

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	6 January 2020
Title:	Annual PREVENT Report
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this annual report is to provide information and assurance on the County Council's delivery of the PREVENT duties and responsibilities hosted within Adults' Health and Care.

Recommendations

2. That Cabinet notes the contents of this report on updating PREVENT related activity in Hampshire, including the work being undertaken by Hampshire County Council and its partners in the management and mitigation of issues related to duties under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
3. That Cabinet receive a further update in 12 months' time.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks to provide information and assurance on the following:-
 - the delivery of PREVENT duties and responsibilities with reference to the Hampshire PREVENT Partnership Board (PPB) hosted within Adults, Health and Care on behalf of the wider County Council
 - the delivery of PREVENT within the wider County Council
 - key PREVENT national policy issues with implications for the Council

Contextual information

5. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 created a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This duty applies to all public bodies (local authorities, police, NHS, schools, further and higher education providers, probation, prisons and youth offending services). The duty also applies to private providers supplying public functions for example, in the education sector. Previously, the lead responsibility for

PREVENT lay with the police, however as of 2016, local authorities now have the lead as PREVENT interventions are focused in the 'pre criminal space'.

6. The current threat level of International Terrorism to the UK has recently been down-graded from 'Severe' to 'Substantial' ¹, meaning that a terrorist 'attack is likely'. For Northern Ireland the threat is 'Moderate'.

PREVENT Partnership Board (PPB)

7. The PPB continues to operate as a multi-agency forum with close links to the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group. Through these two groups the links with community safety partnerships have been strengthened, meaning that we are in a much stronger position to support community cohesion initiatives and to identify community tensions at the earliest opportunity.
8. The multi-agency action plan agreed by the PPB reflects the key priority areas within the PPB's PREVENT strategy, and both the action plan and strategy have been updated to reflect the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) provided annually by Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE). The CTLP provides the PPB with both local and national data on PREVENT, ranging from number and type of local referrals to emerging national themes and developments. All statutory partners contribute to the final version of the CTLP.
9. The PREVENT service manager has recently taken on the PPB manager role which has further strengthened the relationship between Hampshire County Council and partners.
10. The PPB's training subgroup is being refreshed to reflect the changing landscape of national training materials which have been released over the last 12 months. The training subgroup will review the current training strategy as required in parallel with national policy developments and will incorporate learning from serious cases.
11. A communication subgroup of the PPB has also been established, which will produce agreed multi-agency guidance on PREVENT communication, including the dissemination of the CTLP. It will also produce a communication strategy for partners to use when live cases occur which require a multi-agency response.

PREVENT in Hampshire County Council

12. We have successfully recruited into the role of PREVENT Development Officer, securing a very experienced member of staff who joins us from CTPSE. We have also successfully recruited to the role of PREVENT Business Support, both roles started in September 2019.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency>

13. The PREVENT service manager role continues to be hosted in Adults' Health and Care, to work across the whole council.
14. The implementation of the Hampshire County Council PREVENT Delivery Group is underway to strengthen the organisational approach in respect to leadership, workforce capability, partnerships and information sharing. This will hold a senior cross departmental membership chaired by the Director of Adults' Health and Care.
15. Channel, the arrangements for multi-agency case-conferences for individual referrals within the overall PREVENT approach, continues to operate effectively in Hampshire, within the published guidance, targeting a range of individuals with varying ideologies and backgrounds. The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) recently advised that individuals with no clear ideology should be adopted into Channel if it is felt that Channel can help divert them away from committing an act of terrorism. This has resulted in an increase in the number and nature of referrals being made to the Channel Chair by CTPSE. Alongside this increase in the number of referrals made is a continued increase in the complexity of the cases.
16. The links between referrals into Channel and mental health remains close.
17. The Channel Panel continues to support both children and adults in Hampshire.
18. Due to the security and sensitivity of Counter Terrorism intelligence, this annual report will not include exact numbers however trends associated with Prevent referral numbers remain static into CTPSE for 2018 compared to 2017, with 12% adopted into the Channel process administered by the Council
19. 34% of referrals were for Extreme or Far Right Ideology, with 16% for an undetermined ideology.
20. Referral source remains varied, with 18% of referrals coming from schools.
21. The majority of referrals were for males, with just over half of the referral subjects being identified as 'vulnerable'.

Key National Highlights

22. Key national developments which are likely to impact Hampshire are as follows:-
 - Referral Routes – Hampshire is currently working with CTPSE to adopt a National Referral Form which will allow all relevant information to be collected at one point of contact
 - Independent Review of Prevent – Lord Carlile of Berriew has been appointed to lead the review. Hampshire has expressed an interest in contributing to this review, which will focus on:
 - How has PREVENT met its objectives?
 - What has been the effect of the statutory PREVENT duty?

- Has PREVENT overreached in its assessments of the risks presented by individuals?
 - Is PREVENT understood and accepted by the public including particularly affected communities?
 - Is there a future for PREVENT, or for something like it? If so, how should it look, and be scrutinised?
- New Channel Guidance is expected to be issued in November 2019. It is not yet known what, if any, changes will be made to current practice.

Conclusion

23. Hampshire County Council is undertaking its statutory responsibilities to lead on the PREVENT agenda both with key stakeholder agencies as members of the PPB and as a result of strengthening its internal governance facilitated by Adults' Health and Care.
24. The appointment of a strategic service management role in Adults' Health and Care has provided a renewed focus upon Channel Panel operations and the instigation of a programme of internal organisational objectives continues to progress. The appointment of the Development Officer for PREVENT will allow Hampshire County Council to further mainstream PREVENT throughout the whole council, and beyond with partner agencies.
25. The Channel Panel will again be re-structured and re-launched in the next few months once the new, national Channel Duty Guidance is published and the National Referral Form is adopted by Hampshire County Council.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015	2015

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

As this is annual update there is not a requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment.