



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015

**SUBJECT: THE COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT 2015- PREVENT
DUTY**

REPORT BY: KATHRYN PETERS, COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members of the new Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and in particular the duty placed on specified authorities for Prevent and Channel.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Government's national counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST has four components: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The Prevent component of the strategy is a partnership responsibility with 'specified authorities' including local government, police, health, criminal justice, education and child care sectors, playing a key role in identifying and supporting at risk individuals. Prevent primarily focuses on preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism, and committing acts of terrorism, through the Channel multi agency process.
- 2.2 The Act places the '**Prevention of People Being Drawn into Terrorism**' and '**The Support for People Vulnerable to Being Drawn into Terrorism**' on a statutory footing.
- 2.3 The Act is supported by two sets of statutory guidance relevant to the specified authority role. 'The Prevent Duty Guidance' and 'The Channel Duty Guidance.'
- 2.4. The relevant Sections of the Act came into force on the 1st of July 2015.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The single plan, 'Caerphilly Delivers' includes Prevent within the **S2 priority area- Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime for Residents of the County Borough**. Revisions to the priority area for 2015/16 include a stated aim to ensure the PREVENT duty and CHANNEL duty introduced through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 are met among partners.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 On the 1st July 2015 Section 26 of The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed duties on 'specified authorities' to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

- 4.2 The Prevent duty guidance for 'specified authorities' in England and Wales sets out duties for each of the authorities. Within the guidance are sections specific to each sector that set out how the sector should meet the Prevent duty. For Community Safety partners the guidance is summarised below.
- 4.3 For local authorities the guidance states that in fulfilling the new duty, local authorities, including Elected Members and senior officers should be carrying out certain activity including the following areas:
- Local authorities to establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk, co-ordinate Prevent activity, and produce an action plan.
 - Effective dialogue and coordination with community-based organisations should take place.
 - Local authorities to use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLPs), produced for every region by the police, to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
 - Local authorities to incorporate the duty into existing policies and procedures.
 - Ensure appropriate frontline staff, have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism, and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.
 - Ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.
 - Ensure that organisations who work with the local authority on Prevent are not engaged in any extremist activity or espouse extremist views.
 - The duty also applies to other bodies exercising local authority functions, which includes: Children's homes, independent fostering agencies, supplementary schools and tuition centres to support home education.
- 4.4 For schools the guidance states (summarised):
- Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
 - Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate.
 - Make sure that staff receive training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas
 - Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.
- 4.5 For the health care sector (summarised):
- Staff are trained to recognise correctly the signs that someone is at risk of being drawn into extremism and are aware of support available.
 - To appoint a Prevent lead who is able to receive referrals from concerned staff that can be assessed for the suitability of multi-agency intervention.
- 4.6 For prisons and probation (summarised):
- Carry out initial risk assessment on arrival to the secure estate including cell sharing arrangements.
 - Regular contact with trained staff who can recognise issues of concern.
 - Use established programmes to counter terrorist ideologies
 - Discuss with probation the conditions of release at the end of the sentence.
- 4.7 For the police (summarised)
- Prosecute, disrupt and deter extremists.
 - Develop local Prevent partnerships.

- Designate key Prevent staff.
- Ensure that Prevent is embedded in front line policing.

4.8 The Channel duty guidance for 'specified authorities' in England and Wales sets out duties for each of the authorities in how they deal with vulnerable individuals referred to for multi agency assessment and support.

The Act requires that local authorities convene a multiagency Channel panel to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk and
- To develop the most appropriate support package to safeguard those at risk.

Individuals suspected to be at risk of radicalisation are first assessed by the police service to determine whether there is a specific vulnerability and that Channel is an appropriate intervention.

The local authority must chair the panel. The panel's role is, in cooperation, to develop support plans for individuals. The panel should consider alternative forms of support through, for example health and social services where Channel is not appropriate.

The Channel panel may include the NHS, social services representatives, schools, further education colleges and universities, youth offending services, Home Office Immigration Border Force, housing, prisons and probation.

Support is offered to the individual, and their family members, where relevant.

Where there is a need for specialist input to provide a counter narrative to extremist ideologies there are Home Office approved providers that can be called upon.

4.9 The Secretary of State has the power to give directions under Section 30 of the Act where a specified authority has failed to discharge the duty.

4.10 **Work Already Undertaken**

The Safer Caerphilly Partnership has recognised Prevent and Channel through the Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group and its single plan. The Prevent lead is Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager, The Channel panel chair and single point of contact for referrals is Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Officer.

4.11 A Gwent Prevent Group sits to address and tackle Prevent issues. This is a multi-agency group, which meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from key organisations including the five local authorities. The Gwent Prevent Group has worked over the past few years to develop an action plan, which outlines the Gwent partnership response to Prevent. There are a number of themes within the plan such as setting up the Channel process, developing a referral process, training of frontline staff etc. The CCBC Prevent and Channel Leads are members of this group and will work with partners to ensure that the duties within the new legislation are met.

4.12 The Safer Caerphilly Channel Panel has been in existence since 2013 and has well established mechanisms for dealing with Channel referrals received from the local Police Single Point of Contact and the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit. The Panel operates under a set of terms of reference agreed by all partners. To date two cases have been dealt with, one through Home Office specialist counter narrative intervention. The number of referrals are increasing as awareness raises among partners. There is a high level of awareness among the public at present due to media coverage of Islamist extremism. However, Prevent/Channel aims to deal with all forms of radicalisation.

- 4.13 Frontline staff across the local authority have undergone the Home Office approved WRAP training (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent). To date 190 frontline staff from Social Services, Housing, Youth Services, the Youth Offending Service, Education, our local Registered Social Landlords, and Community Safety have been trained. Further WRAP training sessions are planned. All Gwent Police officers have received Prevent training input.
- 4.14 The authority is currently drafting a corporate safeguarding policy and associated training framework for all staff. Prevent and Channel have been included.
- 4.15 Schools Pastoral Leaders have received input on Prevent and Channel on three occasions. The Gwent Education Minority Ethnic Service have recently appointed a member of staff to support Chief Education Officers and schools in the new duties.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are equalities implications in delivery of certain Prevent duties notably for the protected characteristics of race and religion/belief. This applies as equally to protecting the rights of individuals to live free from fear of extremist acts against their race or religion as it does to preventing extremist views within a belief system. A member of the local authority Equalities Team sits on the Channel Panel and is trained to deliver the WRAP course.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 WRAP training sessions are delivered free of charge at present as the number being trained have been at a manageable level.
- 6.2 There are indications that the Home Office will be providing £10,000 per local authority area to assist in the duty. As yet, however, the precise details have not been confirmed.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Channel and Prevent duties have been delivered through the Community Safety Partnership structure and will continue to be so delivered.
- 7.2 WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) sessions are delivered through the combined Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Workforce Development Service. These sessions are, in the main, delivered by Gwent Police trainers. They will continue to be available to frontline staff. Service Managers should identify additional groups of staff, beyond those already trained, who may assist the authority in discharging its duty.
- 7.3 The Gwent Education Ethnic Minority Service dedicated staff member will be supporting schools from the start of the September 2015 term in discharging the duty placed on education.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The report is noted.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The report is for information only.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2015

Statutory Guidance- Channel Duty Guidance- Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into Terrorism

Prevent Duty Guidance- Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Author: Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager

Consultees: Councillor Hefin David, Chair Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
Councillor Sean Morgan, Vice Chair, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Chief Inspector Nick McLain, Safer Caerphilly Strategic Lead and Delivery Group Chair
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Vice Chair Delivery Group
Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager
David A Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Sian Phillips, Human Resources Manager