



Report of: **Corporate Director of Children's Services**

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| Meeting of: | Date: | Ward(s): |
| Children's Services Scrutiny Committee | 21 November 2016 | All |

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SUBJECT: The Children's Services Response to Prevent

1. Synopsis

1.1 Children's Services have a duty to safeguard children from the risks of radicalisation. This report sets out the ways in which Children's Services have responded to the Prevent Duty.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To scrutinise the Children's Services response to the Prevent Duty

2.2 To receive a further update in one year's time.

3. Background

3.1 The council has a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" (the Duty). The Duty also applies to Schools, Colleges, Health, Prisons, Probation and Police. In discharging this Duty the council is required to have regard to the government guidance issued on 16th July 2015.

3.2 The response of Children's Services is underpinned by both Islington Council's Position Statement on Prevent and the government guidance mentioned above.

3.3 Children's Services have a safeguarding responsibility to protect children (anyone under the age of 18) at risk from harm, abuse or exploitation; this statutory duty extends this responsibility to protect against harm from extremism and radicalisation ('radicalisation' is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism). The grooming of children for the purposes of involvement in violent extremist activity is child abuse so protecting children from radicalisation and extremism is an extension of existing safeguarding responsibilities.

Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group and Action Plan

- 3.4 In July 2015 an internal Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group was established to ensure relevant senior colleagues from across Children's Services lead a robust and effective response to the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Co-ordinator sits on the group. This Group meets bi-monthly.
- 3.5 The Strategy Group has developed a detailed action plan which addresses each element of the Prevent Duty.
- Prevent Objective 1 – Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it.
 - Prevent Objective 2 – Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given the appropriate advice and support.
 - Prevent Objective 3 – Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.
- 3.6 The action plan, as well as ensuring its own services are acting in accordance with the duty, also details Children's Services efforts in ensuring key partners, such as schools, early years providers, fostering agencies, and Alternative Provision providers, understand and respond effectively to their Prevent duties.
- 3.7 The action plan details actions in relation to governance and oversight; policy and practice; resources for providers/practitioners; resources for parents; support to supplementary institutions; training; use of premises; IT security; and reporting to elected members. (***Please refer to Appendix A for the detailed Action Plan***)

- 3.8 Two key elements of the action plan (training and support for schools) are explained briefly below.

Training for Children's Services staff

- 3.9 Children's Services have ensured each department have developed and implemented a training plan to ensure staff have a firm grounding in Prevent and understand their role in building children's resilience to safeguarding risks, such as radicalisation, as well as knowing how to recognise and respond to risks.
- 3.10 Training has included Channel and Prevent online training, Prevent briefings and training sessions. As at October 2016:
- Almost 100% of staff across Targeted and Specialist Children and Families (TSCFS), Youth and Community and School Improvement Service had undertaken online training
 - Annual safeguarding report for schools (2014-15) shows 100% of School Designated Safeguarding Leads had completed online training
 - Over 85% of TSCFS staff have attended a Prevent briefing
- 3.11 A key focus of the Children's Services Strategy group moving forward is to develop the training plan further to continue to ensure a coordinated approach to training cross the service and with partners, check compliance with internal training expectations and to ensure the right level of training dependant on roles.
- 3.12 The development of the action plan is in partnership with the ISCB training sub group to ensure the ISCB and Children's Services maintain a clear overview of the training requirements and the training undertaken across Children's Services and key partners. This will continue to include the training offer for partners including schools, early years providers, mother tongue supplementary schools and foster carers.

Support for schools

- 3.13 The Children's Services Prevent Strategy group supports and monitors work with schools and assesses the impact. The outcomes of this are fed back to schools and are the basis on which further training and development is put in place. Schools have supported this well.

Two lead schools (one primary and one secondary) were appointed in 2015 to support and further strengthen work on Prevent priorities. This was part of the borough's work on a 'school led' system where schools act as champions on specific areas. Work on ethos, critical thinking and supporting parents culminated in two outcomes. One was a section on the Children's Services website where approaches and schemes of work are shared by and between schools and Alternative Provision providers. The other was a Prevent in Education conference in April 2016. This conference was extremely well attended over 50 delegates from a wide range of educational organisations including early years providers, primary and secondary schools, Special Schools, City and Islington College, New River College – Islington's pupil referral unit, Islington Safeguarding Children Board, Childnet, National Union of Teachers. The conference held nine workshops run by schools and other agencies including the council and the Police. Workshops received 96% good/excellent feedback.

Prevent work and developments features regularly at head teacher briefing sessions.

To take the work of the lead schools forward we have received funding from the Home Office for a dedicated schools officer to work with Heads from a range of schools to share good practice and develop approaches to Prevent.

Schools have been advised to have appropriate policies and procedures in place regarding the Prevent Duty. Some schools have a stand-alone Prevent policy but the large majority have integrated it as part of their Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Children's Services produce a Safeguarding in Education newsletter covering areas such as risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies. The newsletter has also raised awareness about a range of Prevent resources on the London Grid for Learning.

Support for parents

- 3.14 A number of resources have been made available to parents including a leaflet which sits on the ISCB website. There are also parent resources (including leaflets in different languages) on the London Grid for Learning. Online safety training has been delivered to parents in primary schools and children's centres and this includes extremism.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

There are no additional financial implications. All activities mentioned in Appendix A will be financed, if necessary, from existing revenue budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council has a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" (the Duty). In discharging this Duty the council is required to have regard to the government guidance issued on 16th July 2015. The duty does not confer new functions on the council. The term "due regard" as used in the Act means that the council should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions. The purpose of the guidance is to assist authorities to decide what this means in practice.

4.3 **Environmental Implications:**

Not applicable

4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding."

A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as it is not necessary because the council has a statutory duty and is following Home Office guidance in complying with that duty. The manner of compliance with this duty is not in a category of decision requiring an RIA.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 The Committee are asked to scrutinise the work undertaken in the last year in response to the Prevent Duty and to receive a further update in one year's time.

Appendices: Appendix A: Children's Services Prevent Action Plan

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



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Date: 10 November 2016

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