

22 September 2017

**Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015
Update**



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of DI Alfred Keane, 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 previous reports to the committee on the implications of the Act (March 2015) and progress in terms of implementing the duty (June 2016).
- 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

Assessment of Risk

- 5 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.

- 6 The annual CTLP is commissioned by Durham Constabulary, with support from members of the Contest Silver Group. Durham Constabulary has completed the 2016-17 CTLP and provided copies to all partner agencies represented on the Contest Silver group; as well as delivering a CTLP briefing to the group in March 2017.
- 7 Recommendations from the 2016-17 CTLP have been agreed and included in the groups Prevent Delivery Plan.

Raising Awareness of Prevent

- 8 All specified authorities continue to deliver significant Prevent awareness/training across their organisations. For example, over 7,000 Durham County Council and school staff have taken the local Prevent e-learning course.
- 9 Durham County Council (DCC) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board have delivered significant training to all partner organisations along with the private, voluntary and independent child care and out-of-school sectors. More recently, over 350 delegates have attended four sessions covering Exploitation, Grooming and Radicalisation and a further two sessions are planned for 10 October.

Channel Panel

- 10 Durham County Council has fulfilled its statutory requirement to put in place, chair and manage a Channel Panel that has received two referrals of individuals suspected of being vulnerable to radicalisation. It has representation from Durham Constabulary and is supported by guidance and procedural documents. A referral programme for the 0-19 age group has been developed and three training sessions will be delivered to schools across the county.
- 11 In November 2016 a representative of the Office of Counter terrorism and Security at the Home Office visited Durham County Council as part of a national review of how Prevent is being delivered. Following the visit, the council received feedback, "As you know I was greatly impressed by the structures and governance you have put in place in Durham. It is especially impressive how you have built relationships with schools".

Home Office Prevent Innovation Project

- 12 DCC and the charity 'Durham Agency Against Crime' were successful in achieving Home Office Innovation funding for a creative arts project, involving a wide range of partners. It aims to raise young people's awareness of, and build their resilience to, radicalisation in areas of Bishop Auckland and Darlington; where they may be more vulnerable to extreme messages from far right groups. College students from the two areas delivered their final performance at the Majestic Theatre, on 6th April, in front of a Home Office evaluator and approximately 100 guests.

- 13 A summary report, education resource pack, video of the performance and video interviews with the young people involved in the project were submitted to the Home Office for evaluation.
- 14 The result is that the Department for Education want to make this a national resource for building resilience of school children to radicalisation. The resource will be hosted on the 'Educate Against Hate' website.

Community Cohesion Toolkit

- 15 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.
- 16 Issues relating to 'right wing' activity across County Durham continue to be reported by front line staff from partner agencies and reported to the Safe Durham Partnership Board.
- 17 The Committee received a Hate Crime report in June 2017 and this work contributes to understanding and responding to community tensions.

Public Events

- 18 The Council's Safety Advisory Group have reviewed their practices to ensure their advice to event organisers includes protecting against terrorist attacks. The Council's website has been updated accordingly.

Recommendations and reasons

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

Contact: Graham McArdle, Community Safety Coordinator, Durham County Council Tel: 03000 265436

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 Counter Terrorism and Security 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.