



## Adults and Safeguarding Committee

15 March 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Update on the Delivery of the Prevent Duty</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST and aims to provide support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being radicalised into terrorist-related activity before any crimes are committed.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2018 requires specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

As the Prevent Duty requires statutory bodies to protect vulnerable adults from radicalisation, the following report is needed to update the Adult and Safeguarding Committee regarding progress of delivery of the Prevent Duty in Barnet. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report. This update on Prevent delivery will include:

- an update on Prevent delivery in 2020 in light of Covid 19 pandemic
- an Update on Prevent case management
- an update on training delivery

- an update on Prevent project delivery.

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Adults and Safeguarding Committee notes the contents of this report.

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Section 21 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
- 1.2 The Government’s Prevent Strategy<sup>1</sup> was published in 2011 and forms part of an overall Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. The Contest Strategy was reviewed in 2018 and has four elements which are detailed below:
  - Pursue
  - Protect
  - Prepare
  - **Prevent**

Prevent is a key part of the Contest Strategy which aims to stop people from either becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism through early intervention.

- 1.3 In December 2017, the Barnet Council Prevent Strategy was launched with the overriding objective:

*‘to keep the people of Barnet safe by accurately identifying people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and/or violent extremism and to safeguard children and adults by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity’*

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<sup>1</sup> For further information regarding Prevent delivery, read ‘the Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales’. ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445977/3799\\_Revised\\_Prevent\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_\\_England\\_Wales\\_V2-Interactive.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance__England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf))

1.4 This report will specifically update the Adult and Safeguarding Committee on the following:

- An update on Prevent delivery in 2020 in light of Covid 19 pandemic.
- Update on Barnet Channel Casework Update and Trends.
- Performance in relation to Prevent training delivery.
- Barnet Prevent project delivery in 2021-2022

## **2. Update on Prevent delivery in 2020 in light of Covid 19 pandemic.**

2.1 Channel is a voluntary programme which focuses on providing support and early intervention to safeguard children and adults identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism or extremism by:

- Identifying the individuals at risk
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk, and;
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

The Channel Panel is chaired by a Barnet Community Safety Manager and is a multi-agency panel. Panel members act as SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) for their organisations. As such they will be expected to raise awareness around this agenda within their work areas and they provide advice and guidance to practitioners within their organisation.

2.2 The Barnet Channel Panel has consistent participation from the Prevent Coordinator, the Prevent Education Officer, Barnet SO15 Police Team, Barnet Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Barnet CCG Adult Safeguarding Lead and the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust Prevent Lead staff.

2.3 So far, 13 Channel Panel meetings were held in 2020 with high levels of attendance from all partner agencies. This has been achieved despite reduced face to face contact due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Case management panels have been successfully implemented online utilising Microsoft Teams. There has been no decline in participation from any of the partners highlighted above.

2.4 The Barnet Prevent Delivery group which is a subgroup of the Safer Communities Partnership Board continued to meet on a quarterly basis in 2020 with high levels of engagement from partners including Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust,

Barnet CCG, National Probation Service, Higher and Further Education, Barnet Schools, SO15 and internal local authority workstreams.

- 2.5 In November 2020, partners were briefed on the local authority submission for the 2021 Counter Terrorism Local Profile for North London. Partners were invited to comment on the submission and provide information relating to local risk via the Prevent Delivery Group. The submission was agreed and submitted to SO15 command in December 2020.
- 2.6 The Prevent Delivery Group received regular updates on implementation of the Prevent Action Plan including an update on schools' engagement from the Prevent Education Officer. Updates are also provided on Channel casework trends, Prevent project delivery, training coverage and local hate crime information including any community tension issues.
- 2.7 In 2020 the Prevent Coordinator submitted the local counter terrorism and radicalisation risk assessment and multi-agency action plan to the Home Office (Office of Security and Counter Terrorism) for review. Positive feedback was received in relation to both documents and a redacted version of the risk assessment is used as an example of good practice.

### **3. Update on Prevent Case Management Performance**

- 3.1 Prevent related contacts and referrals reduced significantly during the first Covid 19 lockdown in March 2020 to the end of the school holiday period. Referrals remained low until the beginning of October 2020. Between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and 31 December 2020, a significant uplift in referrals was received from a variety of sources including schools, Probation providers, social care, housing, and mental health staff. The quality of referrals has been high in that all referrals received were assessed as warranting further assessment and potentially intervention through the Channel process.
- 3.2 Including those cases recently referred there are currently 13 live cases discussed at the Barnet Channel Panel as of January 2021. This represents a significant rise in live cases and since December 2020 there has been a need to hold two separate Panels per month to ensure all cases are discussed. The engagement of partners and attendance at Panels has remained high.
- 3.3 Of the new cases referred to the Barnet Channel panel between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:
  - A reduction was noted in referrals received in relation to concerns re: DAESH/Al Qaeda inspired extremism.
  - An increase in referrals in relation to concerns around extreme right-wing ideology were received.
  - A significant increase in relation to concerns re: violent extremism where no coherent ideology was identified.

- Of the referrals where there was no clear ideology identified, there were elements of extreme right-wing ideology evident in several of the cases. This indicates a considerable rise in relation to extreme right-wing concerns being referred in the identified timeframe.

3.4 Of the vulnerable individuals referred between 01 October 2020 and 31 December 2020, six were young people and four were adults.

3.5 Concerns in relation to poor mental health were present in a significant number of cases referred. The majority of individuals referred where a mental health concern was present were either currently or previously known to mental health services.

#### **4. Performance on the training of Council Staff and Partnership**

4.1 The Prevent Multi-Agency Action Plan outlines the statutory duty to provide training to ensure that Barnet and Partnership staff are able to recognise signs that an individual may be vulnerable to being radicalised, and able to respond appropriately to reduce that risk. The Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) provides information and guidance that enables staff to fulfil their duties within the Prevent Duty.

4.2 Barnet Council embarked on a refreshed programme of training using the Home Office WRAP3 module. The refreshed programme of training delivery was delivered in 2018 and over 90% of staff in Adult Social Care were trained.

4.3 The Prevent Coordinator reviewed and update the Barnet Prevent Training package in 2020. Material was updated particularly due to concerns raised by senior officials in the Metropolitan Police and other senior safeguarding officials highlighting concerns in relation to the risk of vulnerable people being radicalised online. This concern increased due to concerns about vulnerable people experiencing increased periods of time where they were isolated due to Covid 19 restrictions and the likelihood that people would be spending longer periods of time online.

4.4 Following a meeting with the Manager of the Quality in Practice and Workforce Development Team, it has been agreed that a training will be rolled out to Adult safeguarding staff in 2021 utilising the updated training package. Two sessions per month will be offered to Adult Social Care staff from April 2021.

4.4 The Prevent Coordinator continues to offer monthly training sessions which are offered to all local authority staff and partnership staff operating in the local authority.

4.5 The Prevent Coordinator has provided training to the National Probation Service and Inclusion Barnet teams. Training has also been provided to Safeguarding champions within Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust. In December 2020 a session was delivered to the Adults MASH team.

4.6 Progress in relation to training delivery in 2021 will be monitored by the Prevent Delivery group and updates will be provided to senior leaders within the local authority via bi-annual reports to the Council Management team.

## **5. Update on Prevent Project Delivery in Barnet.**

- 5.1 Following a resource allocation exercise, The Home Office are offering London Borough of Barnet a funding for Prevent posts, projects, and community engagement in 2021/22. However, the final allocation is subject to budgetary and ministerial approval.
- 5.2 The Home Office expect all areas to bid for the posts of Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer as a minimum. These are the two Barnet posts that are currently funded by the Home Office. There is no funding for any additional posts.
- 5.3 A package of projects has been identified and proposed by the local authority Prevent coordinator and are designed to respond explicitly to local risks and vulnerabilities as identified in the local authority local risk assessments.
- 5.4 Projects are designed to build resilience and increase the understanding of radicalisation and deliver specific outcomes. Several projects have been identified to enhance staff skills in relation to specific types of radicalisation which have been evident in Prevent referrals received locally over the past year. Project sessions will be offered to professionals in the local authority responsible for working with vulnerable children and adults, the community, voluntary and faith sector and Barnet schools and education providers.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 As part of the Prevent strategy, the Prevent Coordinator is required to provide the Adults and Safeguarding Committee with an annual update on prevent delivery. The Committee is asked to provide comment on the report.

## **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 7.1 None in the context of this report.

## **8. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 8.1 None. The documents referred to in this report (the Barnet Prevent Risk Assessment and Multi-Agency Action Plan) were presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board and signed-off in January 2020.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **9.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

The effective implementation of the Barnet Prevent Action Plan supports Barnet in achieving its commitment set out in the corporate plan that Barnet will be amongst the safest places in London, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe.

## 9.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

9.2.1 The Prevent Coordinator, Prevent Education Officer posts are funded through Home Office Grant Agreements which are refreshed annually. All projects proposed for 2021-2022 are funded directly by the Home Office and have been approved. The costs of WRAP training for Adults and Health staff are met within existing budgets. There is no risk to Home Office funding for Prevent posts in the 2021-2022 financial year. As such, there are no financial implications for the Adults and Safeguarding Committee arising from this report.

## 9.3 **Social Value**

9.3.1 Not relevant in the context of this report

## 9.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

9.4.1 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the Prevent duty. There is statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Act that the authorities, subject to the provisions, must have regard to when carrying out the duty. (The Revised Prevent Guidance for England and Wales (2015))

9.4.2 According to the Council's Constitution, Article 7, the Adults and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to vulnerable adults, adult social care and leisure services.

## 9.5 **Risk Management**

9.5.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives and individuals being supported through the Prevent duty. The partnership or appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risks and this enables issues of concern that arise to be addressed collectively.

## 9.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

9.6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard. The Council's public sector equality duty is set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

The London Borough of Barnet Prevent Strategy 2019-2024 and the services delivered as part of this strategy take into account the protected characteristics to ensure services are accessible and fair to all sections of the community.

## 9.7 Corporate Parenting

9.7.1 Prevent training is currently being rolled out to teams across Children and Young People Services, including teams responsible for supervising looked after children. In recent months, WRAP sessions have been delivered to staff in the Onwards and Upwards (corporate parenting) team, the Fostering & Adoption Team and Children in Care teams to ensure staff are aware how to refer concerns where a child is assessed to be vulnerable to radicalisation. In recent months, cases of concern have been referred appropriately which indicates that the process is embedded.

## 9.8 Consultation and Engagement

9.8.1 Consultation is undertaken with stakeholder groups as follows:

- The Prevent Delivery Group has met quarterly and provided updates to the local Barnet partnership on Prevent and Community Engagement issues.
- Annual Prevent update reports and briefings are provided to the following boards:

<b>Board</b>	<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2019-2020 Prevent updates</b>
Barnet Council Management Team	Council progress on meeting duty	Bi-annual	<b>Most recent update:</b> February 2021  <b>Next Update</b>



			Aug 2021
The Safer Communities Partnership Board	Partnership action and inter-agency working to respond to local risk	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> January 2020 <b>Next Update</b> Update booked for April 2021
The Children's Safeguarding Board (Executive committee)	Safeguarding Children and educational services	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> <b>October 2020</b> <b>Next Update</b> October 2021
The Health and Wellbeing Board	Health, prevention and care	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b> <b>Next Update</b> Update due
The Adult Safeguarding Board	Adults at risk of abuse or neglect	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> <b>March 2021</b> <b>Next Update</b> March 2022.

## 9.9 Insight

9.9.1 Not relevant in the context of this report.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 10.1 Papers which inform this report:

- a. The Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) 2018  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>
- b. The Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (2015)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- c. Barnet Prevent Strategy  
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/housing-and-community/community-safety/radicalisation.html>
- d. Counter Extremism Strategy (2018)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-extremism-strategy>
- e. Building a Stronger Britain Together  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>

