

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny – Sub Committee

26th March 2019

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer

Mrs. Karen Jones

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

PREVENT Plan

Purpose of Report

1. To update 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 completed PREVENT Action plan to members for information, the draft PREVENT Action plan having been presented on 27th October 2017.
3. To highlight the work of the Neath Port Talbot Channel Panel.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks to inform members on the implementation of the Neath Port Talbot Prevent Action Plan which was 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 meet twice a year to oversee the work in the Action Plan. At the PREVENT Action group on 14th December 2018 the completed Action plan was presented to the members and discharged. The ongoing actions will continue to be monitored by the group.
7. Local authorities are required to set up a local multi-agency Channel Panel to support individuals at an early stage who are identified as being vulnerable and at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Background

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. To date we have:-
 - Set up a Channel Panel and dealt with 6 referrals via the Channel process
 - Participated in the Western Bay CONTEST Board. The responsibility for chairing the meetings rotates between Swansea and NPT. Neath Port Talbot has chaired the meeting since Oct 2018 and will do so until July 2019.
 - Undertaken a Peer Prevent review

- Accredited 12 trainers and rolled out Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT (WRAP) training to 2,280 (33%) employees and Councillors
- Introduced a venue hire policy
- Set up a PREVENT Action Group (PAG) with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Completed the PREVENT Action Plan
- Introduced an Ethical Employment in Supply Chains Policy
- Undertaken a PREVENT training review
- Developed a PREVENT webpage on the intranet and internet
- Introduced a referral pathway to the Neath Port Talbot Channel Panel
- Established a task and finish group to ensure Neath Port Talbot meet the PREVENT Estyn requirements for all schools
- Introduced local tension monitoring arrangements to identify and mitigate local tensions
- Delivered 6 bespoke Wales Extremist Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU) sessions on the local context of PREVENT

Financial Impact

11. 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

12. 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

13. A small number of officers were required to participate in the work of the Prevent Action Group and with the implementation of the Action Plan and these officers will continue to monitor and support the group.
14. It is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact on workforce other than as described above and to participate in the training programme.

Legal Impact

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

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

Appendices

29. Appendix one – Neath Port Talbot PREVENT Action Plan
Appendix two - Neath Port Talbot Channel Panel
Appendix three – Channel Panel case study

List of Background Papers:

20. 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

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 Report to Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny – Sub Committee 19th October 2017 –
<http://moderngov.neath-porttalbot.gov.uk/documents/g7467/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Oct-2017%2014.00%20Community%20Safety%20and%20Public%20protection%20Sub%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Officer Contact

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