DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Report of the Head of Service - Cohesion, Integration and Prevent

Statutory Prevent Duty – Safeguarding Vulnerable Individuals from Radicalisation and Terrorism

SUMMARY

1.1 Extremism and radicalisation present a modern day risk to individual health and community well-being and require both challenge and multi-agency intervention to minimise risk of harm and improve the health and well-being of vulnerable young people and adults. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 - places a duty on specified authorities, listed in schedule 6:

- To 'have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

- Requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups.

- The specified authorities must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

1.2 These bodies are listed in Schedule 6 and are subject to the duty:

- Local Authorities, Schools, Further and Higher Education Institutions, NHS, Police, Prison and Young Offender Institution Governors, and providers of Probation Services.

- The specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

1.3 There are a number of key themes throughout the sector-specific guidance:

- Risk assessment.

- Effective leadership.

- Working in partnership.

- Appropriate capabilities for staff – staff training.

- Information-sharing.

- Monitoring and enforcement.

1.4 There is extensive history of legislation and policy framework on how to safeguard vulnerable adults and children. They place duties on organisations and individuals to ensure their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults. Prevent aims to safeguard vulnerable individuals (both adults and children) who may be at risk of being radicalised and of

potentially becoming involved in terrorist activities. It also aims to provide support to institutions where this may happen. There are strong links to mainstream systems which safeguard vulnerable adults and children.

1.5   All frontline staff working directly with people or out and about in communities have a role in helping to spot the early signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and other risks related to terrorism.

1.6   There is no checklist for a terrorist or someone that is being radicalised, however, a number of indicators of 'vulnerability' or susceptibility are emerging through working with individuals who have been engaged in extremism or been through a process of radicalisation. None of these alone are indicators of radicalisation or terrorism:

- Extreme behavioural change (e.g. sudden withdrawal or domination of others).
- Transitional period in life.
- Changes in Faith or ideology.
- Secrecy on internet.
- Narrow / limited religious / political view.
- Attendance at certain meetings / rallies.
- "Them" and "Us" language / rhetoric (de-humanisation).
- Isolation from usual friends, family or social groups.
- Possession of propaganda DVD's, literature or CD's.
- Sudden unexplained foreign travel.

1.7   There have been high profile media accounts (Nicky Reilly, Andrew Ibrahim, David Copeland, Michael Adebowale) and also increasing research showing complex inter-relationship between mental ill health, learning disabilities, susceptibility to engage in extremism, the process of radicalisation and the potential for early intervention. Mental health issues may not be causally related to terrorism but do at least appear be a feature of vulnerability, which should inform risk assessments and professional responses to working with individuals.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1   That Health and Wellbeing Board members understand and give 'due regard' to the duty including participating in the appropriate multi-agency/partnership structures to both govern, lead and implement the Prevent duty.

2.2   That Health and Wellbeing Board members, as appropriate, ensure that front-line staff within their organisations are equipped with the appropriate learning and development opportunities to meet the capability requirements to identify, refer and support vulnerable individuals.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the ACT contained in section 26 places a duty on the specified authorities

3.2 Radicalisation presents a modern day risk to individual health and community well-being and requires challenge and multi-agency intervention to minimise risk of harm and improve the health and well-being of vulnerable young people and adults.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The *Prevent* Strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

4.2 The government has defined extremism in the *Prevent* Strategy as:

"vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. They also include in their definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces".

4.3 The *Prevent* Strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and target not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. It also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups.

4.4 *Prevent* work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. The most significant of these threats is currently from Al Qa'ida associated groups and from other terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq (ISIS/IS/ISIL). But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to safety and security.

4.5 Islamist extremists regard Western intervention in Muslim-majority countries as a 'war with Islam', creating a narrative of 'them' and 'us'. Their ideology includes the uncompromising belief that people cannot be both Muslim and British, and that Muslims living here should not participate in our democracy. Islamist extremists specifically attack the principles of civic participation and social cohesion. These extremists purport to identify grievances to which terrorist organisations then claim to have a solution. White supremacist ideology of extreme right-wing groups has also provided both the inspiration and justification for people who have committed extreme right-wing terrorist acts.

4.6 Derby was identified by the Home Office as a priority risk area in 2011 and was previously a pathfinder area (2007-10). It remains a tier 2 priority City, along with Leicester in the East Midlands, below only the London Boroughs, Birmingham and Manchester.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 n/a

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer **Financial officer** **Human Resources officer** **Estates/Property officer** **Service Director(s)** **Other(s)**	

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1   There may be costs of meeting the Capability requirement in the Duty

Legal

2.1   There is now a statutory duty on the Authority and specified partners underpinned in the Counter-terrorism and Security Act

Personnel

3.1   All front-line staff working in specified authorities will need some level of Capability training as identified in the guidance

IT

4.1   Appropriate safe filters will need to be in place on all IT equipment to prevent access to radical/terrorism related material

Equalities Impact

5.1   None identified at this stage although capability training will need to support people with Protected Characteristics

Health and Safety

6.1   n/a

Environmental Sustainability

7.1   n/a

Property and Asset Management

8.1   n/a

Risk Management

9.1   As identified in Derby prevent plan

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1   Community Cohesion and Stronger and Safer Communities