

Thurrock PREVENT Strategy
2015/17

Version & Date	Status	Board
17/6/15 v1.0	Draft	Working group
	Approval	PREVENT delivery group
9/7/15	Information	CSP Executive
26/9/15	Sign off	CSP Strategic Board
	Information and Action	Directors Board Cabinet LSCB Adult Safeguarding Board Health & Well Being Board

1.0 National Context

The PREVENT strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and work with organisations where there are risks of radicalisation.

The most significant threat is from Al Qai'da associated groups and organisations in Syria and Iraq, including ISIS as well as terrorist's associated with the extreme right.

The terrorism threat currently to the UK is the highest it has been since 9/11. The Extremism Task Force was established in 2013, following the murder of Lee Rigby, with the intention of building on the work of the Prevent strategy and ensuring a robust response is in place to tackle extremism. The task force laid out the following proposals¹:

- Placing Prevent and the channel programme, which supports individuals at risk of being radicalised, on a statutory footing;
- Consulting on new legislation to strengthen the powers of the Charity Commission;
- Considering the case for new types of order to ban groups which seek to undermine democracy or use hate speech, and new civil powers to target individual extremists;
- Working with the internet industry to restrict access to terrorist material online, improving the process for public reporting of extremist content online and identifying extremist content to include in family-friendly filters;
- Taking steps to ensure local authorities are supporting people on the front line of tackling extremism, and intervening where they are not taking the problem seriously;
- Giving additional support to local communities which are on the frontline of tackling extremism by supporting integration projects and setting up a dedicated public communications platform; and
- Addressing extremism in institutions by improving oversight of religious supplementary schools, finding trained Muslim chaplains to challenge extremist views on campuses and restricting the ability of extremist and terrorist prisoners to radicalise others.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to outline Thurrock's multi-agency response to tackle extremism building on our current Prevent action plan and including our response to the new duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

¹ Taken from www.gov.uk

Key deliverables:

- Identify local threat
- Ensure activities in place to respond to it
- Ensure all agencies within Thurrock respond to the local duty.

3.0 Counter Terrorism and the Security Act

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 is in response to identification that local areas need to, as a minimum, understand the local threat and judge whether activities underway are sufficient to meet it. It came into force on 1st July 2015.

The Act:

- Creates a new duty on Local authorities, the Police, prisons, providers of probation services and educational establishments to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- Issues guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled
- Gives the Secretary of State power to direct a body to take action

The Department of Education has said that schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which will be underpinned by the new duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. We nevertheless recognise that schools need advice and support to carry out effective counter-extremism work. In the first instance, schools can seek help from the local authority and the local police. Local authorities are vital to all aspects of Prevent work and it is the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to co-ordinate what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.

4.0 Governance

This strategy is based on the assessment of threat detailed within the Thurrock Counter Terrorism Local profile 2013. This is due for a refresh in July 2015. This strategy and ensuing delivery plan is owned by the multi-agency Prevent Board which is made up of partners from the Local Authority, Police, National Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Health and Education.

The Prevent Board coordinates the partnership approach to Prevent and associated counter terrorism matters in Thurrock and is responsible for the strategic management and deliverables within the Prevent priorities and objectives.

The Prevent Board is chaired by the Chair of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership ² and reports into the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board. The duty places an emphasis on the Local Authority and Safeguarding to ensure that there is an appropriate response to threat and therefore the Prevent Board will report annually to Directors Board, Health and Well-Being Board, Adult Safeguarding Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

5.0 Local Context

The conflict in Syria is one of the most serious threats to national security. There are an estimated 400 people from the UK fighting in the region which has become an international theatre for Jihad. Whether it is the radicalising effect the conflict may be having on UK based individuals, or skills acquired by foreign fighters Thurrock must be in a position to recognise vulnerability and to manage risk. It is also important to recognise that international counter terrorism is highly diverse and, as we have seen with Syria, quick to evolve.

This requires an innovative and proactive approach.

It must also be remembered that Prevent includes Far Right Wing Extremism, and extremist activism including environment and animal rights and this strategy aims to encourage awareness of terrorism and extremism in all contexts.

Threats of radicalisation come in all guises and this strategy needs to consider a focus on the growing online threat.

Thurrock has a diverse community and due to its demography is seeing rapid changes through migration from London and with its proximity to ports and road networks has seen an increase in illegal immigration.

The overarching objective is to develop an inclusive strategy which will: Promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working

6.0 Appendices

- 6.1 Delivery Plan (RESTRICTED)
- 6.2 Channel process
- 6.3 Equality Impact assessment

² Due to maternity leave this is currently chaired by the strategic lead for adult safeguarding

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of service or policy	PREVENT Strategy 2015/17
Lead Officer	Michelle Cunningham
Contact Details	Micunningham@thurrock.gov.uk ext. 2301

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

Thurrock's Prevent strategy has been refreshed in line with the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which came into force on 1st July and is in response to identification that local areas need to, as a minimum, understand the local threat and judge whether activities underway are sufficient to meet it.

The Act creates a new duty on Local authorities, the Police, prisons, providers of probation services and educational establishments to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
Look at what you know? What does your research tell you?

Consider:

- National and local data sets – for example, [key statistics and ward profiles](#)
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics’. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	X			Awareness raising in community with reduced risk of extremism	Through Improved engagement with communities and empowerment to challenge extreme views
Age		x		National response to prevent strategy 2011 77% responded no to a negative impact and 77% no to a positive impact ³ Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum are particularly at risk	There is no age profile and applies to all age groups, however the action plan has a clear focus on prevention of radicalisation of young people and in particular on focus on local duty in educational establishments
Disability		x		National response to prevent strategy 2011 96% responded no to a negative impact and 85% no to a positive impact	Prevent needs to support people vulnerable to radicalisation due to learning disabilities or mental health and therefore may have a positive impact on this group

³ All data quoted taken from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97979/prevent-review-eia.pdf

Gender reassignment		x		National response to prevent strategy 2011 95% responded no to a negative impact and 86% no to a positive impact	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership		x		National response to prevent strategy 2011 96% responded no to a negative impact and 87% no to a positive impact	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity		X		National response to prevent strategy 2011 97% responded no to a negative impact and 91% no to a positive impact	N/A
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)		X		National response to prevent strategy 2011 55% responded no to a negative impact and 63% no to a positive impact	There is a focus in our local action plan on monitoring and tackling racism and this can be linked and fuelled by right wing extremism. This will lead potentially to a positive impact on racial tensions
Religion or belief			X	National response to prevent strategy 2011 59% believed Prevent would have a negative impact	There is a concern nationally that Prevent stereotypes the Muslim community and therefore has a negative impact on the Muslim population. Our action plan identifies specific communities, however the biggest risk to Thurrock is right wing

					<p>extremism</p> <p>A positive benefit of the strategy is to encourage dialogue between all communities</p>
Gender		X		<p>National response to prevent strategy 2011 78% responded no to a negative impact and 77% no to a positive impact</p>	<p>Whilst a neutral impact was the response, Prevent does stereotype men at greater risk of radicalisation, and more likely to be subject to stop and search. There is an opportunity to empower women to challenge extremism</p>
Sexual orientation		X		<p>National response to prevent strategy 2011 91% responded no to a negative impact and 85% no to a positive impact</p>	<p>Impact of Prevent may create a more positive climate to challenge homophobia</p>
<p>Any community issues identified for this location? <i>See above link to ward profiles.</i> If the project is based in a specific location please state where, or whether Borough wide. Please note any detail of relevance e.g. is it an area with high unemployment, or public transport limited?</p>				<p>With the Gudwara and Mosque situated in Grays there is a greater risk</p> <p>Hate crime and right wing extremism is more prevalent in Tilbury</p>	<p>Enhancing engagement with our faith community</p> <p>Implementation of the Tilbury hate crime action plan</p>

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups?

This is a vital step – see [full guidance \(PDF\)](#).

Thurrock's Prevent strategy and action plan is a localised version of the National prevent strategy 2011 and therefore consultation on our equality impact assessment has been taken from the National response.

Intelligence and the action plan is informed by local partnership working including the faith community and IAG

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?

*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

Action	By when?	By who?
Ongoing implementation of the action plan	March 2017	Prevent Board
Ongoing monitoring of safeguarding and Channel referrals in relation to Prevent	Ongoing	Prevent chair and Channel panel chair
Improved engagement and awareness within communities to challenge extremism	March 2017	Prevent Board

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?
*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

Targeted training for the unaccompanied asylum seekers team	December 2015	Michele Lucas
Targeted training for those teams supporting communities with learning disabilities or mental health issues	March 2016	Michelle Cunningham
Monitoring of hate crime across all strands, particularly race and religion	Ongoing	Leigh Norris
Encouraging dialogue and joint activity between all communities to benefit integration and race relations	March 2017	Prevent Board
Ensuring a balance of focus on right wing extremism within the plan. Ideology training covers both extremes.	March 2017	Prevent Board
Action plan focuses on empowering women to challenge extremism	March 2017	Prevent Board

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the community as a whole.

Take some time to précis your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Community Development and Equalities team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact

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 Muslim, young people and males in particular.

Our action plan takes care to balance the risks of right wing extremism as much as ISIS and Al-Qaida related extremism. The focus on this action plan is in bringing communities together and empowering them to be able to challenge extremism in all its forms.

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Head of Service who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Fran Leddra	Chair of Prevent Board	
Sean O'Callaghan	Chair of CSP	
Natalie Warren	On Behalf of Thurrock Council	10/8/15