

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

8 January 2017

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Vulnerable People from Extremism

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report provides an update and outlines the Force's current position in relation to Safeguarding Vulnerable People from Extremism.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Safeguarding Vulnerable People from Extremism.</p>
<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p> <p>3. In addition to making sure we can effectively respond in event of a terrorist attack, we must all work together to prevent people from being radicalised in the first place. There are often a number of complex factors which can make somebody vulnerable to radicalisation so it is crucial that we work together across the community to identify those at risk as early as we can and safeguard them from extremist influences. The Prevent Duty gives direction for the police and partners around our shared responsibility to combat the threat of radicalisation within our communities and the PCC will continue to work with partners to ensure that we are all playing our part in delivering it.</p>
<p>KEY INFORMATION</p> <p>4. The PCC has committed to make sure that we have the right resources, understanding, people and governance frameworks to tackle national threats such as terrorism, serious public disorder, organised crime and civil emergencies. West Yorkshire Police is the lead force within the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NECTU) and as such, the PCC has lead oversight for the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In addition to the general governance, accountability and administrative oversight between the OPCC and the police, the PCC has also been working closely with the NE CTU on a number of projects and keeps in contact through regular meetings and briefings.• Within the OPCC there is a lead policy officer who has responsibility for ensuring that the Strategic Policing Requirement is met, which this incorporates terrorism. The same officer also has responsibility for the priority area of radicalisation and so has built up strong working relations with the NECTU and Prevent team.• A representative from the OPCC has attended a national conference in March 2016 aimed at implementing the Prevent Duty across the education sector, and we will be building on this learning across all partners, in order to respond to the new counter-extremism and safeguarding bill.

- The PCC has also recently brought together Local Authority Prevent coordinators to discuss opportunities for better joint working on community engagement, campaigns, communications etc. between the OPCC, police and local partners.
- The PCC has also supported a range of community groups through the Safer Communities Fund which are focused on anti-radicalisation, community cohesion and protecting the vulnerable. The PCC has given £49,447.98 of Safer Communities Fund monies to 13 projects in the focussed Grant Round 11.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

5. Prevent, like any safeguarding strategy can only be delivered in partnership between key agencies. Whilst the police take an active role in the delivery of Prevent, many other partners are involved including those from health, education, local authorities, prisons and offender management and community groups.
 - In April 2016, the PCC reviewed the new Prevent Duty guidance which directs the police and partners in their joint delivery of the Prevent strategy. This guidance has become integral to the PCCs work in bringing together key stakeholders across West Yorkshire.
 - The University of Bradford (with the support of the OPCC and NECTU) are working on a project to identify triggers in process of online radicalisation and intervention options for practitioners, this project is in the final stages and will contribute to improving the response to extremism in a tangible way.
 - Community safety partners are joining local Prevent coordinators are to plan workshops in each of the five districts to teach frontline staff across organisations about their responsibilities under the Prevent duty, raise awareness of radicalisation and improve the referral processes.



Chief Officer Team Briefing for COM

Title: Prevent Agenda Update

CoT Sponsor: ACC Mr Foster

Report Author: D.Supt Mr Nik Adams

Overview

The year to date has seen a number of attacks committed across the United Kingdom, which has placed unprecedented demand upon police forces and the CT network nationally.

There is recognition that a step-change in our approach must be delivered to break the momentum of attacks and deter those who may otherwise be emboldened by the recent success of terrorists. Terrorist propaganda seeks to encourage very local attacks and our response therefore tackles this threat with our communities and partners at a very local level. The policing elements of the Prevent strategy are co-ordinated by Counter Terrorism Policing North East and delivered in partnership with communities and professionals from other sectors across West Yorkshire.

Local Delivery

To tackle the risks of radicalisation we have placed an even greater focus on local delivery, working both strategically and with those responsible for operational front-line delivery in each District through formal structures, groups and meetings. This ensures local Prevent action plans reflect the level and nature of threats within Districts. Recent police Local Accountability Meetings (LAMs) have focused on Prevent delivery across West Yorkshire and this has identified good practice, areas for improvement, and increased activity. We have delivered a number of news articles, radio and television interviews, internet briefings and an electronic billboard campaign to improve understanding of the work of the CTU amongst communities and professionals.

Reporting concerns – improving our approach

Research undertaken by Huddersfield University has informed understanding of the process of how communities look to report concerns. This is leading to further work with statutory and voluntary organisations and communities throughout West Yorkshire to build wider understanding and trust and confidence in Prevent. A pilot is being developed to identify individuals and groups who are most likely to be approached for advice by individuals who

have concerns about a friend or loved one. Research shows the process of enabling people to come forward requires them to feel reassured that they will be taken seriously, have confidence that vulnerable people will be supported and protected and understand what will happen next following a report. The pilot will ensure those most likely to be approached have the right level of understanding to then act as enablers to ensure concerns are raised promptly.

The research also shows that once someone decides to report a concern, the preferred method of reporting is face to face to a local police officer. A series of video briefings and reference documents for front-line officers and staff have been developed to ensure all colleagues understand the current threat and are equipped to deal with any reports from a member of the public. This approach recognises the pivotal role played by neighbourhood officers in preventing terrorism, further Prevent training is being developed to support the implementation of the new Neighbourhood Policing model.

The Military

Following recent cases that were widely reported in the media involving serving military personnel, we are working closely with the military to better understand and challenge the threat posed by the XRW. This will see bespoke training and awareness raising delivered across the armed forces in the region in order to enable the early identification of concerns.

Mental Health

Mental ill health continues to feature as a significant vulnerability factor in radicalisation. It increases the risks of individuals carrying out lone actor attacks. Our Northern Mental Health Hub approach, delivered jointly with Counter Terrorism Policing NW, is gaining momentum with specialist MH professionals advising on interventions and securing additional MH services as required. Learning from this pilot has informed the development of the service and a business case was recently submitted to the Home Office to request funding to increase capacity and secure long-term delivery. The approach is improving the way vulnerable individuals with mental health needs are safeguarded and protected from extremists.

Channel Programme

The Dovetail Channel pilot, trialled in Kirklees (one of nine national pilot areas), is to become national practice. Learning from West Yorkshire is informing the roll-out across the county and work is ongoing to ensure a new approach to Channel will have the capability and capacity to manage the growing complexity of risk found within radicalisation cases. The final design will complement existing practices to ensure that whilst the most vulnerable are safeguarded through Channel, those who seek to radicalise others are tackled robustly through alternative tactics.

Returnees from conflict zones

Work with Local Authority Children's and Adult Social Care and Districts continues to increase understanding of the risks posed by and to adults and minors returning from conflict zones. This work ensures preparedness should returnees from conflict zones return to West Yorkshire. Our work, once again, has been highlighted nationally as best practice by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) at the Home Office.

Further and Higher Education

The HE/FE prevent co-ordinator role has recently been filled following a 2 year vacancy. This role will be based within the North East but will be hosted by the Department for Education in London. This creates an opportunity to enhance partnerships across the sector in order to increase understanding, support the delivery of training and ensure effective referral mechanisms are in place. To mitigate the risk left by this long-standing vacancy, Counter Terrorism Policing NE has delivered a number of events and projects in partnership with HE/FE institutions. We have also ensured all key institutions are represented on local Prevent partnership groups. Whilst work has focussed on the areas of greatest concern and risk, the lack of provision of a co-ordinator within the HE/FE sector has placed additional demand on the police and diluted our work in other areas.