

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee – For Decision Community and Children’s Services – For Information Court of Common Council – For Decision Police Committee – For Information	23/06/2015 10/07/2015 23/07/2015 24/07/2015
Subject: The City of London Corporation Prevent Strategy 2015/16	Public
Report of: The Assistant Town Clerk	For Information

Summary

The Prevent Strategy 2015/16 sets out how the City of London Corporation will fulfil its new duty to have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’ introduced within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Key aspects of the strategy include:

- Developing an understanding of the threat of terrorism through a Counter Terrorism Local Profile and managing the risks of radicalisation.
- Building a strong relationship with the Prevent lead officers in key agencies and the surrounding London Boroughs.
- Introduce a new Channel Process including the formation of a multi-agency Channel Panel which will assess those identified as being at risk of radicalisation and take steps to protect and de-radicalise these individuals.
- Ensure robust information sharing systems are in place.
- To provide staff and contractors with an understanding of our duty under Prevent.

Finally, as part of its central monitoring role, the Home Office will scrutinise the implementation of the duty and where concerns of non-compliance are raised, various powers to intervene can be used.

Recommendation(s)

1. Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are invited to recommend the Prevent Strategy 2015/16 to the Court of Common Council.
2. Members of Community and Children’s Services Committee and Police Committee are invited to note the content of the Prevent Strategy 2015/16.

Main Report

Background

The Government's Prevent Strategy which was published in 2011, sets out an intention to combat radicalisation at an early stage in order to stop people becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent comprises one aspect of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy called CONTEST. Following on from this, the Government's Counter Terrorism and Security Act which was published in 2015, places a duty on local authorities (along with various other public bodies) to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." This duty applies to the Common Council in the exercise of its functions as a local authority and as a police authority.

Current Position

Since formal guidance was published by the Home Office in February 2015, lead officers on Prevent from the City of London Corporation and City of London Police have been working across a number of areas to ensure that the organisation is prepared to fully comply with the Prevent duty when they are introduced in July 2015. The City of London Prevent Strategy 2015/16 (appendix 1) sets out a number of key priorities to address radicalisation and comply with the duty which include:

- Developing an understanding of the threat of terrorism to the City of London through the City of London Police Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
- Managing the risks of radicalisation through introducing Prevent considerations to community engagement, safeguarding and venue hire arrangements.
- Building a strong relationship with the Prevent lead officers in surrounding boroughs, especially those identified as Prevent Priority Areas.
- The introduction of the Channel Process including the formation of a Channel Panel which will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and will work closely with such individuals to de-escalate the radicalisation process.
- Ensure strong information sharing systems are in place to provide appropriate support which meets the needs of at risk individuals and informs the Channel process.
- Provide staff and contractors with an understanding of our duties under Prevent through the delivery of a tailored Prevent training programme.

Several workstreams are now in place to develop and implement the strategy through a more detailed Prevent Delivery Plan. The Prevent Delivery plan will be managed by a multi-agency Prevent Partnership Group including Prevent lead officers from the Community Safety Team, City of London Police and Community and Children's Services. This group will inform the work of the City of London Police's overall Counter-Terrorism CONTEST Steering group and report regularly to the Strategic Resilience Group and Safer City Partnership.

Government oversight

It is worth noting that as part of fulfilling its central monitoring role, the Home Office will scrutinise local prevent action plans, project impact and overall performance.

Where there are concerns that a local authority is not complying with its duties under prevent, the Secretary of State has the power to appoint an inspector to assess compliance with statutory 'best value' duty and intervene if it is failing. Intervention could include requiring the organisation to perform a specific action, transfer of functions or a local enquiry.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

The Prevent strategy forms part of the City of London Corporation's strategic aim to: *'provide modern, efficient and high quality local services, including policing, within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors'*.

It will also form part of the City Of London Police '*Counter Terrorism*' priority within the City of London Policing Plan.

Conclusion

The Prevent strategy is intended to guide the City of London Corporation's approach to address issues of radicalisation and prevent people from being drawn to terrorism in compliance with its duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This subject is likely to be a key priority for the Government in the coming years, especially with regards to the contribution of local authorities. The organisation will therefore look to maintain an up to date strategy moving forward based on current legislation and feedback from Community groups across the City.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – The City of London Prevent Strategy 2015/16

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