



19 January 2017

Agenda Item: 6

**Children's Trust Executive Sponsor: Marion Clay**

**PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVENT DUTY  
ACROSS CFCS AND THE WIDER CHILDREN'S TRUST  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive update around our implementation of the Prevent Duty across Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS) and the wider Children's Trust Partnership. The report will highlight areas of developing strength and key areas of activity which require attention.

**Information and Advice**

2. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, the Prevent Duty came into force across England and Wales requiring schools, colleges, early years' providers and a range of other public bodies to demonstrate that they are discharging their responsibilities in relation to protecting people from being drawn into radicalised or extremist activities. In order to facilitate a "joined-up" approach across Nottinghamshire, the Local Authority has established and led a partnership working group with a Prevent focus over the last 18 months. This has been informed by a robust action plan which is reviewed every 6-8 months via the Prevent Steering Group which has representation from the district councils, Police Prevent team, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, the Inspire Trust, Youth Service, ICT Security, Community Safety, the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team, and colleagues working in the area of policy development. The purpose of the group is to review current practice and identify any potential gaps; share best practice; and make the most effective use of our resources. Governance and monitoring arrangements lie with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board chaired by the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council. Over the last year the steering group's priorities have been around awareness raising and training, including improving the quality of referrals to the Police Prevent team. More recently there has been a focus on developing engagement both in relation to young people and the wider community. The attached action plans (Appendices 1 and 2) illustrate the planned activities and progress to date and also reflect how they have recently been refreshed in line with the most recent developments internationally, nationally and locally.

3. In October 2015, the district councils and Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) agreed to pool their Home Office allocated funding for the purposes of shared training. Zebrared (staffed by former Police Prevent Officers and an ex-Far Right extremist) were commissioned to deliver a series of training sessions across the partnership tailored to meet the differing needs of frontline workers, managers and elected members. More than 4,000 staff were subsequently trained over 58 separate sessions to have a deeper understanding of the Prevent Duty; how to identify risk; the referral pathway and interventions process; and most importantly, a deeper understanding of the radicalisation process from the perspective of a former extremist. Most of the delegates came from the districts with far fewer NCC workers attending training. However, data analysis indicates that those NCC staff that did access it were frontline staff in social care, the family service and youth service. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and it is intended that further sessions will be offered in the near future. In addition to this training, staff have also been encouraged to complete a number of online training options and several sessions have been delivered as part of the "What's New in Safeguarding?" programme over the last year. To support school staff specifically, the Home Office Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) sessions have been offered to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) during the summer and autumn terms 2016. The majority of schools have accessed this training and additional mop up sessions will be planned for the spring term in order to pick up any individuals who are new to the DSL role or who have not yet accessed this training offer.
4. In respect of other aspects of the duty the Local Authority has ensured that our ICT security team have robust procedures in place regarding filters and maintaining knowledge of new and emerging sites of concern. Guidance has been issued to schools indicating that where they buy ICT services via a non NCC provider they should check that they also have robust filters in place and are demonstrating due regard to the duty. The Prevent Task & Finish (T & F) group continues to review practice in all NCC and partner organisations where members of the public might access extremist material via ICT equipment made available to them, such as in a public library for example.
5. Similarly, a review of our hiring and leasing of premises agreements has been undertaken and guidance offered to schools and other partners. The T & F group continue to review all aspects of the duty to ensure that we are discharging our duties responsibly.
6. The Prevent agenda sits firmly within the remit of the newly formed Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team. This has been established to support schools and other professionals within the children's workforce with this and other "threat" agendas. Using the School's Portal as its main means of communication, the team will provide advice, support and guidance as well as training and the quality assurance of other providers and intervention programmes. The team will also co-produce resources designed to support schools and youth workers in leading discussions with young people about the issues, in a safe space which simultaneously facilitates freedom of expression whilst providing strong counter-narratives to extreme ideologies.

7. CFCS has acknowledged that in order to be best placed to keep young people safe from being drawn into radicalised and extremist activity, they need to be at the centre of our developing practice. We have therefore ensured that our work is informed by young people and in the summer organised a Prevent Residential with the objective of quality assuring the resources we are recommending to teachers and other professionals, which will be made available via our Prevent Toolkit and the School's Portal and across the East Midlands via the Participation Network. Dialogue with ICT Security and NCC Communications and Marketing teams is also underway as we recognise the need to utilise social media platforms to engage young people and parents and carers in the work we are developing. There are a number of challenges involved in finding a workable solution but some progress has been made. All colleagues involved in the discussions appreciate the role social media plays in relation to this agenda and that it is pivotal to our overall effectiveness in the truly preventative aspects of this work.
8. Practice on the ground is also steadily developing as cases are referred to the Police Prevent team, Early Help, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and TETC teams respectively. Some work however, still needs to be undertaken in order to establish clearly defined roles and responsibilities and thresholds for intervention. Where young people are living in households where it is known that there are extremist beliefs held by others responsible for their care/ hold significant influence over the child, as yet we do not have a shared view or consistent approach as to whether there should be some involvement/ assessment of need. It has been proposed that a working group be established inviting representation from key colleagues to address this gap in our current practice with a view to developing a series of case studies which might supplement further training for staff across CFCS.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) Further consideration be given as to how the Children's Trust Executive might support the progress of the current CFCS Prevent Delivery Plan, particularly in relation to how all stakeholders are fully engaged in the work.
- 2) The Children's Trust Executive support the proposal to consider the thresholds for intervention (where children are living in households where there are adults involved in/hold extreme views), providing clear strategic direction and accountability for this aspect of the work.

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**Background Papers**

None