

13th March 2014	ITEM:
Thurrock Health and Well-Being Board	
Prevent: Thurrock's response to extremism	
Report of: Lucy Magill, Chair of Thurrock Community Safety Partnership	
Accountable Director: Darren Henaghan	
This report is Public	
Purpose of Report: To brief HWB on work in Thurrock to deliver on the Prevent Strand of the Government's counter terrorism strategy	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 That the Health and well Being Board note the contents of this report**
- 1.2 That the Board members satisfy themselves that their agencies and commissioned services have embedded the Prevent agenda within their safeguarding processes and that they have a robust and sustainable training plan in place.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

2.1 National Context:

The Governments policy on protecting the UK against terrorism states:

Issue

- The threat to the UK and our interests from international terrorism is substantial. This means that there is a strong possibility of a terrorist attack, and an attack may occur without warning.
- The terrorist threats we face now are more diverse than before, dispersed across a wider geographical area, and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation, with potentially more frequent, less sophisticated terrorist attacks.
- The most significant terrorist threat to the UK and our interests overseas comes from the Al Qa'ida senior leadership based in the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan and their affiliates and supporters in other areas.

Actions

The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, in the Home Office, works to counter the threat from terrorism. Their work is covered in the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

The strategy is based on 4 areas of work:

- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorist or supporting terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

2.2 Local Context:

“Thurrock’s character and personality has formed and evolved over centuries as agriculture, industry and the river have shaped the landscape, the make-up of its people and the quality of life.

The enduring characteristics of those who live or have lived and worked in the borough – enterprise, resilience, opportunism, adaptability – represent strength of spirit. It is this spirit that will drive a new tone and a fresh relationship between the council and everyone it does business with and is captured in the council’s vision and priorities:

The current regeneration programme will once again change the landscape, with the expansion of retail and Lakeside, the creation of the biggest container port in Europe, the new campus in Grays and the Royal Opera House Production Park and performing arts.

Hate crime is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and Prevent for us has a focus on the need to tackle right wing extremism as well as ensuring that we safeguard our vulnerable residents and young people.

2.3 Thurrock’s Prevent action plan

Locally the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has the responsibility for Prevent and has developed a joined up approach to prevent violent extremism by:

- Challenging the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices
- Disrupting those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they may be active
- Supporting and safeguarding young people and vulnerable individuals
- Increasing the capacity of communities to resist violent extremism.
- Identifying potential grievances and addressing
- Developing strategic communications.

2.4 Thurrock’s Prevent Priorities

To deliver the objectives the action plan focuses on 3 key priorities:

1. To raise awareness of professionals
2. Community Engagement
3. Intervention

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Risk to both the Nation and Local community fluctuate dependant on international, national and local incidents. We monitor this activity weekly for local impacts. We have a multi-agency Prevent group in place which are able to convene at short notice to discuss the implications for Thurrock and act as appropriate e.g. following Lee Rigby murder
- 3.2 A Counter Terrorism Local Profile is produced annually highlighting risks to Thurrock which the partnership then develop our action plan around.
- 3.3 The partnership have a Channel Panel in place and ready to respond to any individuals brought to our attention
- 3.4 In addition training and communication is ongoing to minimise the risk and increase awareness of the threat

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 4.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is important the Health and Well Being Board recognise the role that they have to play in the PREVENT strategy.

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

- 5.1 The Partnership regularly update and test community awareness briefings with Thurrock Independent Advisory Group to the Police which is constituted of diverse members of the community.
- 5.2 The Partnership has presented "Pathways" an awareness raising film for young people to the Youth Council. We are now acting on their feedback before rolling out to schools

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 The implementation of the Prevent action plan for Thurrock supports the community strategy priority of Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
- 6.2 The CSP would request that this agenda is taken into consideration for any policy to ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.
- 6.3 Commissioned services should ensure that they including training on the Prevent agenda for their staff.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

There are no financial implications

Implications verified by: Mike Jones | Management Accountant | Finance

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7.2 Legal

Within section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act Local Authorities have a duty without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

CCG's, local authority commissioned services and health care providers all have a duty to have appropriate systems and processes in place to safeguard vulnerable adults

Implications verified by: Chris Pickering | Principal Solicitor - Litigation & Employment | Legal and Democratic Services

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7.3 Diversity and Equality

There is no single category or stereotype for people who may be impacted by the Prevent agenda although there is often a common thread with regards to those that are vulnerable to safeguarding issues. Whilst impact and risk for the nation and local community fluctuate, the partnership undertake weekly reviews of the effect in Thurrock from both national and local incidents acting quickly to mitigate adverse impact to the wider community. Extensive community engagement is one of three key priorities in the Prevent action plan therefore extending the reach and scope of this programme in Thurrock.

Implications verified by: Rebecca Price

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7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

As with legal this supports delivery of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism>

Counter Terrorism Local Profile: Restricted

Thurrock Action plan for Prevent 2014: Protected document

SET safeguarding procedures

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

None

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