

**REPORT TO STOCKTON
RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

2 JUNE 2009

**REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY
PROTECTION**

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM & COUNTER TERRORISM

SUMMARY

This report outlines the work undertaken to date in Stockton-on-Tees on the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and Counter Terrorism (CT) agendas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Stockton Renaissance receives the report and notes its content.
2. That members of the Board consider how best to make use of the 'Trust your Instincts' DVD (paragraph 6 refers) within their organisation or group.
3. The draft PVE action plan, attached at appendix B, be approved

DETAIL

1. The National Strategy for CT ('CONTEST') is based on 'the four Ps', i.e.

Prevent, to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism which has a multi-agency dimension

Pursue, to stop terrorist attacks which is mainly for Police and Security Services

Protect, to strengthen our position against terrorist attack and

Prepare, where an attack cannot be stopped to mitigate its effects, both these elements have strong links with multi-agency emergency planning agendas

Further information can be found at Appendix A.

2. Across Teesside, a 'Gold Group' for PVE / CT has been established, chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable, with the Police District Commander and / or Chief Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing and the Council's Head of Community Protection representing Stockton, along with similar representatives from the other three Boroughs. A 'Silver Group' has also been set up in each of the Boroughs. In Stockton this was chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive until March 2009, and from then by the Head of Community Protection. To date this has been a bilateral Police / Council group, but it is intended to

expand membership to other organisations over coming months, starting with the Prison Service.

3. In terms of where this agenda fits within the Renaissance framework, it is considered that the 'Silver Group' is a bespoke partnership to cover CT / PVE, linking in, as necessary, to the Renaissance Board, the Children's Trust Board, the Safer Stockton Partnership, and any of the other partnerships as necessary.
4. The 'Silver Group' has drawn up and updated a Strategic Action Plan, attached as Appendix B, and has also agreed arrangements for integrating this into a more detailed Operational Action Plan, which will be used for monitoring and recording progress. This operational plan incorporates the actions from the Strategic Plan plus other actions drawn from the Cleveland Police Strategic Plan for which 'S' District of Cleveland Police has responsibility. This ensures both the strategic and operational day-to-day management of our approach is carefully monitored.
5. In January 2009 a self -assessment was completed on behalf of Stockton Renaissance in relation to National Indicator 35, attached for information as Appendix C. It was agreed to be cautious in this first iteration, and our self-assessment was in keeping with those of other Teesside Districts with the exception of Middlesbrough, which has enjoyed Pathfinder status for work on PVE, and consequent additional funding. As such their self-assessment was at a higher level.
6. One of the early actions completed has been the production of the 'Trust your Instincts' DVD, which conveys a generic health and safety based message intended for an audience of all public sector workforce across Teesside. It is designed to encourage the flow of information and intelligence and Renaissance will have the opportunity to consider the DVD at this meeting.
7. In 2008 Cleveland Police appointed a sergeant, with ringfenced Government funding, to undertake dedicated work on the PVE agenda, and he is producing community profiles of all four Boroughs. It is expected that the Stockton version will be complete in early June, and if it is available by the time of this meeting it will be tabled; if not, it will be made available to the partnerships listed at paragraph 2 above in the near future.
8. The Security Services and Special Branch are also preparing Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLPs) for each Borough and it is anticipated the Stockton version will be available by the end of June. This document will provide a more detailed risk assessment, and will be discussed at the 'Silver Group' in the first instance.
9. During 2008 Ministerial letters were received stating that Stockton will be allocated Pathfinder status from April 2010, and will receive £131k in the 2010/11 financial year to support work on PVE. It is proposed that the use of funding be agreed via the 'Silver Group' drawing on suggestions from a range of sources.
10. This will include feedback from the Awareness Raising Event held on 20 May at the Wynyard Rooms, organised by Silver Group. Members of the Renaissance Main Board, the Children's Trust Board, the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Faith Network were invited to this session, and about 50 delegates attended, hearing speakers including Charles Farr, the Director General of the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism, Paul Dixon from the Regional Counter Terrorism Unit, Assistant Chief Constable Michael Banks, who is leading on CT/PVE for Government Office North East, and Dr. Mohammed Riaz, chair of the Police Independent Advisory Group for Stockton and Secretary of the Hartington Road Mosque.

11. Delegates were afforded the opportunity to question the speakers in a special Question and Answer session as well as consider the draft action plan and feed in suggestions for amendments and additions. These comments have been taken on board and the action plan amended where appropriate. The final draft PVE action plan for Stockton Borough is attached as Appendix B.

NEXT STEPS

12. The work on this agenda is continuing with ongoing dialogue with our communities a crucial aspect. Target audiences for further dialogue include but are not limited to; all Borough Councillors; young people across the Borough; and Muslim communities across the Borough. In respect of young people, one message given by youth delegates at the 20 May event, in the plenary session, was that the national strategy over-emphasises work in schools and should put more emphasis on work with young people in non-school settings (Connexions, youth clubs, etc), since there is likely to be a correlation between disaffection from the school system and risk of being involved in groups on the fringes of violent extremism (whether inspired by political, religious, environmental or animal rights issues). It was also observed that young people were absent from the panel of speakers who took part in the Question and Answer session, and the 'Silver Group' will, in response to this observation, give consideration to possible mechanisms for involving young people more closely with the development of the CT and PVE agendas.

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