



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & WELLBEING

TOPIC – PREVENT FUNDING

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Sandra Tuddenham, 01962 848132, studdenham@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, 01962 848235, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 gained royal assent earlier this year. One of the purposes of the Act is to ensure that agencies work together to reduce the risk to individuals of being drawn into terrorism. Prevent is part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy, preventing people from becoming involved in terrorism and supporting terrorism.

As a result of the new Act certain responsibilities have been placed on Local Authorities. See Appendix 1.

The Government has stated that each Local Authority will receive a one off grant payment to enable effective delivery of the duty. The grant will be paid out according to levels of threat, for local authorities across the County that equates to a sum up to £10K.

The Home Office has set very strict criteria in terms of expenditure and claiming the grant funding. See below:

- The Prevent money is ring-fenced and must be specifically spent on discharging the Prevent duty.
- The monies can be pooled across authorities to improve efficiencies etc. However there is still a requirement to evidence how the money is being spent at a local level.
- It is a one off payment and applies to the 2015/16 financial year only - all monies must be spent as there is no carryover permitted (The City Council can claim anything up to £10K because the grant is based on actual expenditure).
- A local return and a monitoring form will need to be completed by 31 January 2016 in order that we can actually claim the monies. This will be completed by the Head of Community Safety.

Discharge of the Prevent duty is being included within corporate policy, specifically in relation to Safeguarding and other policies will be up-dated where relevant.

Prevent is one of the themed priorities within the Winchester Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2015.

The current expenditure plan includes the following:

- Contribution to a county wide pooled project officer post to ensure a standard and consistent approach to Prevent across the County (£3,700)
- Training (speakers, venue, educational literature)
- Vetting costs (£120 per person)

DECISION

- That the expenditure of Prevent funding be signed off at a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) level with the final decision being made via the CSP Chairman (currently the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing).
- Delivery of the Prevent Duty remains at CSP level.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Prevent is a statutory duty imposed on Winchester as a local authority, in the discharge of this duty there is a requirement to manage the grant funding being provided by Government.

It is proposed that the CSP undertake this role as they are already responsible for managing the delivery of the 2015 delivery plan which includes specific actions related to the Prevent Agenda.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Prevent expenditure of up to £10,000 will be incurred by WCC and recovered from the Home Office around the 28th February 2016. In addition there is a requirement to provide training to frontline staff and this will be met by utilising pre-trained members of staff.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The recommendations were put forward by the Community Safety Manager and agreed at the Winchester Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group on 1 December 2015. The Strategic group supported the proposal and recommended that the City Council's Community Safety Manager take responsibility for agreeing and managing expenditure in conjunction with the portfolio holder who is the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

N/A

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 07.01.16

Councillor Cllr Frank Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment Health and Wellbeing.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: **Prevent – What is it and why do we need to know about it?**

APPENDIX 1



PREVENT – What is it and why do I need to know about it?

Introduction

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act gained Royal Assent in February 2015. It places a duty on specified authorities (amongst others it includes County/Districts) to have due regard to 'Prevent' and place appropriate weight on the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism¹.

The Prevent strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, and work within a partnership environment to reduce the risks associated to radicalisation.

Radicalisation comes in many forms, it doesn't only relate to terrorist organisations such as those operating in Syria and Iraq, it also relates to those associated with 'extreme right' groups for example.

In two tier areas, county and district councils will need to agree proportionate arrangements for sharing the assessment of risk and agreeing local Prevent action plans. Work includes intervening to stop people becoming radicalised and disrupting extremist speakers.

What is an extremist?

An **extremist** is a person who holds extreme political or religious views which they may use to justify actions which violate common moral standards.

What is violent extremism?

Violent extremism occurs when radical and/or extreme beliefs lead an individual or group of people to commit an act of violence. In the context of the 'Prevent' agenda this could be a large scale terror attack such as 9/11 twin towers attack or 7/7 London bombings.

What is radicalisation?

¹ Prevent guidance – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Radicalisation is the process by which an individual's religious or political views are changed "at the root" (from the Latin *radix*, meaning root *COED*), so that they change their beliefs from moderate to extreme.

What will the Prevent duty mean for organisations in practice?

- **Local authorities** – should ensure that publicly owned premises are not used to disseminate extremist views.
- **Local authorities** - should sign post to appropriate agencies, those who are identified as being at risk of becoming radicalised.
- **Schools** – frontline staff should understand Prevent, be able to recognise vulnerability to radicalisation, and know where to go to seek further help
- **Universities** – should have clear policies and procedures in place for the management of events on campus, and the use of all university premises, that apply to all staff, students and visitors.
- **Police** – should support individuals vulnerable to radicalisation, for example through the Channel² programme, and support partner organisations to deliver Prevent work.
- **Prisons** – should offer support to an individual vulnerable to radicalisation or move them away from an individual of concern. Those who are at risk of radicalising others should face the removal of privileges and segregation from others.

Does this restrict Freedom of Speech?

The Government will continue to protect the right to freedom of expression. The Act doesn't restrict legitimate and lawful comment or debate.

How will Winchester City Council respond to the duty?

In the exercise of its function the City Council will work in partnership with other agencies to put in place the following actions:

- **Work with the County Prevent Board** to deliver against a Hampshire Prevent Plan.
- **Support the nomination process** and attend or make referrals as appropriate.
- **Participate in the referral meetings** aimed at putting in place intervention and diversion for those identified as being at risk of radicalisation.

² Channel – is a statutory group with a defined membership and is a key element of the Prevent strategy. The Channel panel undertakes a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk of radicalisation by identifying individuals being drawn into terrorism, assessing the extent of that risk and developing an appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Risk is a theme that runs through the entire Chanel process e.g. risk to the individual, risk to the public, risk to statutory partners and intervention providers.

- **Ensure clear reporting pathways** are in place for relevant partners and professionals
- **Nominate a City Council representative** to attend case management meetings (Channel panel).
- **Provide Training and Awareness opportunities** to elected members, staff, parish & town councils and other relevant organisations by using web based education and face to face workshops³.
- **Offer Prevent guidance** to organisations who hire out venues to the public, to ensure those using their facilities are not being used to host radicalism.
- **Review WCC policy and strategy** to ensure that Prevent is embedded in corporate documents as appropriate e.g. safeguarding.

What Next?

- The Community Safety Team within the City Council will deliver Awareness and Training information in the coming months. It will be rolled out to relevant individuals and partners throughout the Autumn/Winter period 2015.
- Winchester Community Safety Partnership will manage Prevent as a priority within the partnership delivery plan 2015.

Contact: For more information contact us at communitysafety@winchester.gov.uk.

³ Training/Awareness – **Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)** for frontline staff, community champions and representatives, E-Learning modules to provide basic information about radicalisation and the Prevent agenda.