

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting Date

Item Shropshire's Approach to the PREVENT Duty

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

It is important to stress that the terrorism threat in Shropshire remains low. The responsibility for co-ordinating Prevent in Shropshire has fallen on the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership. In response to the Prevent agenda the Partnership has produced a strategy and action plan.

2. Recommendations

- I. That the Health and Well Being Board identifies how it can support the delivery of the Prevent Strategy;
- II. That agencies understand their responsibilities as part of the Prevent agenda;
- III. That agencies ensure that they have responses in place to address extremism and radicalisation.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

A Counter Terrorism Local Profile is produced by West Mercia Police in order to understand the current threat level in Shropshire.

4. Financial Implications

The response to Prevent is currently met through existing budgets.

5. Background

The National Prevent Strategy (2011) is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy called CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy within CONTEST is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The four elements of CONTEST are:

- **Pursue:** is about detecting and disrupting threats of terrorism. It is targeted at those who have committed or who are planning to commit a crime;
- **Protect:** is concerned with strengthening the country's infrastructure from an attack including reducing the vulnerability of the transport network and improving security for crowded places;
- **Prepare:** focuses on areas of the infrastructure where an attack cannot be stopped and the aim is to reduce the impact of an attack by preparing to respond effectively;
- **Prevent:** is an early intervention process and operates in the "pre-criminal space" It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The basis of Prevent is simple: it is about keeping our communities safe from extremists. It does not carry a pre-conceived idea of who an extremist is, or their message, but it has to be responsive to the prevailing national and international situation.

6. Additional Information

The internet and social media have proven to be powerful tools for extremists to radicalise individuals. There is a particular concern that vulnerable people may be at risk of radicalisation through the influence of others or via the internet, including ideas and issues around their identity. The greatest risk in Shropshire is from a 'lone actor', who is particularly difficult to both detect and identify.

A proportionate response needs to be developed to mitigate any threat, risk or harm posed to vulnerable adults, children and communities from extremist groups. This includes recognising CONTEST work including 'the Prevent duty' is inextricably linked to other main safeguarding issues such as vulnerability and Hate Crime.

7. Conclusions

The Shropshire Community Safety Partnership will continue to be accountable for Prevent. However, in order to deliver the strategy, and outcomes in the action plan, the Partnership will have to work with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary, to ensure that responses are put in place to address key issues in Shropshire.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor Karen Calder
Local Member All Local Members
Appendices Shropshire's Approach to the PREVENT Duty