

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny – Sub Committee

27th October 2017

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

Mrs. Karen Jones

Matter for Information, Monitoring and Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members on how the new duties and responsibilities applied to local authorities following enactment of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 are being met.
2. To present the draft PREVENT Action plan to members for information
3. To obtain delegated authority from the Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board to adopt the Venue Hire Policy to comply with s 29 and section E paragraph 45 of the Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks support for the Prevent Action Plan developed to respond to the counter-terrorism and security duties placed on local authorities by the UK Government.
5. Local authorities now have a general duty to have regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

6. Local authorities generally, are discharging the PREVENT duty through local multi-agency PREVENT Action Groups. In Neath Port Talbot the group will convene twice a year to ensure the work in the Action Plan is discharged.
7. Statutory guidance requires Local Authorities to develop a venue hire policy to ensure their venues are not being used by those whose views could draw people into terrorism and to ensure staff are conversant in making checks on those individuals and groups booking Council owned venues.
8. The report seeks to update Members following the granting of delegated authority for relevant officers to take the steps necessary for the Council to comply with the new duties in September 2015.

Background

9. The UK Government has legislated to make certain provisions related to terrorism. S26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” in the exercise of their functions. This means that local authorities must place an appropriate weight on the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.
10. To enable the Local Authority to discharge this duty the Neath Port Talbot Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives
 - Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
11. To date we have
 - Set up a Channel Panel and dealt with 3 referrals via the Channel process.

- Participated in the Western Bay CONTEST Board. As the chair rotates, Neath Port Talbot will Chair the meetings from Oct 2018 – July 2019
- Undertaken a Peer Prevent review
- Accredited 12 trainers and rolled out Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT (WRAP) training to 800 employees and Councillors
- Drafted a venue hire policy
- Set up a PREVENT Action Group (PAG) with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Financial Impact

12. There is no new recurring revenue funding identified for Neath Port Talbot Council to discharge the duties and responsibilities set out in this report. The Council continues to provide staff support to the Channel Panel and the Prevent Action Group.

Equality Impact Assessment

13. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”

The Home Office considers that the new duties are relevant to fulfilling duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Workforce Impact

14. A small number of officers will need to participate in the work of the Prevent Action Group and with the implementation of the Action Plan.
15. It is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact on workforce other than as described above, other than to participate in the training programme.

Legal Impact

16. The Council's Constitution has been amended to reflect the delegated authorities that are needed to take the actions necessary to comply with the new duties and implement the Prevent Action Plan and Venue Hire Policy in line with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 .

Crime and Disorder Impact

17. The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area".

Risk Management

18. There is a risk that the current staffing level will be insufficient to cover the duties if the level of extremism activity locally increases, this will be monitored and should it become a problem, further reports to Members will be provided.

Consultation

19. There is no requirement under the Constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

20.
 - (1) That the Policy and Resources Cabinet Board authorises the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services to implement the Venue Policy for Neath Port Talbot buildings necessary to secure compliance by the local authority with s29 section E paragraph 45 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and associated statutory guidance issued by the Home Secretary in relation thereto.
21.
 - (2) That the Neath Port Talbot Prevent Action Plan be supported.

Reason for Proposed Decision

22. To provide the relevant officers with the delegated authority to implement the Council's venue hire policy and implement the requirement set out in Statutory guidance to have such a policy in place.

Implementation of Decision

23. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

24. Appendix one – Neath Port Talbot PREVENT Action Plan
Appendix two - Neath Port Talbot Venue Hire Policy

List of Background Papers:

25. **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/pdfs/ukpga_20150006_en.pdf
Prevent Duty Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Officer Contact

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