Appendix 1

City of London Prevent Strategy 2015-16

Lead Author:	James Goodsell - Policy Officer
Document Owner:	Town Clerks
Approved/Agreed by:	Summit Group Policy and Resources Committee
Issue Date :	23 July 2015
Review Due Date :	23 July 2016

Introduction

Radicalisation is driven by an ideology which sanctions the use of violence and encourages the rejection of a cohesive and integrated society. Often those who are most vulnerable are deliberately targeted through a narrative which makes this ideology seem as both attractive and compelling.

The City of London has experienced first-hand the devastating effects of radicalisation in recent years. From the bombing of the London Underground at Aldgate in 2005, marches by the far-right organisations in 2014 and the recruitment of young people in 2015 from a neighbouring borough to join an international terrorist group. In order to protect our communities, we must provide those at risk of radicalisation with the support and guidance needed to turn away from violence.

The Prevent Strategy 2015/16 sets out the overall approach of the City of London Corporation in tackling terrorism and radicalisation to fulfil its duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This strategy is intended to act as a foundation, upon which a detailed Delivery Plan will be built. This subsequent Delivery Plan will articulate the wide range of projects and initiates which the City of London Corporation undertakes to promote unity and engagement within its communities.

National Context

Contest

The United Kingdom's long term strategy for countering terrorism is called CONTEST. Published in 2011, its aim is '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'.

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

Prevent

The focus of Prevent lies primarily on early intervention before any illegal activity takes place and hence operates in the non-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:

1. **Ideology:** This involves the challenging of radical ideology and the disruption the ability of terrorist groups to promote it. This will include a greater number of projects around education, communities and the criminal justice system.
2. **Supporting Vulnerable Victims:** To build upon existing multi-agency frameworks to identify and support people at risk of radicalisation. This will include the use of the Channel process and draw on expertise from local authorities, policing and other partnership organisations including community organisations.
3. **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 firm challenge and where appropriate legal intervention.

The Prevent Strategy places an emphasis on local delivery and 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.

City of London Context

The City of London is a unique demographic area, quite unlike any other location within the United Kingdom. While the residential population numbers approximately 9,500, the City is also home to 15,000 businesses employing over 375,000 people. Due to its iconic attractions, the City of London also welcomes large numbers of visitors daily. With major transport infrastructure improvements including the completion of Crossrail in 2018, these numbers are likely to rise significantly in the coming decade.

As a whole, 79% of the residential population describe themselves white, 13% as Asian and 3% as Black. However, these statistics disguise significant contrast between residential areas. For example, on the Barbican Estate 85% of residents are white whereas on the Mansell Street Estate 47% of residents describe themselves as Asian. Such contrast is also reflected in socio-economic outlook with only 5% of residents on the Barbican Estate in social housing compared to 95% of residents on the Mansell Street Estate, with the area ranked in the 40% most deprived areas of the country.

There are five schools within the City of London, four of these are run independently and one provides state education. There are also two main universities within the City of London and two university campuses.

In addition, the City of London Corporation is an education and childcare specified authority for five schools, four academies and one independent school, which are located in other local authorities.

Finally, the City of London Corporation also has a responsibility for a number of publically owned venues and spaces. These range from major cultural institutions such as the Barbican Centre and Tower Bridge to community halls, libraries and large open spaces such as Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.

A Risk based approach

The Threat

All terrorist groups who pose a threat seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. Radicalisation is driven by an ideology which sanctions the use of violence and acts of terrorism or seeks to popularise extreme views which terrorists can exploit. It is often conducted by using grooming techniques to isolate vulnerable individuals from their communities and support networks. The greater use of the internet and the growing interest in social media facilitates the easy circulation of extremist ideology and can be used by terrorist groups to target vulnerable individuals and those at risk.

Managing the Risk

To effectively carry out our duties in preventing people being drawn to terrorism, we must demonstrate an understanding of the risk of radicalisation and take necessary measures to manage it. The City of London Counter Terrorism Local Profile which is produced by the City of London Police will be used as a foundation in identifying risk and driving our overall approach.

The City of London Corporation has developed strong and constructive relationships with our resident and community interest groups. For example, we regularly contribute to Bengali community awareness days and provide support to the Mansell Street Islamic Woman's

Group. These groups should be engaged in order to encourage the sharing of information and to work against the distribution of extremist ideology. We will continue to utilise these existing relations and structures within our communities to counter extremism and radicalisation.

We must also apply a tailored approach in our engagement with our business community - making use of our existing connections through the Economic Development Office, the City Police and the Safer City Partnership. Programmes such as the Safer City Partnership's Hotel Forum can provide a platform to raise awareness with hoteliers across the City. Dialogue through our links to membership groups such as the Livery Companies should be encouraged.

With the growing number of children and young people across the country being influenced and radicalised, we must ensure that we have clear channels of communication with all our education establishments and their designated prevent coordinators. We will also work closely with the City Police to ensure that Higher & Further Education establishments are provided with the support they need to comply with their duties under Prevent. This includes facilitating dialogue to ensure that policies and procedures are in place for the management of events on campus and the use of all university premises.

Our duties also extend to schools where the City of London Corporation acts as the proprietor. We are committed that these schools continue to be safe places in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas. Schools covered by our duty include a number located within the boundary of the City of London.[1] For those located outside the boundary but for which we remain proprietor[2], we will work with our partners including local authorities and co-sponsors to ensure adequate measures are in place.

Within the schools identified, we will support designated Prevent Coordinators to maintain robust safeguarding policies and ensure IT facilities are equipped with adequate filters to protect children from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet. In addition, we will assist Prevent Coordinators in providing training to school staff which provides them with knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn to terrorism, challenge extremist ideas and ensure staff know how to refer children and young people for further help.

We will also ensure appropriate support services are available and provided to schools located within the City of London Boundary for situations that are outside of the Prevent duty.[3]

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 Prevent duty supports and should be embedded within our current obligations to safeguard those who are vulnerable, including the vulnerability to radicalisation. 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. At a governance level, our Adult and Child safeguarding Boards will directly inform the work of a new strategic Prevent Partnership Group attended by representatives from the City of London Corporation, City of London Police and key partners involved in Prevent duties across the City of London. This group will assess risk and trends identified by the Safeguarding Boards, discuss key operational challenges and ensure that

---

[1] Including Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls.

[2] Including Redriff Primary a City of London Academy in Southwark, City of London Academy Southwark, City of London Academy Islington, The City Academy Hackney and the City of London Freemen's School in Surrey.

[3] Including Charterhouse School and the St Paul's Cathedral School.

information is effectively shared between partners. We will also ensure that clear information sharing arrangements are in place between our Safeguarding Boards and Chanel Panel.

The City of London Corporation also has a duty to ensure that all our venues and their facilities (such as public ICT equipment) do not provide a platform for extremism and are not used to disseminate extremist views. Staff involved in venue hire should incorporate Prevent duty considerations into their booking procedures and appropriate support in the use of equipment (such as computer filtering solutions to limit extremist material) should be provided.

In order to effectively counter radicalisation and extremism in London, the City of London cannot act in isolation. We must build strong relationships with our surrounding boroughs, (especially those identified as Priority Areas) to facilitate information sharing and provide a joined up approach through their dedicated Prevent Coordinators. In addition, the City of London has a key role to play at a regional level, working closely with partners across London to share good practice and build a clear and coordinated response.

In certain circumstances, we may choose to work with outside bodies such as charities to provide advice and support in individual cases or to lead engagement projects. However, we must ensure that organisations appointed in this manner are not engaged in any extremist activity or espouse extremist views. Considerations regarding Prevent must also be incorporated into our procurement arrangements.

The Channel Process

Home Office guidance states that specified authorities should use a risk based approach to radicalisation. Under Section 36 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, we are required to undertake a process of risk assessment and support for any individual identified at risk of becoming radicalised – using a multi-agency Channel Panel.

The Panel will seek to intervene at an early stage when an individual is vulnerable to becoming radicalised by extremists or when their behaviour raises concerns and brings them to the attention of the Police. While no specific criminal offence may have been committed at this stage, the Panel will work closely with the individual to de-escalate the radicalisation process and ultimately prevent an act of terrorism from taking place.

Channel referrals will be prioritised by the City of London Corporation, City of London Police and other statutory partners in their work to safeguard vulnerable individuals at risk of being radicalised. A Pre-Screening process is used to filter and review new referrals to establish if a full Channel Panel is required. The Pre-Screening process is designed to quickly identify if individuals are at risk or vulnerable to being radicalised and if there is intent or capability to cause harm. Consideration will always be given to the Home Office Channel Vulnerability Framework 2012.

The Channel Panel will be chaired by the Community Safety Manager. The City of London Channel core membership consists of the Prevent leads from the Community Safety Team and City of London Police using a bespoke approach dependant on the needs and requirements of the individual referred.

Information sharing

A fast time response to carry out initial screening in partnership with the City of London Police is essential to ensure that the appropriate support is in place to meet the needs of at risk individuals and to inform the Channel process. Robust information sharing protocols between the key partners will speed up our response times at this crucial part of the process. The City of London Prevent Information Sharing Agreement ensures that information is proactively shared between parties and across organisations. City of London Police and Corporations Community Safety Team will develop additional information sharing

agreements with external agencies such as schools, universities, health and representative community groups to facilitate a clear and coordinated approach across the City's partners.

Delivery Plan

The City of London Corporation Community Safety Team has produced an overall delivery plan. This plan is intended to identify, prioritise and facilitate the delivery of specific interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn to terrorism within the City of London at a strategic level. A more detailed operational plan which includes restricted information will also be produced by the Community Safety Team, City of London Police and key partners.

Building Capability

We aim to publicise the prevent duty across the organisation and develop understanding with staff of how the duty might be applied within individual departments. Our intension is provide tailored training and guidance to all members of staff to reflect the type of role carried out. Training received by officers working within the Open Spaces department for example will be significantly different to that received by staff in Remembrancers. In addition, we will take steps to build awareness among our contractors and ensure that the principles of the duty are written into new contracts when they are produced

City of London Prevent Governance

We intend to make use of our existing Safer City Partnership and Strategic Resilience Forum to agree risk and co-ordinate Prevent activity. At an operational level, a Prevent Partnership group will be formed to asses risk and trends identified by the City's Safeguarding Boards and Channel Panel.

List of key Partners

- City of London Corporation
- City of London Police
- London Fire Brigade
- London Probation Trust
- British Transport Police
- Transport for London
- City of London Crime Prevention Association

Conclusion

Radicalisation presents a real risk to communities across London. In order to protect those who are vulnerable to the ideology of violent extremism the City of London Corporation must build a clear understanding of the risk and work proactively to engage these individuals at an early stage through the Chanel Process. Such an approach requires strong partnerships with London Boroughs, agencies, interest groups and communities, robust safeguarding process, the raising of awareness and the building of capability with staff across the organisation.