



## Report to Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

**Report of:** Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director of Children, Young People and Family Services

**Subject:** Update on recommendations from Scrutiny Prevent Task Group

**Author of Report:** Sam Martin (CYPF), Maxine Stavrianakos (Communities)

**Summary:**

In the autumn of 2015 the CYPF Scrutiny Committee established a working group to explore the implementation of the Government's new PREVENT Duty in Children's Services and Schools in Sheffield. The working party reported to the Scrutiny Committee in December 2015 and made a series of recommendations. The Committee has asked that an update report be provided to their December 2016 meeting. This report provides that update.

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<b>x</b>
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

Note the contents of the report and request any further updates as appropriate.

**Background Papers:**

Report of the CYPF Scrutiny Committee Prevent Task Group, December 2015

**Category of Report:** OPEN

## Background

In the autumn of 2015 the CYPF Scrutiny Committee established a working group to explore the implementation of the Government's new PREVENT Duty in Children's Services and Schools in Sheffield. The working party reported to the Scrutiny Committee in December 2015 and made a series of recommendations. The Committee has asked that an update report be provided to their December 2016 meeting. This report provides that update.

## What Is Prevent?

PREVENT is a strand of the Government's wider Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). The Counter Terrorism and Security Act of 2015 makes the implementation of PREVENT a statutory duty for public bodies, including local authorities, schools and colleges, the police and health services.

The PREVENT strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by:

- Challenging extremist ideologies (that might be promoted through internet propaganda or extremist speakers).
- Safeguarding Individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Supporting institutions (including schools, councils, universities, faith organisations, etc.) to address the risk of terrorism.

PREVENT is a *safeguarding issue* and seeks to support individuals, and divert them away from risky behaviour, *before they get involved in criminal activity*. It is important to note that PREVENT is concerned with *all* forms of terrorism, including that driven by extreme Islamist ideology, extreme right wing groups, animal rights extremism or others. The PREVENT agenda is not intended to close down sensible debate about terrorism, religion, moral issues or global politics.

## Key Developments in 2016

The following report outlines the current position against the recommendations made in the original Scrutiny working group report of December 2015. However, a number of overarching developments are also worth noting:

In June 2016 the Home Office has published a new *Counter-Extremism Strategy*. Distinct from, but sitting alongside, the Prevent Strategy, the Counter Extremism Strategy, which is managed by a separate Home Office department, is aimed at tackling behaviours and ideologies, which although not directly related to terrorism, undermine community cohesion and foster extremism. The strategic objectives include building partnerships with civil society groups opposed to hate, building cohesive communities, and disrupting extremist ideologies. The Prevent Strategy remains explicitly focused on identifying and supporting *individuals* who are

vulnerable to getting drawn into terrorist activities. There are areas where the implementation of the two strategies are clearly complementary, however, the Counter Extremism Strategy has not yet been made a statutory duty like the PREVENT strategy and there are currently no legal powers associated with it. Certainly some of the issues explored by the Scrutiny working group, such as those relating to school curriculum materials on 'British Values' (referred to as 'fundamental' or 'shared' values within the new *Counter Extremism Strategy*), or support for community groups that promote community cohesion, now sit more firmly within the remit of the Counter Extremism Strategy, not PREVENT. How this will affect the responsibilities or expectations on local authorities and other partners will become clearer as the Home Office starts to roll out implementation of the new strategy in 2017.

In relation to the implementation of the PREVENT duty in Children and Young People's services, officers in CYPF and Communities have:

- Coordinated the delivery of initial training and awareness sessions to 330 council Children and Young People's services staff and managers between July 2015 and March 2016.
- Delivered, in partnership with Learn Sheffield and the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Service, training and awareness sessions to senior leaders and safeguarding leads in all Sheffield schools – further sessions are planned in the autumn term 2016/17.
- Ensured that clear Safeguarding advice and referral pathways are in place to respond proportionally to the needs of any potentially vulnerable children and young people.

### **Update on Recommendations from the Scrutiny Report of December 2015**

The following sections set out the recommendations from the December 2016 Scrutiny Report and the current position against these recommendations.

Recommendation 1 The Children Young People & Families Portfolio continue to recommend to the Home Office / Department of Education that in reviewing Prevent training materials they ensure they are appropriate for the target audiences, including those working with primary age children and that materials are accessible in terms of language (translation/interpretation) and cognitive ability.

Recommendation 2 The Children Young People & Families Portfolio continue to engage with the Department of Education to encourage the development of further curriculum based materials to support both Primary and Secondary Schools with work around

cohesion and integration and managing “safe conversation” as required by the legislation.

The primary contact with Government regarding the implementation of PREVENT is the Home Office, who hold regular meetings with Prevent local authority leads, and feedback has been provided by Sheffield and local authorities across the country through this route about the development of appropriate resources for schools.

Since the Scrutiny Report, a small number of Sheffield schools and post 16 learning institutions, and youth services have tested some Home Office education materials and provided feedback on their suitability. Young people involved in the pilots said they found the materials useful, non-stigmatising and well written and they have subsequently been shared with some local educational establishments.

In 2016 the Home Office have commissioned a nationally respected charity called the *Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace* to provide school based programmes to help pupils think about issues of radicalisation and extremism, and to help teachers plan and deliver successful classroom based learning, including having ‘safe conversations’ about difficult issues like extremism and terrorism. These programmes have been tried and tested in other local authority areas and are specifically tailored to Primary, Secondary and FE sectors. Council officers have worked with Learn Sheffield to offer these programmes to Sheffield schools, and the first programmes will be run in the Autumn Term

Materials aimed at Primary age pupils are still difficult to find and this continues to be raised nationally. The Home Office has supported the establishment in 2016 of a new online resource: Educate Against Hate which acts as a repository of resources and learning materials, which many schools have found useful and as it grows should provide a wider range of potential resources. It is also likely that curriculum material more suitable for Primary age may be developed as part of the Government *Counter-extremism Strategy* which will focus more on issues like community cohesion or democratic values, which are likely to be of more interest to Primary schools in terms of curriculum delivery.

Local schools, with the support of, and independently from the Council, continue to develop tailored material and approaches to support staff training and curriculum delivery across this agenda.

In response to direct requests from schools, Council Officers are engaging with the SACRE committee to source locally tailored and credible religious literacy resources to support conversations with students.

Recommendation 3 Any relevant local best practice materials identified by the Children Young People & Families Portfolio are shared with the Home Office / Department of Education.

There are now formal routes established with the Home Office for promoting local good practice and resources – through the Home Office Provider network and the Prevent Innovation Fund.

Learn Sheffield, in their wider role, identify and coordinate the sharing of good practice between local schools and this will continue through regular Prevent briefings.

The Prevent Working Group, established through the Equality Hubs network, covers within its aims, a review of Prevent training material and the identification of local good practice.

Local partners are working with the Home Office HE / FE Prevent Coordinator to host a regional event to share good practice within the FE sector.

Recommendation 4 In order to support the development of good practice and ensure parents have effective advice and support we recommend that the Children Young People & Families Portfolio ensure e-safety training and best practice materials are shared more broadly within the City including all members of the 0-19 Partnership and Learn Sheffield.

The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Service continues to provide support to schools, children's services and partner agencies about e-safety, including training as follows:

- A whole school approach - 2 day training (3x per year)
- Delivering Online Safety sessions for parents (3x per year 2 hour afternoon slots)
- Delivering Online Safety Training for School staff (3 x per year 2 hour afternoon slots)
- Online Safety Refresher courses (3x per year 2 hour afternoon slots)

The e-Learning Service also provides a range of **additional services**:

- 1x lunchtime seminar – multi-agency audience
- Update of website (inc. school training offer)
- Update of e-safety procedures/policy (2x per year)
- Contribution to Annual Report – 1 page
- Training consultation with Safeguarding education advisers/consortium to update safeguarding training
- Update of E-Safety audit (annual)
- Update of E-Safety policy (annual)
- Review of the pupil/schools questionnaire (annual)
- Update of the E-Safety curriculum (annual)

- Meeting with SSCB Board representative (3x per year) – monitoring meeting plus board rep providing safeguarding information of relevance to the e-safety package

The E-learning service will also offer additional support on a traded basis to schools and other organisations including, staff meetings, parents events, pupil voice consultations or input into curriculum events. Schools that purchase a Primary enhanced, or any Secondary or Special School package from the E- Learning Service may choose to allocate time from their package to this work.

We are signposting local educational establishments, organisations and communities to the [saferinternet.org.uk](http://saferinternet.org.uk) website, which provides advice and guidance regarding e-safety and internet filtering, specifically in relation to Prevent.

Recommendation 5 In order to ensure skills and expertise are maximised and that there is sustainability and continuity in terms of work undertaken the Prevent Silver Group work more closely with the voluntary, Community and faith sectors through existing networks, including the Equality Hub Network and the Religion and Belief Hub (a sub group of the Network).

Following the initial Scrutiny Committee recommendations, Council officer leads for Prevent have been working closely with the Religion and Belief Hub chair to develop a collaborative approach to Prevent with the VCF sector and communities. This has led to:

- A Prevent presentation to the Religion and Belief Hub, and the Thriving VCF Leadership Network in June 2016.
- Establishment of the Prevent Working Group which met initially in September 2016 and which will be an ongoing forum for dialogue on Prevent between partners, the VCF sector and community members.
- Commissioning of the Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace to deliver a 'Radical Dialogue' programme in 2017.

Recommendation 6 In order to have a greater input from Elected Representatives as strategy and approaches are developed and to support engagement with communities, further consideration is given in terms of the options for increasing the involvement and engagement of Elected Representatives around Prevent.

Following discussion with the new Cabinet Lead for Prevent, it was agreed to provide Prevent briefing sessions, open to all Elected Members. Initial sessions were held in July and September 2016 and since the initial report, a number of Members, from three parties have been briefed. It is planned that Elected Members will be invited to

participate in the Radical Dialogue programme in the New Year. We will be exploring the possibility of a Member Reference Group with the Cabinet Lead.

Recommendation 7 That officers leading on Prevent continue to work with National Government to look at opportunities for funding to support work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors and local communities.

As described above, the Home Office has in 2016-17 commissioned a voluntary organisation called *the Foundation for Peace* to deliver training and awareness programmes across local authorities in the North of England including in Sheffield. The *Foundation for Peace*, though not based in Sheffield, has delivered successful programmes in schools in other authorities. The Foundation plan to begin delivery in Sheffield in November.

In the last few months there have been a number of funding opportunities from the Home Office for voluntary, community and faith organisations in relation to prevent and broader agendas around extremism, cohesion and hate crime:

- The Prevent *Innovation Fund* seeks to support projects which prevent radicalisation and terrorism including education, awareness resources.
- The *Building a Stronger Britain Together* programme will support organisations and projects that promote community cohesion and tackle extremism.
- Hate Crime national action plan - places of worship security funding scheme
- Hate Crime Community Projects: a new fund has been launched to develop a range of pilot projects to tackle hate crime.

Information about these opportunities has been shared through relevant networks of VCF providers, including the Equality Hubs.

Recommendation 8 The Task Group recommends that, in order to ensure effective processes are in place, that referrals into the safeguarding service continue to be monitored; and that effective feedback is given to individuals and agencies to ensure that only appropriate referrals are being made.

Recommendation 9 In order to monitor the impact of any changes to the telephone based safeguarding advice and support services the Children Young People & Families Scrutiny Committee requests an update report from Children Young People & Families Portfolio by August 2016.

Recommendation 10 In order to support work with vulnerable individuals the Council's approach to information / data gathering and collation

continues to be explored and that Prevent leads engage in this work.

The first point of contact for advice and reporting concerns in relation to Prevent is the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Service. They will provide direct feedback to providers regarding referrals and appropriately signpost cases to support.

Corporately, the Insurance and Risk Team have undertaken a review of local Prevent safeguarding processes to provide assurance and to identify and mitigate any risks.

Local data recording will be considered as part of the current re-procurement of Social Care information systems. There is currently a national pilot review in relation to Channel. It is expected that this will ultimately lead to more definitive guidance to local authorities and national standardisation in terms of system implementation and data recording. The findings of the review are not currently expected until 2018.

Recommendation 11        The Children Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee Requests an update on progress against their recommendations by the end of 2016.

Recommendation 12        The Committee also recommends that the Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee consider looking at Prevent as part of their future work programme.

The Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee are considering Prevent as a future agenda item. Prevent is included routinely in the annual Community Safety report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee.

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