

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

Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **20 February 2024**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Gary Collins (Chair), Daniel Chukwu (Vice-Chair), Augustine Ononaji, Alex Anderson and Cici Manwa

Substitutes:

Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Georgette Polley and Sue Shinnick

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee held on 22 June 2023.	
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.	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **12 February 2024**

Information for members of the public and councillors

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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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee held on 22 June 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Gary Collins (Chair), Daniel Chukwu (Vice-Chair), Augustine Ononaji, Graham Snell and Cici Manwa

Apologies:

In attendance:

Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Michael Dineen, Assistant Director Counter Fraud, Enforcement and Community Safety
Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead - Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Resilience
Rhiannon Whiteley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded, with the video recording to be made available on the Council's Youtube channel.

The live recording can be viewed on the following link:

[Thurrock Council - Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee, 22/06/2023 - YouTube](#)

26. Apologies for Absence

None.

27. Minutes

The minutes of the Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee meeting held on 21 February 2023 were approved as a correct record.

28. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

29. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

30. Terms of Reference

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that this item is to draw Committee Member's attention to the terms of reference of the Committee which is in the Council's Constitution. It sets out what areas the Committee covers and essential information such as the quorum for meetings.

31. Work Programme

The Committee discussed the work programme and the following was confirmed / acknowledged or highlighted: -

- SERICC Attendance and presentation which was on the work programme for September did not fit in the terms of reference for this Committee and should go to Health and Wellbeing or Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Chair requested a verbal update on anything the Committee should be concerned about.
- Councillor Ononaji requested more training especially on human trafficking and modern slavery. It was confirmed Human trafficking training will be delivered to all members in Essex and the date is to be confirmed.
- Councillor Snell raised the issue of women being trafficked to act as prostitutes in Thurrock and queried if this was a concern. It was confirmed few reports were received but community intelligence was important and concerns should be reported to professionals such as Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, Adult Social Services, the Police or Crimestoppers
- The Assistant Director for Counter Fraud, Enforcement and Community Safety suggested each meeting could focus on one of the 4 areas in the terms of reference for the committee, i.) Prevention and Counter Terrorism, ii.) Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, iii) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children iv.) Tackling criminal gang associations

ACTION 1: The Assistant Director for Counter Fraud, Enforcement and Community Safety will research the national inquiry completed regarding the Human Trafficking case which took place in Grays and report back to the Committee.

ACTION 2: Thurrocks Prevent Strategy and Modern Slavery Strategy will be shared with the Committee members along with the Southend, Essex, and Thurrock (SET) policies for both.

The meeting finished at 7.25 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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20 February 2024	ITEM: 5
Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee	
Corporate Parenting Committee Annual Report 2022/23	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Corporate Parenting Committee	
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director of Children’s Social Care and Early Help	
Accountable Director: Shelia Murphy, Executive Director for Children’s Services	
This report is Public	
Version: Committee	

Executive Summary

This report updates committee members on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after by Thurrock Council. Corporate Parenting responsibilities are inclusive of UASC who are a subset of the Children Looked After. Good corporate parents, just like all parents, need to understand and know what is happening to their children and young people.

Unaccompanied children arriving in Britain are particularly vulnerable to exploitation given that they may have had contact with an organised criminal gang as part of their journey into the UK and will likely not have an established support network in the country.

Members should be aware the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children looked after by Thurrock Council is capped at 44 children. This is to ensure a fair distribution nationally of unaccompanied children. As of 31 December 2023, there were 45 unaccompanied children looked after by Thurrock Council. Thurrock also support young adults as care leavers who arrived as children. As of 31 December 2023, Thurrock Council was supporting 100 care leavers who were formerly UASC, which is 38% of the care leaving population.

Commissioner Comment:

n/a

1. Recommendation(s)

Version Committee – Ready for submission to public committee;

1.1 That Members of the Committee are advised of the potential harms faced in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children presenting to Thurrock and review the work done to safeguard them.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) arrive in the United Kingdom often following a long and dangerous journey where they may have been at risk of distinct types of abuse and exploitation, which can often leave them traumatised. A UASC is a person below the age of 18 who arrives in the UK seeking Asylum who has no adult with responsibility for their care. This includes minors who are left unaccompanied when they have entered the UK and is a person who:

- a) is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted.
- b) is applying for asylum in their own right; and
- c) is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an Adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

A child who is outside his/her country of origin and separated from their Primary carer may:

- be on their own
- have come with a relative who abandons them
- have been sent away by parents for their own safety
- have been trafficked

2.2 Local Authorities across the country have the task of receiving these children, identifying who they are, their specific needs and ensuring that appropriate support is offered to keep them safe. Local authorities support young people with their legal and immigration status and help them to settle into their new circumstances, achieve in education or training and reach their potential.

2.3 Appendix A contains a fuller description of the relevant processes Thurrock follows in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 National Quotas:

There continues to be small numbers of UASC entering Essex ports. This has continued to be the case since August 2020 as the preferred route is through Dover with high number of Asylum seekers crossing the channel on small boats. Information shared by police colleagues suggest that the success rate for an asylum seeker coming into the UK via small boat is thought to be around 50%. Success rates for Asylum seekers entering via Lorries is thought to be around 10%. This has increased the number of arrivals nationally with most arrivals occurring in Dover.

In Thurrock this is beginning to change with all of the 40 new arrivals into the UK via Thurrock this year (between 01 February 2023 – 31 January 24) being spontaneous arrivals into Thurrock; compared to 10 of the 31 in the same period during the previous year having been transferred into Thurrock via Kent.

For equitable distribution of UASC arrivals Central Government have implemented the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). At the end of August 2022, the thresholds for the number of UASC that each Local Authority is responsible for were increased from 0.07% to 0.1% of the child population. This means that the previous maximum number of UASC Looked After by Thurrock has risen from 31 Children to 44 Children. This has some implications:

- An increase in Thurrock's CLA population with an additional 13 Unaccompanied children.
- An impact on caseloads in the Children Looked After Teams and for Personal Advisors in the Aftercare Team as most young people are aged 16+.
- Additional pressure on our placement resources within the context of a national shortage of placements.

Given established transport links, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are more likely to enter the country through a limited pool of Local Authorities. Thurrock is one such point of entry due to its geographical location, two established ports and busy motorway services. There has been a minimal increase in the number of UASC entering Essex Ports during 2023 but the preferred route has remained through Kent via small boats. In order for equitable distribution of UASC arrivals Central Government have implemented the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

Thurrock are currently at/above quota in terms of the number of UASC for whom we hold parental responsibility. New arrivals into Thurrock are now being transferred to other Local Authorities under the NTS.

3.2 **Trafficking and exploitation:**

One of the risks to UASC when they arrive in the UK is from organised trafficking and exploitation. In some cases, children may have been supported to journey to the UK by organised gangs for a fee or possible exploitation and involvement in criminal activity.

A lot of emphasis is placed on initial relationship building and engagement with new arrivals in Thurrock. There is a comprehensive package of support including:

- Direct work and follow up visit within 24hrs and again within 1 week.
- Initial needs assessment – to help understanding the young person's needs
- An education offer comprising of:
 - Personal Education Plan paperwork to progress into education
 - e-learning resource list
 - commissioned online learning resource
 - A minimum of 5 hours online tuition per week

The impact for children from this model of practice can be seen in the reduction of cases with missing or exploited UASC. Thurrock have, on more than one occasion, presented this model of practice as an example of good practice at Ofsted training events.

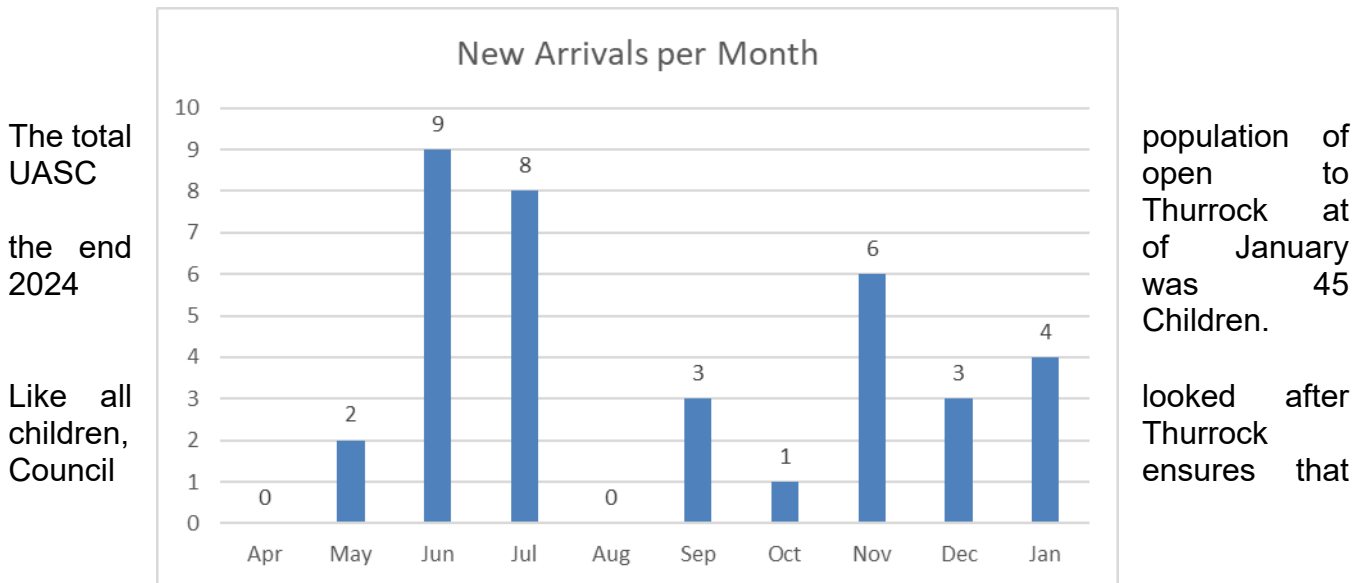
3.3 **Multi Agency Safeguarding**

An important aspect to the work to address issues of exploitation is joint working and sharing of information with the Police and Border-Force colleagues. Information shared in the Organised Immigration Crime meeting helps us to understand and address current trends.

This kind of information helps to inform our plans and risk assessment, and that social workers and carers are aware of children who may be particularly vulnerable so that they can be vigilant. Engagement in this forum has helped us to advocate on behalf of Thurrock’s missing children with focus on challenge, joint planning and disruptive actions to prevent episodes for children who might be at risk of repeat missing episodes.

3.4 Data on arrivals of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Between 01 April and 31 January 2024, there were 36 new UASC arrivals into Thurrock. All of these entered the UK via Thurrock.



The total UASC population at the end of 2024

Like all children, Thurrock Council

population of open to Thurrock at of January was 45 Children.

looked after Thurrock ensures that

unaccompanied children have an allocated social worker who visits them regularly. They are supported with an appropriate placement, a personal education plan, an assessment of their mental and physical health. Unaccompanied children may have a range of needs, vulnerabilities, resilience and aspirations. Thurrock Council provides a specialist CLA team to ensure care plans are developed that meet these needs. This is in line with our statutory duties as a local authority.

For those over the age of 18 we continue to provide support via our After Care Services. This offers each young adult a pathway plan which is produced with them. They are offered support in respect of the education, employment, housing and health needs. Services are provided by Thurrock’s Housing, Education and Adults Social Care as appropriate. Again these services are provided in line with our statutory duties and consistent with the services provided to all care experienced young people.

Missing UASC

Between 01 April 2023 and 31 January 2024, there were 24 missing UASC episodes, related to 12 young people. Clear protocols are in place to address short and long term missing episode should they occur.

When UASC looked after by Thurrock go missing this is for short periods of time and followed up with our robust missing procedures including the Police and Safeguarding partners.

Of these 12, all were of male gender between the ages of 15 to 18 years. In relation to all other cases, our follow up work has found no evidence of exploitation in respect of these missing

episodes. These relate to young people choosing to stay out late beyond their curfew or staying with friends without our prior agreement.

A return to home interview was offered after each missing episode (to consider the reasons why they were missing and any support that could reduce the risks of future missing episodes).

Concluding Comments:

While UASC nationally are at an increased risk of harm in the form of Organised Immigration, crime and other forms of exploitation, there is little evidence of this in regard to the UASC cohort in Thurrock. We believe this is due to the effective strategies implemented within Children's Services and by partner agencies. Missing episodes are low in number, relate to a small number of young people and are for short periods of time.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report sets out the broad needs of unaccompanied children arriving in and looked after by Thurrock Council

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

- 5.1 Not applicable.

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

- 6.1 The positive impact of the work of Thurrock Council for 2022/2023, in driving forward issues in relation to UASC looked after children and care leavers to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michelle Hall**
Finance Manager

During 2022-23, the Home Office delivered two incentivised funding pilots linked to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The first pilot, which ran from 24 August 2022 to the 15 December 2022, provided £6,000 for each unaccompanied child transferred from a dedicated UASC hotel within 5 working days.

No further incentivised funding has been made available throughout 2023-24 to local authorities. On 5 January 2024 the Home Office confirmed that Thurrock would be receiving the higher rate of funding for all UASC in Thurrock's care during 2023-24, because Thurrock was over the 0.07% threshold on 31/03/2023. This backdated increase has improved the forecast position for 2023-24.

The forecast position for period 9 is an underspend of £0.221m

UASC forecast 23/24	£m
Net Budget	0.428

Forecast UASC costs	2.000
Forecast Staffing	0.481
Forecast grant funding	(2.274)
Variance	(0.221)

Included in the forecast is a provisional amount of £2.274m of expected grant funding for 23/24 based on current numbers at the higher rate. There is no guarantee that Thurrock will receive the higher rate for 24/25 as this will depend on whether the numbers exceed the threshold as at 31/03/2024.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Nicola Monerville**
Principal solicitor LBB

The local authority will have a number of important duties owed to an Unaccompanied asylum seeking child. Important duties are set out below.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are almost always 'children in need' pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and therefore entitled to be provided with various services by the local authority, usually including accommodation. Where there is a need for accommodation, section 20 of the Children Act 1989 also imposes such a duty to accommodate. Section 31 gives local authorities a duty to investigate and take action if it is believed that children are in need of protection. Most unaccompanied children become 'looked after' pursuant to s.20.

Looked after children are also entitled to services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and associated regulations, which define eligibility and entitlement to planning for leaving care and to support up to the age of 21 (or 25 if in full-time education).

The Children Act 2004 now includes a duty on local authorities to improve the wellbeing of all children in their area and to make arrangements to safeguard and promote their welfare (Sections 10 and 11).

The National Transfer Scheme is mandated by central government pursuant to the National Transfer Scheme Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. This is pursuant to those powers set out under Section 72(3) of the Immigration Act 2016 (the '2016 Act') providing for the Secretary of State for the Home Department to direct local authorities to comply with the scheme.

The council is under a statutory obligation to participate in the NTS Scheme.

National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

The National Transfer Scheme Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children provides guidance on the operation of the NTS and the way in which local authorities can transfer unaccompanied children to another local authority in accordance with the Immigration Act 2016, sections 69 - 73. The changes announced on 10th June 2021 including the rota will come into effect as soon as possible and are as a result of a joint Home Office and DfE consultation with local authorities across the UK.

Age Assessments

Many unaccompanied and trafficked children arrive in the UK without documentation or with forged documents. In these circumstances the local authority will need to carry out an assessment of age. In order for an age assessment to be valid, it must comply with the findings of R (B) v Merton LBC [2003] 4 All ER 280 (or what is commonly referred to as the age assessment being “Merton Compliant”), where the Court provides guidance as to the conduct of an age assessment. Following the launch of the National Age Assessment Board the joint working guidance was updated in March 2023 to support the understanding of the immigration process and movement of young people around the country between responsible authorities.

The Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Child Victims of Modern Slavery – Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities provides that where the age of a person is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that they are a child, they are presumed to be a child in order to receive immediate access to assistance, support and protection in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, s51.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager Community Development Team.

Childrens Social Care, along with partner agencies, are committed to child centred practice which takes account of the traumatic experiences for UASC. These children and young people are claiming asylum and, in some cases, this will be because they have experienced discrimination as a result of their gender, culture, religion and other characteristics which result in persecution in their country of origin. Social workers seek to provide a compassionate response enhancing the UASC’s sense of security and creating safety for these young people.

All information regarding Community Equality Impact Assessments can be found here:
<https://intranet.thurrock.gov.uk/services/diversity-and-equality/ceia/>

7.4 Risks

None

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

None

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):

9. Appendices to the report

Version Committee – Ready for submission to public committee;

- **Appendix A – UASC Guidance**



UASC Guidance.pdf

Report Author: Daniel Jones

UASC Guidance

Contents

- LCS/ Case progression
- Interpreters
- Biometrics
- UUCR
- Brief Enquiry
- 18+ letter
- Planning for missing form
- Photo
- Health – section 20 letter – proforma
- Contact plus International Red Cross Family Tracing Service
- National Referral Mechanism / ICTG service
- Personal Allowance / Pocket Money / Clothing
- Education
- Visits
- Voluntary returns service

Who is an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child:

The Home Office defines a UASC as a person who, at the time of making the asylum application:

- Is, or (if there is no documentary evidence) appears to be, under eighteen;
- Is applying for asylum in his or her own right;
- Has no adult relative or guardian to turn to in this country; and is fleeing persecution from their own country

Main legislative framework:

The Children Act 1989 places a responsibility upon local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people living in their area. When children in need are identified, including newly arriving UASC, an assessment of their needs should be undertaken.

The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have issued guidance to support local authorities in achieving compliance with relevant case law, and childcare and immigration legislation. In summary, the guidance states:

- All UASC should, on arrival, be supported under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, until assessment of needs has been completed. In some instances, it may be necessary to seek legal advice to consider whether the threshold is met to initiate care proceedings;
- Based on assessed need, most UASC including 16- and 17-year-olds who require accommodation should be provided with Section 20 support;
- The majority of UASC will be entitled to leaving care services.

Section 17 can be used to support UASC in exceptional circumstances where an assessment of needs identified that to become looked after would not be in the child's best interests - for example if the young person strongly expresses aversion to becoming looked after.

Exceptions to the provision of support under Section 20 could arise where older asylum-seeking young people may refuse to be 'looked after' but because of their immigration status, the Children Act 1989 provides their only lawful means of support in this country. The local authority after taking account of the child's wishes under Section 20 might judge that the young person is competent to look after him or herself. In these instances Section 17 may be used for support, including accommodation without making the young person 'looked after'. It is vital, however, that the young person has been assessed as understanding the full implications of being supported under Section 17 rather than Section 20 and is Gillick Competent to make that decision.

Young people who arrive within 13 weeks of their 18th birthday will not qualify for full leaving care services even if they have been provided with Section 20 or 23 support under the Children Act 1989 for the weeks leading up to their 18th birthday, as they have not been 'looked after' for 13 weeks or more. They are known as 'qualifying children' and although they are not entitled to the main leaving care entitlements, they are entitled to advice, assistance and befriending.

One exception to this is where, as part of the 13-week qualifying criteria, it was spent in a contingency hotel prior to transfer to Thurrock. Those weeks form part of the qualifying weeks.

LCS / case progression

Once MASH have been notified of a new arrival they will process the information and make a LCS case file for the YP which will initially be in the UASC referral tray. Team Manager's should have access to this tray. The YP will need to be picked up from the UASC referral tray and a "start new referral" should be processed. A C and F Assessment should be selected from this and the case allocated to the duty worker. This will then enable the duty worker to complete the placement request. With UASC this needs to be started manually from the case pathway on LCS and then from the request to make CLA on the full map. Once this is complete fostering duty will get an automatic notification on LCS and can complete the placement details and make the YP CLA on the system.

There is no expectation or requirement for the C&F Assessment to be completed at this stage.

It is essential that the identity tab is updated at this point on LCS especially the immigration section as this maintains accurate numbers on UASC currently accommodated by Thurrock. This must be updated and reflect the most accurate information. Ethnicity / Nationality / language and Religion can be updated at this point which assists in meeting the YPs needs more efficiently.

Interpreters

An interpreter should be used for all communication when and where possible. There are some languages / dialects which are harder to reach than others and there are rare occasions where it is not possible to source an appropriate interpreter. In these circumstances raise the issue with the DUTY manager. Commissioning can be approached to spot purchase access to the required language / dialect if all other avenues have been exhausted but this will likely be after the YP has been accommodated. The Police and Border Force use a different interpreting service and may allow use of this to gain access to the required language. However, this is not an automatic right but rarely declined. Online applications, Google Translate for example, can be used as a last resort when

unable to source an appropriate interpreter but must be followed up with an interpreter once they have been identified.

Translation and interpreting services are provided to all departments across the council by three organizations:

1. **DA Languages**
2. **The Language Shop**
3. **Premium Linguistic Services**

The services are to be accessed in the order that they are listed above. DA Languages should be contacted in the first instance. If they are unable to deliver the service requested, then you may contact The Language Shop. You should only contact Premier Linguistic Services if DA Languages and the Language Shop are unable to deliver the service you need.

It is mandatory that this selection processes is used consistently. Random checks will be conducted on services chosen on a regular basis.

DA Languages (Language PIN codes are attached separately)

To book a service:

- phone 0161 928 2533
- a customer service adviser will ask you to provide the information needed to complete an online booking form
- you will be sent an invitation to raise further requests on the DA Languages system

Provider contact details:

- email – info@dalanguages.co.uk
- phone – 0161 928 2533
- address – Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0FP
-

The Language Shop

To book a service:

- go to languageshop.newham.gov.uk and either sign-in or register as a new customer
- follow the steps in the [Guidance on booking and using The Language Shop services \(2 MB\)](#)

Provider contact details:

- email – amy.soutter@newham.gov.uk or faheem.dharma@newham.gov.uk
- phone – 0203 373 8771
- address – Newham Dockside, 1000 Dockside Road, London, E16 2QU

Premium Linguistic Services

To book a service:

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-

Provider contact details:

- email – info@premiumlinguisticservices.com
- phone – 0121 448 3030 or 0121 448 4884
- address – Unit 4 Great Barr Business Park, Baltimore Road, Birmingham, B42 1DY

157 Wivenhoe Road, Alresford, Essex, CO7 8AQ
 Tel : 01206 822080 Fax : 01206 580177
info@essexinterpreting.com

Biometrics / Operation Innerste / Asylum claim

In Thurrock UASC come to the attention of the LA through the police or Border Force at the ports of Tilbury and Purfleet. I

Operation Innerste identifies that if the presenting asylum seeker is claiming to be a child (aged under 18 years), then the response to the UASC by Essex Police and Thurrock Social Care will be that of them being a potential victim of trafficking in the first instance. Therefore, all appropriate attempts to prevent the presenting UASC from being arrested and taken to a Police Station will be made (unless there are concerns or necessity to best protect and support the presenting asylum seeker).

If the UASC are processed at the port, then Border Force should take their biometrics as part of their required processes. If the UASC is at the Police Station, they should still be fingerprinted in order to cross reference with any previous identifiers and for future purposes should they go missing.

Asylum Claim:

An asylum claim must be registered ASAP – this is routinely done by Border Force but not the police and will require prompt action. You will still need to confirm this with Border Force and should be provided with the paperwork they have completed as part of this. The paperwork can be handed over to the respective placements for safekeeping.

The information below needs to be sent to the following email address:

Child.ASUappointment@homeoffice.gov.uk

Please find details of UASC that I would like to request an interview for to register their claim for Asylum.

Name of child:

Date of birth:

Nationality:

Language spoken:

Name of local authority: Thurrock

Name and contact number of social worker:

Name of foster carer:

Address:

Mobile number of foster carer:

Medical/Health concerns for child:

If Thurrock are looking to transfer the YP under the NTS then please alert the Home Office in this email and request that it be prioritised.

UUCR – Unique Unaccompanied Child Record

The UUCR needs to be completed at point of first contact. The electronic version (word document) of the form needs to be filled in and sent to the CLA 3 Team Manager by close of the next working day. The UASC regional coordinator will not accept the form in any other format.

The form must have a response in every single box and should be completed up to the relevant part. This includes the placement details. Once completed the form must be submitted to the HO UASC NTS Team at UASCNationalTransferTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk and copied to the SMP UASC lead in their region/nation – Helen Hancock - Helen.Hancock@EELGA.GOV.UK.

Collect as much information as possible about the young person. Not exhaustive but include:

- Young person's name - ensure this is in the correct order and is spelt correctly.
- Ask about ethnicity, religion, first language, medical needs, has the young person had food/drink offered, is the young person pregnant if female.
- Establish whether there are any immediate safeguarding concerns such as trafficking – consider an immediate referral to the Barnardo's Independent Guardianship Service for advice/safety planning and consideration of NRM referral.
- Establish information regarding journey and other risks such as medical disease/needs.
- Ask for young person's date of birth - ascertain any issue about accuracy or whether age is disputed (This is important as it will determine whether the child is eligible for services).

Age Assessment

Statutory guidance on the care of UASC states that:

'Age Assessments should only be carried out where there is significant reason to doubt that the claimant is a child. Age assessments should not be a routine part of a local authority's assessment of unaccompanied or trafficked children'.

Their legal age will be determined by their claimed date of birth. If not being deemed significantly over 18 for the purposes of a Brief Enquiry, as set out below, then this will remain their legal age until a full compliant age assessment is completed, if deemed necessary.

Brief Enquiry

The Brief Enquiry (as to age) should be completed where there are doubts as to the claimed age of the YP. All sections of the form must be fully completed. **This must be done with the use of an appropriate interpreter.** A copy must be uploaded on their LCS file. A new arrival claiming to be a child can only be deemed older if it is felt they present as significantly over 18 based very strongly on their physical appearance and demeanour. **Current Thurrock policy stipulates that significantly over 18 is 25+.** Following the assessment if we feel they are not 25+ then benefit of the doubt must be

given and they are to be treated as a child and accommodated as such. The Brief Enquiry is not a full Merton compliant Age Assessment and should not be referenced as such. If the YP transfers to another LA, then the decision to undertake such an assessment usually falls to them. If Thurrock are under quota or a decision is made for a YP to remain in Thurrock based on a Best Interests Assessment, then that decision remains with Thurrock.

Every section of the Brief Enquiry must be completed, and a very clear rationale stated on the form. Again, no elements of doubt should be on that form. Any doubt then they are treated as a child. The rationale needs to include more than just reflections on appearance.

This process must be followed to the letter. Again, this needs to be a very robust assessment able to stand up to close scrutiny.

18+ letter

If a UASC is deemed to be significantly over 18 following the undertaking of the Brief Enquiry, then a copy of the over 18 letter needs to be handed to the individual and a copy retained for Thurrock. If the individual refuses to sign the letter or accept a copy, then this needs to be recorded clearly on the letter and on their LCS file. This must be uploaded on their LCS file. **This process must be undertaken with the assistance of an interpreter.**

Missing – incl. Planning for Missing Form:

UASC are vulnerable to 'people traffickers'. All relevant staff and carers should be made aware that they may be targeted, recruited or coerced into exploitative situations.

When any UASC goes missing, Children Missing Procedures must be followed.

The Planning for Missing Form must be completed on LCS. When placed in Essex, this form should then be shared with Essex Police.

The police must be contacted and all available information given that may lead to the child or young person being recovered. The Home Office must be informed as they may hold a current photograph and fingerprint record. Details of the missing UASC will be posted on the UASC Index. This will ultimately be part of the National Child Index for England and Wales.

UASC have the same rights as other looked after children who are missing children and they will remain open to Children's Services until the age of 18. When a missing UASC is located, this must be carefully explored as the UASC may be paying back a debt of honour, and it may put them or their family of origin at risk if they do not continue to co-operate. They should be viewed as at risk, and continuing efforts should be made to protect them. This will require a strategy meeting with the police and agreement about how to proceed.

A referral is to be made to the Barnardo's Independent Trafficking Guardianship Team for any UASC that are missing or have been located for their support and advice. Social care are a first responder organisation and as such have a legal duty to refer to the NRM.

Photo

A photo should be taken of the YP, with consent of the YP, and uploaded on their file. This should be taken at the point of arrival or very shortly after. This can be invaluable in the event that a UASC goes missing and the overall effectiveness of our response in such an event. Additional photos should be sought as with any Looked After Child to reflect changes in appearance.

Health

The Initial Health Assessment referral must be completed at point of entry. The UASC IHA referral form has been adapted to facilitate this process. The purpose and process should be explained to the YP using an interpreter to ensure informed consent.

Supported accommodation providers and foster carers should be instructed to complete all the required health registrations. This includes GP, Opticians and Dentist with initial appointments arranged and undertaken. YPs should be supported to these appointments. Aside from LA health assessments the statutory responsibility for ensuring interpreting services falls to the NHS and not the Local Authority. The ASW should ensure that an appropriate interpreter is booked for the IHA appointment. There have been occasions where the current providers have struggled to meet this requirement. Essex Interpreting have fulfilled this request without issue, but this provider is off contract and approval will need to be sought from the TM and / or Service Manager.

Please note that there is an expectation that the allocated social worker will attend the IHA appointment with the YP.

A Section 20 letter should be provided to the placement. This will help to facilitate the health registrations and ease access to other support and services.

Please note that whether registered or not all UASC have a right to medical attention. An initial screening should have been undertaken by the Police or Border Force who will have a legal duty to ensure that any immediate medical needs are addressed. If there are any subsequent concerns, then medical attention should be sought from an appropriate source and Accident and Emergency if necessary.

The LAC Health nurses are available for any general enquiries or more specific questions.

Mental Health support:

The GP and / or a CAHMS / EWHMS referral should be given consideration.

My View – offered by the refugee council – is a potential therapeutic support service to be utilised. They offer one-to-one and / or group settings. The help that they are able to support with are around managing symptoms such as nightmares, intrusive thoughts and anxiety. My View have a diverse range of practitioners and will look to adapt to the individual's needs, offering sessions based on art, dance, drama, music, play and talking therapy approaches.

Please note this service is under a restructure and so the parameters mentioned above are subject to change.

WW4RI

Wellbeing and Work for Refugee Integration, WW4RI, offers specialist therapeutic, employment and language support to refugees living in the East of England. Working in partnership with the Strategic Migration Partnership and regional organisations, the programme supports refugee adults, families and separated children to access tailored integration support within their local community. For information contact admin.ww4ri@refugeecouncil.org.uk

In the Wellbeing part of the service they offer:

- Specialist wellbeing and therapeutic support, focusing on increased resilience & self-care

- 1-1 therapy over 12 sessions
- Individual and group art therapy for Children and Young people
- Individual and group Music and Arts therapy for Children, Young people, Adults and Families
- Individual and group psychoeducation
- Other adult therapeutic groups according to interest and availability e.g. horticulture.

Who is it for?

- Refugee adults and families with children (via asylum-route, VPRS, VCRS and Gateway)
- Separated children seeking asylum

Please bring a Biometric Residence Permit or Home Office Letter as proof of eligibility to access this service.

Those eligible include people:

- with Refugee Status
- given Humanitarian Protection
- with Indefinite Leave to Remain
- with Discretionary Leave to Remain (over 12 months – as result of asylum claim)
- who are Resettled refugees (VPRS, VCRS, Gateway)
- here under Family Reunion
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) under 26 years of age, who have an outstanding claim for asylum, made whilst they were under the age of 18 years can also be referred to us so long as there is evidence showing that the claim was made before they turned 18.

How to access the Wellbeing services:

Please contact us via the email address: admin.ww4ri@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Your enquiry should clearly specify

- grounds for eligibility - we will need to see a BRP or Home Office Letter as proof of eligibility to access this service
- Which location and service you wish to refer to.
- Please also complete and send the attached referral form to the above email address

Hsin-Pei Wu (Children and Adult Service)

Psychological Therapist / HCPC registered Drama therapist

Wellbeing & Work for Refugee Integration Project: Wellbeing and Therapeutic Service

Southend and Thurrock

Working Days: Wednesday to Friday

Direct line 07810 473643 Email Hsin-Pei.Wu@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Contact / International Red Cross Family Tracing Service

Support to make initial contact with their family should be encouraged and provided. This can be done through the interpreting service as a three-way call. In so far as is practicable an initial conversation should take place with the family member to cross reference information provided by the YP. If there is any doubt as to the identity of any such individual, then the call should not take place or be terminated if already under way. Further enquiry will need to be undertaken.

If the YPs indicate that they do not know the whereabouts or contact details for family, then a referral can be made to the International Red Cross Family Tracing Service. The referral form can be accessed through their webpage. Please be advised that the service does receive a high number of referrals and there will be a waiting time.

Trafficking / National Referral Mechanism / Independent Trafficking Guardianship Service

In accordance with the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the UK has a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for identifying and recording victims of trafficking. Professionals who come into contact with a child they suspect to be a victim of trafficking need to act to support and protect this child from further harm. Consideration should be given to undertaking a strategy discussion and Section 47 enquiries depending on perceived risk in this case and a safety plan should be created and shared with all involved in supporting the young person.

Where there are concerns in respect of trafficking, a referral is to be made to the Barnardo's Independent Trafficking Guardianship Service for guidance and advice around safety planning and direct work for the child or young person. The NRM referral will further prompt this referral.

Where there are grounds to suspect that a UASC is a potential victim of modern slavery / trafficking then a referral must be made to the National Referral Mechanism. The above actions must be recorded on the case file and the referrals uploaded on documents. Individual case summaries should be updated to reflect this information. Thurrock social care is a first responder organisation and as such have a legal duty to refer in these circumstances.

Personal allowance / Pocket money / clothing

Personal allowances for UASC are set at £67.20 for those placed in supported accommodation. Within foster placements the pocket money is in keeping with the current levels set by fostering.

It should be recommended to placements that the personal allowance is provided over the week and not given in one go. This is to allow for an assessment on their ability to manage finances and will be subject to further review and discussion between the allocated social worker and the placement.

Placements can provide the allowance and invoice the LA to be reimbursed.

An initial assessment on their clothing needs should be undertaken. Irrespective of placement type – foster placement or supported lodgings - funding will be provided to meet their initial needs. A starting amount of £150 should be sufficient for them to have a range of items and for the allocated social worker to further assess the situation.

Approval for funding for religious items such as a Quran or prayer mat can be requested from a relevant manager. Religious needs of the YPs should be encouraged and supported by the LA.

Education

The importance of education for UASC is recognised. A UASC new arrival PEP has been devised and should be completed within 48 hrs of arrival. This can take place on the day of arrival but ideally should be completed on the follow up visit within 48 hrs of arrival. This gives the YP time to settle before being asked more questions. The completed form should be forwarded to Tina McGuinness at the Virtual School.

There are a number of issues in arranging education for those YPs subject to transfer under the NTS. The expected timeframes of 10 working days do not make securing education on such a short-term basis feasible. This includes the time of year that any such UASC present themselves as it is invariably at a mid-point in the academic calendar. The legal duty to provide education for all children of compulsory school age, irrespective of their immigration status or rights of residency, is acknowledged and provisions have been made in meeting this duty. The details of the various support, including tuition and other learning resources, is contained within the separate guidance on UASC education policy.

Placement / Visits

The expectations and rules of the placement should be carefully explained to the young person, together with any financial arrangements that will apply via the completion of the Placement Plan. It should be borne in mind that the young person's initial primary needs are likely to be for food and shelter, a bath, clean clothes and caring adults.

The physical appearance of the placement, its location and who lives there should be explained to the young person before s/he is taken to the placement. An orientation with the local area will need to be organised as soon as possible to include relevant points of contact with the young person's community, support agencies and religion.

All UASC should be accompanied to their placement by a qualified social worker. This must include seeing where the child will be sleeping as well as all communal areas. Once placed all initial visits should be followed up with a courtesy call the next day with regards to an update on how things are going. An additional visit should take place within 48 hrs of being placed and then weekly visits until transfer or the initial review. The YP and placement should both be clearly informed of the plans to transfer, if that is the case, and what this entails. All visits must be written up on their LCS file within 24 hrs.

Voluntary Returns Service

The Voluntary Returns Service's (VRS) role is to offer practical support to people in the UK with no right to live in the UK who have decided that they wish to return home. This support is also available to people who have claimed or who are claiming asylum.

The level of support available depends on individual circumstances. The support is varied and can include financial assistance.

The Home Office recognises that there will be people who choose to return to their home country, but who have no means of doing so, or who need help, depending on their personal circumstances.

The Home Office guidance can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/returning-to-your-home-country-voluntarily-how-the-service-works>

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20 February 2024		ITEM: 6
Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee		
Thurrock Councils response to Prevent Duty		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Michael Dineen, A/D Counter Fraud, Community Safety and Resilience Michele Lucas, A/D Education and Skills, Chair of Prevent Strategic Board		
Accountable Director: Claire Demmel, Interim Director of Public Realm – Transformation		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

In July 2023 the Home Office published a Refreshed Counter Terrorism (CONTEST) Strategy updated to reflect the changing threats and risks from terrorism in the UK.

The overall aim of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens, and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. Prevent remains one of the key pillars of CONTEST, alongside the other three ‘P’ work strands:

- 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

The revised Prevent Duty statutory guidance 2023 from the Home Office came into force on 31st December 2023. This is following the independent review of Prevent conducted by William Shawcross and takes into account the 34 recommendations within the review.

The Prevent Duty requires specified authorities - of which Local Authorities are one alongside education, health, police, and criminal justice agencies - to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This sits alongside the Councils wider safeguarding duties.

The Home Office Prevent Duty guidance fact sheet summarises the following key changes:

- *amending the first Prevent objective to “tackle the ideological causes of terrorism”.*
- *updating terminology to reflect current best practice and official terminology.*
- *outlining the new Security Threat Check (STC), which consists of three questions, will ensure that high level decision-making within Prevent is always informed by proper consideration of the terrorism threat picture and responds proportionately.*
- *communicating the need for genuine concern about an individual’s path to radicalisation and that ideology should be a critical consideration (to improve the quality of referrals).*
- *clearer advice on how to understand and manage risk, including by having training and risk assessments; and*
- *including ‘Reducing Permissive Environments’ as a key theme to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism and broader radicalising influences.*

The Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members (Appendix 1) 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:

Commissioner Comment:

Not Applicable

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Members of the Committee note the current performance and areas for development as measured by the self-assessment audit completed using the Local Government Association Toolkit and Channel Panel self-assessment completed in April 2023.**

1.2 That Members contribute to discussion in relation to the development of Thurrock's refreshed Prevent Strategy 2024/2027 and are satisfied it provides a local response which is proportionate to the current terrorism and extremism threat.

1.3 That Members of the Committee are assured that appropriate governance is in place to ensure that through the Community Safety Partnership the risks outlined in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile are routinely reviewed and responded to as appropriate.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The definitions of terminology used in this report are listed below:

- The Government has defined **extremism** in the Prevent strategy as: "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs."
- In the UK, the legal definition of **terrorism** is provided in section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000. This defines terrorism as the use or threat of action which: involves serious violence against a person. involves serious damage to property. endangers a person's life.
- The UK Government defines **radicalisation** as "the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups."
- The police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have agreed the following definition for identifying and flagging **hate crimes**: "Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity."

2.2 The following is taken from the briefing provided to Safer Essex (Appendix 2) and direct quotes from the published guidance are in italics.

2.3 Threat & Risk

2.3.1 An overview of the current threat and risk in the UK, in-line with the assessment is included in the revised CONTEST Strategy 2023 ie: *Islamist ideology is resilient and enduring. Extreme Right-Wing ideology is resurgent. Other ideologies are less present, but still have the potential to motivate, inspire and be used to justify terrorism.* It also references the increased complexity of terrorists holding a *range of personal grievances alongside the primary ideology for committing an attack* (often referred to as Mixed, Unclear & Unstable). It also recognises the risk of online radicalisation.

2.3.2 It notes that terrorist narratives have a number of common themes such as *antisemitism, misogyny, anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and*

religious or ethnic superiority. It also recognises that *conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence* and that those who violently adhere to movements and subcultures (such as Incels) could also *meet the threshold of terrorist intent or action*. This all reflects what is being seen locally and nationally with a convergence of issues by protest groups and the increased challenge in understanding the risk and providing suitable interventions.

2.3.3 Within the Home Office, Prevent delivery is informed by its Security Threat Check (STC) process and it is recommended that local partnership groups consider doing so. The STC asks:

- *Is this action mindful of the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*
- *Is this action proportionate when placed against the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*
- *Is this action likely to reduce the threat of terrorism or terrorist adjacent narratives?*

2.4 **Thurrock**

2.4.1 The National Threat Level remains as **Substantial** meaning that an attack is **LIKELY**. There remains no greater risk to Thurrock than other areas of the UK. Thurrock has the lowest Prevent referrals to hate crime across the Eastern Region over a 12-month period and is below average proportion of referrals to hate crime. Thurrock is a non-funded Prevent area in that the borough has a lower threat/risk level and do not have a dedicated funded Prevent resource in place.

2.4.2 Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally is currently one of the priorities for the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategy 2023/24, however the proposal is to remove it from 2024/25 as the partnership's response is embedded through the Prevent Strategic Board which will develop and implement Thurrock's revised strategy for 2024-27.

2.5 **Governance**

2.5.1 The Assistant Director for Education and Skills chairs the Strategic Prevent Board for Thurrock. The vice chair is the Head of Emergency Planning, Community Safety and Resilience who also attends the Essex CONTEST meetings. The Board reports directly to the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board, providing an annual report which is also presented to the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.5.2 The new Prevent Duty Guidance makes clear (as with the 2015 guidance) that responsibility for meeting the Prevent Duty lays with both senior officers and elected members.

2.5.3 Thurrock’s Channel Panel is well resourced with good knowledge and is co-chaired by the Head of Social Work Support (adults) and Children’s Service Manager.

2.5.4 There has recently been a workshop with Thurrock’s Prevent Strategic Partnership to begin the process of refreshing the strategy in line with the new Prevent Duty guidance.

2.6 Current Assessment of Prevent in Thurrock

2.6.1 The Local Government Association self-assessment toolkit for councils was completed with Home Office colleagues in February 2023. A score of 1-2 indicates that statutory responsibilities are not being met, a score of 3 represents a position where the Duty is met, and a score of 4-5 signifies requirements are being exceeded.

2.6.2 The Home Office have benchmarked across all local authorities to ensure consistency. This scoring reflects requirements of the Duty as opposed to an in-depth evaluation of how effective Thurrock has been in reducing risks from radicalisation and terrorism. Overall Thurrock Council was meeting the requirements of the Prevent Duty in all areas.

	Benchmark	Score		Benchmark	Score
1	Risk Assessment	5	6	Prevent problem-solving process	4
2	Multi-Agency Partnership Board	5	7	Training	3
3	Prevent Partnership Plan	4	8	Venue Hire and IT Policies	3
4	Referral Pathway	4	9	Engagement activity	4
5	Channel Panel	N/A	10	Communications	3

2.6.3 The process identified the following areas for development and recommended actions for Thurrock’s Strategic Prevent Board:

Partnership:

- setting realistic time scales for action
- holding partners to account for this work and delivery

Training:

- tracking attendance at the monthly sessions
- e-learning made mandatory for all staff
- existing trained staff recompleting the training at set intervals (e.g., every two years)
- training to be incorporated into any induction plans for new staff

2.6.4 The Channel assurance process reviewed the following areas across 30 benchmarks of which 27 were green and 3 were amber.

Area of Control	Green	Amber	Actions
Legal requirements	3	1	Representation from health to be regular (ICB)
Strategic Governance	3	0	
Charing Skills	5	0	
Panel Function	12	1	There is a structured, agreed process for providing updates to family members, – case by case and process now in place
Data Protection	4	1	Local Data Protection Information Notices have been updated to reflect Channel Panel functions and use of personal data. All partners are now signatory to this.

2.7 Monitoring against Delivery Plan 2023/24:

Actions	Progress Q1 and Q2	Next Steps Q3 and Q4												
Review and refresh Thurrock's Prevent strategy for 2023/26 in line with the National review of CONTEST		Workshop planning Dec 2023, initial draft Jan for sign off by CSP Board March 2024												
Utilise the Prevent Communications Toolkit to improve dialogue and awareness with our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms. action plan in place Tension form reviewed & web site updated. Channel posters shared. Advice to home educators refreshed 	Promote messages in Thurrock resident's newsletter and to staff												
Continue to offer programme of training across partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 2 workshops. Hosted misogyny webinar Briefing for Designated Safeguarding Leads on neurodiversity Members of HEHC attended face to face training and all members offered session through Essex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 workshops delivered Q3, 2 planned Q4. Training is revised quarterly in line with the latest threat and risk. 												
Respond to current risks in relation to vulnerabilities due to mental health and those aged under 18 hosting an event for practitioners	<p>Q3 71 people attended Prevent webinar in relation to Mental Health and neurodiversity.</p> <p>How confident are you in your knowledge of Prevent?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Before</th> <th>After</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 – know nothing</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 - basic understanding</td> <td>33%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 - good knowledge and understanding</td> <td>54%</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Before	After	0 – know nothing	0%	0%	1 - basic understanding	33%	0%	2 - good knowledge and understanding	54%	66%	
	Before	After												
0 – know nothing	0%	0%												
1 - basic understanding	33%	0%												
2 - good knowledge and understanding	54%	66%												

	3 - able to champion confidently	11%	32%
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3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Proposed strategic objectives:

1. Tackling the ideological causes of terrorism
2. Safeguard those susceptible to radicalisation
3. Rehabilitation through early intervention and referral to channel

3.2 We will achieve this through:

1. Leadership and Partnership:
 - Ensuring staff understand the risk of radicalisation that results in support for terrorism or involvement in terrorism by making sure they can access training resources and further guidance.
 - Building and promoting the capabilities to deal with radicalisation concerns, such as a formal pathway to escalate concerns and refer through to Prevent.
 - Promoting the importance of Prevent and the role staff play in countering terrorism.
2. Capabilities – develop and maintain appropriate capabilities to:
 - understand the risk.
 - manage the risk.
 - share information.
3. Reducing Permissive Environments through limiting exposure to radicalising narratives – including online, by taking steps to ensure appropriate checks are made to ensure someone seeking to use racialisation narrative in a public space are identified and stopped.

3.3 Draft Priorities for year 1:

Leadership and Partnership

- Embed the revised Channel Duty guidance 2023
- Engage with private landlords

Capabilities

- Organisational assessment of training, identify where should be mandatory and monitoring in place
- Develop approach to raising awareness of different ideologies

Reducing Permissive Environments

- Enhanced engagement and awareness which aims to measure impact and reach

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This report aims to ensure members are appraised and reassured that Thurrock Council is meeting the requirements of the Prevent Duty in all areas.
- 4.2 This report provides members of the committee opportunity to be consulted on the development of Thurrock's Prevent Strategy 2024/27 in line with the National Prevent Duty guidance. Although not a recommendation or compulsory, this report asks elected members to consider attending a workshop to enable members to provide input into the strategy.
- 4.3 This report allows elected members to fulfil their role in shaping and delivering Prevent activity locally through scrutiny.

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

- 5.1 A facilitated workshop has been held with all partners who are represented on Thurrock's Prevent Strategic Board to develop the strategy. This includes both Home Office and Department of Education regional advisors.
- 5.2 The partnership would like the opportunity to facilitate a workshop with members to input further into the strategy.

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 Prevent Duty guidance and Channel guidance 2023 the partnership 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

This is a statutory function through core funding and there are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
Governance Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) places a duty on Local Authorities, schools, colleges, universities, health bodies, prisons and probation and police to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, by embedding the Prevent Duty as a part of their wider existing day-to-day safeguarding duties.

The Prevent duty does not confer new functions on any specified authority. The term 'due regard' as used in the Act means that the Council should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

Updated statutory guidance, The Prevent Duty Guidance, issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015, came into force on 31 December 2023. The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance when carrying out its Prevent duty. The purpose of the Guidance is to set out the expectations for each of the main statutory sectors and describe the ways in which they should comply with the Prevent duty.

When developing a Prevent strategy, Elected Members and the Council's scrutiny process have a key role in shaping the Strategy. In addition, in developing the Strategy the Council must comply with the public sector equality duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010), to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out in the Act to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Therefore, an equality analysis of the proposed Strategy will be required.

When carrying out the Prevent duty, the Council will also need to ensure compliance other legal obligations, in particular ,of confidentiality and those under data protection legislation the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**

Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

The council's Community Equality Impact Assessment will be refreshed in line with the revised Prevent Strategy. The assessment in place currently recognises that whilst implementation of the Prevent strategy and action plan for Thurrock has a positive impact on whole communities, ensuring that they are safeguarded from the impacts of extremism and prevents people from being drawn into extremism there is a risk of stereotyping some faiths, young people, and males in particular.

The action plan takes care to balance the risks of all areas of ideology. The focus is in bringing communities together and empowering them to be able to challenge extremism in all its forms.

7.4 Risks

This is included within the Corporate Risk Log- No. 21: Failure to comply with the Prevent Duty 2015

The Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires all specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"; local authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

Failure to work with local partners to protect the public; prevent crime; promote strong/integrated communities and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism will result in the authority not complying with the Prevent Duty 2015 and may lead to increased acts of crime, lawbreaking, extremism, and terrorism.

The revised Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 S121 now includes: Additionally, local authorities should include Prevent within their corporate risk register.

7.5 Other implications (where significant) i.e., *Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children*

This report will support members in ensuring that Thurrock Council is delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and our safeguarding responsibilities.

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):

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2023
- [Prevent duty guidance factsheet - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://Prevent duty guidance factsheet - Home Office in the media (blog.gov.uk))

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members
- Appendix 2: Safer Essex Briefing on 2023 Prevent Duty Guidance

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham

Community Safety Partnership Manager

Emergency Planning, Community Safety and Resilience, 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**

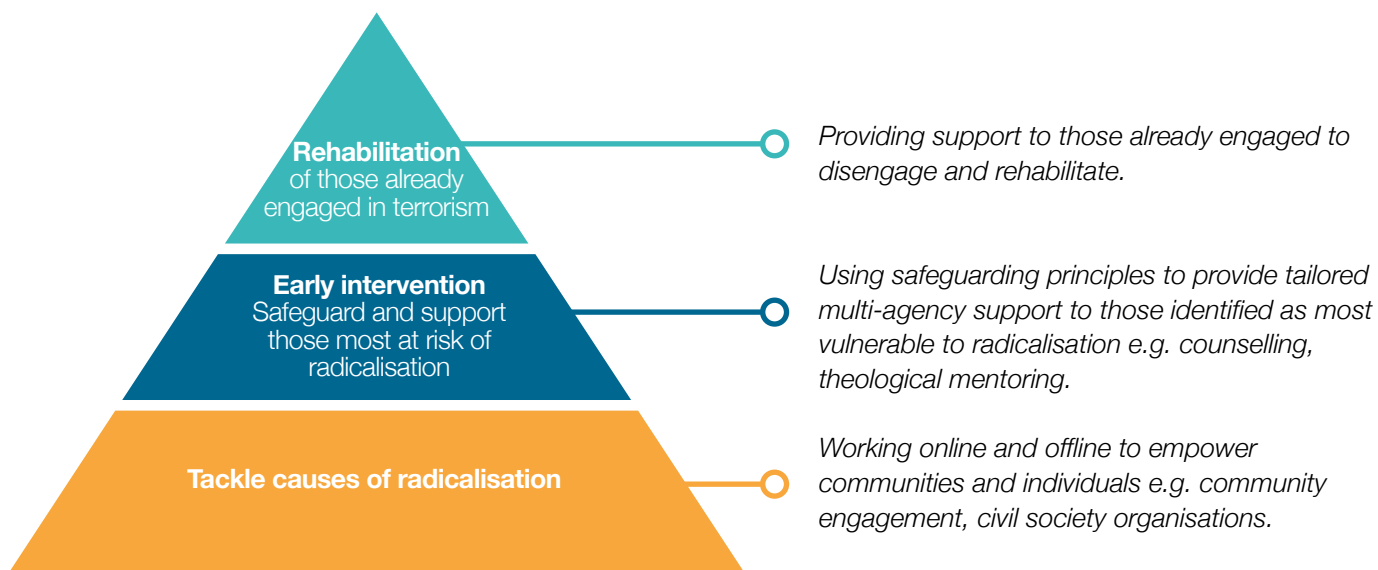
Over 100 children safeguarded by the Courts from being taken to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria since 2015

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

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.....

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Example 2

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.....

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Early Intervention

What is Channel?

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

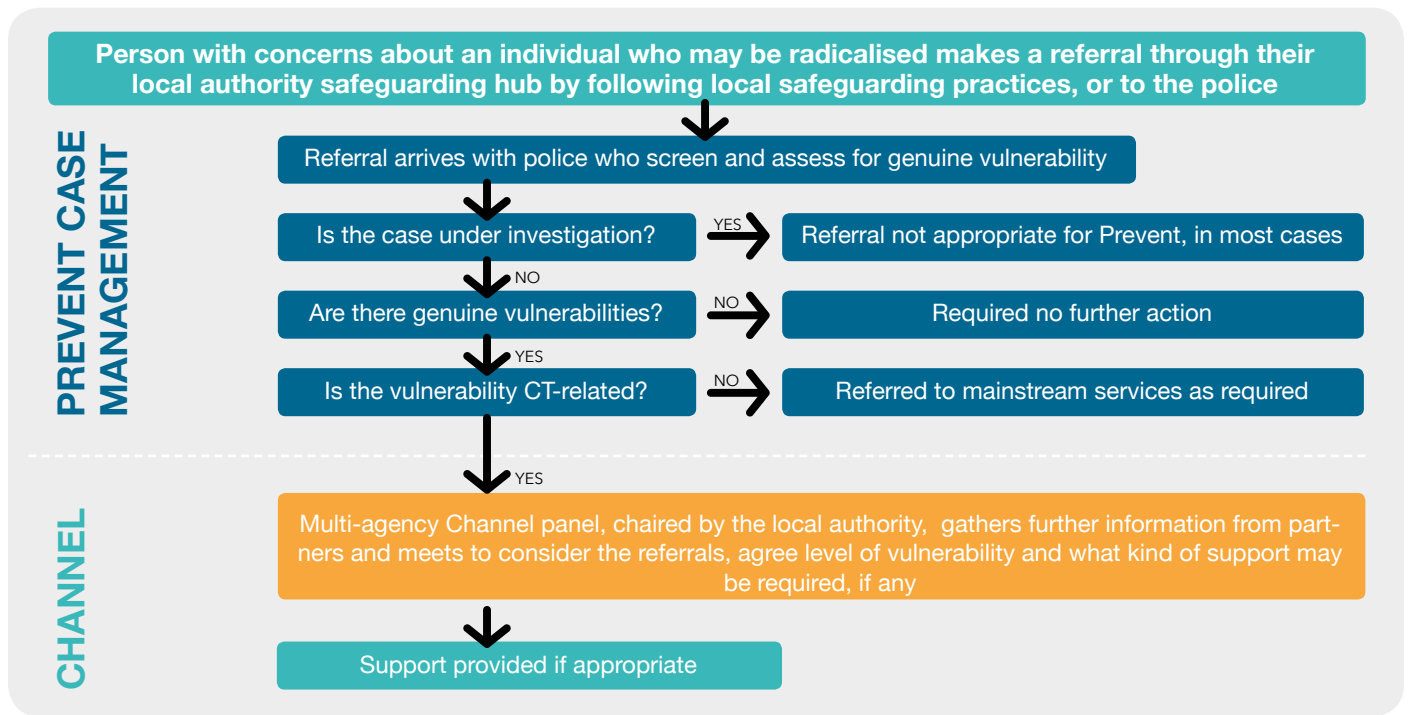
Channel works like other safeguarding interventions, identifying individuals at risk through referral, assessing the nature and extent of the risk and then by developing a support plan for the individual concerned. It is a voluntary and confidential programme.

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

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

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

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



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Leon'

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

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

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

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



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Misbah'

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rehabilitation

What is the Desistance and Disengagement Programme?

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

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

The Prevent Duty

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

Prevent, Counter-Extremism and Integration

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

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

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

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

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

1) Leadership and Strategic Direction

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

Council Leader

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

Portfolio Holder

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

2) Community Dialogue

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

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

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

3) Scrutiny

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

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



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Members should be able to access:

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

Case study: Luton – Elected Member

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

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

MPEG’s role is to:

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



Priority Areas Only

Overview of Prevent Staff in the Local Authority

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

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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

Background/Introduction

In January 2021 the former Home Secretary, Rt Hon. Patel MP, appointed William Shawcross, previously chair of the Charity Commission, to conduct an [Independent Review of Prevent](#). The review, published 8th February 2023, assessed the scope and effectiveness of the current Prevent strategy and set out 34 recommendations for change, all of which the Government accepted.

On 8th July 2023, the Home Office published a refreshed [Counter Terrorism \(CONTEST\) Strategy 2023](#), updating it to deal with the changing threats and risks from terrorism in the UK today. The Prevent element of the Strategy reflects the recommendations from the Independent Review.

On 7th September 2023, the Home Office published revised [Prevent Duty Guidance 2023](#), including sector specific guidance. This is statutory guidance for England and Wales, issued under [Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) and, comes into force on 31st December 2023 (subject to Parliamentary approval). A [Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities](#) was also published.

About this Briefing

This briefing aims to provide an overview of the sections that are relevant to all specified authorities and requirements around partnership working, focusing on what is new or significantly different from the 2015 guidance. It also provides an overview of the changes for the sector guidance for Local Authorities, with reference to the new toolkit. It does not provide an overview for the other sectors, however there are links to some external briefings for other sectors at the end.

This briefing is also specific to Essex and in doing so only refers to the requirements for non-funded (priority) areas and to two-tier areas.

Direct quotes from the guidance are shown in *italics*.

Introduction

CONTEST & The Prevent Duty

This section begins with the slightly revised aims of the CONTEST Strategy 2023:

- *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*

It also provides the slightly revised objectives of Prevent, which are to:

- *Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism*
- *Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation*
- *Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate*

Threat & Risk

An overview of the current threat and risk in the UK, in-line with the assessment in the revised CONTEST Strategy 2023: *Islamist ideology is resilient and enduring. Extreme Right-Wing ideology is resurgent. Other ideologies are less present, but still have the potential to motivate, inspire and be used to justify terrorism.* It also references the increased complexity of terrorists holding a *range of personal grievances alongside the primary ideology for committing an attack* (often referred to as Mixed, Unclear & Unstable). It also recognises the risk of online radicalisation.

It notes that terrorist narratives have a number of common themes such as *antisemitism, misogyny, anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority.* It also recognises that *conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence* and that the those who violently adhere to movements and subcultures (such as Incels) could also *meet the threshold of terrorist intent or action.* This all reflects what is being seen locally and nationally with a

convergence of issues by protest groups and the increased challenge in understanding the risk and providing suitable interventions.

Within the Home Office, Prevent delivery is informed by its Security Threat Check process and it is recommended that local partnership groups consider doing so. The Security Threat Check asks:

- *Is this action mindful of the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*
- *Is this action proportionate when placed against the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*
- *Is this action likely to reduce the threat of terrorism or terrorist adjacent narratives?*

Susceptibility to Radicalisation

This recognises that there is *no single profile of a radicalised person, nor is there a single pathway or 'conveyor belt' to being radicalised*. It also reflects the change in language from 'vulnerability' to 'susceptibility' to terrorism, as recommended by the Review of Prevent. It highlights that *a person's susceptibility to radicalisation may be linked to their vulnerability but that not all people susceptible to radicalisation will be vulnerable, and there are other circumstances, needs or other underlying factors that may make a person susceptible to radicalisation but do not constitute a vulnerability*.

Early Intervention: Referral to Prevent

Whilst the exact referral process varies amongst agencies/areas, it is recommended that the 'notice, check, share' procedure should be applied. It stresses that *anyone making a referral should ensure there is concern that someone may be susceptible to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting it. There may be times when the precise ideological driver is not clear. Yet, like any safeguarding mechanism, it is far better to receive referrals which turn out not to be of concern than for someone who genuinely needs support to be missed*.

Compliance the Prevent Duty, Monitoring & Assurance (All Specified Authorities)

Leadership & Partnership

This section introduces a requirement in all specified authorities for *a designated person in a leadership position who is responsible for overseeing Prevent delivery, including ensuring that relevant staff have appropriate training and induction*' (previously the guidance referred to *those in leadership positions*).

Leadership is expected to be demonstrated by:

- *ensuring staff understand the risk of radicalisation that results in support for terrorism or involvement in terrorism by making sure they can access training resources and further guidance*
- *building and promoting the capabilities to deal with radicalisation concerns, such as a formal pathway to escalate concerns and refer through to Prevent*
- *promoting the importance of Prevent and the role staff play in countering terrorism*

Guidance on partnership working remains similar, with expectation that this is led via a multi-agency forum (in Essex this is the Prevent Delivery Group, for Thurrock the Strategic Prevent Board). Requirements to *co-operate as reasonably practicable with local authority-led Channel panels* are also highlighted.

Capabilities

This section provides a much-strengthened set of requirements around training and managing risks. It also covers information sharing, but this has changed little from the 2015 guidance.

Similarly, to the previous guidance, it states that as a starting point to understanding radicalisation in an area *all specified authorities should demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation by ensuring and recording that appropriate staff undertake training, particularly on radicalisation*. The guidance provides greater clarity on what that training should cover, including what radicalisation means, why people may be susceptible to extremist ideologies, awareness of the

signs of radicalisation and how they can refer concerns to Prevent. Frequency and type of training will depend on local factors, further detail is also provided in the sector specific guidance.

Reference is made to the free GOV.UK Prevent duty training but also that further face-to-face training could be made available and that there is an expectation that *all frontline staff working for specified authorities to have reasonable and appropriate understanding of extremist and terrorist ideologies.*

Reducing Permissive Environments

This section is not within the 2015 guidance, although in some way it strengthens previous guidance on venue hire and IT policies within the sector-specific guidance.

This section makes references how *Prevent seeks to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism is by limiting exposure to radicalising narratives, both online and offline, and to create an environment where radicalising ideologies are challenged and are not permitted to flourish.*

Specified authorities should not provide a platform for an offence to be committed, or facilitate this activity through provision of endorsement, funding, or other forms of support. This includes having policies in place that, where appropriate, limit radicalising influences (including online), or ensure that facilities are not used inappropriately.

In line with the findings from the Independent Review, it also stresses the need to ensure that *Prevent funding does not go to organisations or people whose views create an environment in which terrorism is encouraged or supported.*

Monitoring & Assurance

As with the 2015 guidance there is a requirement to *maintain appropriate records to show compliance with the Prevent duty.* The 2023 guidance also adds a specific requirement that *this should include keeping track of any Prevent training being undertaken by staff.* Details of how this will be monitored are laid out in the sector-specific guidance.

Central Support & Monitoring

This section lays in more detail how the Home Office will monitor compliance with the Duty in all local areas, whereas previous guidance had a focus on the priority (funded) areas. It sets out that they will:

- *draw together data about implementation of Prevent from local and regional Prevent leads (including those in safeguarding roles with Prevent duties in health and education), the police, intelligence agencies, and other departments and inspection bodies where appropriate*
- *monitor and assess Prevent delivery in all local areas*
- *set the overall direction for Prevent policy and delivery across relevant government departments and specified partners*
- *uphold governance mechanisms overseeing the implementation of Prevent*
- *guide strategic decision making by conducting a Security Threat Check*

Sector Specific Guidance – Local Authorities

Overview

The guidance makes it clearer that non-funded areas should have a *Prevent lead embedded in a relevant team within the local authority that carries out similar functions.*

It continues to provide an expectation that any sub-contractors are *aware of the Prevent duty* but, in line with new requirements about reducing permissive environments, adds a requirement that the sub-contractors are also *not inadvertently funding extremist organisations.*

It is also made clear (as with the 2015 guidance) that responsibility for meeting the Prevent Duty lays with both senior officers and elected members.

Leadership & Partnership

This section sets out how *Leaders in local authorities are vital to promoting the importance of Prevent and ensuring that the risks of radicalisation to terrorism are understood and managed. They should ensure that appropriate capabilities are in place throughout the local authority. It is important that local Prevent leads have access to their senior local authority leadership to give advice and support.*

The guidance continues to reflect the need for multi-agency arrangements in a similar way to the 2015 guidance. The expectations for *proportionate arrangements* in two-tier areas for sharing the assessment of risk and action plans, as well as doing so with neighbouring areas also remain the same.

It continues to highlight the need for *effective dialogue and co-ordination with community-based organisations* but provides more guidance on how this should *focus on raising awareness of the risks of radicalisation and providing credible challenge to the ideologies of extremist groups, including any disinformation about Prevent that they promote.*

As with the 2015 guidance, it is clear about the responsibilities of private/voluntary agencies exercising local authority functions in relation to children (i.e. children's homes) and a requirement that *these bodies should ensure they are part of their local authorities' safeguarding arrangements and that staff are aware of the Prevent duty and know how to make a Prevent referral where appropriate.*

Capabilities: Understanding Risk

The guidance continues to place an expectation on local authorities to *ensure appropriate frontline staff, including those of its contractors, have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise where a person might be susceptible to becoming radicalised into terrorism, and are aware of available programmes to provide support* and adds that this should be *delivered at the earliest opportunity to ensure staff are adequately equipped for their role.*

In addition to the GOV.UK Prevent duty training, the guidance adds that *those with specific Prevent responsibilities are expected to have a good understanding of extremist ideologies as a key driver of radicalisation and should complete any required ideology training* and that those staff in *frontline roles are also expected to receive training on how to make a Prevent referral within their local authority or to police if they think someone is at risk of being radicalised, and to understand the Channel process.*

Those with Prevent-specific responsibilities are recommended to refresh training every two years to update on *referral statistics, local referral trends and emerging issues, relevant local or regional incidents and radicalising influences, or new resources and training materials.*

As with the 2015 guidance, in reference to out-of-school settings, there is an expectation on local authorities to *take steps to understand the range of activity and settings in their areas and should take appropriate and proportionate action to ensure that children attending such settings are properly safeguarded (which should include considering whether children attending such settings are at risk of being radicalised).*

Capabilities: Managing Risk

There continues to be an expectation that a risk assessment is carried out (known as Situational Risk Assessments), with an added expectation that *to ensure that Prevent delivery and activity is guided by the threat, the Security Threat Check should be conducted.* There is also a new expectation that Local Authorities include Prevent within their corporate risk register. There continues to be an expectation that Local Authorities ensure the Prevent duty is part of policies and procedures.

The requirement for a Partnership Plan remains in order to *comprehensively identify, prioritise and facilitate activities to reduce the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism specific to the region.* Clarification is now given that in a *two-tier area, they can be developed by a lead authority inclusive of the needs of all authorities in the area.*

Reducing Permissive Environments

As with the general guidance, this new requirement strengthens those in the 2015 guidance around venue hire and IT policies as well as requirements of 'contractors'.

It requires that Local authority settings should have measures in place to ensure their facilities are not exploited by radicalisers. This includes ensuring that any event spaces, publicly owned venues and resources or IT equipment are not being used to facilitate the spread of extremist narratives which can reasonably be linked to terrorism, such as narratives used to encourage people into participating in or supporting terrorism.

It continues to state that Local authorities should have a policy, based on local risk assessments, that clearly articulates the activities and behaviours of a group or person which may make them subject to restrictions on access to publicly owned venues and resources. The policy should articulate relevant considerations for awarding contracts for the delivery of local authority services.

It also re-iterates the importance of ensuring Prevent funding does not go to organisations or people whose views are used to legitimise, encourage, or support terrorism-related activity and adds that it is expected that local authorities to conduct their own due diligence checks to ensure that organisations who they work with on Prevent do not espouse or endorse extremist views linked to terrorism.

Monitoring & Assurance

This section provides specific details of the measures that the Home Office can take if there are concerns about compliance.

The Home Office may consider the appropriateness of using existing mechanisms such as appointing an inspector, requiring the local authority to undertake specific actions, requesting an inquiry, or issuing a direction. Powers under the Local Government Act 1999 may be used. If the Secretary of State is satisfied that a local authority is failing to perform any function relating to education, childcare or children's social care to an adequate standard, they may use their powers under the Education Act 1996, the Children's Act, and children's social care under Section 50(1) of the Children Act 2004 to take whatever action is deemed appropriate to achieve necessary improvement.

Local Authority Toolkit

Background

The Toolkit for Local Authorities has also been updated to reflect the new guidance and offer ways of demonstrating best practice. The toolkit sets out benchmarks that are used as part of the annual assurance programme to monitor the delivery of Prevent (via an assessment with each Local Authority).

Benchmarks

The changes mostly place them in line with the terminology and expectations within the new guidance, particularly tightening up requirements around training and reducing permissive environments. The benchmarks in relation to the Channel Panel have been removed, as this was a duplication on the separate assurance carried out in relation to the panels.

The following benchmarks are now set out in the toolkit, with details of how both good and best practice can be evidenced:

- *There is an effective multi-agency partnership group (also known as a board) in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of Prevent delivery and provide strategic governance.*
- *The local authority produces a risk assessment reviewed against the counter terrorism local profile (CTLP) and other data sources, including local knowledge, and understanding of the area.*
- *The area has an agreed Prevent partnership plan.*

- *There is an agreed pathway in place for the referral of those identified as susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism or supporting terrorism.*
- *Frontline staff across the local authority, including those of its contractors, have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise where a person might be susceptible to becoming radicalised into terrorism, and are aware of available support programmes. Designated safeguarding leads and those with Prevent responsibilities have more in-depth training.*
- *There is an established multi-agency forum in place (using existing structures if appropriate) to identify, agree and implement (where necessary) lawful and appropriate actions to reduce permissive spaces used by those who radicalise people into participating in, or supporting, terrorism. This includes ensuring venues or IT equipment are not used by speakers and groups who spread extremist narratives which could reasonably be linked to terrorism.*
- *A communications and engagement plan is delivered to provide people with information about Prevent, increase awareness of Prevent's aims, and ensure they know where to go if they have concerns that someone is susceptible to radicalisation. The plan includes proactive public communications on Prevent and engagement activity with a range of community groups and civil -society organisations, encouraging an open dialogue on Prevent and building public confidence.*

Further References

Background

[Home Secretary's Full Statement to Parliament \(07/09/23\)](#)

[Independent Review of Prevent](#)

[Counter Terrorism \(CONTEST\) Strategy 2023](#)

[Prevent Duty Guidance 2023](#)

[Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities](#)

[Prevent Duty Guidance 2015](#)

Communication & Training Tools

[Prevent Duty Training](#)

Prevent duty animation - [Public sector staff working together to stop radicalisation](#)

Prevent duty animation - [The role of education in safeguarding learners from radicalisation](#)

Prevent leaflet – [What is Prevent and how to stop radicalisation](#)

Department for Education Guidance

[Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for schools and early years providers](#)

[Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for further education and skills providers](#)

[Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for Higher Education providers](#)

[Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for local authority children's social care teams](#)

Work Programme

Committee: Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee

Year: 2023/24

Dates of Meetings: 22 June 2023, 3 October 2023, 14 December 2023, 20 February 2024

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
22 June 2023		
Terms of Reference	Democratic Services Officer	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services Officer	Standard Item
3 October 2023 (cancelled due to insufficient business)		
SERICC Attendance and Presentation	Sheila Coates/Michelle Cunningham	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services Officer	Standard Item
14 December 2023 (cancelled due to insufficient business)		
Work Programme	Democratic Services Officer	Standard Item
20 February 2024		
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers: Annual Update Report	Daniel Jones	
Prevent Duty Report	Michelle Cunningham	
Work Programme	Democratic Services Officer	Standard Item

Work Programme

To be added to the Work Programme

Clerk: Rhiannon Whiteley

Updated: February 2024