

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

19 June 2018

SUBJECT: Prevent

Report of the Chief Constable

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report provides an update and outlines the Force's current position in relation to Prevent.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Prevent.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></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><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></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"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

- 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 supported a range of community groups through the Safer Communities Fund which are focused on anti-radicalisation and safeguarding vulnerable people from extremism. Since 2014 the PCC has given £82,058.98 of Safer Communities Fund monies to 20 projects.

#### **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**

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### **1. Overview**

The attacks last year placed unprecedented demand upon police forces and the CT Network nationally.

There followed a recognition that a step-change in our shared approach must be delivered to break the momentum of attacks and deter those who may otherwise be emboldened by the recent success of terrorists. The policing elements of the CONTEST Strategy are co-ordinated by Counter Terrorism Policing North East and delivered in partnership with communities and stakeholders from other sectors across West Yorkshire.

### **2. Local Delivery**

We continue to focus on local delivery, working both at a strategic level and locally to improve operational front-line delivery. This seeks to ensure local Prevent action plans reflect the level and nature of threats within Districts informed by the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). A recent audit undertaken by the OPCC is awaited which has focused on Prevent delivery across Districts in West Yorkshire and it is expected that this will identify good practice and areas for improvement. The recently held national ACT Campaign has sought to encourage reporting and this builds upon the regular media coverage we have enjoyed including news articles, radio and television interviews, internet briefings and an electronic billboard campaign delivered across the Region to improve understanding of the work of the CTU amongst communities and professionals.

### **3. Reporting Concerns – Improving our Approach**

Research undertaken by Huddersfield University has been presented to the national Counter Terrorism Independent Advisory Group (CTIAG) chaired by Mr Basu. Members of the group are actively considering how best to take the research forward into communities to improve community reporting and further build trust and confidence in Prevent.

It is hoped that as a result the Region will be successful in securing a pilot which is being developed to run throughout 2018. This should identify individuals and groups who are most likely to be approached for advice by those who have concerns about a friend or loved one. Initial discussions have taken place with faith groups and members of the CTIAG with a view to exploring how best to develop the pilot across diverse communities within West Yorkshire.

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. To support this, Prevent Champions are being created amongst district staff across West Yorkshire. Districts are exploring opportunities to create Prevent Champions within their respective partnerships. e.g. Health and Local Authorities.

Staff from a diverse range of roles from neighbourhoods to HR, including special constables in some districts, are being provided with training and regular briefings to help them better understand the current threat and equipping them with the confidence to deal with any reports from a member of the public. This approach recognises the pivotal role played by neighbourhood officers and the wider district in preventing terrorism, and further Prevent training is being developed to support the implementation of the new Neighbourhood Policing model.

#### **4. The Military**

Following recent cases that were widely reported in the media involving serving military personnel, we are working closely with the military to enable them to better understand and challenge the threat posed by the XRW. This has included two sessions with Senior Leaders and Welfare Officers within local military units. Further sessions are planned to be delivered across the Armed Forces in the Region including Reserve Units and Cadet Corps in order to enable the early identification of concerns.

#### **5. Mental Health**

Mental 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. We have had some success with the business case recently submitted with some additional funding being awarded to increase capacity and develop a longer-term delivery model. The approach will improve the way vulnerable individuals with mental health needs are safeguarded and protected from extremists across our Region.

#### **6. NHS Professionals**

NHS England are considering the adoption of the Prevent Champion model. This is likely to be trialled initially within Calderdale. This will support Health colleagues more widely providing additional training and give greater confidence to front line staff. This work builds on learning from the Huddersfield University research and will support the drive to increase referrals from within health.

#### **7. Channel Programme**

The Dovetail Channel pilot, currently being trialled in Kirklees as one of the nine national pilot sites has become national practice. Learning from this is now informing the roll-out across the county and wider region. A briefing by CTP NE and the Local Authority was given at the recent West Yorkshire CONTEST Board to ensure members were up to speed with developments.

Discussions are underway nationally between CS Adams and OSCT in order to harmonise Channel guidance for both police and local authorities. This will reduce confusion that currently exists and better safeguard the most vulnerable.

#### **8. Returnees from Conflict Zones**

Work with Local Authority Children's and Adult Social Care and District partners continues. The need to test district plans to ensure effectiveness is being highlighted within the current CTLP which is being delivered at partnership CONTEST Gold meetings across West Yorkshire. Workshops are being planned for the wider region to ensure that neighbouring force areas understand the risks posed by and to adults and minors returning from conflict zones. This work ensures a greater level of preparedness should returnees from conflict zones return to West Yorkshire. This work is recognised nationally as best practice by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) at the Home Office.

#### **9. Further and Higher Education**

The HE/FE Prevent Co-ordinator role has recently been filled by Chris Sybenga 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. It is hoped that this creates an opportunity to improve partnerships across the sector in order to increase understanding, support the delivery of training, and ensure effective referral mechanisms are in place. Early discussions have taken place with Chris to seek his support to deliver initiatives across the sector.

#### **10. Education**

Prevent staff are holding workshops with teaching staff and LA Prevent Education Officers across the County to highlight the need to ensure that those making referrals within schools are following established safeguarding procedures. This will ensure that responses are proportionate and best serve the needs of the child or young person. This will reduce the situation where CTP NE are contacted late in the day and asked to undertake home visits on behalf of schools to establish the validity of overseas travel which can often seem heavy handed and damage trust and confidence in the Police Service.