

# Prevent Strategy

**Prevent** is about protecting our communities and vulnerable individuals from the threat posed by violent extremists. To help achieve this goal the City of London Corporation will continue to work closely with the City of London Police (CoLP) our communities and other partners to reduce the risk of individuals being drawn into extremism or acts of terrorism. This is part of our commitment to delivering CONTEST, the national counter terrorism strategy, and demonstrates how we meet our duty<sup>1</sup> to work with local partners to reduce support for terrorism of all kinds, challenging extremists whose views are shared by terrorist organisations and isolating those promoting extremist ideologies.

For the coming year one of the Safer City Partnership's (SCP) priorities<sup>2</sup> is to actively prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We will do this by:

- promoting understanding of the risks associated with radicalisation
- ensuring that staff understand the risk and know how to deal with concerns
- communicate and promote the value of Prevent to our communities
- support our resident and business communities in relation to Prevent.

This work builds upon the Government's Prevent Strategy published in 2011 with further changes to the Strategy with the introduction of The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which saw Prevent activity become part of the mainstream work of all local authority and other public bodies. The success of this strategy in the City of London will be dependent on effective partnership working.

## The CONTEST strategy

CONTEST, aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom from international terrorism 'so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence'.

The four key elements of CONTEST are as follows:

- Pursue: to detect and disrupt the threat of terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen infrastructure from attack
- Prepare: to reduce the impact of an attack by ensuring an effective response
- Prevent: to tackle radicalisation and stop people becoming terrorists

<sup>1</sup>Section 26 of the counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty upon local authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

<sup>2</sup> Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan 2017-18 Priority 1 Supporting the Counter Terrorism Strategy Through the Delivery of the Prevent Strategy TBC XXXXX

CONTEST seeks to deal with threats that arise from all forms of extremism:

- Political – whether from the Far Right or Far Left
- Religious
- International
- Domestic – including environmental or animal rights where violence is involved.

## **The Prevent strand**

The focus of Prevent lies primarily on early intervention before any illegal activity takes place and hence operates in the pre-criminal space – stopping individuals from supporting or taking part in terrorist activities. The related National Prevent Strategy outlines three main objectives:

1. respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and
3. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

As stated above, the Prevent Strategy places an emphasis on local delivery in collaboration with its partnerships. While the role of policing is important, Prevent is not solely a policing programme. It requires a multi-agency response – key partners include Local Authorities, Schools, Higher Education, Further Education, the Health Sector, Prisons and Probation. Therefore it is the responsibility of all Safer City Partnership agencies to ensure that, where relevant, their policies, procedures and processes reflect this Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan.

## **City of London context**

The City of London, also known as the Square Mile, is located within the centre of London and is surrounded by a number of London Boroughs: Westminster, Camden, Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets as well as Southwark to the south side of the River Thames. It is a major transport destination and hub with a number of train line services running through the City, six major rail stations, and a number of tube stations. The City has good transport links to all major south eastern airports and ferry terminals.

The majority of the properties within the City are commercial properties comprising nearly 18,000 businesses providing the highest density of jobs in London – 455,600 jobs. There is also residential

housing with a total population of nearly 9,000 (including second home owners) across 4,385 households. According to the last census data in 2011, 79 percent of the residential population gave their ethnicity as white, 13 percent as Asian and 3 percent as Black. However, these statistics disguise a significant contrast between residential areas. For example, on the Barbican Estate 85 percent of residents are White whereas on the Mansell Street Estate 47 percent of residents describes themselves as Asian. Conversely only 5 percent of residents on the Barbican Estate are in social housing compared to 95 percent of residents on the Mansell Street Estate, where the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 ranked it as in the 40 percent most deprived areas in the country.

Due to its iconic attractions, the City of London also welcomes large numbers of visitors daily and following the completion of Crossrail these numbers are likely to rise significantly in the coming decade. It is estimated that Crossrail will bring an additional 320,000 people within a 30 minute commute of the City.

## **Terrorism in the UK context**

The terror threat to the UK continues to be dominated by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq and the ability of terror groups to inspire, incite, enable and direct British and other Islamist extremists to conduct attacks in Western countries including the UK, with the London region being subject to a high share of the national threat from international terrorism. The City remains a prime target due to its international reputation and the impact attacks could have on the economy and international confidence.

There are risks to the UK from returning fighters who have trained with Islamist extremists groups in areas of conflict. There is also a risk from individuals returning from areas of conflict who have been traumatised by events they have witnessed.

A number of Extreme Right Wing groups continue to be active throughout the UK. While the nature of the threat they pose is different their ability to inspire or motivate individuals or lone actors has been evidenced by a number of cases including the murder of Jo Cox MP. The government has taken action against one of these groups with the proscribing of National Action. The role which local government can take is highlighted by the injunction obtained by Bedfordshire Council against Britain First.

The internet supports the radicalisation process but has not entirely replaced traditional methods such as the influence of key radicalisers. It can facilitate access to and aid the distribution of extremist material which can further extremist ideology and provide operational guidance. The internet has featured heavily in national Counter Terrorism investigations. The proliferation of extremist media poses an ongoing threat.

## **Management of the risk**

On the basis of risk, the City of London has been designated by the Home Office as a non-priority area. However, a number of our neighbouring boroughs are priority areas and it is acknowledged

that no area can be assumed to be free of risk. Nor can we forget about our day time population and issues that may arise within it.

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) produced by CoLP helps us to identify the risk of radicalisation and take necessary measures to understand and manage the risk. We have been following the Prevent duty guidance to agree risk and coordinate prevent activity.

Using the headline #Preventtragedies we have been engaging with our key partners to prevent terrorism and violent extremism from taking root in our communities. Our aim has been to safeguard individuals and institutions from all forms of terrorist ideology and working closely with partner agencies including the business community to ensure that they are placed to report and respond to terrorist related concerns.

## **Engaging with Corporate staff**

We asked Prevent leads for their views on the risk of radicalisation in the City of London and what could be done about it. In response, they said that there was a potential risk of radicalisation from all areas in and around the City - those living, working and visiting the City and also the threat of radicalisation through the internet and social media. However education and training, especially with the aid of relevant case studies, would help to raise awareness and provide a better understanding of the reporting process. Asked what they thought discouraged people from finding out about Prevent, it was suggested that some members of staff struggled to find the time to participate or did not think it was relevant to them or their area of work.

### **What we are planning to do**

Having run monthly WRAP sessions for members of staff, including departmental and bespoke sessions, we will continue to run face to face Prevent training on a quarterly basis. We will also be launching an e-learning module so that all staff will be able to access the training as well as refresh their understanding of Prevent. We will also consider the use of screen savers, posters, and table talkers in key locations. We will also run insight lunch discussion sessions on the subject of Prevent.

We will also build on the progress made in establishing a Prevent network across the organisation to help us promote a better understanding of this work and relating it to individual departments.

## **Engaging with the resident community**

We recognise the importance of engaging with the local community groups as they can be invaluable in providing a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We can also gain an insight and learn to understand the most effective messages and approaches to take.

### **What we are going to do**

We are developing strong and constructive relationships with our resident and community interest groups to encourage the sharing of information and to work against the distribution of extremist ideology. We will continue to engage with the Mansell Street Islamic Woman's Group who welcome

the opportunity to share their thoughts and aspirations about their community as well as attending Mansell Street and Middlesex Street residents meetings. We will continue to utilise these existing relations and structures within our communities to counter extremism and radicalisation.

## **Engaging with nurseries, schools, colleges and universities**

With the ongoing risk to children and young people of being influenced and radicalised, we must work to ensure that we have clear channels of communication with all our education establishments and their designated prevent coordinators. There are a wide range of facilities within the City and we will work to build effective working relationships with them all.

There are five schools within the City providing education from primary level up to sixth form. There are also two higher education facilities, one dedicated to Music and Drama and another which provides a range of courses for various subjects. There are six universities with offices based in the City of London and four Universities based on its borders. It is also worth noting that the City of London has an interest beyond its borders in respect of students who attend schools in neighbouring boroughs and also the schools it supports outside of the City.

### **What we are continuing to do**

We will continue to ensure that nurseries, schools, higher and further education establishments are provided with the support they need to comply with their duties under Prevent.

We will continue to provide WRAP sessions and support for higher education staff based in and around the borders of the City. We will also continue to facilitate dialogue to ensure that policies and procedures are in place for the management of events on campus and the use of all university premises.

While continuing to hold regular meetings with designated Prevent Coordinators we shall also seek to expand the network where appropriate. We shall continue to help provide advice on producing robust safeguarding policies.

We will continue to assist Prevent Coordinators in providing training to all staff, providing them with the knowledge and confidence to identify children and young people at risk of being drawn to terrorism, challenge extremist ideas and ensure that they know how to refer children and young people for further help.

## **Engaging with the business community**

The Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy does not place a duty on businesses to focus on stopping people becoming radicalised. However, managing the risks and safeguarding vulnerable people working as well as living in the City plays an important role in reducing risk.

Following meetings with representatives from the business community we have found that many had some understanding of the Prevent Duty, but there was also a clear appetite for more information and support. Businesses were clearly concerned about potential reputational damage

but also keen to play a role in helping tackle extremism and recognised this could relate to both business premises and individuals.

### **What we are going to do**

We will be applying a carefully tailored approach in our engagement with the business community making full use of networks, such as the City of London Crime Prevention Association and the Livery Companies.

Existing WRAP training materials are, understandably, focussed very much at public services. Our intention is to produce more business friendly materials and run specific training aimed at those working in the City's private sector. We recognise that need will vary from sector to sector and will work with businesses representatives to produce appropriate materials and tools that can be shared and delivered at scale.

## **Engaging with the Voluntary Sector**

A charity's funds, facilities and name are precious assets and can be vulnerable to exploitation for terrorist purposes. Those who seek to abuse charities may see them as vulnerable targets because of the high level of public trust and confidence there is in the charitable sector. In November 2016 we ran a specialist workshop designed to provide an understanding of the Prevent Strategy in the voluntary sector. We also arranged for the City of London Police's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau to provide guidance and advice on how to protect an organisation from the threat of terrorism and the current cyber threats circulating in the charitable sector.

### **What we are going to do**

We will continue to engage with the Voluntary sector with the help of the City of London Voluntary Sector Forum whose members include registered charities, trusts, foundations, community interest companies and social enterprises who are based or deliver services in the City. We will also explore the demand for specific materials to support this sector in tackling extremism.

## **Engaging with faith communities**

There are a large number of places of worship in the City of London in addition to services for members of faith groups and support facilities that meet the needs of the local community. These include voluntary and charitable groups, local churches, a synagogue, and prayer rooms.

Over the last year there has been additional engagement with our Faith communities to establish a Faith Network, this being one of the recommendations contained within Lord Toby Harris's report *London's preparedness to respond to a major terrorist incident*. We have been grateful for the support and input we have received and have used it to shape our engagement strategy going

forward. We will work to engage more consistently across a range of issues and improve our two way communication. This is essential for two reasons, to ensure we can provide advice and guidance in the event of a terrorist attack or major incident, and also to allow faith groups to have the confidence to report concerns and issues to us.

### **What we are going to do**

Attend and support events and meetings throughout the year. We will include our faith group network as part of our general communication work. Ensure that representatives know who to contact over concerns linked to community concerns and tensions.

We will also be working with faith and community leaders to ensure that where appropriate they have access and knowledge to Argus and Griffin training packages as well as providing them with up to date intelligence and warning of emerging threats.

### **Safeguarding vulnerable people**

It is vital that we have clear and robust safeguarding arrangements in place if we are to identify and support those at risk of radicalisation. The evidence available clearly shows that many of those that come to notice are faced with a number of vulnerability issues. Within the City of London Corporation the Prevent duty is well embedded within our current safeguarding processes. However, we need to work to maintain this situation and adapt as new challenges emerge.

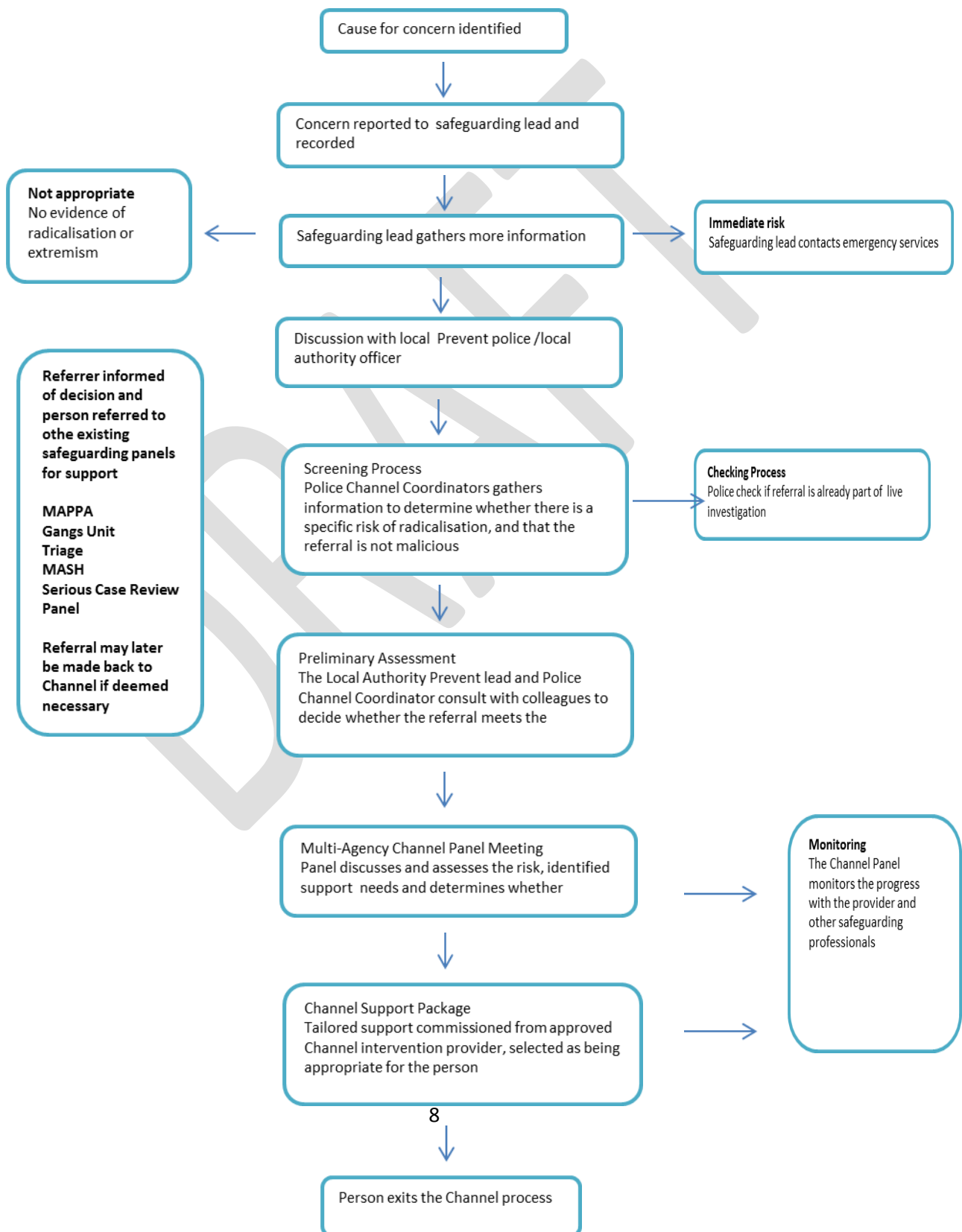
### **What we are going to do**

Adult and children's services will continue to work in partnership with the City of London Police and colleagues across our community services to identify and manage risk. We will continue to report all Channel Panel activity into the City and Hackney Safeguarding Boards as well as the CONTEST steering group.

We will actively promote WRAP training to all colleagues with the provision of bespoke training upon request for colleagues working in safeguarding environments.

# The Channel Process

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour. The Panel works with local partners to ensure that individuals of any age at risk of extremism receive appropriate support. Channel is a voluntary process allowing individuals to withdraw from the programme at any time.





Further information about the Home Office Prevent Duty can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

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