

**REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: EXECUTIVE**

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## **PREVENT DUTY UPDATE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Executive on the Prevent Duty and to agree the Prevent Duty Compliance Plan.  
To place the Prevent Duty in the overall context of Cohesion work within the Borough.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive is asked to approve the Prevent Compliance Action Plan and work on the outstanding items

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

It will demonstrate our compliance to the Prevent Duty contained in the Counter –Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and help us build an inclusive approach to the issues we face.

### **Introduction**

1. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a duty on specified authorities including the Borough Council to play its part in preventing the radicalization of individuals in their area and tackle the ideology which supports it.
2. The Prevent Duty is just one part of Government's Prevent Strategy which in itself is part of an overall Counter Terrorism Strategy known as Contest. The strategy is based around four main areas of work:
  - **Pursue:** the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks;
  - **Prevent:** work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism;
  - **Protect:** improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack; and
  - **Prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible

3. The Government's Prevent Strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and has three main objectives:
  1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
  2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
  3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
4. A report was presented to Management Team on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 setting out our obligations and approach. The Statutory Guidance acknowledges that the risks of radicalisation will vary across the country depending on the risk assessment but every Council needed to demonstrate they understand the issue in their area by showing competence in 3 areas: leadership, partnership and staff capabilities. A Prevent Compliance Action Plan outlines the key areas of work to date (Appendix 1).
5. It is difficult to quantify the risks facing the Borough of producing for example home grown terrorists given recent trends of recruitment online or being subject to an attack of some sort but recent atrocities in Manchester and London highlight the challenges we face both locally and nationally. We have worked with colleagues at both local and Lancashire level to deliver on this duty as far as resources have allowed.

#### Lancashire Response

6. Since 2015 we have collaborated at a Lancashire level with police and other relevant authorities and agencies through the Prevent Managers Delivery Group. The aim has been to share best practice on prevent and develop a coordinated approach to common problems: E security and safety, training on extreme right wing and Islamist extremism, training for staff and community engagement.
7. At Chief Executive level we attend the Lancashire Contest Board which is the interface by which Police Counter Terrorism leads, informs and updates chief officers on the threat of terrorism in Lancashire. The Board also oversees the work of the Channel Panel - this is a multi-agency pre-criminal process which receives referrals on individuals who are recognized to be at risk of becoming radicalized; with familial consent (in the case of young people) they are given one to one help and support to arrest the development of radicalization into serious criminal actions. Referrals depend upon frontline workers being trained and confident to recognize the signs of radicalization and to act accordingly. The Contest Board has recently exhorted the Prevent Delivery Managers Group to explore how to improve engagement with communities to progress the work of Prevent within Lancashire.
8. Lancashire County Council have also developed a Prevent Action Plan which is relevant to the work in the Borough as it covers the important areas of schools and Children and Adult Safeguarding. A great deal of work has gone into training frontline staff and sophisticated tools are available online as resources for schools and Colleges. E security and safety online is a primary concern for parents and teachers and Lancashire are leaders in this area.

#### Local Response

9. Pendle was not identified in 2015 as a Tier 1 priority area to receive Prevent funding. Burnley Borough Council was and was able to recruit a Prevent Coordinator, who under terms of the HO funding is expected to assist neighbouring authorities and we have benefited from his support and advice.
10. We have made most progress on training staff of both Pendle Borough Council and Liberton. Frontline staff who are most likely to come across individuals in their daily work routine have completed the Government's WRAP seminar to be able to recognise radicalization and to refer with confidence, the rest of the Council have completed an online ENCALT learning module on recognizing radicalization and we have achieved over 90% compliance. In addition we have developed, with support from the local Counter Terrorism Unit, a bespoke face to face presentation to help waste operatives to recognise and report the paraphernalia of bomb making and radical materials which may have been discarded in refuse. The majority of staff in these roles has now completed the training. As a result of a subsequent report from one of the crews of suspicious materials the CTU carried out an investigation which fortunately turned out to be innocent but staff were praised by the police for their vigilance.
11. Given the time which has elapsed since the initial training, and the development of new understanding of the threats we face, it may be time to consider refresher training for key staff – a 45 minute online Home Office module has just been launched which may be appropriate.
12. We have also organized two training sessions for Councillors who have an important role in leadership in our communities. Reservations about Prevent and its poor image with some parts of the Asian community were discussed and some Councillors offered themselves as possible ambassadors to stimulate discussion and build confidence in what is primarily a safeguarding approach.
13. We have updated advice on the Staff Intranet on what staff should do in the event of them being caught up in a terrorist attack - with links to the Police's Run, Hide, and Tell advice: <http://www.pendle.gov.uk/counterterrorism>.
14. Operation Griffin – a representative from the Council's business support unit and emergency planning lead attended the seminar which advised businesses and critical organisations who may be a target for attack how to be prepared and vigilant. The Counter Terrorism Unit have offered to come to Pendle to give advice to significant businesses once we have identified and ascertained their needs and willingness to be involved.
15. Counter Terrorism Local Profile – the Duty expects local Authorities to complete an action plan to address risks identified in the Local Profile which is completed by the Police. We have had one CTLP to date but it was non-specific and gave a generic picture of risks across Lancashire and could not be used to focus work in Pendle specifically. The HO have accepted that in the LCC area a higher level action plan would be sufficient. We are awaiting a new CTLP which may give more detail.

## **Cohesion**

16. Pendle's approach recognized early on the need to communicate effectively with communities and win support for a softer complementary approach to our work on Prevent. We have developed a wider positive programme of cohesion activity driven through Building Bridge's Good Neighbor Project and the Community Cohesion Action Network which is chaired by the Borough Council and has now run for over a year. It aims at finding common ground for communities and faith organisations within the Borough to discuss and tackle difficult issues which in themselves can be exploited by those promoting radical extremism.

A full report on the first year of the Community Cohesion Action Network was presented to the Executive in March and at that meeting agreement was reached to match fund the Good Neighbours Project – Building Bridges have submitted a Lotteries bid for a further four years; a decision will be announced by the end of August. There has been interest in Pendle's approach both locally in other parts of Lancashire and at national level.

### **Outstanding Actions**

- Ensure that the principles of the duty are written in a suitable form into any new contracts for the delivery of council services
- Develop the leadership role of Councillors as part of a wider engagement with the community on Prevent and the narrative needed to combat a terrorist ideology
- Review our community contacts to ensure we are able to speak to the right people in the event of an incident in Pendle
- Review further staff training to keep frontline staff up to date
- Set up an Operation Griffin event for Pendle businesses.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** There are links between the Prevent Duty, our approach to Cohesion, Community Safety and the Borough's Safeguarding policy.

**Financial:** Future monies may become available for further prevent work in the Tier 3 areas but this is not likely to be significant. There could be costs associated with training staff but these will be met by existing Community Safety budgets.

**Legal:** The duty is a statutory responsibility and the Home Office will have a monitoring role to assess compliance though it is likely to concentrate on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Prevent areas.

**Risk Management:** Prevent and Cohesion risks and mitigating factors have been considered in the Corporate Risk Strategy

**Health and Safety:** None

**Sustainability:** These duties will be incorporated into the way we work within the Council and a degree of proportionality will apply to the level of our response. The aim of the cohesion work is to utilize existing networks and organisations to expand our approach with support from key voluntary sector organisations.

**Community Safety** Existing community safety personnel will own this area of work and represent the Council at the Lancashire Prevent Managers Delivery Group.

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from this report

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix 1 Prevent Duty Compliance Plan**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales  
From Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*

**Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015**  
**Pendle Borough Council 'Prevent' Duty Compliance Plan**

	Not started
	Started – work in progress
	Complete

	Duty	Action	Owner	Status
1.	Co-ordinate 'Prevent' using multi agency groups	Pendle Borough Council officers to continue to support the:  1. Lancashire Chief Executive & Strategic Leaders group 2. Lancashire Prevent Delivery Managers group 3. Lancashire Channel Panel (on request)	1. <b>Geoff Whitehead</b>	<b>Ongoing – no anticipated blockages</b>
2.	Assess the risk of at-risk adults and children being drawn into terrorism	This is primarily an LCC responsibility but Frontline staff in Pendle Borough Council have received Safeguarding and WRAP training to recognise risks and Channel procedures	Geoff Whitehead Sarah Astin	<b>Ongoing</b>
3.	Develop an action plan to reduce the risk	Pendle Borough Council will feed into the Lancs Prevent Delivery Managers Group and the Lancs wide plan. We will respond to any direct risks identified in the Local Area Profile or other information which shows there is a tangible risk	Geoff Whitehead	<b>Ongoing</b>
4.	Identify and train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism	Management Team agreed we should deliver the Online NCALT E Learning Package to <u>all</u> staff within the Council and to customise face to face training with Waste Operatives at Fleet Street on what to look for in relation to home grown terrorism .	Geoff Whitehead Sarah Astin Simon Tisdale	<b>At the end of April 2017 compliance in all Council departments reached 90% Liberata Staff 157/ 197 = 79.8%. ( January ) A plan to target all</b>

		<p><b>Refresher training for identified frontline staff is now required ( August 2017 )</b></p> <p><b>Staff Intranet has been updated with information following recent terrorist atrocities including the ‘ Run, Hide, Tell’ advice from Police Counter Terrorism Unit</b></p> <p>Training on Prevent for members recommended</p>		<p><b>remaining staff directly adopted as well as extra face to face sessions within waste management (now complete ) .</b></p> <p><b>2 Training Sessions for Members completed</b></p>
5.	Refer adults and children at risk to Channel	Details of the referral mechanism have been communicated to frontline staff through the Prevent training and safeguarding Procedure	Sarah Astin	<b>Relevant staff &amp; Elected Members informed of referral process through the rollout of training</b>
6.	Establish robust policies and procedures for local authority resources to ensure they do not provide a platform for extremists	Bookings are scrutinised but policy needs reviewing. Town Councils and PLT need to be included. To oversee /control Charity Collections taking place in the Borough	Geoff Whitehead	<b>Ongoing</b>
		ICT policy to be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Prevent duty and ensure that there are sufficient filtering and monitoring arrangements in place for IT equipment accessible by both staff and public .Involve Liberata	IT Head	<b>Policy reviewed and remedial action if necessary completed by December 2017</b>

		Ensure that the principles of the duty are written in a suitable form into any new contracts for the delivery of council services	Howard Culshaw	<b>Review contract content by Dec 2017</b>
7.	Refrain from working with extremist organisations	Management Team to ensure that the Council, its staff and Elected Members do not work with any extremist organisations and put measures in place to prevent this from happening.	All MT	<b>Identifying how we do this and which measures are appropriate by March 2018</b>
	Community Leadership role	Raise awareness of Prevent for Elected Members to enhance the Council's community leadership role and extend engagement to a wider audience.	Geoff Whitehead	<b>Workshop for interested members completed by March 2018</b>