



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 10th May 2017

Subject: Prevent in the Community

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To brief members of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the Prevent programme in the community.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are requested to consider the issues raised in the report and forward any recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member

2.2 Information/Background

- 2.3 As indicated in the briefing note prepared for the 8th February Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, 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 public bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The earlier report outlined these requirements and the implications of the Prevent Duty, along with the key actions which have been taken to support implementation.

- 2.4 Essentially the Prevent Duty is based on the principle that recognising that children, young people and adults can be vulnerable to exploitation and radicalised to support and engage in violent extremism is one part of the safeguarding duties of the local authority – and is therefore part of the overall duty of care.

- 2.5 The key duties of the Duty for the Council are to:

- Promote local partnerships
- Identify local risks
- Develop actions to mitigate those risks
- Undertake training staff in the organisation to understand the risks and the support that is available
- Ensure the safe and effective use of resources eg ICT use

2.6 Supporting Community Response to the Duty

- 2.7 A large part of the response to the Duty has been to provide training and awareness not just within the Council, but also with representatives of the local voluntary and community sector. As emphasised in the previous report the training and guidance 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. Over the last year the Council has worked with Voluntary Action Coventry to support two community focussed workshops at which local community group representatives could engage in a review of how Prevent is working and the implications for their work with local people, in addition to a presentation at the annual general meeting to outline the scope and priorities of the Prevent Duty. Most recently a further community event was held on April 27 organised through VAC at which attendees from across a variety of voluntary and community groups had the opportunity to discuss and implications of delivering Prevent in Coventry.

- 2.8 To support these wider engagement events, the Council is working with specific community organisations to engage them with the Prevent Duty. This has included providing training and also more informal engagement, including groups such as
- Grapevine
 - Valley House
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Mind
 - St Basils
 - Whitefriars Housing Association
 - Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre
 - Supported Housing organisations
- 2.9 A current priority is to do more to engage local sports and recreation groups around Prevent. To initiate this work a workshop is being held in May with a range of local sports group representatives to deliver the WRAP course and to look both to train volunteers to deliver this programme as well as identify further groups and networks that need to be prioritised.
- 2.10 In addition to the work around training and awareness, there are three community based projects funded and evaluated centrally by the Home Office. These projects support the Prevent Duty and we provide local co-ordination and direction. The projects are Upstanding Neighbourhoods, Kikit and Women Building Resilience.
- 2.11 The Upstanding Neighbourhoods initiative started work during 2016/17. This is a community based organisation which is supported by the Home Office to engage local people in promoting alternative narratives to extremist dialogue. To date this has involved giving training to directly to local people as well as working with a variety of local groups. The project will continue for the next 12 months providing further community training events, and developing local campaigns which bring communities together and challenge extremism from all quarters.
- 2.12 The Kikit organisation have also started work in Coventry. This community group works with local people to provide advice and support around substance misuse. In addition they have developed a local vulnerability assessment which highlights potential vulnerability to radicalisation and enables volunteers to mentor and guide local people to receive support.
- 2.13 The Home Office project “Women Building Resilience” has also been delivered across over three separate events with over 60 participants. This project was aimed specifically at local women and provided a range of safeguarding advice and support to local people. This included issues around the risks of radicalisation, how to recognise possible signs and what to do if there were concerns. This training evaluation indicated

that attendees felt better informed about the issues and aware of the support that was available.

2.14 A significant local community development that has taken place during 2016/17 has been the Our Families Our Future (OFOF) initiative. This programme is centred on Coventry schools and while it features the risks of radicalisation, does so in the context of wider safeguarding issues. In November 2016, the first of these events took place in Sidney Stringer School, at which over 200 of the female pupils and their mothers and/or sisters attended a very well received programme with a range of safeguarding inputs, including a presentation from a mentor who had personally worked with vulnerable girls at risk of radicalisation. A further event is scheduled for Sidney Stringer in May at which male pupils and their family members can attend a diverse programme with inputs around safeguarding matters. Key to the OFOF initiative is that there is a combined community and agency steering group, chaired by a community representative; the programme for each school is shaped by pupil representatives from that school; while it is centred on schools it explicitly looks to engage family and friends to draw a wider community impact. There is strong interest in taking up OFOF at schools across the City and further events are planned for May and July while a programme is also being reviewed for the next academic year. It is too early to evaluate the impact of this project, but this will be a priority for the steering group as it delivers through 2017/18.

2.15 The Prevent Duty has also been presented to and discussed with a variety of local community networks including the Coventry Inter-faith forum, Muslim Community forum and Community Safety forum.

2.16 **Other useful background papers:**

2.17 The Prevent duty - (June 2015)

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