

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Prevent Update

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Detective Sergeant RIELLY – Counter Terrorism Policing North East

Andy BAILEY – Partnerships Team Leader & Prevent Support Officer, DCC



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# What is Terrorism?



The **Terrorism Act 2000** defines **Terrorism** as –

**The use or threat of action, i.e.**

- *Serious violence against a person and /or*
- *Serious damage to property that endangers a person's life or creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public or*
- *Seriously interferes with, or seriously disrupts, an electronic system*
- **Designed to influence the Government or to intimidate the public**
- **For the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause**



# How Do We Counter Terrorism?

The UK Counter Terrorism Strategy is known as **CONTEST**. This document has been refreshed on **18<sup>th</sup> July 2023**, but maintains the principles of the 4P's and focuses on preventing terrorism activity in the UK and protecting our interests overseas.

[Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/counter-terrorism-strategy-2023)

The aim of **CONTEST** is *'to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence'*.

CONTEST is made up of 'four Ps' –

- **Prevent:** Safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Pursue:** Stopping terrorist attacks
- **Protect:** Strengthening our protection against terrorist attacks
- **Prepare:** Mitigating the impact of terrorist attacks



# The Prevent Strategy

Aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, or, simply put, the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

PREVENT has three Strategic Objectives –

- Respond to the **ideological challenge** of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Prevent **people** from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with **sectors and institutions** where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Delivery of Prevent is grounded in **early intervention** and **safeguarding**



# Partnership Working to Counter Terrorism

Section 26 of the **Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015** – Known as the **‘Prevent Duty’**.

Places a general duty on **specified authorities** to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

These specified authorities are those judged to have a role in **protecting persons who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. This can include all levels of vulnerability.**

Local Authorities / Police / Schools (& Registered Childcare Providers) / Further Education / Higher Education / Health Sector / Prisons & Probation



# Partnership Working - Channel

**Channel** forms a key part of Prevent.

Adopts a **multi-agency approach** to identify and support individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Members of the panel must include the **Local Authority** and **CT Policing**.

Depending on the nature of the case, the Panel may also include a variety of other partners –

• NHS • Social Workers • Schools / Colleges / Universities • Youth Offending Services • Safeguarding • Home Office Immigration • Border Force • Housing • Prisons • Probation, etc.

Two Channel Panels in the Durham Constabulary area – County Durham and Darlington

In Durham, the Channel Panel is chaired by the **Head of Adult Care**. The Durham Panel is well established, the running of the panel and its functions have been assessed by our Home Office/Homeland Security Group partners and show good working practices.



# Partnership Working – The Durham Contest Board



County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Service



Altogether Better Policing



Durham Tees Valley  
Community Rehabilitation Company



# The Durham Contest Board – Objectives

- Develop and deliver the Strategic Delivery Plan
- Maintain oversight of the Extremism agenda
- Assist partners to implement the Prevent Duty
- Support the Channel program
- Engage with CT Policing to receive, review and respond to intelligence and information
- Improve understanding of the CT agenda amongst key staff and deliver workforce development
- Engage in commissioning process of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile
- Initiate activity to address the key points contained within the CTLP





# UK Terrorism Threat Level

## Current national threat level

- The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL**. The last change was in February 2022, when it was reduced from Severe to Substantial

9 February 2022	SUBSTANTIAL
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## Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

- LOW means an attack is highly unlikely
- MODERATE means an attack is possible, but not likely
- SUBSTANTIAL means an attack is likely
- SEVERE means an attack is highly likely
- CRITICAL means an attack is highly likely in the near future

\*source - [Threat Levels | MI5 - The Security Service](#)



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# UK Terrorism Statistics

- Since **March 2017**, Counter Terrorism Policing and UK Intelligence Services have disrupted **39 attacks**.
- In the **12 months to 30 June 2023** there were **159** CT related arrests.
  - **50%** of the arrests were related to suspected Islamist Terrorism
  - **31%** of the arrests were related to suspected Extreme Right Wing Terrorism
  - **18%** of arrests can be categorised as other or unclassified
  - **7%** of those arrested were female
  - **15%** of those arrested were aged under 18
- Over the **12 months to 30 June 2023** – **25** of the **159** arrests were children under the age of 18.
- Of those **25**, **14** were suspected of ERWT, and **9** suspected of Islamist extremism (**2** were unclassified).

\*source – CT Policing data.



# Durham County Council's Role

- Channel Panel
- Co-ordinating and attending various CT meetings inc. Contest, Channel Panel, the Regional Prevent Forum and the Protect and Prepare Group
- Tracking and updating the Contest Delivery Plan
- Home Office assurance:
  - Prevent benchmarking assessment
  - Channel Assurance Statement
- SPOC for Prevent concerns
- IT Moderation Panel
- Tension monitoring
- DCC Speakers and Venue Hire Policy
- Supporting the development and implementation of new strategies, legislation and guidance related to Counter terrorism i.e. Contest 2023, Prevent and Channel Duty new guidance and Martyn's Law (Terrorism (Protection of Premises Bill)).



# Durham County Council's Role

- Providing input into the Counter terrorism local profile
- Training
  - E-learning
  - Train the trainer
  - Face to face / Via Teams
  - Testing of new Home Office packages
  - Managers
  - ACT
  - Members Awareness
  - Community Events
  - Prevent update for schools
- Links with other sub groups eg Hate Crime
- Sharing information and updating partners
- Awareness campaigns i.e. National Safeguarding Week, National Hate Crime Awareness Week, Do Summer Safely, Be Safe Be Sound
- Funding bids



# Questions?



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