

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	8 June 2021
Title:	Prevent
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update CFAP on Prevent activity throughout the last year. No decision is required by CFAP.

Executive Summary

2. This report seeks to provide an update on Children's Services Department and Hampshire County Council Prevent work over the last year, including the impact of Covid.
3. The report will include information in respect of work undertaken on Prevent training and minor changes to the Prevent referral process.

Contextual information

4. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015, places a duty on certain bodies, including schools and local authorities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. In Hampshire, the lead for Prevent sits within Adult Services. District councils have made their own arrangements and on the Isle of Wight, the Prevent lead sits with the Community Safety lead.
5. The threat of international terrorism in the UK is considered substantial, meaning that a terrorist attack is likely.

6. **Covid** – During the pandemic, Channel Panel has continued to meet and discuss referrals and reviews monthly via teams. CSD representation at channel panel is now shared with Basingstoke Team Manager, Nicky Cooper.
7. Nationally it is anticipated that the pandemic will lead to an increase in risks related to Prevent. For obvious reason there has been an increase in internet use throughout the pandemic. There have been calls by terrorist groups for those suffering with Covid to infect as many people as possible.
8. Nationally there is a concern that the pandemic may lead to an increase in the interest of the use of biological, radiological, chemical and nuclear weapons for the purpose of terrorism.
9. Another concern is that the pandemic has seen a rise in the Race Realist Movement, which claims that the higher death rate from Covid in the BAME community is a result of biological differences rather than social inequalities.
10. **Referral Process** – All Prevent referrals are directed through CRT/MASH where strategy discussions are held on each Prevent referral. Whilst CRT/MASH will predominately manage unallocated cases, Prevent is the only area of work where referrals will be made to CRT on allocated cases.
11. All Prevent referrals will be referred to MASH, where additional information is gathered as part of the strategy discussion. Partner agencies within the MASH will share relevant information to inform the decision-making process and establish firstly the level of risk to child / family and or members of the public. Secondly, MASH will consider any further risks pertinent to capacity and intent which again may increase level of risk to both child and or others.
12. More recently, there has been a change to the referral process in that referrers are now expected to complete a National Referral Form, which is shared with Counter Terrorism South East at the same time as Children's and Adults MASH. This form is on CSD webpages and there will be an information briefing that should come out via LSCP shortly.
13. **Training** – The CSD training offer has been a combination of eLearning via the virtual college for all staff. This was followed up with 3-hour face to face workshop with all staff who had direct contact with children and families.
14. There has been considerable work undertaken by the Prevent Team Manager around developing training for all staff within the county council. A decision has been made that all CSD staff will complete the corporate eLearning and those staff who have direct contact with children and families will follow this up with a face-to-face workshop.

15. Work is being undertaken by staff in Workforce Development and a MASH Manager to update this training, which will be deliverable via teams or webinar later in the year.
16. Separate training has been developed for education and school staff.
17. **Recording** – this is an area that needs some further work. There is an element of confusion from social workers about what can be recorded on ICS. In addition, there is some concern in respect of the reliability of data about referrals, as our process automatically leads us to use the N1 code as we hold a child protection strategy meeting. It has been agreed that the Prevent Team Manager will work with CSD to develop a PRR briefing note, to enable a greater understanding of recording in respect of Prevent. It is also proposed that all Prevent concerns are recorded in the contact tab and any data is reported on from contacts rather than referrals.
18. **Children in Channel** – There continues to be several children managed through the Channel Panel. During the last year, 44% of all referrals into Channel were aged 0-17 and 50% of referrals adopted into Channel were under the age of 18. Most referrals into Channel focused on right wing ideology. It has also been noted that referrals in respect of have a high occurrence of Asperger's or Autism. Further work is planned around this issue.

Finance

19. There are no additional financial implications. Prevent is business as usual in terms of the referral process and training.

HR

20. There are no specific HR issues, however there will be a number CSD staff who need to complete the eLearning and attend the face-to-face workshop. CAST and CIC manager will be asked to encourage staff to complete the virtual college eLearning. In addition, we will explore with the Prevent Team the accessibility of the corporate eLearning for foster carers.

Performance

21. The referral process is clear and based on multi agency decision making and working. There are several cases that have been managed via Channel, that demonstrate excellent strength based and child focused social work practice.
22. A slight change in the referral process as suggested above would ensure that data is more accurate.

Consultation and Equalities

23. Not applicable

Other Key Issues

Isle of Wight Implications

24. The referral process is the same for the Island, in that allocated and unallocated cases come through MASH for a strategy discussion. It is noted that there have been no referrals for IOW allocated cases in MASH and therefore we should relook at whether this process needs some specific comms for the Island social workers.
25. As Prevent sits within community safety on the Island, it is suggested that a meeting between MASH, the CSD Prevent Lead on the Island and the Island Channel Chair is held, to enhance communication and understanding.

Conclusions

26. In conclusion, there have been no significant changes in respect of Prevent. CSD continue to support the work of the Prevent Team which sits within Adult Services. There is a clear and well-defined training pathway for Prevent which is delivered by a combination of eLearning complimented by Face-to-Face workshops.
27. There continues to be small number of children adopted into Channel where right-wing ideology is the predominant concern. In addition, there needs to be some further work in understanding the issues in respect of those children on the Autistic spectrum that are presented to Channel. There is a concern nationally that the pandemic may lead to an increase in radicalisation and an increase in referrals to Channel.

28. It is recommended that CFAP is asked to:

- Note the work undertaken in respect of Prevent.
- Further work is undertaken with DAIT to ensure accurate referral data is available.
- Work is undertaken with the Prevent Team Manager to ensure that guidance is issued to social workers in respect of recording in the form of a PRR note.
- Meeting is held with the Channel Chair on the Island to improve communication and understanding.

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
OR	
<p>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</p> <p><i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Strategic Plan tick boxes above. Whichever section is not applicable, please delete.</i></p>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

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>

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:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*