

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

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	4 March 2019	All
<b>Delete as appropriate</b>	Exempt-	Non-exempt

**SUBJECT: 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 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.

## **Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group**

- 3.4 In July 2015 an internal Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group was established to ensure a robust and effective response to the Prevent Duty. 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. During 2018 officers from Children's Services continued to work closely with the LA Prevent Co-ordinator and the previous and new Prevent Education Officers as well as Schools Safeguarding and the Schools ICT team to ensure that the offer to schools is strong and that channels for support are clear and responsive. The Children's Services Prevent Strategy Group will meet again on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March to clarify its role in the context of a more developed Council wide offer and agree revised terms of reference and the frequency of meetings. As part of that meeting we will undertake a review of all internal and external training, its scope and expected impact, to ensure that there is full coverage and entitlement for all setting

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

- 3.5 A key focus of the Children's Services Prevent Strategy group is to embed and provide effective approaches, to high quality training across the service which ensure the right level of training dependent on roles. This continues to include the training offer for partners, including schools, early year's providers, mother tongue supplementary schools and foster carers. Support has continued to be given to supplementary schools to ensure that they fulfil the Prevent duty. This has been primarily through the Prevent Education Officer and the Mother Tongue and Supplementary Schools Community Learning Consultant. Also, through general safeguarding update training carried out by LBI officers.
- 3.6 A new Prevent Education Officer was appointed in December 2018 reporting to the Prevent-Co-ordinator in Public Protection, Environment & Regeneration and replacing the previous post holder. The previous post holder 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 included delivery of focused training to Mother Tongue Supplementary Schools which builds on the previous training provided. The new post holder is currently visiting schools to outline the current offer which includes:
- **Small steps:**  
Bespoke training, mentoring and workshops across the UK to raise awareness of the dangers of far-right extremism and racism. Working to empower young people, communities, faith leaders, teachers and other frontline professionals to counteract the influence of the extremist far right.
  - **Minority matters:**  
Community focused projects to empower parents and increase the safeguarding of children, supporting teachers in their role of child safeguarding and best practices in the classroom.
  - **Brave (Building Resilience against Violent Extremism)**  
Sessions for young people focusing on preventing gang exploitation, creating a cultural shift amongst young people, by dispelling the myths which glamourise gang life and crime, whilst also exposing the serious exploitative and grooming tactics that take place. There have been 5 days of training over the last year with each day covering at least two complete year groups in secondary schools in up to three sessions
  - **Equaliteach:**  
Workshops with young people on various aspects of equality. Equaliteach has delivered 25 sessions in primary schools developing critical thinking skills for young people when they are online. Each session covers the whole year group and has a focus on years 5 and 6.

➤ Shadow Games:

Addressing the problem of radicalisation and violent extremism through drama, promoting the safeguarding of young people through active community engagement and counteracting stereotypes to build understanding of difficult issues. It is an interactive drama about how easily ordinary people can be radicalised into extremist views. It reaches audiences of up to 70 pupils at once. To date, 5 sessions have been delivered in secondary schools.

➤ Parent zone:

Interactive workshops for parents and children on digital resilience, giving pupils the critical thinking skills they need to challenge what they see online; identify reliable and unreliable sources of information; and know what to do if they need help.

- 3.7 In addition to develop even better safeguarding practice, a teaching qualification for Madrassa teachers has been run in conjunction with Hackney council. This is a level 3 OCN Supplementary School qualification with compulsory units in Prevent and Safeguarding. Over the last 3 years over 110 teachers have been trained and have trained 30 Madrassas from both areas.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 All Islington Safeguarding Children Board Designated Safeguarding Lead specific training continues to include 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 The borough has a Channel panel as required in law. **Channel** is part of the Prevent strategy and is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. In line with the national picture referrals to the Channel Panel in the year ending March 2018 have reduced to fewer than 10 cases referred and discussed at the Channel Panel over the last year. People of concern are discussed monthly and supported until the concern has either diminished following an intervention or has escalated beyond the remit of Channel.
- 3.12 In a focussed visit in May 2018 Ofsted commented on the good safeguarding arrangements in place in Islington

*The **response** to children and young people at risk of **radicalisation is appropriate**, and informed by a clear referral pathway. Thorough screening of relevant information is undertaken, and where deemed necessary, assessments are undertaken in response, with specialist advice sought.'*

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial implications:

There are no financial implications from this report.

#### 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 July 2015 (section 29 of the 2015 Act). 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. The duty should be incorporated into relevant existing policies and procedures, so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the council. The duty is particularly relevant to fulfilling the council’s safeguarding responsibilities in that the council should ensure that there are clear and robust safeguarding policies to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

#### 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 minimize 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 is invited 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:**



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Children, Employment and Skills

19 February 2019

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