



To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 9th November

Subject: Prevent in Schools

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To brief members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny on the Prevent programme in schools'

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board are requested to:
- 1) Consider the proposals in the report and forward any recommendations to the Cabinet (or Cabinet Member)

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Prevent Duty was established in July 2015 as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act and in particular Section 26 which came into force on 1 July 2015. It outlines the duty for a school or college to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Schedule 6 confirms that all schools are covered by the requirements (whether maintained or independent are specified authorities for the purpose of the act). This report outlines these requirements and the implications for schools in the City, the key actions which have been taken to support implementation and proposals for further action.
- 3.2 The Prevent Duty states that the requirement to have due regard to the risks of radicalisation to support extremism is part of the wider safeguarding duties of schools and public bodies and should be incorporated within their main resources.
- 3.3 The Prevent Duty is closely associated with supporting local communities resist the threat of violent extremism. It is overseen locally by both the Community Safety Partnership and by both of the Local Safeguarding Boards

4 Prevent Duty requirements and response

- 4.1 Essentially the Prevent Duty is based on the principle that recognising that children can be vulnerable to exploitation and radicalised to support and engage in violent extremism is one part of the safeguarding duties of teachers – and is therefore part of the overall duty of care.
- 4.2 There are four key duties for schools:
- Identify local risks
 - Identify at risk students
 - Work in partnership with other agencies
 - Keep children safe online where much of the radicalisation takes place (including phones not just PCs and Laptops)

- 4.3 To meet these duties there are a range of measures Schools need to take:-
- Assess the risk of children being drawn into developing extreme/radical views.
 - Demonstrate that they are safeguarding children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
 - Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
 - Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
 - Ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.
- 4.4 In addition, all schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural values (SMSC) to develop their pupils in “Self knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, distinguish right from wrong, contributing to their locality and society, further tolerance and harmony encourage respect for other people and the rule of the law.” The achievement against this requirement is assessed through Ofsted.
- 4.5 A large part of the response to the Duty has been to provide training and awareness to schools in the City. During 2015 the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit hosted a number of events for all schools to attend and be briefed on the local context and requirements. Since October 2015, and the appointment of the Prevent Co-ordinator, further training has been available. During that time almost 40 schools have been directly trained by the Co-ordinator, with over 1,000 staff attending, the principal form of training is based on the Home Office model known as the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent. The key aspects of the course are:-
- Raising awareness of the Prevent Duty
 - Offering opportunity to discuss vulnerabilities of young people to radicalisation
 - Identification of behaviours suggesting vulnerabilities
 - Consideration of the risk
 - Appreciation of the support that is available and how to access that support
- 4.6 It is important to emphasise that the training provided locally confirms that Prevent is concerned with all forms of extremism that might lead to terrorism, including domestic extremism, such as extreme right wing activity. The training includes material and case studies that illustrate the different forms of extremism and how Prevent applies to all.
- 4.7 To support schools an illustrative Prevent Policy was circulated to be used in conjunction with, or incorporated within, the school safeguarding policy arrangements. Included within this policy guide is further information on signs associated with vulnerability and guidance on what to do if a school is concerned and feels a pupil needs support. The Duty asks staff to have regard to the whole safeguarding assessment of individuals, their emotional, behavioural and physical circumstances in considering risks. Additional guidance around the requirements for schools was provided through “Safeguarding and Radicalisation” event hosted by the joint Safeguarding Board in April. This event looked at:-
- National best practice
 - Local threat and risk
 - Local action and resources
- 4.8 Other Prevent initiatives taking place around schools have included:-
- The delivery of a programme called “Identity, Belonging and Extremism” in 4 secondary schools. This initiative was identified by Government as a national best practice resource and worked directly with pupils to explore these issues in support of the established work around the core curriculum.

- The publication of Educate against Hate by the DfE – which contains a wide range of resources around Prevent in schools.
 - Advice and support around individuals who are felt to be at risk.
- 4.9 The Government have required all areas to establish a Channel Panel. This is a multi-agency group, led by the Local Authority. Its principal aim is to provide a safeguarding support to individuals who may be at risk of radicalisation. The key aspects of the Channel Panel are that:-
- It is based on informed consent, so that the person knows and agrees to their consideration by the Panel.
 - It is concerned with pre-criminal activity and involves agencies in providing a range of safeguarding responses to individual needs
 - Its activity can include identifying mainstream service requirements; identifying and enabling access to community resources; allocation of a specialist mentor to work with the individual.
 - Schools use the existing safeguarding referral processes to refer issues for consideration by Channel.
- 4.10 The Government does not publish local information on the numbers of referrals to Channel Panel. However, nationally, it has reported that 80% of cases referred to it exit the Channel programme with a reduced risk of radicalisation.
- 4.11 A local Prevent Steering Group, (which include education representatives) comprised of the agencies covered by the Prevent Duty meet regularly to review and priorities partnership actions. The following additional actions have been identified to further assist schools in the implementation of the Prevent Duty.
- A survey of all schools training and support needs has been prepared – this should guide further development and targeting of training support and assessing the impact of that which has been provided to date.
 - Develop a local group of qualified trainers – so that there is a wider pool of expertise available to schools to deliver the Home Office programme.
 - Deliver a “learning from Best Practice” event – using nationally cited expertise to assist local schools in applying Prevent.
 - Develop an online resource bank to make it easier to access information and resources
- 4.12 The Prevent Duty extends to public bodies in Coventry, all schools, colleges and early years providers. A local partnership steering group brings agencies together to co-ordinate the response to the duty, and community engagement with local partner groups is ongoing. At the heart of the Prevent Duty is the focus upon safeguarding local residents from the risks of radicalisation in support of violent extremism. As such it has an important part in helping to ensure that Coventry children and young people recognise and understand the risks of extremism and how to stay safe. It is also consistent with the overall aim of Coventry as a City of Peace and Reconciliation – resisting the threat of extremism which seeks to divide communities.
- 4.13 The principles of the Prevent Duty are clearly outlined in support of the Equality Act – ‘Extremism’ is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy “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.”
- 5 Other useful background papers:**
- The Prevent duty - Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (June 2015)
 - Promoting fundamental British values as part of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Culture (SMSC)in schools - Departmental advice for maintained schools (November 2014)

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015)

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