

PREVENT IN STOCKTON

1. As members of the partnership will be aware, The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a requirement on local authorities, in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (Chapter 1, Section 26).

While the responsibilities of local government bodies will not fundamentally change with the commencement of the Prevent Duty. By placing a statutory duty on local authorities the Government intends to ensure that there is consistency across all local authorities and increased opportunities to share best practice.

The Prevent Duty came into effect on the 1st July 2015; local authorities are now required to fulfil a range of responsibilities as articulated in the Prevent guidance. Detailed below is a reminder of the categories:

- **Partnership** – local authorities should establish or make use of multi-agency groups to coordinate and monitor Prevent related activity.
- **Risk Assessment** – local authorities should use Counter-Terrorism Local Profiles, to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in their local area. This risk assessment should also be informed by engagement with wider partners in the local area including schools, childcare providers, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and Youth offending teams.
- **Action Plan** – Using the risk assessment, if the local authority assesses a risk in the local area, a Prevent action plan should be developed to prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism in the local authority.
- **Staff Training** – local authorities will be expected to ensure that appropriate frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent and are trained to recognise the vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue. Local authority staff will be expected to be aware of, and make appropriate referrals to Channel, which has separately been placed on a statutory footing in the CT&S Act 2015.
- **Use of local authority resources** – local authorities will be expected to ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a profile for extremists. Consideration should also be given as to whether IT equipment available to the general public should use filtering solutions that limit access to terrorist and extremist material. New contracts for the delivery of services in a local authority should reflect the principles of the duty in a suitable form.

- **Other agencies and organisations supporting children** – a range of private and voluntary agencies provide services or exercise functions for children, for example children’s homes, independent fostering agencies, and bodies exercising local authority functions. These bodies must ensure as part of their local authority safeguarding arrangements that staff are aware of Prevent.

- **Out of school settings supporting children** – local authorities should take steps to understand the range of activity in their area in this space and take appropriate and proportionate steps to ensure that children attending such settings are appropriately safeguarded.

CURRENT PROGRESS IN STOCKTON

PREVENT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

2. The Cleveland Prevent Silver Group also continues to make progress on the ‘rolling action plan’ which covers all aspects of the duty. From a Stockton perspective we now have a dedicated website resource which provides individuals with information, links to the Home Office guidance and a copy of the referral form to report any concerns.

The roll out of training and awareness raising to staff continues and we have now carried out training to all directorates in the authority. To date in 2016/17 410 individuals have received additional awareness raising training on Prevent, this is broken down as follows.

SBC Social Care Staff **153**

SBC Service Managers and Directors **46**

SBC School crossing patrol staff **31**

SBC refuse and recycling **65**

SBC Housing teams **35**

SBC adult learners **65**

Community group awareness session **15**

In addition to the above sessions all SBC staff have received an email link to the Home Office information resource for completion.

HOME OFFICE PEER REVIEWS

3. Following the implementation of Prevent within local authorities the Home Office has recently developed a peer review process and has recruited a number of Local Authority peers to support this work. The first peer reviews are due to take place in the coming months and findings will be made available to other local authorities in an effort to improve the quality and consistency of approach to Prevent. To accompany the process, draft guidance has also been prepared by the Home Office for circulation to Local Authorities. Once approved the document will be shared with members of the SSP.

NATIONAL PICTURE

4. Members will be aware that on 12th December 2016 the Far-Right group 'National Action' was classified as a proscribed organisation. As a result of this classification, the group is now considered as a terrorist organisation. Any individual membership of support of this group is classed as a criminal offence.
5. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) is launching a new Counter Terrorism advertising campaign and branding platform on Monday 6 March 2017. **ACT** (Action Counters Terrorism) is the new branding platform and has been user-tested with members of the public and stakeholders. This new platform has been developed to bring together all public facing counter terrorism communications, past and future, under one unified banner.
6. ACT creates one overarching call to action and it is envisaged that it will drive new behaviours and encourage communities to work proactively to defeat terrorism. The first new campaign to run on the ACT branding platform will be the 2017 National Counter Terrorism Awareness Campaign. This campaign will be launched on 6th March and the key communication objectives include:
 - Encourage reporting of suspicious activity to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline (ATH) and to report online terrorist and extreme material to the Red Stop button;
 - Reinforce the message that the public have a key role to play in remaining alert and tackling the terrorist threat; and
 - Reassure communities that the police and intelligence agencies are continually working hard to combat terrorism and safeguard the public.

