

Committee:	Date:
Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School Board of Governors of the City of London School Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls	5 th October 2015 17 th June 2015 22 nd June 2015
Subject: Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015	Public
Report of: Remembrancer	For Information

Summary

This report advises the Board of the relevant provisions of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which places two new duties on the proprietors of independent schools (and therefore on the Board in discharging the functions of the City Corporation as proprietor). First, the Board will need to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Second, the Board will need to co-operate with panels put in place by local authorities to identify and provide support to those who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board note this Report and the duties placed on the Board described in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.

Main Report

1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 passed quickly through Parliament in the early part of this year. Attention has focused on measures to restrict the ability of British citizens to return to the United Kingdom after going abroad to participate in terrorist activities. This Report deals with two new duties which apply to educational institutions, including the City Corporation's independent schools. The duties are intended to provide a statutory footing for existing policies such as the 'Prevent' strategy and the 'Channel' programme.
2. First, the Board, in discharging the functions of the City Corporation as the proprietor of the School, will come under a general duty to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." This is widely known as the '*Prevent* duty'. The Secretary of State has issued statutory guidance about how the duty is to be put into practice. The generally applicable sections of the guidance, together with the sector-specific guidance relating to schools, are appended to this Report. The Board is required to have regard to this guidance. If the Secretary of State considers

that a body is failing adequately to fulfil the *Prevent* duty, then the Secretary of State may issue binding directions in order to secure its performance. The duty comes into force on 1st July 2015.

3. Second, the Board (along with other “partner” bodies) is, in discharging the functions of the City Corporation as the proprietor of the School, under a duty to co-operate “so far as appropriate and reasonably practicable” with panels set up by local authorities in order to identify and provide support to those who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Each local authority has to ensure that such a panel, which is to include representatives from the local authority and the police, is in place for its area. The first duty of the panel is to assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. If the panel then considers that any individual should be offered support to reduce his vulnerability, it is able to prepare a “support plan” for the individual and make arrangements for its implementation. Alternatively, the panel is able to refer individuals to health or social care services.

Appendices

- Extracts from “*Prevent* duty guidance: Statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015”, Home Office, March 2015.

Background Papers

Report of the Remembrancer on the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill:

- Police Committee, 16th January 2015
- Policy and Resources Committee, 22nd January 2015
- Community and Children’s Services Committee, 13th February 2015
- Safer City Partnership Strategy Group, 3rd March 2015

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