



Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Title:	Prevent Agenda
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Purpose of Agenda Item

This report is intended to inform the Select Committee of the new Duty on public authorities including schools with regard to Prevent and an overview of the work BCC is currently doing to support schools.

Background

1. In 2011, the Coalition Government published its **Prevent Strategy**; one of the four elements of its overall strategy on counter terrorism and the only element which operates in the pre criminal space i.e. before an illegal act has been committed.
2. The Prevent Strategy aims to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It sets out three objectives around **ideology, individuals and institutions**:
 - Objective 1: Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
 - Objective 2: Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given advice and support
 - Objective 3: Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation
3. The **Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015**, became law in February 2015 and:

- Gives the police the power to seize the passports of people suspected of being involved in terrorism;
- Introduces exclusion orders to prevent people from returning to the UK for up to two years unless the Home Secretary issues a permit to return
- Expands measures that can be included in terrorism prevention and investigation measures orders
- Requires communication service providers to retain data to allow the identification of the IP address an individual is using
- Gives the Home Secretary powers to require airlines to provide information on passengers and crews on flights
- Makes it an offence for an insurer in the UK to make ransom payments

4. It also introduces a **Prevent Duty** (enacted on 1 July 2015) which states that the prescribed bodies, in the exercise of their duties:

“...must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”

5. In summary, the Duty applies to:

- Local authorities
- Other agencies working with vulnerable adults, children and young people where the work is being discharged on behalf of a local authority
- NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts
- Higher & Further Education
- Schools
- Prison and probation
- The Police

6. There are two key elements to meeting the Prevent Duty:

- An assessment of the risk that goes beyond the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP) produced by the Police so that there is demonstrable engagement with partners and those to whom the Duty applies. Prevent action plans will need to be developed to address any risks identified for an area and will, naturally, vary depending on whether or not an area is deemed a Prevent priority.
- The establishment of a Channel Panel so that any individuals of potential concern can be referred for appropriate interventions. There is an expectation that local authorities will incorporate the duty into existing policies and procedures, so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, such as the need to ensure that there are clear and robust safeguarding policies to identify children (or vulnerable adults) at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

7. Those in leadership positions are expected to:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively

8. There is an expectation that local authorities will incorporate the duty into existing policies and procedures, so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, such as the need to ensure that there are clear and robust safeguarding policies to identify children (or vulnerable adults) at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

9. All specified authorities subject to the duty will need to ensure they:

- Provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty, including frontline staff who will need to understand what radicalisation means, why people may be vulnerable to it, how to spot the signs and how to report a potential referral to the **Channel Panel**;
- Do not provide a platform for extremists through allowing them to hire publicly-owned venues or access public resources to disseminate extremist views (including through IT equipment);
- Do not work with organisations who are engaged in any extremist activity or espouse extremist views; and
- Maintain appropriate records to show compliance with their responsibilities and provide reports when requested; and
- Have effective information sharing procedures in place that are proportionate and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Summary

10. The information provided represents the work undertaken by officers at BCC as well as the Prevent Co-ordinator at Wycombe District Council, and the Prevent Officers from Thames Valley Police insofar as it relates to work with schools.

11. Including the independent sector, there are currently 269 educational establishments in Buckinghamshire. There has been a partnership approach to working with schools on raising awareness about the Prevent Duty.

Briefings to Schools

12. **County wide briefing sessions** held in January 2015 briefed Chairs of Governors and Headteachers on the duty and the support they could expect including:

Policy Support from BCC

13. The DfE have advised schools not to create a separate policy with regards to Prevent but to adapt relevant current policies to include Prevent. As a result
 - (i) The Safeguarding in Education Adviser has adapted the Safeguarding Model Policy to include radicalisation and extremism statements. The officer has also included Prevent in the audit tools related to Safeguarding.
 - (ii) The Policy and Equalities Manager has adapted the Model Policy on Equalities and Cohesion to include radicalisation and extremism statements as well as British Values

Training including Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)

14. **WRAP** is prescribed training for all frontline staff and was developed in partnership by the Police and the Home Office. It has a range of case studies which means it can be adapted depending on the audience and whether the focus is on adults or children and young people.

WRAP Training to Schools and Early Years Settings

15. The WRAP product takes up to 1.5 hours to run and is delivered as a standalone session and has also been incorporated as a component of other activities such as Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) training, or through the County Council's area based termly schools' liaison group meetings for school leaders
16. According to the data gathered up to December 2015 over a third of schools have received WRAP training. This is the first monitoring and review of the work that has been undertaken since the Duty came into effect. The findings reflect that a responsive approach to schools requesting support has developed as opposed to a systematic and proactive approach based on agreed priorities. A refocussing of this engagement will be addressed through the development of a county wide training strategy, which will include schools.
17. However, given the increased bookings for training in January and February, officers anticipate a significant increase in the number of schools that have undertaken training when the data is reviewed again at the end of quarter.
18. Wycombe District Council, as a Prevent priority area, is separately funded and was able to commission **bespoke training for students** attending schools in the Wycombe area (on critical thinking which challenges stereotypes and prejudice).

19. In order to promote community cohesion schools across the county were invited by the County Council to participate again in the **School Linking Network (SLN) for Primary Schools**. This provides the opportunity to develop school links with schools in different contexts to improve relations between pupils who would opportunities to engage with peers from different backgrounds. To date over 64 schools have formed links across Bucks.

20. The County Council also repeated its **SLN Model United Nations for Secondary Schools**). In separate events over 100 Year 9 and Year 12 students worked in teams of 3 with pupils from different schools over a 4/6 month period and then attend a role play event to debate a relevant topic. This year 13 Secondary Schools will debate in April Freedom of Movement in a Model General Assembly debate. 21 Schools have the opportunity to attend **British Values Training** with the Bucks Learning Trust and on the 22nd February a Conference on British Values was held with attendance from over 60 school leaders and teaching staff

21. School **Governors** have the opportunity to attend either:

- (a) Whole Governing Body training on Prevent
- (b) County wide training

22. Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit Staff

An on-going training schedule is available for all staff in CSC&L to be WRAP trained

Spotting the Signs of On-line Radicalisation

23. The County and three of the District Councils have pooled their Prevent Duty funding from the Home Office and, as a result, have been able to offer all schools the opportunity to have a staff member trained in **on line safety** with regard to radicalisation. The resources, developed by the University of Kent, will allow both teachers and students to have a clearer understanding of the dangers of radicalisation and the grooming that takes place on-line and gives the school a year's free access to the on line resources.

Key issues

24. It is important that all schools and early years settings receive training on Prevent in order to part meet their duty to show due regard. Better coordination of and engagement locally with the school based trainers should help to ensure they are able to maintain their accreditation as a WRAP trainer and enable the training to be delivered across schools at a much quicker pace.

Work is underway to have a webpage developed so that schools can have all the information including teaching resources in one place, including "[Educate Against](#)



[Hate](#)" (resources launched in January 2016 by the Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan).

Resource implications

25. There has been a small contribution to the County Council, Aylesbury and Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils of £10K each as one off funding to meet the Prevent Duty. Wycombe District Council, as a Prevent priority area, receives funding to employ a Prevent Coordinator. By and large much of the work done at County level has been absorbed by officers in to their current roles. This has led to capacity issues which we are trying to resolve.

Next steps

26. *To assist in the development of the countywide training strategy so that schools based needs are reflected (including defining levels of engagement)*

To set targets to increase the number of schools based individuals accredited to deliver WRAP

To monitor and review the delivery of WRAP across schools

To coordinate and have ongoing engagement with the WRAP trainers in the county