications and strategies that male sexual violence against women and girls is an issue of importance, rooted in

sexism. This perennial problem must be named and tackled head on. We have seen the rise of 'gender neutral' language and responses to sexual violence and abuse, which fail to recognise the root cause of the problem and marginalise women and girls' experiences even further, ignoring the need for women-only recovery services.

**2. We call on you to insist on the development of educational programmes that use strong messaging that challenges rape culture, ensuring that male sexual violence and abuse will not be tolerated.**

Male sexual violence against women and girls is not inevitable, it is the result of structures, institutions and attitudes which perpetuate women's inequality in society. Changing this requires working with Synergy Essex and our service-users to challenge myths and stereotypes, equip communities to speak out about male sexual violence and abuse against women and girls and challenge perpetrator behaviour and provide children and young people with the knowledge and tools to recognise and speak out against men's sexual violence against women and girls.

**3. We ask you to prioritise the systems change required to tackle men's sexual violence and ensure that tackling male sexual violence is identified as a clear priority in strategic planning across Essex.**

The crime of rape suffers from such low prosecution rates that it appears to have been effectively decriminalised. Pushing women and girls to report sexual violence in this context or increasing sentence lengths are limited solutions. The [landmark report](#) by Centre for Women's Justice, the End Violence Against Women Coalition, Imkaan and Rape Crisis England and Wales provides a comprehensive set of recommendations to address the justice system's response to rape. We urge you to familiarise yourselves with this report and push for change at every level.

We also urge you to recognise that data from Essex Police and the Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) does not represent the true number of women and girls who have experienced sexual violence and abuse, with only 1 in 6 women and girls currently reporting to the police. Together we must acknowledge that the criminal justice system is not the only solution and be cognisant of the fact that most women and girls do not report to the police for valid reasons. Victims and survivors who have not reported, however, do contact rape crisis centres for services.

A step change is required in the response to sexual violence and abuse, paying particular attention to effective solutions for women and girls. Sexual violence and abuse are not the sole responsibility of any one agency. All agencies have a vital part to play, including Community Safety Partnerships, Essex Police, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Mental Health services, the Essex Integrated Care System, Children's Services, Adults Services, Housing, Education, Local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.

As part of recognising this shared responsibility, we urge you to support the development of a Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy for Essex and Southend, in line with the Thurrock Sexual Violence and Abuse JSNA. This strategy must include the rights and entitlements for specialist services for all women and girls, including minoritised women and girls.

**4. We call on you to do all you can to secure the future of the specialist sexual violence and abuse services women and girls need, as evidenced by the current demand.**

Our expert services continue to face a funding crisis due to insecure funding that fails to meet rapidly increasing demand. There is a need for a secure, flexible, multi-year funding settlement for rape crisis services across Essex, Thurrock and Southend that recognises that consistent, long-term funding is essential to plan effective service provision.

**5. We urge you to encourage specialist sexual violence and abuse training and awareness for frontline staff within your sphere of influence.**

There is an urgency for the provision of specialist sexual violence and abuse training and awareness-raising to be made available to all frontline staff to ensure that women and girls who have experienced sexual violence and abuse are met with understanding and a trauma-informed approach. [Icena](#) provide a range of bespoke, specialist training courses and seminars for professionals, businesses, schools and colleges, and the public and third sectors.

**6. We call on you to support and encourage the development of public awareness campaigns.**

There is an urgent need for major public awareness campaigns across Essex, Thurrock and Southend, designed to create societal shifts in attitudes that challenge excuses for men's sexual violence against women and girls. We urge you to work with Rape Crisis Centres in Essex (Synergy Essex) to deliver effective responses and tackle the root causes of men's sexual violence.

**Sheila Coates, MBE**

Director SERICC – Rape and Sexual Abuse Specialist Service

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<https://www.sosrc.org/>

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The logo for SERICC features the word "sericc" in a lowercase, rounded, purple font. A small green dot is positioned above the letter 'i'.

sericc

Rape and Sexual Abuse  
Specialist Service

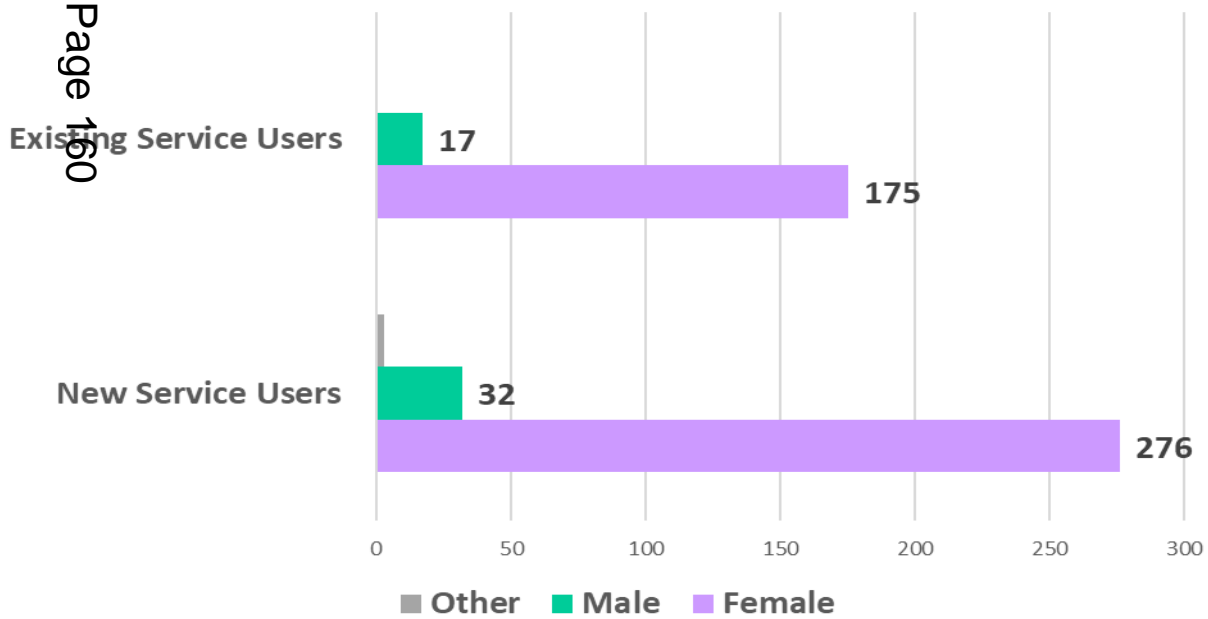
SERICC DATA – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

PRESENTED BY REBEKAH BRANT

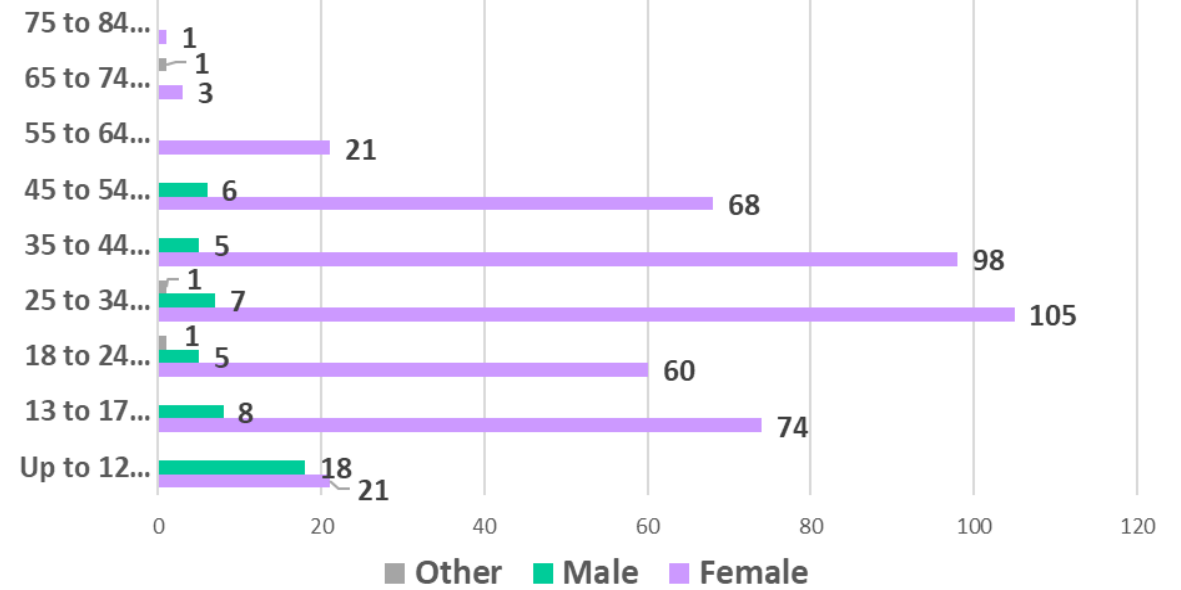
How many victims and survivors (and their families) in Thurrock reached out for specialist sexual violence and sexual abuse support services & how old were they?

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Number of Service Users - 503 Individuals

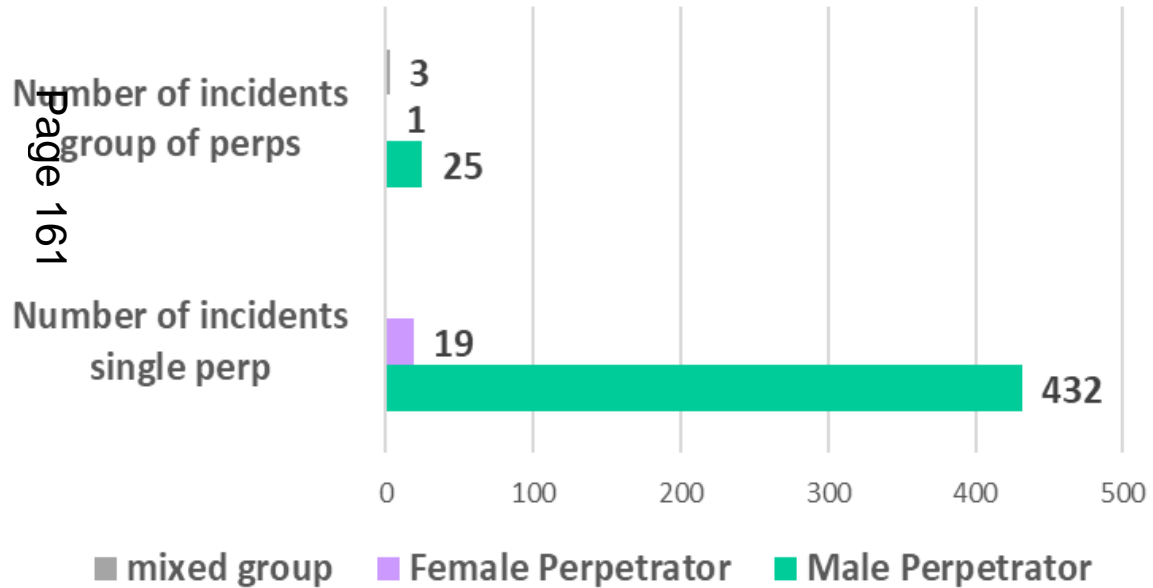


Age Range of Service Users

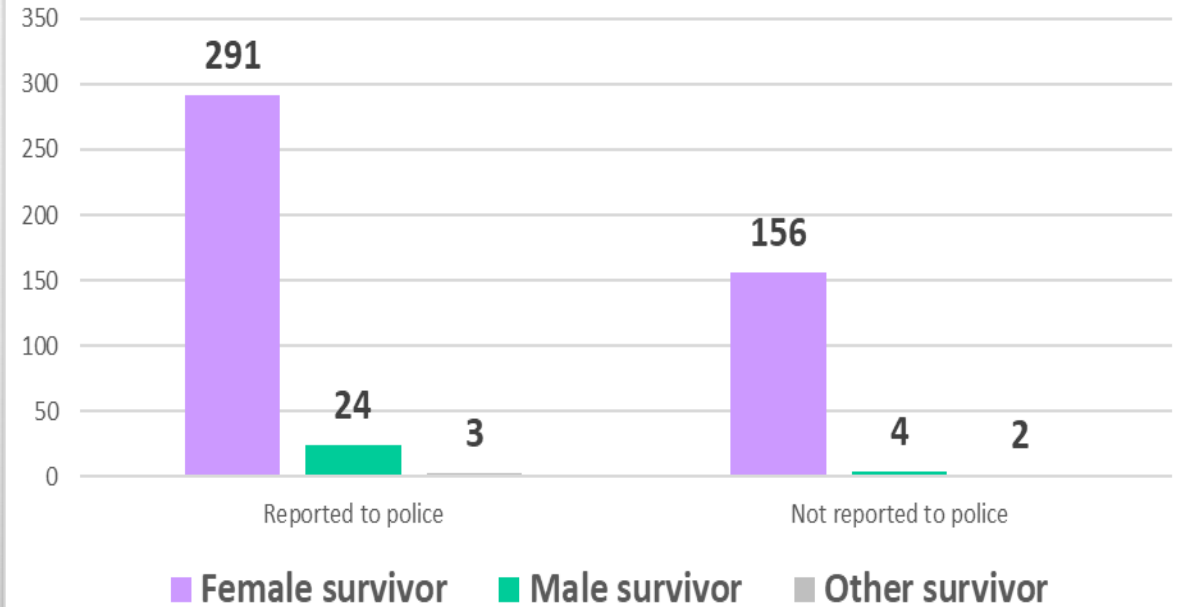


# How many incidents were disclosed & did survivors chose to report to police?

Number of incidents disclosed - 480



Incidents Reported and Not Reported to Police



As a comparison for the same period reports to **Essex Police** were:

Athena Records

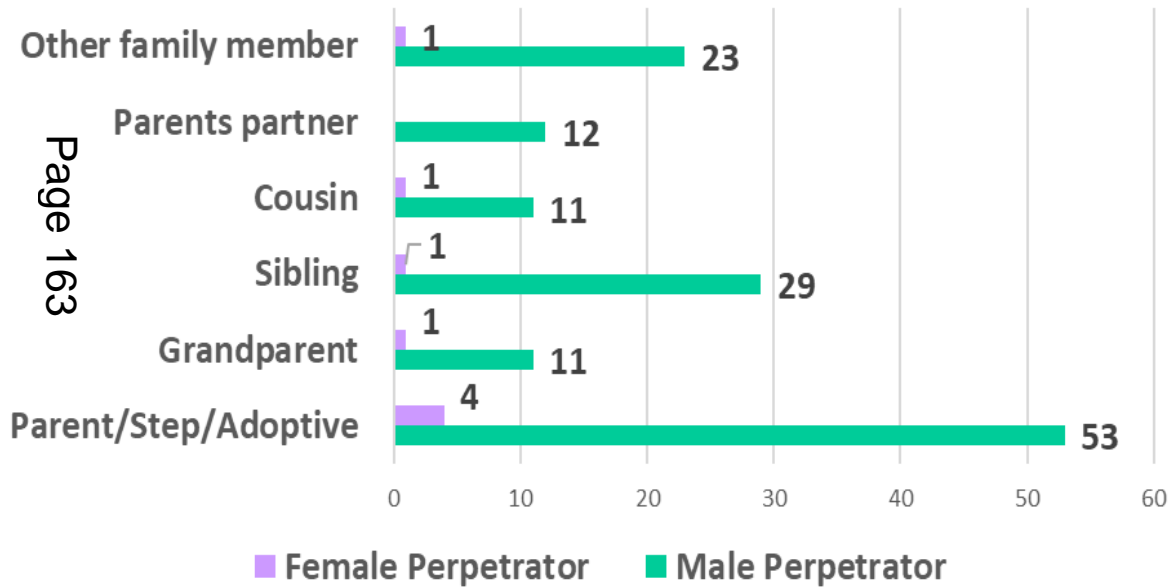
Hour/Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
00	0	1	4	1	0	1	2	9
01	1	0	1	0	7	0	0	9
02	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	5
03	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
04	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
05	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	8
06	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
07	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
08	2	0	4	1	1	0	1	9
09	4	3	5	2	2	0	0	16
10	3	2	5	4	3	3	2	22
11	2	9	6	3	3	1	0	24
12	5	3	3	4	3	5	7	30
13	1	5	0	6	5	5	3	25
14	5	10	6	5	11	2	1	40
15	7	4	10	6	1	2	5	35
16	6	3	3	5	6	3	3	29
17	1	6	4	11	1	4	0	27
18	3	5	1	8	7	1	3	28
19	2	0	2	2	1	2	2	11
20	3	2	3	6	6	0	3	23
21	2	2	1	4	6	1	1	17
22	1	3	3	1	0	3	6	17
23	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>401</b>

10 Top 10%  
20 Top 11%-20%

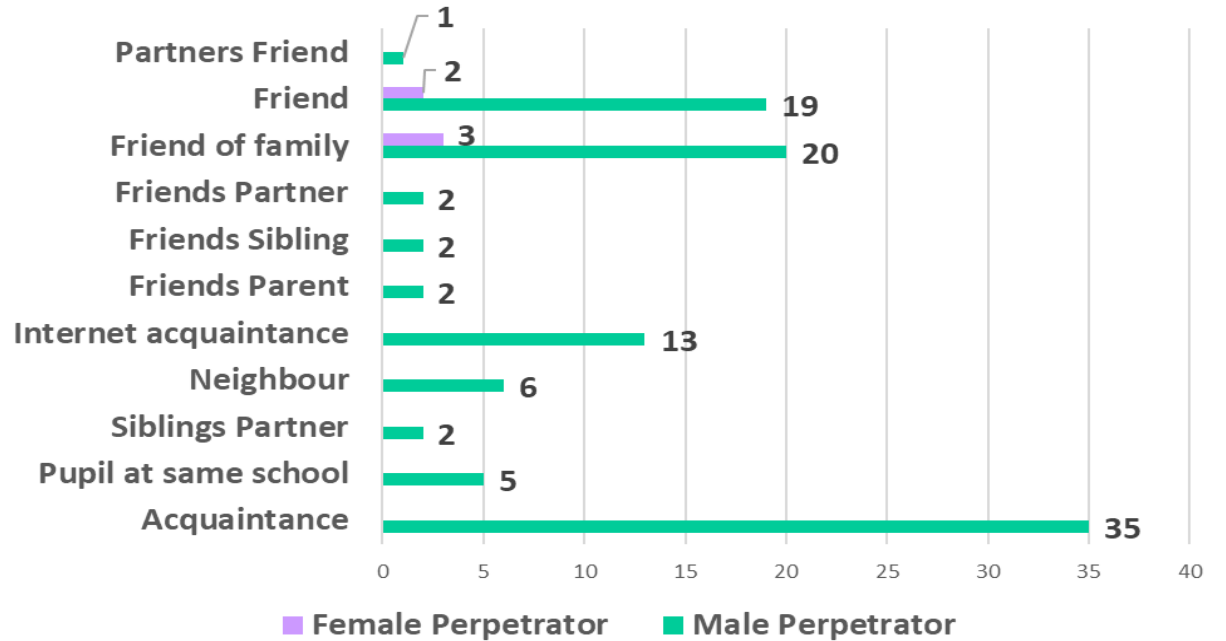
# Who are the Perpetrators of Rape and Sexual Abuse against victims and survivors in Thurrock?

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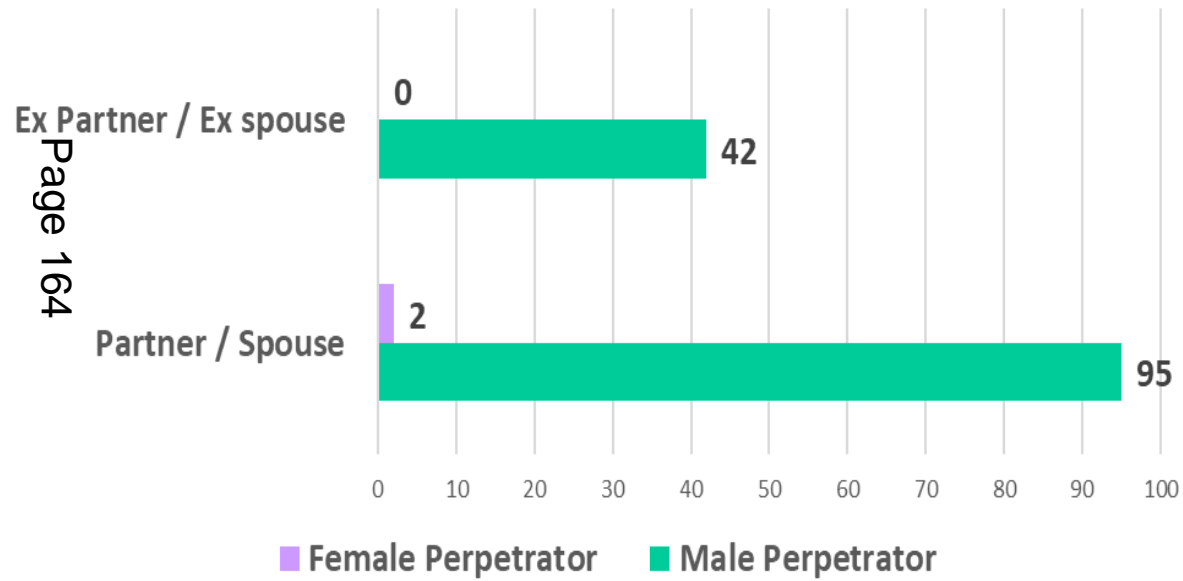
Perpetrator Type - Family Member



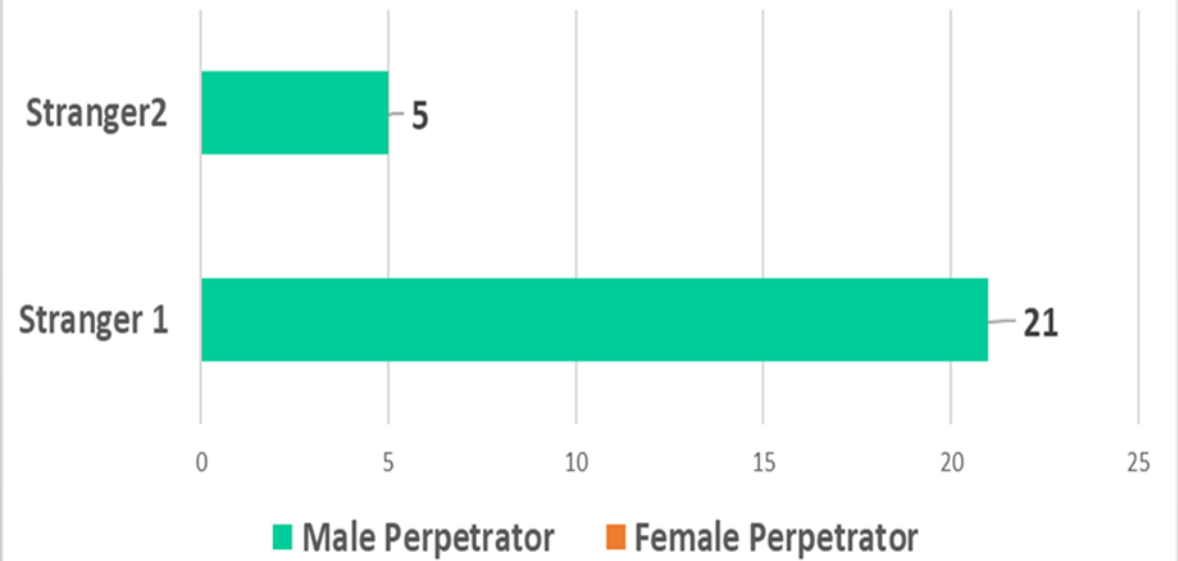
Perpetrator Type - Friend / Acquaintance



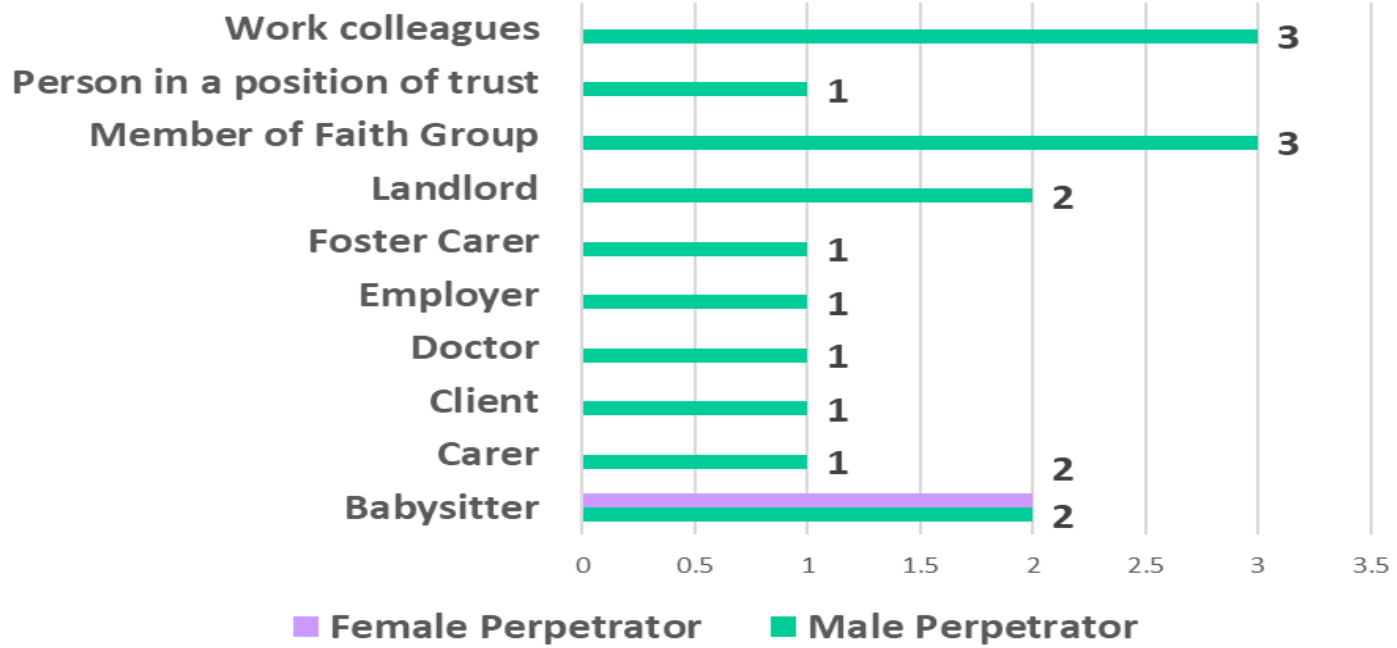
Perpetrator Type - Intimate Partner



Perpetrator Type - Stranger



### Perpetrator Type - Person in a Position of Trust



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**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme  
2021/22**

Dates of Meetings: 14 July 2021, 7 October 2021, 14 December 2021 and 3 February 2022

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Requested by Officer/Member</b>
<b>14 July 2021</b>		
Thurrock Council Animal Welfare Review	Leigh Nicholson / Gavin Dennett	Officers
Parking Enforcement vehicle removals	Phil Carver / David Kleinberg	Officers
<b>7 October 2021</b>		
Public Land Maintenance Strategy	Daren Spring	Officers
Overview of responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure	Councillor Jefferies	Members
Health & Wellbeing Strategy Refresh	Jo Broadbent	Officers
Off Road Motorbike Nuisance Report	Cheryl Wells / Michelle Cunningham	Members
Clean and Green Service Savings Proposal Details	Daren Spring	Officers
Processing Household Waste	Julie Rogers	Officers
<b>14 December 2021</b>		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update	Cheryl Wells /Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Thurrock Roadside Memorials and Floral Tribute Policy	Julie Rogers / Daren Spring	Officers
Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2022/23	Julie Rogers	Officers

Single Use Plastics Policy	Marcelle Puttergill / Julie Rogers	Officers
Scrutiny Review - Waste Strategy Implementation Verbal Update	Daren Spring	Officers
<b>3 February 2022</b>		
Thurrock Councils response to Prevent Duty 2015	Michelle Cunningham / Cheryl Wells	Officers
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	Michelle Cunningham / Cheryl Wells	Officers
Scrutiny Review - Waste Strategy Implementation - Verbal Update	Daren Spring	Officers
Tree Strategy – Verbal Update	Daren Spring	Officers

Add to 2022/23 Work Programme:

Cemeteries Strategy  
 Recycling and Waste Collection Policy

Clerk: Jenny Shade  
 Last Updated: May 2021