

Councils' role in preventing extremism

Foreword

Local government has a key role to play in preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. The new Prevent duty for local authorities contained within the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, sets out the need for all local authorities and other specified authorities¹ to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Government has produced guidance outlining the responsibilities of local authorities following the commencement of the duty. The guidance highlights the importance of local authorities basing their work on a properly understood level of risk within their areas using Counter-Terrorism Local Profiles, and drawing together information from a wide range of stakeholders. It also sets out a number of other key considerations including:

- multi-agency partnerships should be used to coordinate and monitor Prevent activity
- a Prevent action plan should be developed to prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions
- local authorities will be expected to ensure that frontline staff are appropriately trained and are aware of the available programmes to deal with this issue
- local authorities will be expected to ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a profile for extremists. Councils are also expected to consider whether publicly-available IT equipment should use filtering solutions that limit access to terrorist and extremist material

- councils work with a number of private and voluntary agencies which work with children, for example children’s homes, independent fostering agencies, and bodies exercising local authority functions. These bodies must ensure as part of their local authority safeguarding arrangements that staff are aware of Prevent
- local authorities should take steps to understand the range of activity happening in their area to support children outside of local schools and take appropriate and proportionate steps to ensure that children attending such settings are appropriately safeguarded.

It is clear that our position at the heart of our communities gives us a unique reach. Our experience in engaging our communities and keeping them safe gives us the knowledge and skills to help engage and protect those vulnerable to extremism.

Since the duty came into effect there have been a number of tragic events, in Paris, in Beirut, in Egypt, which alongside the continuing conflict in Syria and Iraq, have all shown the importance of preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. The case studies contained within this document outline the different ways in which local government has been responding to the need to tackle extremism in their local areas using a diverse range of avenues and programmes.



Cllr Simon Blackburn

Chair, Safer and Stronger Communities Board

¹ Schedule 6 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out the full list of specified authorities

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Birmingham City Council: working with schools

- Birmingham has appointed a schools resilience adviser to help them address the Prevent agenda.
- The post-holder is working with over 400 schools making sure they have the support they need and are able to access the right training.
- The role also involves providing more tailored support to schools that need it, including regular one-to-one contact where necessary.

Birmingham City Council and its partners have concentrated on mainstreaming Prevent across all relevant service areas and, in particular, in schools.

The programme is characterised by effective partnership working and local delivery which is designed to be proportionate and targeted towards areas of most vulnerability and need while also ensuring city-wide coverage.

The city was at the centre of the 'Trojan Horse' plot last year and is determined to ensure delivery enables frontline services to access updated information and receive appropriate support and guidance.

Schools Resilience Adviser, Razia Butt, was appointed in October 2014 – although this post was already in the pipeline by the time the 'Trojan Horse' controversy came to light – and since then she has been helping ensure the 440 schools in the city have the help they need.

Ms Butt says: "We approach it very much from an equality perspective, incorporating it with other safeguarding issues such as child sexual exploitation. You cannot just talk about Prevent in isolation, that wouldn't work.

"You need to approach it differently. My job is about building resilience, embedding it within safeguarding – that is good for all aspects of school life."

The support offered to schools is tailored depending on what each one needs.

There is a universal offer which involves making sure that all schools know about the training, workshops and Home Office resources that are available.

This has helped ensure good up-take of training programmes. By October 2015 71 per cent of schools had accessed WRAP training, while 22 per cent had taken advantage of preventing violent extremism (PVE) training, which is aimed at the designated safeguarding leads and this is now being mainstreamed so that schools retain the resource in-house.

To complement this, the council runs regular safeguarding network meetings for the designated leads to keep them abreast of developments, while three safeguarding conferences are being held each year.

An equalities and cohesion toolkit has also been created to help schools plan assemblies and lessons, while training is also being made available to the staff appointed as the single point of contact to ensure that they comply with equalities legislation.

What is more, Ms Butt has been co-ordinating the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award, a UK programme that rewards schools for incorporating and promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into everyday school life. So far nearly 100 schools have taken part.

For those schools that need more tailored support there is a programme of specialist support available. This involves one-on-one work normally over a visit or two.

But for schools which have more deep-rooted difficulties, including those criticised by Ofsted, there is even more targeted support available. This can involve intensive support, normally incorporating regular contact over a number of weeks.

“Each case is different,” says Ms Butt. “But I will work with the school and help bring in other partners where needed. This can involve getting an agency to come in to do some equalities work or a provider to offer some dedicated training on safeguarding.”

Councillor Shafique Shah, the Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety, who has portfolio responsibility for Prevent, is pleased with how things are going.

“In Birmingham we have strengthened our governance structures to ensure all partners are working together in line with the new Prevent duty.

“And while we are pleased with the progress being made, we are aware that there are still many challenges – but I remain confident our approach is heading in the right direction.”

But the work with schools forms part of Birmingham’s wider approach to Prevent. The city has been at the forefront of the radicalisation agenda since 2007 and is second only to London in terms of risk.

The team has also worked closely with other partners, including local youth workers, substance misuse workers and mental health professionals.

The work has involved offering training on Prevent and looking at how those referred to the Channel Panel are supported by these teams. Already evidence is emerging that this is having an impact.

For example, recently two individuals that the substance misuse team were working with admitted that they had booked to go to Syria but had decided against going after getting support and having their views challenged by the team. It is achievements like that which show the approach in Birmingham is heading in the right direction.

Contact:

waqar.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk

Bristol City Council: building on past work

- Under the previous Prevent regime Bristol established a successful partnership with the Muslim community called Building the Bridge.
- It is now redeveloping that scheme so it has a wider focus to tackle the new Prevent agenda head-on.
- This includes setting up advisory groups to engage women and young people and tackle far-right extremism.

Bristol has not been chosen as a priority area for the new push on Prevent, but it still has ambitious plans to curb radicalisation and meet its obligations.

Key to this is building on previous work that has its origins in the previous government's Prevent programme.

Bristol City Council set up a partnership with the Muslim community called 'Building the Bridge' in 2008 with the help of central government funding available at the time.

The group was led by a community representative and included key personnel from the council and local police and oversaw a variety of initiatives.

These included everything from a picture exhibition celebrating the role Muslims play in the local community, to the creation of a Muslim-run helpline that was set up to offer advice and support to families worried about radicalisation.

A series of workshops and events for young people, under the umbrella of 'Proud2B', were also established.

The programme has been widely acclaimed. A Bristol University review in 2014 praised it for being a "genuine collaboration" and helping develop an "unprecedented level of civic engagement".

But the new duties on councils under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 have prompted Bristol to refresh its approach over the past year.

The Building the Bridge brand has been kept and brought under the remit of the Safer Bristol Partnership to ensure a better alignment with wider safeguarding issues.

There are to be two community co-chairs – a man and a woman – and a statutory deputy chair. The membership has also been widened and now includes representatives from the community, voluntary and community sector providers, council, police, fire and rescue service, health and education sector and probation service.

The Board works closely with the Police's Prevent Case Management Team and the Channel Panel process, which has been up-and-running for over two years.

Peter Anderson, the council's Crime and Substance Misuse Service Manager and Deputy Chair of Building the Bridge, says: "We are not a priority area so that means we will not have the resources that the others have, but we obviously have the statutory duties to meet.

“Therefore, we are building on the strong foundations that we have in Bristol. Building the Bridge did lots of good work but it was more focussed on community cohesion. The duty has refocused and reenergised our work.

“We now have the right structure in place and aim to build on that from now on.”

To do that, task and finish groups have been established to lead on work in two priority areas. The first, a training sub-group, has been charged with ensuring those in public authorities and in relevant community groups have access to the right training.

The sub-group has only just started meeting, but it is likely the emphasis will be on online training to ensure as many people as possible, including those in schools, can access support.

The second is aimed at communications. Mr Anderson says: “We want to get some more consistency with our messaging. There are a variety of referral routes into Prevent and Channel, which can be confusing, and so we want to make that process easy to use and understand.

“But some of it will be about ensuring we have the right literature available to the public and our partners – whether that is our own or from other sources, such as websites and YouTube channels or national resources.”

The new approach is also seeking to broaden the involvement of the local community. To ensure a wider variety of voices were able to feed into the old Building the Bridge model, a partnership advisory group (PAG) was established composed of members of the Muslim community.

That has been retained, but the model is also being extended with forums being established for young people, women and the far right.

The aim is to ensure specific issues for all these groups are addressed and that the relevant people in all three areas are involved in defining the approaches being taken.

Already plans are being put in place to work with some of the key local bodies including youth and family charity Full Circle, while a local women’s conference is planned for the new year.

“To date Building the Bridge has focussed on the Muslim community, but the Prevent agenda is much wider than that. Through the work of the PAGs we want to ensure a wider range of voices are heard and more issues addressed,” adds Mr Anderson.

Contact:

peter.anderson@bristol.gov.uk

Calderdale Council: getting taxi drivers on board

- Calderdale Council has worked with taxi drivers to maximise the reach of its Prevent work.
- It has been able to recruit dedicated staff, including a Prevent coordinator.
- The focus for the future will be working with women and schools.

Taxi drivers have a unique reach into society. Ferrying passengers around, they get to see and hear things that the statutory agencies never could.

With this in mind, Calderdale Council launched an ambitious plan to train all 1,000 licensed taxi drivers in a host of safeguarding issues, including Prevent.

It did this – all in three months over the summer of 2015.

During four-hour sessions, drivers received advice about how to spot the signs of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, hate crime and domestic violence.

Half-an-hour was also set aside for drivers to raise their own issues, whether that was related to verbal abuse from passengers or licensing and vehicle inspection issues, in the spirit of developing a two-way partnership.

To accompany the training, which was delivered by a former police inspector, the council and police have produced a handbook with all the relevant details of who to contact and when.

What is more, it has now become mandatory for new taxi drivers to receive the training as part of the licensing process.

Feedback on the project has been extremely positive. One driver said: “It made me realise it’s not all about driving,” while another described the training as “great” adding: “It filled me with confidence and made me think about the community.”

Jo Richmond, the council’s Neighbourhoods and Cohesion Manager, says: “Taxi drivers can play a really important role. They can be our eyes and ears. It is about helping them to understand when they may need to act.

“They came under fire in some of the child sexual exploitation cases that have come to light so this is about helping them to understand more about the risks out there and how they can work in partnership with us and the police.”

But the taxi driver training forms just one part of a renewed push on radicalisation by Calderdale.

The area, part of West Yorkshire, has been vulnerable to a range of extremist elements for some years. In January 2007 a major counter-terrorist action ‘Operation Ice’ took place in Calderdale which resulted in the arrest, detention and sentencing of two residents. The far right is also active with the English Defence League running an active branch in Halifax, while the British National Party and National Front have contested council elections.

Following recent changes the council has been given the funding for a Prevent coordinator and a community engagement officer. The recruitment of both has taken place during autumn 2015 with the latter having a specific focus on schools and young people.

They sit within the Neighbourhoods Team and work closely with the Community Safety Partnership and multi-agency Community Impact Assessment Group, which manages community tensions. Calderdale has also recently established a Channel Panel.

The taxi driver project was obviously an example of this renewed focus on Prevent, but so too is the work the council is doing with women. In 2014 a working group was established with local women and council staff to start a dialogue about child sexual exploitation across communities in Calderdale.

The remit of this group has now been extended to include Prevent work, while two local Muslim women are being paid to do outreach work in Park Ward, which has a high proportion of ethnic minority groups.

The aim is to set up a network of local women to create a forum for female residents to share thoughts, experiences and views and ultimately keep children safe.

And in March 2016 a safeguarding conference, run by local women, is being planned.

Working with schools will also be a big part of Calderdale's focus. A workshop has already been held with school governors, setting out the roles and responsibilities of schools and how the community engagement officer can help.

In the coming months 'Web Guardian' workshops will be offered. These are run by the Jan Trust and are aimed at helping parents to understand how they can keep children safe online.

Meanwhile, the council is in the process of cascading down Prevent training on what front-line staff across the council can do to support the work. Six staff have taken part in Prevent 'Train the Trainer' courses with another two in the process of completing it. This core group will now start training colleagues.

Robin Tuddenham, the council's Director of Communities and Service Support, says: "Supporting vulnerable individuals and reducing the threat of violent extremism is a priority for the council and that is why we are working hard to ensure it becomes part of our day-to-day work. You can't just land these schemes into the community. You have to work in partnership to achieve results and integrate it into the wider work you do. That is what we have been trying to do."

Contact:

jo.richmond@calderdale.gov.uk

Cornwall Prevent Partnership: helping parents protect children online

- Cornwall has put a big emphasis on helping tackle dangerous internet use.
- It has used an EU project to help parents keep their IT-savvy children safe.
- Prevent training is also being rolled out to groups such as local Scouts to ensure its impact is felt far-and-wide.

The internet is a common factor in radicalisation with evidence showing it plays a role in many of the cases that reach the Channel Panel stage.

Cornwall's Prevent Partnership has responded by prioritising tackling worrying internet use as part of its drive.

Preventing Extremism Lead Steve Rowell explains: "Young people these days are extremely savvy with technology. They have access to smart phones and computers at home, and often know their way round the internet better than their parents.

"That creates problems if they are tempted to view things that have the potential to radicalise them. They are able to hide it from their parents and get around the standard security systems and parental controls that are available by using proxy servers and other methods.

"It is something we have been getting increasingly worried about. When young people are referred into Channel we are often finding the internet is a factor.

And it is not just older children that are affected. There was a case recently where an adolescent had been watching beheadings and child pornography and a much younger sibling was on the bed watching it too."

Mr Rowell says traditionally Cornwall has advised parents to take computers out of the bedrooms and only allow them to be used in communal areas. "This helps, but we wanted to do more."

After investigating the issue further he was referred to the European Union's Safer Internet Programme, which has produced an interactive guide to e-safety products.

The guide has been produced by a team of experts who have reviewed the products available and gives users the ability to tailor their searches depending on the devices that are being used, the age of the children and the operating system.

It also allows individuals to choose what sort of restrictions or safeguards they want to place on the internet use. For example, it can identify programmes that block, monitor or restrict everything from general web use to social media, video streaming and messenger.

Cornwall's Prevent Partnership, a sub-group of the Safer Cornwall Partnership, has been using it for two months. "It's great," says Mr Rowell. "It really allows you to choose the products that are most suitable.

“Some of them are free, but where there is a cost it is often only £20, £30 or £40.

We have been funding that for people referred to Channel. It is a small price to pay to help stop radicalisation.

“But we are also telling other parents and schools about it. It is something anybody can use. We want to get the word out.

“You can place quite tight restrictions, and then ease them as trust is built up. Sometimes the young person is a bit resistant, but the other option is to remove their internet access altogether which isn't easy to achieve.”

As part of the push on e-safety, the Partnership has also been encouraging schools to use the opportunities they have to talk to parents about the issue.

Mr Rowell says: “They have a captive audience at events such as school plays. We have had one recently where before the school play they had a half-hour session on e-safety. These are good opportunities.”

Like many areas, they have been supporting schools through WRAP training and general awareness raising. The sessions started in May and by the end of the year all 800 early years providers, schools and further education centres will have undergone the training.

This follows on from the training that has been provided to core partners in health, the probation service and among youth offending teams.

And next year the council plans to extend the offer out to groups involved in positive diversionary activities, such as local Scout, Guide and Cadet organisations.

Mr Rowell says: “We are not a high priority area for Prevent so we do not get all the extra funding that is available to some places. It means we have to work cleverly. We now have over 50 organisations involved in the Partnership.

“What we have tried to do is help each other. Take the work we will be carrying out with the uniformed groups such as the Scouts next year. It is about helping them recognise when they should be worried about someone and what help there is out there. But it may be that they can also help us by providing positive activities and support to people who need help.

“That is what our approach has been about. For example, we have worked with local faith groups which have provided help and guidance to people who have perhaps come to the wrong interpretation of the religion they were researching. It is that sort of partnership working that can make a huge difference.”

Contact:

steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk

Royal Borough of Greenwich: harnessing the power of football

- Greenwich has been working on this issue since 2012 and has used football as a medium to reach out to the local community.
- The project resulted in participants playing a friendly match against soldiers from Woolwich barracks where Lee Rigby was based when he was murdered.
- The council has also developed an interactive DVD for school children which is being rolled out nationally.

Football, they say, is the world's game. So it should come as no surprise that it has formed a key part of the London Borough of Greenwich's Prevent Programme.

The council worked with a local mosque to run twice-weekly football sessions from 2012 to 2014. One was held mid-week and the other at the weekend giving local teenagers the chance to play in five-a-side matches. Each session attracted between 30 and 50 teenagers and were combined, at times, with guest speakers.

These included local Imams, senior police officers and local councillors. There were also sessions on men's health, stopping smoking and youth employment.

Greenwich Prevent Coordinator Adam Browne says: "We wanted to mix it up a little. We didn't want to have someone telling the young people what to do every time. That would not have worked. Therefore, we just arranged the guests to come two or three times a month.

"We also felt it was important to invite a wide range of speakers. The health and job centre ones were just as much a part of the Prevent agenda as the others. It is all about getting people involved in the community and engaged with services and not wandering the streets."

But a sign of how successful the scheme was can also be seen by the fact that towards the end of last year a friendly match was organised against soldiers at Woolwich Barracks. This was, of course, the base that Lee Rigby was at when he was murdered.

But the football project is just one part of Greenwich's long-standing Prevent work.

It has had a Home Office-funded Prevent coordinator within the Safer Communities Team since 2012, while a Channel Panel has been in operation since 2011.

Alongside the football project, Greenwich has also run a scheme targeted at women.

An engagement officer was taken on in 2012 to reach out to the large Somali community. They worked for two years in the community and started off offering language and translation support, but as they won the trust of local women they encouraged them to take part in community activities such as fitness clubs and parenting groups. They also helped residents use and register with local services such as GPs and libraries.

“It was about building trust and creating a bridge to the community,” says Mr Browne. “Because of language barriers and wider cultural reasons women can sometimes find it difficult to get involved in the local community. The engagement officer broke down those barriers and they became so trusted that mothers would come to her to say they were worried about their children or that a child had gone to Syria. They would not tell that to the police or just any member of the council and while the post is no longer funded that legacy has lasted and I get people coming to me now.”

This strong track record meant Greenwich was already largely fulfilling the statutory duties introduced by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

However, over the past year there has been a focus on expanding the work the programme does with schools and voluntary agencies.

The council has produced an interactive DVD called ‘A Tale of Two Cities’, for secondary school children. It is a film of two young men who are at risk of getting drawn into far-right and Islamic extremism. At various points during the film it is paused and the audience is given the option of making choices for the two men which then leads the film to play out in a particular way.

The film was due to be launched in schools this year, but that was delayed after the Home Office was so impressed with it that they wanted it to be offered nationally. Greenwich is now in the process of piloting it in some schools, with the feedback so far being extremely positive.

Alongside this, Greenwich has recently launched two workshop projects.

The first, Families Matter, is delivered by the voluntary sector group Families Against Stress and Trauma, which explores the dangers associated with travelling to conflict zones.

It is run by women who have experience of going there and they are in the process of delivering six sessions at community centres and mosques.

Meanwhile, an interactive drama workshop called ‘Shadow Games’ is being delivered by the Second Wave Youth Arts Group in youth clubs exploring the issues about risks of radicalisation.

Matthew Norwell, the council’s Director of Community Safety and Environment, says using different methods like these is essential.

“We’ve shown that one of the keys to having a successful Prevent programme in such a diverse, fast-changing, dynamic place is to have a wide range of varied activities.

“The challenge in the future will be to continue to do that at a time of drastically-reduced funding.”

Contact:

adam.browne@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

London Borough of Waltham Forest: intervening early

- The London borough has worked closely with local schools.
- More than 1,600 pupils have taken part in its Digital Resilience programme to help children stay safe online.
- A Young Leaders training programme is also being run to create a network of 'community connectors' to tackle extremism.

Waltham Forest has made early intervention a priority as part of its Prevent work. One of the London Borough's flagship programmes is 'Digital Resilience', a suite of education resources for secondary school children and staff.

The programme is designed to safeguard young people from potentially harmful information or views found online.

It was developed by Waltham Forest Council in partnership with local schools and includes lesson plans, peer education schemes and teacher training.

It has been used in all secondary schools since it was launched in 2012 and helped more than 1,600 pupils in years nine, 10 and 11.

The programme is delivered by the council's Community Safety Team although there are now plans to train teachers to run it as part of a drive to get the course incorporated as a core part of the curriculum.

Cllr Liaquat Ali, Waltham Forest Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion, says: "It teaches children to recognise bias and propaganda.

"We started it because it was clear teachers were becoming concerned that if children lacked the tools to make sense of their digital environment it would have a direct impact on their vulnerability.

"It builds pupils' individual resilience in order for them to think critically and make informed and rational decisions."

The course can be tailored depending on what each schools wants. But a typical programme would include five lessons, covering issues such as how extremism is defined, values and culture in Britain, exploring the influences that social media has on their lives, how to spot propaganda and considering issues such as the importance of authenticating online resources.

In some cases children have subsequently taken part in a peer education project whereby pupils from different schools get to work together to design their own workshops with a particular emphasis on theatre to spread what they have learnt.

Students who have taken part are full of praise. One said: "Being part of it has actually changed me as a person. I wasn't turning up at school before and didn't really bother.

“Then my teacher asked me to get involved in this. We started to meet every week and I had a whole new group of friends from different schools.”

Last year the council launched a new programme ‘Identity, Belonging and Extremism’. It complements the Digital Resilience programme and is based more around multi-media, such as short films which pupils get to produce.

There is also more targeted prevention provided under the Prevent agenda, which in Waltham Forest is overseen by a steering group incorporating a range of core partners and co-chaired by the Borough Commander and the council’s Director of Early Help.

There is also significant buy-in to the Prevent agenda from senior management from within the council. Chief Executive Martin Esom chairs the Pan-London Prevent Board.

The Prevent team works closely with Walthamstow-based Active Change Foundation. One of the schemes the group runs is the ‘Young Leaders’ programme.

Councillor Ali says: “Pupils will be nominated through their schools and the aim is to turn them into community connectors by teaching them leadership skills, crisis management and critical-thinking as well as educating them about community cohesion, civic responsibility and extremism.”

The aim is that the young leaders will then act as peer mentors and train other young people. By the end of 2015, 90 young people will have gone through the scheme.

The Active Change Foundation also runs a programme of monthly workshops. They are provided on a drop-in basis and generate discussion among young people. The workshops are complemented by ‘Newgen’, a monthly magazine published by the foundation with contributions from those who have taken part in the workshops.

Training and improving awareness has been prioritised too. The Capacity and Resilience Building Project, which incorporates WRAP training, has targeted the council’s own staff and core partners such as health organisations and the probation services.

Over 300 people have already been through the training and by the end of 2015/16 it will be up to 500.

The Prevent team has also worked with staff and managers in charge of bookings at local community and private venues to make sure they are informed of the Prevent processes and understand how to block people who may be intending to use the spaces for malicious purposes.

And, what is more, it has used its powers to disrupt extremist leafleting; last year Waltham Forest became the first local authority in the country to obtain a five-year pan-London ASBO against an individual doing this.

Councillor Ali says Waltham Forest, which has been working on this issue since 2011, has tried to develop a programme which is “both proactive and reactive”.

“We think it responds to the challenges and we’re proud of the way it works with families, schools and communities to build resilience and cohesion as well as protecting people and communities from extremism.”

Mark Collins, who until recently was the Borough Commander and co-chair of the Prevent steering group, agrees. “It has been a privilege to witness first-hand the excellent work being carried out by the Prevent team in delivering so many engagement programmes within the communities of Waltham Forest.

“Their hard work and dedication has resulted in the Waltham Forest model being upheld as best practice across London and the UK.”

Contact:

jena.musa@walthamforest.gov.uk

Glossary

The Government defines **extremism** in the 2011 Prevent strategy. It “is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”

The current UK definition of ‘**terrorism**’ is contained within the Terrorism Act 2000. The Government summarises this in the 2011 Prevent Strategy “as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.”

WRAP Training is a training product developed by the Home Office; the full title is “Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent”. The workshops act as an introduction to the Government’s Prevent strategy.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires local authorities to ensure that there is a multi-agency Channel Panel in their area. The local authority chairs the panel, which develops a support plan for individuals accepted into the programme, the panel also considers alternative forms of support where the Channel process is not appropriate.

Useful information

Contest: the United Kingdom's strategy for countering terrorism

www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest

Prevent Strategy 2011

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/enacted

Prevent duty guidance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Channel guidance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance

Counter-Extremism Strategy

www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-extremism-strategy



Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Telephone 020 7664 3000
Fax 020 7664 3030
Email info@local.gov.uk
www.local.gov.uk

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For a copy in Braille, larger print or audio,
please contact us on 020 7664 3000.
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