

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	6 June 2016
Subject: Prevent Activity	Public
Report of: David MackIntosh Manager - Community Safety Team	For Information
Summary	
To update SCP members on Prevent activity within the City of London.	
Recommendation(s)	
Members are asked to note the report.	

Background

- Members will recall that Prevent forms part of CONTEST, the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy (other elements being Pursue, Protect and Prepare). The focus of Prevent lies primarily on early intervention prior to any illegal activity; as such it operates in a pre-criminal space. Under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, a duty is placed on the City of London Corporation in the exercise of its functions, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The related National Prevent Strategy outlines three strategic strands to help inform our local response. These are set out below:

Ideology: Challenging radical ideology and disrupting the ability of extremist groups to promote it.

Supporting Vulnerable Victims: Building upon existing multi-agency frameworks to identify and support people at risk of radicalisation.

Working with other sectors: Priority areas include education, faith, health, criminal justice and charities. There should be no 'ungoverned spaces' in which extremism is allowed to flourish without challenge.

- The City of London is designated a non-priority area, so attracts no central funding, although we are bordered by boroughs which are considered priority

areas and receive financial support from the government. The Community Safety Manager is also the City of London Corporation Prevent Co-ordinator.

3. Channel is part of the Prevent strategy. It is a referral pathway that provides a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism and fits within the broader safe-guarding framework.
4. Recent announcements have suggested changes to the existing Prevent strategy including new legislation. At the time of writing we await further details.

Current Situation

5. Since the last meeting we have continued to work closely with CoLP colleagues to promote awareness of the Prevent strategy and identify specific training needs. To aid this work we now have designated Prevent leads in every Corporation department.
6. We have also hosted a specific meeting for the Higher Education sector based within the City. In addition there have been specific sessions for London Metropolitan University staff. For Corporation staff we held a Prevent Open Day on 24 March. A further Prevent training session for Corporation staff is being held on 25 May.
7. It has become evident that further work needs to be done in order to promote Prevent as something of relevance and importance to staff. At the same time we are getting increasing interest from other agencies, including City businesses and The Red Cross. These are issues addressed in our work plan (set out below).

Channel Referrals

8. There have been no Channel referrals since the last SCP meeting. However, there has been some ongoing work involving an historic case which was led by another local authority.

Future Developments

9. Prevent has been identified as one of the five priority areas within the SCP Strategic Plan (see agenda item 5). We have identified additional resources to support this work.
10. We are developing a communication campaign, including a headline event, to raise understanding and awareness of Prevent.
11. We are exploring the potential to have Prevent training mandated for Corporation staff.
12. We will be running monthly sessions for staff throughout the remainder of this financial year. We will also be providing opportunities for Corporation and CoLP staff to refresh their understanding of Prevent.

13. The existing e-learning package will be updated.
14. We will be instituting a register to allow us to monitor which individuals and departments have been Prevent trained.
15. We will continue to offer bespoke sessions for particular departments or those with specific professional needs.
16. We will refresh the City of London Corporation's Prevent strategy.