

21 June 2016

**Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015
Update**



Safe Durham Partnership

**Report of Steve Watson, Deputy Chief Constable, Durham
Constabulary**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress of the collective response of all 'specified authorities' to the new duties imposed by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Background

- 2 This follows a previous report to the committee on the implications of the Act (March 2015).
- 3 The Act places a general duty on each specified authority who must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Specified Authorities are:
 - Local Authorities.
 - Police, Prisons, Probation, Community Rehabilitation Companies.
 - Schools, Further and Higher Education.
 - NHS Trusts/Foundation Trusts.
- 4 The 'Prevent Duty (statutory) Guidance' sets out a series of expectations specific to each specified authority. In addition, each authority 'must demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation'.

Summary of progress against the main elements of the new duty

Productive Cooperation

- 5 The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Contest Silver Group has responsibility for overseeing the collective response of specified authorities who are all represented on the group.
- 6 In March 2015, the Group commissioned a review of the collective response to the implementation of the Prevent Duty which, in addition to specified authorities, includes the cooperation of the Fire and Rescue Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

- 7 Each member of the Contest Silver group has provided regular feedback against each expectation placed on them. This has formed the review document which was presented to the group in September 2015 and March 2016. The group is satisfied that progress is strong with many of the expectations implemented. The group is also satisfied that progress against ongoing actions will lead to full implementation and expects to close the review at the September 2016 group meeting.

Assessment of Risk

- 8 All specified authorities are required to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in County Durham. Local Authorities are expected to use existing counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLPs), produced by the police, to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism. This includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.
- 9 The annual CTLP is commissioned by Durham Constabulary, with support from members of the Contest Silver Group. Durham Constabulary provides a CTLP briefing to Durham County Council and to the Contest Silver group. Recommendations from the CTLP are drawn up in order to mitigate risk and are included in the Contest Silver group's Delivery Plan.
- 10 Schools, Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) establishments are required to assess risks specific to their establishment. All schools have received the resources required to complete a risk assessment and have been provided with an understanding of what is required. All FE and HE establishments have carried out individual Risk Assessments.
- 11 The National Probation Service (NPS) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have a duty to assess the risk from offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offences and in preventing other offenders from being drawn into terrorism. They are meeting the expectations of the duty by:
- Screening offenders on conviction where issues are raised at the point of supervision (NPS).
 - Risk assessing cell sharing arrangements for every prison inmate (NOMS).
 - Risk assessing convicted TACT (Terrorism Act) offenders prior to release (NOMS).

Raising Awareness of Prevent

- 12 All specified authorities are required to ensure:
- Frontline staff, who engage with the public, understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it.

- They provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty.
- 13 Specified authorities, Fire and Rescue Service and CCG's are all engaged in planning and delivering this work:
- Durham Constabulary provided train-the-trainer WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training to partner organisations and awareness raising briefings to a range of organisations.
 - Over 5,000 front-line staff have received Prevent e-learning and this includes members of the Police and Crime Panel.
 - All partner organisations are delivering WRAP.
 - Durham County Council has delivered its e-learning course to over 4,500 of its staff (including schools). WRAP training for schools concluded at the end of April 2016 and WRAP is currently being delivered to relevant supervisors and front line staff.
 - All existing and new prison staff are receiving briefings.
 - All colleges are conducting Prevent training with some completing their training plan fully. One college has delivered scenario training to 250 of its lecturers to help them understand how to determine what should and should not be referred under Prevent.
 - One Higher Education establishment is currently developing online training to complement bespoke workshops that are in the development stage.
 - Both CCG's and the Fire and Rescue Service have trained WRAP facilitators and will be delivering training to their staff.
 - 375 professionals across the Safe Durham Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector attended four Prevent Seminars delivered by Dr Dave Sloggett; a national expert in Counter terrorism.

Channel Panel

- 14 Durham County Council has a Channel Panel in place. It has representation from Durham Constabulary and is supported by guidance and procedural documents. A referral programme for the 0-19 age group is being developed by DCC Children's Services.

Communicate and promote the importance of the duty

- 15 Communicating the Prevent Duty is a requirement of all partner agency plans. Durham County Council is required to communicate the duty to the private, voluntary and independent childcare and out-of-school sectors. The following is a summary of that progress:
- 80% of all the county's registered childcare institutions have received a comprehensive briefing and provided access to a wide range of resources.
 - Registered childminders are currently undergoing prevent briefings, while Foster Care providers received a briefing in May 2016.

- A prevent briefing document has been provided to over 1,300 out-of-school providers and two Prevent Seminars were delivered to this sector in April 2016.
- Durham Voice has communicated the duty to the voluntary and community sector; providing access to resources through the County Durham Family Information Service.

Extremism

- 16 The guidance accompanying the national Counter Extremism Strategy is still to be received.
- 17 The Counter Extremism and Safeguarding Bill 2016 was announced in the Queens Speech on 18th May. The Bill is introduced to prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism, and promote community integration. Its aim is to protect the public against the most dangerous extremists and ensure the government and law enforcement have a full range of powers to deal with extremism. It is still unclear as to whether this legislation will impact on the activity of street protest groups. The bill will:
- introduce a new civil order regime to restrict extremist activity, following consultation;
 - safeguard children from extremist adults by taking powers to intervene in intensive, unregulated education settings that teach hate and drive communities apart and through stronger powers for the disclosure and barring service;
 - close loopholes so that Ofcom can continue to protect consumers who watch internet-streamed television content from outside the EU on Freeview; and,
 - Consult on powers to enable government to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism

Community Cohesion

- 18 The Tension Monitoring process is part of the Community Cohesion Toolkit, which was developed by Durham County Council as a resource for the Council and its partners. The Toolkit was agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership. A number of issues relating to ‘right wing’ activities across County Durham have been reported in communities.
- 19 Durham County Council has put in place a Task and Finish group to monitor current tensions. It will be led by the Assistant Chief Executive’s office, with representation from other relevant Service Groupings, Area Action Partnerships and Durham Constabulary.

Recommendations and reasons

20 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Note the contents of the report.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The Home Office has allocated DCC, and all other non-priority areas, £10,000 to commence the new duty.

Staffing

There will continue to be a training need for practitioners to become familiar with the new statutory requirements in terms of recognising and referring those vulnerable to radicalisation. The local authority has a multi-agency Channel Panel.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

The Bill identifies that *'a Policy Equality Statement has been prepared by the Home Office. It 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'*.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

Counter Terrorism is a strategic objective of the Altogether Safer thematic partnership and therefore, crime and disorder is the main focus of the report.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

DCC provided a response to the draft statutory Prevent Duty guidance consultation.

Procurement

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

Disability Issues

No direct adverse implications.

Legal Implications

The Act will place a legal duty on all specified authorities to meet its requirements. In addition, Durham County Council is the 'responsible local authority' for managing the safeguarding elements of those vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.