

Amendment

To be moved by Cllr Richard Watts -

4. Motion: PREVENT Strategy

This council notes ~~On 26~~that on 26th November 2014, the Home Secretary ~~Theresa May~~ introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) to Parliament highlighting some revised and new counter-terrorism powers that would be placed on a statutory basis.

~~Prevent and it's associated measures that curb free speech are increasingly generating a wave of opposition from academic & student bodies as well as many members of the Muslim community.~~

More people who lived and worked in Islington died in the 7/7 attacks than any other borough, and the Council's most important responsibility is to keep our residents safe. We are fully committed to tackling violent extremism.

The Council utterly condemns those who engage in hate speech and the grooming of people into violent extremist activity and notes there are already a range of laws in place to tackle this.

This Council also notes -

Since the rollout of Prevent, local schools and even early years childcare providers now face statutory counter terrorism duties as they are required to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

In the face of these duties, schools s now have a requirement to promote "British Values" ~~from as early as birth~~.

Further more, schools are required to risk assess the likelihood of a child or young person being drawn into extremism, as well as having clear procedures in place for protecting children and young people at risk of radicalisation.

This Council ~~resolves~~believes –

That over the longer term, we best reduce the risk of violent extremism by promoting community cohesion, active citizenship and integration.

That the council's approach to Prevent should be guided by two principles –

1. Safeguarding is essential and we see preventing radicalisation as an important integral strand of our safeguarding practice.
2. Prevent can only be successful if it enjoys the support of local communities, and does not stigmatise or lead to entire communities feeling under suspicion.

This Council resolves -

To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is effective, sensitive and constructive. Working

To work with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.

To praise the many local community and faith groups who work across our borough to improve community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.

To work with local Trade Unions, universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs ~~in opposition to~~ request the ~~worst~~ Government to change the elements of the ~~government's~~ anti-terror ~~programs~~ programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter-productive.