

Meeting: Housing Sub Committee

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Title: Prevent Strategy - It's Context and Delivery

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Service: Environment Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the work that the Authority, and its partners, undertake to fulfil the obligations set out in the government's *Prevent* strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and to support future work to continue the efforts of the Authority and its partners.

3.0 Background and Context

3.1 The *Prevent* Strategy forms part of the Government's CONTEST strategy. The CONTEST strategy is designed to help agencies and government address the threat of terrorism to the UK. There are several workstreams which form this strategy:

- Prevent
- Protect and Prepare
- Pursue

The Authority has specific duties allocated to implement this work. This report provides an overview of those duties and describes the context and objectives of the legislation as well as explaining how the issues are tackled within the borough.

4.0 PREVENT

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 *Prevent* aims to respond to the threat of terrorism at its root – to stop recruitment of people and groups to ideological views and beliefs. This in turn aims to stop people carrying out acts of terror.

4.1.2 It was first implemented in 2004, but last reviewed by Lord Carlisle in 2011 under Theresa May as Home Secretary at the time.

4.1.3 It gives local authorities some specific duties including training and awareness and a specific role in chairing Channel Panels – which are multi agency interventions for those persons identified as being at risk of being radicalised.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 There are three main objectives to *Prevent*:

- To respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- To prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- To work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

4.3 Delivery in North Tyneside

4.3.1 **WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent)** is a Home Office training package. The Authority has delivered this to all front line staff identified by line managers. The following tiered training approach has been developed and implemented:

- A first tier introductory e-learning module that everyone can access (along with a workbook for staff for those with little or no ICT access);
- A second tier face-to-face module for delivery to staff with a public facing role; and
- A third tier module (the full WRAP package) for staff who have personal and direct contact with individuals and families

4.3.2 To date, approximately 1400 staff from the Authority and its delivery partners (including schools) have completed some form of *Prevent* Awareness training as part of the roll-out.

4.3.3 **Channel Panels** are established when a referral is made about a concern for an individual, usually by the Police, but also via front line staff. The Panel aims to identify ways to support individuals who are at risk of being radicalised. This can involve safeguarding and diversionary work for local authorities. The Police conduct a Vulnerability Assessment Framework to establish whether the person meets the criteria for Channel. A process is in place for the Authority to Chair this Panel and any initial information sharing meetings which assist the Police to gather information and conduct the assessment. This is a voluntary process for the individual identified. No Channel Panel meetings have been held in North Tyneside to date. However the framework has

been established and it was exercised, in conjunction with Northumbria Police, during summer 2016 to ensure that Authority officers and its partners are suitably prepared.

4.3.4 Access to public buildings and facilities The Authority also has a specific duty around not giving access to public buildings and facilities to groups who may represent an ideological view and may use public facilities to further their cause. This has been flagged with all public facilities in North Tyneside run by the Authority. No requests have been received to use of such facilities from any known groups or individuals.

4.3.5 Review by the Home Office The Authority has recently led discussions locally with the Home Office to discuss the challenges faced by northern local authorities and their partners. Those discussions, chaired by the Cabinet Member responsible for Community Engagement, will inform future delivery of the *Prevent* Strategy.

5.0 PROTECT AND PREPARE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This work relates to the threat of terrorism and how the UK is ready to respond. Risk is assessed nationally against the UK threat level, which can be found on the Home Office website.

5.1.2 The threat level is set against a five-point scale:

- **Low** – an attack is unlikely
- **Moderate** – an attack is possible, but not likely
- **Substantial** – an attack is a strong possibility
- **Severe** – an attack is highly likely
- **Critical** – an attack is expected imminently

5.1.3 The threat to the UK from international terrorism is currently assessed as **SEVERE** and the threat from Irish Related Terrorism to the UK mainland is assessed as **SUBSTANTIAL**.

5.2 Objectives

- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.

5.3 Delivery in North Tyneside

5.3.1 Protect: This relates primarily to Resilience Planning and Security Services. It requires local authorities, with partners, to conduct risk assessments and consider how the effects of a terrorist attack might be managed in response and in recovery.

5.3.2 Prepare: This work dovetails with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the '2004 Act') which sets out a range of statutory duties providing a framework for local authorities to assess

risks, plan responses, consider recovery issues and conduct learning and debrief activity following any major incidents or emergencies.

- 5.3.3 Policies and Procedures:** The Safer North Tyneside Board, the statutory community safety body in North Tyneside, oversees the approach in the borough to the implementation of the CONTEST strategy. The Board has ensured that necessary policies and operational procedures have been implemented and are appropriately reviewed. Every responder named in the 2004 Act has their own response mechanisms. However a multi agency plan has been developed which outlines how we would work together in the event of an incident. This plan is periodically reviewed.
- 5.3.4 Authority Leadership:** The Authority's Senior Leadership Team has recently received a detailed briefing from Senior Officers within the Authority and Northumbria Police on CONTEST and related activity. This is also being cascaded to Heads of Service for communicating with their teams.
- 5.3.5 Training:** This is delivered internally with the Authority with the support of Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. Training has focussed on hostile reconnaissance activities, suspicious packages and objects and access control procedures for all Authority buildings where Security staff are on site. This is especially important for our CCTV operators who monitor a number of public space cameras owned by the Authority, Northumbria Police and Nexus, as well as some external clients, like the NHS.
- 5.3.6** Training has also been delivered to members of North Tyneside's business community to assist them in their preparedness and to promote sharing of good practice and being a resilient organisation. One event for example was directed at businesses within the Cobalt Business Park and another focussed on licensed premises in the borough. The aim of the events was to raise awareness of the threat of terrorism and the roles and responsibilities businesses have both during and also in the immediate aftermath of such an attack. The events were supported by the Elected Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement.

6.0 PURSUE

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 This relates mostly to Policing activity and aims to hold perpetrators to account for their actions.

6.2 Objectives

6.2.1 The Police have enforcement capacity in relation to laws which aim to hold people and groups to account for their actions. This can include disruption action in order to stop individuals or groups from causing harm.

6.2.2 Similarly, local authorities also have a responsibility to take action to protect communities which could include contributing to disruption activity in relation to organised crime which may be linked to terrorism.

6.3 Delivery in North Tyneside

6.3.1 As with any duty, the Authority has a responsibility to support the Police and other emergency services in the execution of their statutory duties.

6.3.2 The Authority has a range of regulatory activities which help to maintain safe practices and lawful business activity in the borough. This includes for example; licensing, trading standards and housing enforcement. The Authority continues to work closely with Northumbria Police on dealing with the impact of organised crime.

7. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the authors.

Home Office video called 'Run, Hide, Tell' video

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film>

Safer North Tyneside, CONTEST: Protect & Prepare –Concept of Operations.