

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES, CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

### **STATUTORY PREVENT DUTY**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to raise awareness about the Prevent Duty and the statutory requirements placed on Local Authorities. In addition to provide an overview of how Nottinghamshire County Council is meeting these obligations.

#### **Information**

2. Prevent is a part of the Government's national counter-terrorism strategy, which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism before they get involved in criminal activity. It is designed to stop terrorism regardless of ideology or cause. The central aim of Prevent is safeguarding people and communities and supporting individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation in all its forms.
3. The Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires all specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Nottinghamshire County Council and partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.
4. The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is one of the four elements of the government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The CONTEST strategy aims to reduce the risk from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The four elements of the CONTEST strategy are:
  - **Pursue:** investigate and disrupt terrorist attacks.
  - **Prevent:** stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
  - **Protect:** improve our protective security to stop a terrorist attack.
  - **Prepare:** work to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible
5. The Prevent strategy addresses all forms of terrorism and has three main objectives:
  - Objective one: Ideology - respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
  - Objective two: Supporting vulnerable people - prevent people from being drawn into terrorism; and
  - Objective three: Work with key sectors and institutions - address risks.

## **Detail**

### **Understanding local risk - Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP)**

6. To ensure Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners understands local risk in relation to implementing Prevent effectively and to inform local planning and delivery, the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) is utilised.
7. This CTLTP is a restricted document that provides an outline of the key threats, risks, and vulnerabilities to prevent extremism within Nottinghamshire. The aims of the CTLTP are to:
  - develop a joint understanding amongst local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to terrorism and nonviolent extremism where it creates an environment conducive to terrorism.
  - provide information on which to base local Prevent programmes and action plans.
  - support the mainstreaming of Prevent activity into day-to-day policing, local government, and partnership work; and
  - allow a targeted and proportionate use of shared resources.
8. A CTLTP is a strategic document and does not provide a complete assessment of activity in an area. It is designed to be read in conjunction with other available information to produce a more complete overview of the risks in an area.
9. Across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City the local planning and delivery of Prevent activity is overseen by the Prevent Steering Group. This quarterly meeting is chaired jointly by Senior Managers from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council and attendance includes representation from District and Borough Councils. Progress reports about the work of the Prevent Steering Group are routinely provided to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, chaired by the Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive, to give further oversight of this activity.

### **Work Across Geographical Boundaries**

10. Extremism cuts across geographical boundaries. To address this, work across Nottinghamshire is also supported by the East Midlands Prevent Network. The East Midlands Prevent Network is attended by representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council and is an opportunity to share good practice across the region.
11. Nottingham City has just become a funded area for Prevent and with this development locally it is expected that moving forward there will be opportunities in the County to bid for funding to support specific project delivery.

### **The Channel Programme**

12. Channel is a multi-agency early intervention safeguarding programme run in every local authority in England and Wales. Through the Channel programme, work is done with a range of partners including Nottinghamshire Police and Social Care to manage Prevent referrals.
13. The programme works to protect vulnerable people (adults, children, and young people) from being drawn into terrorism and provides a range of support such as mentoring, counselling and help with education and employment.

14. Participation in Channel is voluntary. It's up to an individual (or their parents for children aged under 18) to decide whether to take up the support it offers. Participating in Channel does not lead to a criminal record.
15. The local Channel Panel is also jointly chaired by Senior Managers from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council and links closely with existing processes for safeguarding adults and children.

## **Emerging Issues**

16. Channel Panels receive referrals covering a range of ideologies for example, right-wing extremist ideologies, Islamist radicalisation, left-wing, anarchist and single-issue ideology e.g., militant animal rights and environmental activism and self-initiated ideology (lone individuals working independently to any network) and mixed, unclear, or unstable ideologies.
17. Across all ideologies, the online space continues to be a predominant feature and driver of the UK threat. The increase in time spent online due to the pandemic enabling an environment in which young and vulnerable people are at greater risk of being targeted and groomed by people who wish to do harm.

## **Acting Early to Prevent Terrorism and Extremism**

18. It is recognised that it is family and friends – including close co-workers – who are often the first to spot the concerning changes in behaviour that might be signs that someone they know may be at risk from being radicalised by terrorists or extremist content online. However nationally studies have shown that the public are unsure of the signs to look out for and who to turn to when they have concerns. Therefore, Counter Terrorism Policing launched a website to encourage friends and family to act early, share concerns and seek help if they are worried that someone they know is being radicalised.
19. The Act Early website ([actearly.uk](http://actearly.uk)) includes case studies, signs to spot and details of where to get help. This website, and resources, have been promoted across partner organisations and via the Nottinghamshire County Councils communication channels and training portal.

## **Other Options Considered**

20. Given the nature of the report no other options were considered.

## **Reasons for Recommendation**

21. To ensure Committee Members are aware of the statutory responsibilities relating to the Prevent Duty and to provide reassurance about the work being progressed to meet these obligations.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) It is recommended that a further update on the Prevent Duty be included on the Communities Committee work programme.

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Laurence Jones, Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Family Services, Tel: 0115 977 4363

### **Constitutional Comments (EKH 10/02/2022)**

23. Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

### **Financial Comments (SES 08/02/2022)**

24. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All