

RISK FOCUS REPORT – PREVENT - Radicalisation

Report of the Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer

Author: Guy Pratt, Deputy Director Community Protection (Tel: 01992 507501)

Executive Member: Terry Hone – Community Safety and Waste Management

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide further information regarding the risk and associated controls recorded on the Hertfordshire County Council Corporate Risk Register relating to 'PREVENT' (CP02 / CP0004):

“As a result of disruptive factors influencing the lives of people in Hertfordshire, there is a risk that residents or staff become radicalised or drawn into terrorism, which could cause harm to themselves or the wider public and reduce community / social cohesion.”

- 1.2 This report invites the Audit Committee to endorse the overall approach that Hertfordshire County Council is taking to mitigate this risk.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Audit Committee has requested a report on the above risk and the assessment and rating of this risk. Appendix 1 provides a description of the risk and its possible consequences.
- 2.2 The PREVENT strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK from extremism and terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism / extremism.
- 2.3 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) requires that specified authorities take reasonable steps to prevent the radicalisation of staff and residents. Hertfordshire County Council is a specified authority and undertakes this duty in a number of ways, including staff training, partnership working and targeted work to support people at risk of racialisation.
- 2.4 In order to ensure that every opportunity to identify and prevent radicalisation is taken it is essential that staff and managers have an awareness of the signs that may indicate the potential for radicalisation and, once recognised, how they go about reporting their concerns.

- 2.5 Whilst it may be assumed that radicalisation will involve members of the public and those using Hertfordshire County Council buildings or services, County Council staff are similarly at risk. Therefore those that work for Hertfordshire County Council and those seeking to work for the County Council need also to be taken into account in PREVENT workstreams.
- 2.6 Given the above, the actions required to prevent radicalisation taking place in Hertfordshire will, in their most basic form, revolve around appropriate and proportionate campaigns and activities to raise awareness around how to identify and report radicalisation. This will apply equally to the public, existing staff and recruitment & induction activities.
- 2.7 In Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire the PREVENT agenda is managed through 3 boards / panels:
- The HCC PREVENT Board,
 - The Multi-Agency PREVENT Board, and
 - The Channel Panel.

The Channel Panel is the longest running of these and was formally established as required by the Act in 2015. Both boards and the panel support a consistent approach across Hertfordshire to PREVENT activity.

- 2.8 Channel is part of the local PREVENT strategy and is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or extremism. Hertfordshire Channel Panel is a statutory board that has been in place for almost two years. It is now a mature process where appropriate people (cases) are referred.
- 2.9 The County Council and partners have a well-developed safeguarding referral pathway for children, young people and adults which encompasses those that are at risk of being drawn into extremism or terrorism.
- 2.10 An online training package has been developed by Hertfordshire County Council. The County Council's Strategic Management Board has agreed for it to be a mandatory unit for all staff.

3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 The Audit Committee is invited to note and comment on the information provided within this report.

4. Background

- 4.1 The United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy is called 'CONTEST'. CONTEST consists of 4 strands (the '4 Ps'):

- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks;
- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

The CONTEST strategy reflects the terrorist threat and aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

- 4.2 The PREVENT strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK from extremism and terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism / extremism. The most significant threats are currently those associated with organisations such as IS in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qaeda associated groups. However, extremism associated with the far right also poses a continued threat with 'National Action' becoming the first far right group to be proscribed by the Government.

- 4.3 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on local authorities under the PREVENT workstream. A local authority:

'Must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

There are a number of ways in which HCC undertakes this, and the Channel Panel, an internal Hertfordshire County Council Prevent Board and a separate Hertfordshire Multi-Agency Prevent Board, have been established to support a consistent approach across Hertfordshire to Prevent activity.

- 4.4 'PREVENT' is basically a number of workstreams that look together to safeguard vulnerable people from radicalisation and from being drawn into terrorism. In recent years in particular there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, adults and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both regionally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

- 4.5 Channel is a programme within 'PREVENT' which focuses on providing support at an early stage to young people and adults who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- a. identifying individuals at risk;
- b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
- c. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned, using a joint approach from partners around the table.

- 4.6 Channel panel members, partners to the local panel and other professionals ensure that children, young people and adults are protected from harm. Whilst the Channel provisions are aimed at preventing terrorism and extremism, the way in which Channel is delivered may often overlap with the implementation of the wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from social care, or where the individual is already known to Children's or Adult Services.
- 4.7 The Multi- agency PREVENT Delivery Board have identified that there are different referral routes for concerns depending on how partners 'label' an issue; e.g. an agency or person might escalate a concern through the Police contact route because they consider it a PREVENT issue, but the same concern might be sent through the safeguarding route if the person referring considers it a safeguarding issue. The multi-agency Board has oversight of the referrals within Hertfordshire, and looks to ensure all agencies act on and deal appropriately with all PREVENT issues. The regional Counter Terrorism Police team are the central group that has oversight of all issues under CONTEST. It is therefore essential that all agencies that receive referrals understand where such referrals fit within the PREVENT agenda, and action appropriately. Communicating this understanding of the agendas and pathways is a key role for the multi-agency PREVENT Board.
- 4.8 The learning and development PREVENT strategy for staff is delivered in 2 ways:
- i. 'Wrap' (Workshop to raise awareness of PREVENT) training for frontline staff
 - ii. iLearn PREVENT training for all other staff
- 4.9 Teachers within schools have been upskilled and received 'Wrap' training.
- 'Wrap' training was delivered by the Police to Hertfordshire County Council staff by using a 'train the trainer' method. Analysis was undertaken by HR to determine how many trainers would be needed by Directorates, with the staff so trained then delivering the 'Wrap' training to the appropriate front-line staff within their Directorate.
- 4.10 The Senior Management Board received and considered a PREVENT update report in August 2017. Chief Officers in all Directorates have committed to ensure that iLearn and 'Wrap' training is undertaken by all staff as appropriate within every Hertfordshire County Council Directorate.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The corporate risk is owned within the Community Protection Directorate (CPD) by the Deputy Director of Community Protection with elements of the wider risk spanned across the organisation.
- 5.2 Controls are co-ordinated by staff within the Resilience team within CPD Department, who support the PREVENT Boards' work.

APPENDIX 1

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER								
Risk Number	Risk Owner	Department						
CP0004	Guy Pratt	Community Protection						
Date risk first included on risk register	Risk treatment (response) to manage the risk	Executive Member						
11/01/2016	Reduce	Terry Hone						
<p>Description of the risk As a result of disruptive factors influencing the lives of people in Hertfordshire, there is a risk that residents or staff become radicalised or drawn into terrorism, which could cause harm to themselves or the wider public and reduce community / social cohesion.</p> <p>Consequences of the risk Terrorist / extremist activities in Hertfordshire resulting in disruption of services, public services may be affected, reputational damage and consequential recovery costs</p>								
<p>Current Risk score based on effectiveness of current controls</p> <table> <tr> <td>Probability score:</td><td>Impact score:</td><td>Overall score:</td></tr> <tr> <td>3 - Possible</td><td>8 – High</td><td>24 - Significant</td></tr> </table>			Probability score:	Impact score:	Overall score:	3 - Possible	8 – High	24 - Significant
Probability score:	Impact score:	Overall score:						
3 - Possible	8 – High	24 - Significant						
<p>Reason for inclusion on Corporate Register</p> <p>The risk met the corporate risk criteria; in particular, there are significant reputational and wider community safety implications.</p>								
<p>Direction of travel (overall risk score for previous three quarters)</p> <table> <tr> <td>24</td><td>24</td><td>24</td></tr> </table>			24	24	24			
24	24	24						
<p>Target risk score</p> <table> <tr> <td>Probability score:</td><td>Impact score:</td><td>Overall score:</td></tr> <tr> <td>2 - Unlikely</td><td>8 - High</td><td>16 – Significant</td></tr> </table>			Probability score:	Impact score:	Overall score:	2 - Unlikely	8 - High	16 – Significant
Probability score:	Impact score:	Overall score:						
2 - Unlikely	8 - High	16 – Significant						