



**Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills**

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	20 February 2018	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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## **SUBJECT: Children's Services Response to Prevent – February 2018 update**

### **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 update on its 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 16 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.

### 3.4 **Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group and Action Plan**

3.5 In July 2015 an internal Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group was established to ensure a robust and effective response to the Prevent Duty. The Council Prevent Co-ordinator sat on the group. This Group met bi-monthly and developed a detailed action plan which addressed each element of the Prevent Duty and ensured that Children's Services and key partners such as schools, early years' providers, fostering agencies, and Alternative Provision providers understood and responded effectively to their Prevent duties. The bulk of these activities have been achieved. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 we are holding the next meeting of the Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group, to identify any outstanding areas for action from the previous Action Plan and identify key priorities for 18/19. As part of the revised Action Plan we will strengthen and embed the Prevent response across Children, Employment and Skills including new services to the division, identifying key actions and outputs. These actions and progress on achieving them will feed into the corporate Prevent Strategy Plan and related activity. The Council's Prevent Education officer will be invited to these meetings so that there is coherence between CES activity and the wider Council activity.

### 3.6 **Developments since the last report**

- 3.7 A key focus of the Children's Services Strategy group moving forward was to embed and continue to ensure quality training across the service, to check compliance with internal training expectations and to ensure the right level of training dependent on roles. This continues to include the training offer for partners including schools, early years' providers, mother tongue supplementary schools and foster carers. Specific support has been given to supplementary schools to ensure that they fulfil the Prevent duty. This has been primarily through the Prevent Education Officer and through general safeguarding update training carried out by LBI officers.
- 3.8 Between December 2016 and February 2017 a senior leader seconded from an Islington primary school carried out a range of work with Islington schools including training of staff, pupils and parents. This work focused on the importance of embedding Personal Social and Health Education along with Social Moral, Spiritual and Cultural approaches into a school's curriculum in order to tackle extremism and radicalization and build a sense of community. This built on work carried out by colleagues at Elizabeth Garret Anderson and Newington Green schools in the previous year.
- 3.9 Over the last year, we have worked extensively with local supplementary schools and Madrasas. 95 teachers attended our OCN Accredited teaching qualification level 3 which included compulsory units in Prevent and Safeguarding. This was paid for via the Home Office. We also provided Prevent briefings/ workshops to the AGM where over 23 different organisations attended.
- 3.10 A new Prevent Education Officer was appointed in September 2017 reporting to the Prevent-Co-ordinator in Public Protection, Environment & Regeneration. He has delivered training, discussion sessions and assemblies with LA officers, teachers and pupils from early years to secondary on a range of subjects including raising awareness of Hate Crime, British values, online radicalization and gangs & extremism. This has included delivery of focused training to Mother Tongue Supplementary Schools and Madrasas. 95 teachers attended our OCN Accredited teaching qualification level 3 which included compulsory units in Prevent and Safeguarding. This was paid for via the Home Office. We also provided prevent briefings/ workshops to the AGM where over 23 different organisations attended.
- 3.11 Prevent and approaches to extremism online are embedded in online safety training delivered by the Islington Schools ICT team and in the Islington Computing and On-line Safety newsletter.
- 3.12 All Islington Safeguarding Children Board Designated Safeguarding Lead specific training now has a Prevent element as part of the overall view of safeguarding risks. This is also embedded in the Child Protection training offer. All school based safeguarding training carried out by LBI officers also has a strong Prevent element embedded in it. In addition to this the Section 11 audits of schools' safeguarding practice which each school has every two years covers arrangements to ensure that Prevent duties are met.
- 3.13 Children's Services are continuing to implement training to ensure staff have a firm grounding in Prevent and understand safeguarding risks, such as radicalisation, as well as knowing how to recognise and respond to these risks. As part of the new Action Plan we will undertake a review of all internal and external training, its scope and expected impact, to ensure that there is full coverage.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial implications:

There are no additional financial implications. All activities 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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:** None

**Background papers:** None

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



12 February 2018

Date:

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