Information About the Prevent Duty

Introduction

The UK continues to face a threat from terrorism. Terrorists seek to instil fear and disrupt our way of life, they may exploit and radicalise vulnerable people to commit acts of violence or terrorism as a response to this continued threat the government revised the Counter Terrorism Strategy; CONTEST, to reflect the terrorist threat we now face.

CONTEST is organised around four principal workstreams:

- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent: to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack
- Prepare: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact

Local Authorities are responsible for leading on Prevent.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out the basis for Prevent. The Act creates a statutory duty for certain bodies including Local Authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The national strategy focuses on three key areas which are:

- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
- Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Background to Prevent in Coventry

Coventry has a long established and international reputation as a tolerant and inclusive city – Coventry is a City of Peace and Reconciliation.

Over the years, while the population has grown and become more diverse, we have remained a settled and peaceful place to live and work. However, the national and international context means that the overall assessed risk for the country is substantial – that is an attack is likely.

The Prevent Co-ordinator, Manjeet Pangli, leads on co-ordination of the Prevent programme in the local authority; the programme is the Local Authorities response to the requirement set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act which aims to stop people being drawn into or supporting terrorism

Coventry's Prevent Programme is designed to:

- divert vulnerable individuals away from the radicalisation process and ensure that they are given the appropriate advice and support through local safeguarding structures
- deter extremist groups from creating disharmony, division and spreading hate
- ensure that sectors and institutions develop an appropriate response to tackle extremism
- ensure that the reputation of the city and its residents is maintained and enhanced.

Prevent activity in the city is governed by a multi-agency Prevent Board. The Board is responsible for putting in place a Delivery Plan that meets the specific objectives of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act, is proportionate to the type and level of threat, reflects local needs and is jointly agreed by partners.

What Prevent means for Social Care

Prevent aims to protect those who are vulnerable to exploitation from those who seek to get people to support or commit acts of violence. Staff working with vulnerable groups are well placed to recognise individuals who may be vulnerable and therefore more susceptible to radicalisation by extremists or terrorists. Professional codes of conduct require all staff to exercise a 'duty of care' to protect and support vulnerable individuals who may be at risk of abuse or for the interests of crime prevention.

In terms of personal vulnerability, many of the factors that may make individuals susceptible to radicalisation can also make them more vulnerable to other forms of personal crisis and/or criminal activity. Conversely many of the factors that make an individual susceptible to personal crisis or criminal activity can make them more susceptible to radicalisation. Further guidance on this is attached to this note.

There is no expectation that staff will take on a surveillance or enforcement role or be expected to have a detailed knowledge of the signs of radicalisation. Having concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation does not mean that you think the person is a terrorist, it means that you are concerned that they are prone to being exploited by others. The key message is that all staff must escalate a concern, and have confidence that each issue will be taken seriously, handled appropriately and where necessary specialist advice will be available

It is important that services engaged in working with vulnerable individuals and families are aware of the role they can play in recognising the factors, social, psychological and physical that make an individual vulnerable to radicalisation and the factors that enable an individual to resist the influences of violent extremists.

The role of the Channel Panel

A multi-agency Channel Panel has been set up in the City to provide support to people at risk of being radicalised recognising that the radicalisation of vulnerable children and adults is a safeguarding issue. The Panel brings together the Police,

Mental Health, Youth Services, Adults & Children's Safeguarding, and Probation. The Panel is chaired by the City Council.

The objectives of the Channel Panel are to:

• identify individuals at risk of being drawn into violent extremism

• assess the nature and extent of that risk

• develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

Raising concerns about radicalisation

As outlined above, concerns around the vulnerability of local people to exploitation, may well be experienced by staff engaged in working with individuals and communities.

The three key points at the heart of Prevent are: -

Notice the possible issues of concern

Check those concerns with appropriate colleagues

Share those concerns with Safeguarding leads and/or senior managers.

Following a referral, there will then be consideration to decide if the case should be subject to Channel or other action. Where a case is considered appropriate for referral to Channel, then, the panel decides on who would be best placed to engage with the individual to seek consent. It is important to emphasise that Channel is concerned with non-criminal activity and is based on the voluntary participation of the individual concerned.

[Details on how to make a referral](#).

Key Contacts

If you have any queries regarding the above, or general matters regarding Prevent you can contact: -

The Coventry Prevent Team: Prevent@coventry.gov.uk

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:

   Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

3. There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

4. Individuals may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

5. Indicators of vulnerability include:
   - Identity Crisis – the individual is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
   - Personal Crisis – the individual may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
   - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience such as: racism, discrimination or political grievances;
   - Unmet Aspirations – the individual may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
   - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
   - Special Educational Need – individual's may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

   However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all individuals experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism. More critical risk factors could include:

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- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and an ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

There is an obvious difference between espousing radical and extreme views and acting on them and practitioners should ensure that assessments place behaviour in the family and social context of the person and if possible include information about the person's peer group and conduct and behaviour. Holding radical or extreme views is not illegal but inciting a person to commit an act in the name of any belief is in itself an offence.