



Counter Terrorism and Anti-Radicalisation

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Report on behalf of: NECTU Prevent

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Summary

The report contained in this paper outlines the current Prevent duty under the government CONTEST strategy and also provides recent examples of Prevent work in West Yorkshire.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

Police Prevent activity in West Yorkshire is co-ordinated by the North East Counter Terrorism Unit (NE CTU), under the direction of the Regional Police Prevent co-ordinator, Detective Superintendent Nik Adams. The Prevent team at NE CTU also cover a further 6 forces which make up the North East region; Northumbria, Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) came into force on the 1st July 2015; it means that statutory Prevent partners have a duty to prevent individuals being drawn into violent extremism and terrorism. Prevent partners include: Health, Education, Fire Service, Probation, Local Authorities and Police.

The West Yorkshire Prevent Team is coordinated by supervisors based at the NE CTU, who ensure that Prevent delivery is embedded into other departments and that strands of the CONTEST strategy are dealt with harmoniously and not in isolation of each other. External partners are also fully engaged and utilised to promote a holistic response to the Prevent strand of the CONTEST strategy.

Vulnerable individuals are managed through the Prevent Case Management (PCM) process. As part of the PCM process, one tactical option for management of an individual is Channel. Channel officers respond to referrals of vulnerable individuals who may be drawn into radicalisation or violent extremism. They offer support and guidance to consenting individuals through a multiagency panel to formulate a strategic response for vulnerable individuals to draw them away from potentially harmful and/or unlawful activity. Amongst other responses, the use of Intervention Providers (IPs) has been useful during the Channel process to help unravel radical and extreme views.

ONGOING WORK AND DEVELOPMENTS

Prevent work closely with colleagues to support ongoing CT investigations. For example, safeguarding vulnerable individuals on the periphery of investigations, such as friends and family members of those committing offences. Prevent provide support for the family and vulnerability assessments are carried out when appropriate.

The North East CTU supported the release nationally of a new film in July 2016, featuring officers who witness the consequences of a loved one travelling to conflict zones. 'Left Behind' is a short film made by police Prevent contact officers serving in different parts of the UK. This is the latest production from the Prevent Tragedies campaign - a joint initiative between police, partner agencies and community groups - that provides support and advice to families concerned about a loved one who may be at risk of radicalisation or considering travel to a conflict zone such as Syria. Prevent contact officers support the partners, parents and siblings of people who have given up everything to go and live in conflict zones like Syria. The film was launched on 13th July 2016 at four sites across West Yorkshire and is now one of a number of resources which officers use when engaging with the public.

Prevent Tragedies is a Police and Partnership initiative to help prevent people getting drawn into violent extremism and terrorism. The website (www.preventtragedies.co.uk) and initiative began following a number of instances where vulnerable individuals and families had left the UK to travel to conflict zones, such as Syria and Iraq. *Prevent Tragedies* aims to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The website and initiative has contributions from women from communities, charities, public sector organisations and Government departments.

Youth Independent Advisory Group – three successful events have been held across West Yorkshire in 2016 where NE CTU officers have engaged with a wide range of young people from diverse communities to help understand the role the police and communities can play in defeating terrorism locally and online. In addition officers continue their focused youth engagement work aimed at diverting those who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism through Daesh propaganda. For example, PC Ash Razzaq was this year awarded an MBE for his work in Harehills.

NE CTU are currently engaged with University academics to work in partnership to develop an enhanced understanding of the causes of radicalisation at Leeds, Huddersfield and Bradford.

West Yorkshire (Kirklees) is one of nine pilot sites nationally which is trialling a revised Channel process which effectively transfers management from the police to the local authority for those who are considered vulnerable rather than criminal. This is aimed at creating a programme which is more likely to obtain the co-operation of the individual.