

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

2 May 2017

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Vulnerable People from Extremism

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report 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 divert them away from extremism. 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, this incorporates terrorism and consequently that officer has built up strong working relations with staff at the NE CTU including the Prevent team to get upstream of the threats.• Other work includes orchestrating a meeting with all of the regional PCCs at the NE CTU to discuss the issues and pressures being placed upon the unit and the options for collaborative work between PCCs around these.

- In addition to the work with the police, the OPCC has also begun to plan a series of public consultation opportunities in relation to the new Prevent duty which will not only focus on the police's delivery of Prevent but the wider public sector and community work.
- A representative from the OPCC has also recently attended a national conference 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 fund will continue to use money seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act to support communities.
- The PCC is also represented on the regional CONTEST board which includes partners from a wide range of partners involved in protecting the county and country from the threat of terrorism together.
- The PCC has given £14,714 of Safer Communities Fund monies to 3 projects since 2014.

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.
 - NECTU and other partners including health, social care, education and prisons have been focusing on better joint working practices through the Channel process which is similar to a safeguarding board to protect those identified as being vulnerable to extremism. In each of the five districts the Channel Panels are chaired by a partner agency as oppose to the police which is in line with the national guidance.
 - 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.
 - 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 PCC

Title: Safeguarding vulnerable people from extremism

CoT Sponsor: ACC Foster

Report Author: Superintendent N Adams

SUMMARY

The following report outlines the current Counter Terrorism (CT) threats to communities. It focuses specifically on work undertaken under the Prevent strategy, which forms part of the Government's Counter Terrorism CONTEST strategy, to safeguard vulnerable communities and individuals from extremism. The ultimate aim of the Prevent strategy is to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The work of the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NE CTU) under the CONTEST strategy is set out in the NE CTU Business Plan for Counter Terrorism Policing 2017/18.

Police Prevent activity in West Yorkshire is co-ordinated by the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NE CTU), under the direction of the Regional Police Prevent co-ordinator, Detective Superintendent Nik Adams. The Prevent team at NE CTU also cover a further 6 forces which make up the North East region; Northumbria, Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

Individuals or organisations at risk of being drawn into terrorism are managed through the Prevent Case Management (PCM) process. As part of the PCM process, one tactical option for management of an individual is Channel. Channel officers respond to referrals of vulnerable individuals who may be drawn into radicalisation or violent extremism. They offer support and guidance to consenting individuals through a multi-agency panel to formulate a strategic response for vulnerable individuals to draw them away from potentially harmful and/or unlawful activity. Amongst other responses, the use of Intervention Providers (IPs) has been beneficial during the Channel process to help challenge radical and extreme views.

Since October 2016, a significant area of Prevent police work has been focussed on disrupting those who seek to radicalise others where there is insufficient evidence to prosecute under the Terrorism Act. Since the launch of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) public facing partner organisations have continued to develop their own processes and training to ensure individuals who are vulnerable to extremism are identified and supported. This has resulted in an increasing number of referrals into Prevent policing and the identification of an increasing number of individuals who do not consent to involvement in the Channel programme. As a consequence, Prevent policing, with the support of statutory partners where appropriate, has developed a broad range of tactics to disrupt those individuals and organisations who may pose a risk to vulnerable communities and individuals where they avoid or resist more supportive interventions.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

The current UK Threat Level from International Terrorism is SEVERE; an attack is highly likely. The current Northern Ireland-related Terrorism Threat in the UK is SUBSTANTIAL; an attack is a strong possibility.

Mitigating the threat from **international terrorism** remains our highest priority and we must constantly review our response in the face of changing threats. The conflict in Syria is likely to result in returnees to the UK who will present new challenges to the safety of communities. There will be a significant challenge in safeguarding children and young people who may have been brought up in international conflict zones.

It is important that we recognise the risk of radicalisation in **prisons** where individuals may come into contact with extremists. Upon release, it is vital that we recognise the potential for ongoing risk from radicalised individuals, and work with partners to safeguard those who are vulnerable and disrupt the activities of those who would seek to radicalise others.

The threat from **domestic extremism** was directly felt within West Yorkshire by the actions of Thomas Mair, who murdered Jo Cox on 16th June 2016. The threat of **lone actors**, who prepare and commit violent acts alone outside of any group or network or individuals, could not have been more tragically and starkly highlighted by the murder of our colleague PC Keith Palmer and innocent members of the public on 22nd March 2017.

Online Extremism and radicalisation continue to present challenges to counter terrorism policing, due to the vast space in which extremists operate online throughout the UK and the world.

Risks faced by communities in each District are outlined in an annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile report. Strategic and tactical co-ordination groups meet, involving the police and partners, to deliver local initiatives and co-ordinate work to mitigate the identified risks and priorities. This work is underpinned thorough quarterly tasking and intelligence reports.

PARTNERSHIPS

Since October 2016 statutory partners have continued to develop processes, Prevent training and initiatives to raise awareness, and build confidence and knowledge in how to report concerns. Strong partnerships have continued to evolve with all Districts through the management of cases and safeguarding of individuals, the development of local working arrangements and relationships, and through regular meetings and workshops at Force and District level. This approach ensures partnerships continue to learn and evolve.

The risk of returnees will present a unique set of challenges for partners. A returning family with children, some of whom may have been born in or spent several years within a conflict zone, will carry individual risks and challenges. The role of partners to safeguard vulnerable adults and children may need to span many years and consider the wider impact that the returnees may have on their family and community. The impact of this will be far reaching into services including police, Education, Health and Social Care.

Lone Actors, as described above, have presented limited opportunities to identify their extremist views and intent to cause harm in advance of their criminal action. It is essential that all partners understand the risks and signs of extremism and ensure that they have processes in place to identify and report concerns.

ONGOING WORK AND DEVELOPMENTS

Work is ongoing to deliver initiatives that underpin the work of partners and the police to mitigate the risks as set out in this report. The highlights of current work are as follows:

1. Trust and Confidence:

Across communities and partners, Trust and Confidence requires bespoke local approaches to Prevent engagement, communication and messaging:

- Communication is underpinned by a regional communications plan to ensure accuracy, consistency and relevance of key messages.
- Proactive Media work has been undertaken locally and nationally, led by Superintendent Adams. This has included BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC Asian Network interviews, local radio and television interviews (Calendar News, Radio Aire, Radio Leeds and Sunrise FM), and local and national newspaper articles. Through demonstrating transparency in our work we strive to show balance and good practice in Prevent and bust myths to increase confidence.
- We continue to support and meet with influential groups, most recently with Hope Not Hate, Solutions not Sides, The Penny Appeal, Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA) and the Regional Health Forum.
- A HE/FE Conference is planned for summer 2017.
- Further District partnership case study workshops are being planned for June 2017.

2. Strategic partnerships:

We continue to work with the Secure Societies Institute (Huddersfield University), Bradford University and CREST to deliver research projects. Current work includes the following projects:

- To understand the drivers of, and inhibitors to, reporting intimately associated family members and close friends. This project has gained national prominence and influence.
- PhD thesis to understand the religious narratives used by extremists.
- To better understand online radicalisation and what organisations and communities can do to tackle it.
- To better understand the prevalence and nature of MH within Prevent referrals to shape service delivery. This work is now shaping a partnership with the NW CTU to deliver dedicated MH practitioner support to the NE CTU.

3. Embedding Prevent into front line policing:

- Local Prevent officers have continue to deliver bespoke inputs to front line and neighbourhood officers within Districts.
- An online toolkit has been developed and shared with call handling colleagues.
- A bespoke training programme is being delivered to Detention and Custody Officers and will include NHS custody nurses to ensure signs of extremism are identified.
- A mobile data App for front line officers is being developed to provide current Prevent tasking; assist decision making; identify opportunities to safeguard; identify extremist material; and safely gather evidence.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

We recognise that the impact of Prevent policing can disproportionately be felt by sections of the community. We work hard to ensure that policing activity is proportionate, protects the rights of individuals, and is delivered in such a way that builds trust and confidence.