

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**17th February 2020**

**Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015  
– Prevent Update**



---

**Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an annual update of the partnerships progress in meeting the statutory duties contained within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and an update on partnership working.

**Executive summary**

- 2 There is a statutory responsibility to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This report provides an update on the latest government strategy and guidance alongside highlighted areas of Prevent activity directly linked to Durham County Council and the Safe Durham Partnership.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 3 The Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
  - (a) Note the contents of this report and presentation

## **Background**

- 4 Regular updates have been provided to the Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee since new statutory duties were placed on local authorities in 2015 in relation to Prevent.
- 5 Reports have outlined the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy (Contest) and its objectives, which are:
  - (a) Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks (the remit of the police and security services)
  - (b) Prevent - To stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists
  - (c) Prepare - Where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact
  - (d) Protect - To strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks
- 6 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed Prevent on a statutory footing and 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.
- 7 The current threat level for the UK has reduced from Severe to Substantial as of November 2019 meaning that an attack is likely.
- 8 The three Prevent objectives as in the revised Prevent Guidance (June 2018 as required in Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) are:
  - (a) Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
  - (b) Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
  - (c) Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

## **Presentation content**

- 9 The presentation will highlight what is happening around Prevent at a National, Regional and Local level and will cover the following areas.

10 National:

- Online Harms Whitepaper factsheet
- Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019
- Prevent and Channel Reviews

11 Regional:

- Regional Members/Officers Prevent Forum

12 Local:

- Local Counter Terrorism Champions (LCTC's)
- Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) – Not protectively marked
- Awareness raising of Prevent
- Home Office Self Assessment
- Community Cohesion Toolkit
- Brexit
- Prevent referrals

**Background papers**

- Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2018
- Prevent duty toolkit for local authorities and partner agencies 2018

**Author**

Andrea Petty      Tel: 03000 267312

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places Prevent on a statutory footing and requires Durham County Council to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

### **Finance**

DCC is placed within a non-priority area and receives no additional funding to perform this duty.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

A Policy Equality Statement has been prepared by the Home Office. It has been assessed that the policy is compliant, where relevant, with Section 149 of the Equality Act, and that due regard has been made to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations.

### **Climate Change**

None

### **Human Rights**

No adverse implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Counter Terrorism is a strategic objective of the Safe Durham Partnership and therefore, crime and disorder is the main focus of the report.

### **Staffing**

The local authority has provided training for practitioners to become familiar with the new statutory requirements in terms of recognising and referring those vulnerable to radicalisation. It has also set up single points of contact for a multi-agency Chanel Panel.

### **Accommodation**

No adverse implications.

### **Risk**

No adverse implications.

### **Procurement**

Corporate Procurement has been briefed on the implications of the duty.