

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 10

meeting date: TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016
title: PREVENT
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JOSEPH HILDRED – PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of the Council's statutory responsibilities under the Government's counter terrorism strategy 'Contest' and particularly under the 'Prevent' strand of that strategy.
- 1.2 To recommend to Members actions the Council should take as part of its statutory responsibilities under Prevent.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives – The Council's statutory obligations under 'Prevent' should be viewed as an extension of its safeguarding responsibilities. We are required to identify those at risk of radicalisation and protect them.
 - Corporate Priorities – This is a statutory responsibility and the Council therefore must respond. As a minimum we must assess risk and prepare an appropriate action plan based on that risk.
 - Other Considerations – None identified.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Contest is the government's strategy to counter terrorism. It is split into four parts:
 - Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks.
 - Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
 - Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
 - Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
- 2.2 **Prevent** operates in the pre-criminal space and local authorities have a statutory responsibility to assess the risk of radicalisation in their area and prepare an action plan accordingly. This should not place any additional burden on the day to day activities of the council as it should form part of their safeguarding procedures; however there may be some initial effort in establishing processes.
- 2.3 It is important to be aware that there are proposals to rebrand **Prevent** to **Engage** in an attempt to improve the image of the programme.
- 2.4 **Definitions**
 - **Extremism**

The government has defined extremism as:

“vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.”

Extremism includes:

- International terrorism (this includes Islamist extremism) – current threat level is severe;
- Northern Ireland related – current threat level is substantial;
- Domestic Extremism (this includes extreme right-wing) – this poses a threat to public order, not national security.

- **Terrorism**

Extremist groups become terrorist groups when they use violence or threats of violence to publicise their causes and as a means to achieve their goals. They often aim to influence or exert pressure on governments and government policies but reject democratic processes, or even democracy itself.

Extremist groups may still be legal, however some may be proscribed if the Home Secretary believes it is concerned in terrorism and it is proportionate to do so. This is when the organisation:

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism;
- prepares for terrorism;
- promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism);
- is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

- **Radicalisation**

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations.

Terrorist groups will radicalise and therefore recruit (often vulnerable) people through use of extremist ideology. The government Prevent strategy which this report covers, aims to prevent radicalisation.

It is important to note that not all members of terrorist groups participate in violence but may be supporting the violent acts of the terrorist group.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Under statutory guidance (available to view here https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/44597/7/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf), Ribble Valley is required to assess the risk of terrorism in its area. All Lancashire district councils including Ribble Valley are classed as Tier 3 (low risk) with the exception of Blackburn and Burnley which are Tier 2 (medium risk).

- 3.2 Although Ribble Valley is low risk, we are still required to assess the risk and use this assessment to prepare an action plan. The action plan will ensure we are able to respond appropriately if an individual is found to be at risk of radicalisation. Radicalisation is non-geographical and can happen anywhere, including over the internet.
- 3.3 The Council is responsible for ensuring its staff can recognise the signs of a vulnerable person being radicalised under its safeguarding procedures and if needed and refer them to 'Channel'. Channel is a multi-agency panel that discusses individual cases of potential radicalisation and puts in place a 'Prevent Case Management Plan' to counteract that radicalisation.
- 3.4 Lancashire County Council has prepared a Prevent delivery plan which includes recommendations to local authorities in preparing their own response to the Prevent agenda. This document has been taken into account in the preparation of the Ribble Valley risk assessment and action plan.
- 3.5 Officers have considered the risks relevant to Ribble Valley and in accordance with our statutory duty have produced an assessment of the risk to individuals in its area being radicalised. This risk assessment has been used to inform an action plan, which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The action plan will ensure staff and stakeholders are able to respond to suspicions of radicalisation and make appropriate referrals to Channel.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – Some officer time will be spent initially on the actions related to Prevent, such as reviewing policy and undertaking awareness raising sessions. Ongoing Lancashire-wide meetings will be attended by officers to ensure joint working but after the initial implementation very little additional work would be created.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – None identified.
 - Political – This is a statutory responsibility and therefore we need to be seen as taking appropriate actions as part of Prevent.
 - Reputation – This is a statutory responsibility and it is possible action would be taken if we do not respond, therefore damaging the Council's reputation.
 - Equality & Diversity – There is some tension in the BME community around the Prevent agenda and therefore it does need to be handled sensitively. However Ribble Valley is a low risk area so the actions in relation to Prevent are not invasive ones and primarily focus around ensuring the Council and its staff are suitably aware of Prevent and are able to spot signs of radicalisation as part of their general safeguarding responsibilities.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Agree the actions contained within the attached action plan.

JOSEPH HILDRED
PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

HM Government Prevent Strategy

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

For further information please ask for Joseph Hildred, extension 4551 (part time Monday – Wednesday AM)

REF: JH/P&F/25 OCT 16

Ribble Valley District Plan ⁽³⁾ (41-42)			
Activities	Lead Officer/ Organisations	Outcomes	Progress ⁽²³⁾

1. LEADERSHIP			
1.1 Engage in the governance arrangements with Lancashire Constabulary & other Lancs Authorities <i>(1)</i> (17)	Joseph Hildred (JH), Ribble Valley Borough Council (RBVC)	Effective strategic coordination and alignment across sectors. Effective partnership delivery structure	
1.2 Engage with local community groups to support delivery of the Prevent agenda. <i>(9)</i> (16)	JH	Ribble Valley BC and communities have raised awareness of issues and more resilient	
1.3 Training for Ribble Valley BC Heads of Services, senior management and Councillors. <i>(4)</i> (16) (19) (20) (43)	JH Michelle Smith (MS)	Greater awareness on where cases should be referred to Channel.	
1.4 Awareness raising for all other Ribble Valley BC staff and relevant stakeholders. To include e-learning and flyer distribution. <i>(4)</i> (16) (18) (19) (20) (43)	JH MS	Greater staff awareness on potential extremism/terrorism cases which should be reported under existing safeguarding procedures.	
1.5 Review Ribble Valley BC Policies and procedures, to include safeguarding, internet security and safety, lettings/bookings, procurement, charitable giving and risk assessment. <i>(6)</i> (7) (8) (40) (45-47) (51)	JH Mark Beveridge (MB) Lawson Oddie (LO) Diane Rice (DR)	Effective policies to ensure statutory guidance is met, with little or no additional work load created.	

Numbers in Italics are where the action links to recommendations from Lancashire Prevent Delivery Plan (number relates to recommendation in appendix 1)
Other Numbers are where the action links to Prevent Duty statutory guidance (number relates to paragraph number)

Ribble Valley District Plan <i>(3) (41-42)</i>			
Activities	Lead Officer/ Organisations	Outcomes	Progress <i>(23)</i>
1.6 Engage in the Lancashire Channel process & take required actions <i>(5) (44)</i>	Heads of Service (HoS) MB	Appropriate referrals made to Channel.	
1.7 Assess risk annually using the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP) and update actions as required <i>(2) (3) (14) (16) (38) (41-42)</i>	JH Colin Hirst (CH)	Ribble Valley BC's response to the Prevent agenda remains up to date and effective.	
2. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP			
2.1 Engage & network with local partners and other District council's in East Lancashire on best practice, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Safety Partnership - Lancashire Prevent Delivery Managers Group - Lancashire Contest Group - Lancashire Chief Executives Group - Channel Panel <i>(1) (17) (33) (34) (37)</i>	JH Dilys Day (DD) CH Marshal Scott (MSc)	Learning from what works & doesn't work to enable better local outcomes	

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