



## Annual Update on Delivery of the Prevent Duty

**23 July 2021**

### Title

Barnet Prevent Update including:

- Overview of the Barnet Prevent risk assessment
- Performance in relation to Prevent training delivery.
- Update on Home Office Prevent Funding for Barnet in 2020-2021
- Emerging government strategies, policies, and developments impacting on Prevent delivery.

### Meeting

**Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board**

### Wards

All

### Status

Public

### Urgent

No

### Outcome required

Information Only

### Enclosures

*None*

### Officer Contact Details

**Sam Rosengard (Prevent Coordinator)**

**Tel: 0208 359 3323 / [Sam.rosengard@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.rosengard@barnet.gov.uk)**

## Summary

This report will provide the Community Safety Partnership with an overview of the Barnet Prevent Risk Assessment, and an update on Prevent delivery in 2021-2022. The report includes information on the rollout of training in 2020-21 in light of the impact of Covid 19 and information about project delivery in 2021-22. A summary of emerging government strategies, policies, and developments impacting on Prevent delivery is also included in the report.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

The Prevent duty aims to safeguard individuals away from supporting or becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent is a key part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. In December 2017, the Barnet 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 safeguarding children and adults by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity'*

This report will specifically update the Safer Community Partnership Board on the following:

- Overview of the Barnet Prevent risk assessment and revised Action Plan.
- Performance in relation to Prevent training delivery.
- Update on Home Office Prevent Funding for Barnet in 2020-2021.
- Emerging government strategies, policies, and developments impacting on Prevent delivery.

## 2. Barnet Counter Terrorism Risk Assessment

- 2.1 The Prevent Coordinator has liaised with local SO15 (Counter Terrorism Police Unit) inspector to develop Barnet's submission to SO15 command for the annual Counter Terrorism Local profile submission in December 2020. In developing the submission, local partners were asked to contribute to the annual submission with relevant local risk information via the Barnet prevent Delivery Group which met in November 2020.
- 2.2 The highest volume of Prevent referrals received continues to be in relation to concerns about Daesh/Al Q'aeda inspired extremism. The level of referrals of this kind has remained consistent for the past two years.
- 2.3 Since the Covid 19 lockdown in the Spring of 2020, Barnet has seen an increase in referrals where vulnerable individuals have expressed extreme right-wing views and are assessed to be vulnerable to radicalisation. These referrals include concerns about anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, racist and anti-immigrant ideologies.
- 2.4 Barnet has also seen an increase in referrals where there are concerns in relation to vulnerable individuals where there is no clear ideology present. These types of concern related to individuals who have displayed an interest in school shootings or in some cases where racist, Islamophobic and/or anti-Semitic views are present but where the individual's beliefs do not fit into a clear ideological system.
- 2.5 Mental health issues continue to feature in a significant number of cases referred to Channel. Almost one third of individuals referred to Prevent in the past 12 months had a

diagnosed mental illness. In addition, 83% of adults who reached threshold for discussion at Panel had an accompanying concern (although not necessarily diagnosed) in relation to poor mental health.

- 2.6 19 vulnerable individuals were referred to Prevent and met the threshold for further assessment and possible intervention via the Barnet Channel Panel process. Of those people referred:
- 100% were male
  - 53% were adults and 47% were young people
  - concerns in relation to Daesh/Al Q'aeda inspired extremism featured highest.
  - there was a significant increase in referrals where concerns in relation to extreme right wing ideologies or where there was a mixed, unclear, or unstable ideology.
  - concerns re: poor mental health featured in 83% of cases referred. Of these cases, 53% were already known to mental health services.
- 2.7 Barnet has 394,000 residents with 38.7% of the population being from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. Barnet has the highest recorded level of anti-Semitic hate crimes based on raw data (recorded crimes from November 2018 to November 2020) as recorded in the Met Police Hate Crime Dashboard. This is consistent with the fact that Barnet hosts the largest Jewish community in the UK. Barnet is home to one fifth of all Jewish people residing in the UK according to the Board of Deputies of British Jews.
- 2.8 Barnet has the largest Chinese population of any London Borough. In the Spring of 2021, the local authority was made aware of concerns within the Chinese community in relation to verbal abuse and hate crime fuelled by anti-Chinese conspiracy theories regarding the origin of the Coronavirus.
- 2.9 The Prevent Coordinator continues to engage with a broad range of community and voluntary sector agencies through the Communities Together Network, Barnet Multi-Faith Forum and through other networking opportunities such as hate crime awareness week.

### **3. Update on Strategic Delivery of Prevent**

- 3.1 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
  - 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.

- 3.2 The Barnet Channel Panel has consistent participation from the Barnet SO15 Police Team, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), CCG Adult Safeguarding Lead and the Barnet, Enfield, and Haringey Mental Health Trust Prevent Lead staff.
- 3.3 The strategic Barnet Prevent Delivery Group met four times in 2020 in line with the groups' terms of reference. The Delivery Group continues to enjoy high levels of participation from all relevant workstreams and external organisations operating in Barnet. In the past year the Delivery Group has received updates on Prevent project delivery, the engagement of the Prevent Education Officer with education providers, updates from the Community Engagement Coordinator and Hate Crime Coordinator regarding local issues that may impact on community tensions. The Delivery Group has been briefed on the local risk assessment and the Multi-Agency Action Plan by the Prevent Coordinator
- 3.4 The Prevent Coordinator has provided quarterly updates to the Barnet Chief Executive Officer regarding Prevent delivery. Updates have also been provided in the past 12 months to the Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Committee
- 3.5 Thirteen Channel Panel meetings were held in 2020-21 with high levels of attendance from all partner agencies. This has been achieved despite reduced face to face contact because of 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
- 3.6 Following the initial Covid 19 lockdown in 2020, referrals and Prevent related contacts reduced significantly as professionals were having significantly reduced contact with vulnerable individuals. It is noted that during this period, senior Police and safeguarding officials raised concerns nationally that there were concerns that vulnerable people were spending longer periods online unsupervised increasing the risk of online radicalisation. Referrals increased steeply from October 2020 onwards.

#### **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 Safeguarding 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 The Barnet Prevent Coordinator and the Prevent Education Officer have reviewed and updated the local WRAP training package to highlight concerns in relation to online radicalisation. This followed concerns expressed in relation to online radicalisation nationally by senior Policing officials.

- 4.3 Due to the Covid 19 outbreak, lockdowns and the impact of the pandemic on staff, training opportunities were reduced in 2020. Following the initial lockdown, the Home Office Prevent training package was promoted to staff in Family Services, Barnet Homes and Regional Enterprise. It has not been possible to confirm the number of staff completing the online package as the package does not provide managers with confirmation of completion. From July 2020 onwards, Prevent WRAP training was adapted to be delivered on MS Teams, the local authority's approved forum for staff training. Attendee numbers are monitored and collated by using MS Teams now.
- 4.4 Since July 2020 WRAP training has been delivered to Barnet children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Barnet Adults MASH, the National Probation Service (Barnet). Additionally, one session was delivered to 'Inclusion Barnet' and a session was delivered to the safeguarding champions at Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust. SO15 Police have regularly taken part in Prevent training delivery alongside the Prevent coordinator.
- 4.5 The Prevent Coordinator has been offering monthly sessions to Family Services. In total, nine sessions have been delivered with more than 100 staff attending within Family services. Feedback received has been positive. Monthly sessions have also been offered to Family services since January 2020. Three sessions have been delivered with over 50 staff in attendance.
- 4.6 Four awareness raising briefing sessions were delivered by a project provider which specialises in engaging vulnerable people at risk of radicalisation in relation to extreme right-wing ideologies. The sessions were delivered by former far right-wing extremists who had historic experience of radicalisation. These sessions were well attended, and feedback was highly positive.
- 4.7 The Prevent Coordinator took part in the "Online Hate, Harassment and Extremism" online community engagement session during Hate Crime Awareness Week. The participants asked the question "*Are Hate Groups Still Active during the Pandemic?*". *The Panel included the Hate Crime Coordinator, Barnet Community Engagement Officer and the Founder of Exit UK who delivered a briefing on far-right extremism online. The session was attended by representatives from community and faith groups in the borough.*
- 4.8 The Prevent Education Officer (PEO) delivers Prevent training to Primary and Secondary schools in Barnet and provides regular advice on Prevent issues to designated safeguarding leads and other teaching staff. The PEO also delivers sessions to school pupils at assemblies and other school settings as requested. These sessions raise awareness in relation to online radicalisation and the narratives and conspiracy theories promoted by extremist groups.
- 4.9 All NHS trusts and Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust deliver Prevent training internally to staff. The Prevent Coordinator has received confirmation that the Trusts are meeting their targets for training delivery.

## 5 Update on Home Office Prevent Funding for Barnet in 2021-2022.

- 5.1 The Home Office undertakes an annual assessment of national risk in relation to radicalisation and counter terrorism and this informs decision making around Prevent funding. Barnet has received funding for two dedicated Prevent posts, the Prevent Coordinator and the Prevent Education Officer. Barnet was also allocated funding for projects for 2021-2022. Projects have been identified and commissioned for delivery before the end of March 2022 to address local risks identified in the local risk assessment.
- 5.2 The following Projects have been identified and commissioned for delivery before the end of March 2022 to address local risks identified in the local risk assessment.
- A Community Engagement project to assist the local authorities in better understanding the scale of far right wing sentiment in the locality through engaging sections of the community most likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation utilising specialist online research and community engagement exercises on the ground. This will inform our local delivery plan to address the identified needs and vulnerabilities in our community.
  - A project will be delivered in schools and offered to community groups which is designed to challenge anti-Semitic and Islamophobic rhetoric and stereotyping that emerge in the context of debates about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. This project supports students in discussing the issues arising from the conflict with the help of Israeli and Palestinian volunteers.
  - Sessions will be delivered to teaching staff, professionals and volunteers by a project that delivers presentations by former far right-wing extremists to raise awareness of the tactics used by extremists to radicalise vulnerable individuals.
  - Staff training project to upskill professionals with practical tools and techniques to build young people's resilience to potential exploitation by gangs and extremist groups. Sessions provide first-hand, lived experiences of victims and perpetrators to increase awareness of the issues faced by those vulnerable to exploitation.
  - Project for teaching professionals and youth workers on conspiracy theories and extremism, and how to support young people in and out of the classroom to build resilience to fake news, conspiracy theory and related extremist ideologies.
  - Train the Trainer sessions for teaching and other professionals on the rise of the far right and the impact of mixed, unclear, and unstable ideologies that have increased in Prevent referrals.
- 5.3 A core part of Prevent delivery is providing ongoing training and support to professionals as well as others who may be able to support or identify those that are vulnerable to radicalisation. During the current pandemic most trainings had moved to virtual online delivery however, there may be opportunity for face to face delivery for some schools'

sessions over the next year. Consideration is being made as to whether this training can be delivered through MS Teams to School Leadership teams.

## **6. Emerging government strategies, policies, and developments impacting on Prevent delivery**

### **Regionalisation Consultation**

- 6.1 The way the Prevent programme is implemented and supported in local areas can vary from region to region and from authority to authority, with further differences influenced by population, area covered and allocated resources. For the large part of six years since the Prevent Duty came into effect in 2015, around 40 local authorities have received specific Prevent funding from the Home Office. These areas (including Barnet) have been identified as priority areas and local officers were often employed by the local authority to support borough based Prevent delivery that was designed and delivered to the needs of that borough. The prioritisation process occurs annually, and areas can be deprioritised, while other non-prioritised areas can qualify for prioritisation and the Prevent programme attracts if their risk profile increases.
- 6.2 Barnet has remained a priority borough since it was prioritised in 2016 and has received funding for both posts and in some years project funding as well. This had consisted of a single post of a Prevent Coordinator and since 2017 a Prevent Education Officer post. The level of funding allocated is based on a yearly assessment process carried out by the Home Office and the result of this assessment will reflect the amount of money allocated to each area.
- 6.3 Early in 2020 the Home Office began a consultation process with a view to regionalise Prevent delivery where areas will be clustered together both priority and those that were marked as nonpriority. During these consultation processes there were several cluster models that were explored but many of the proposed models would take away the localised nature of the existing Prevent delivery model. As the consultation process had a stated goal of “providing greater flexibility and sustainability; and a model that is best suited to the evolving threat”, many fed back that removing the localised nature of such delivery may not achieve the said objectives.
- 6.4 Since the end of the consultation process, in February 2021, the Home Office has informed that the existing local delivery model based on borough based delivery would continue but they will be further creating a network of ‘Regional Advisors’ who will support local areas who do not receive Prevent funding and do not have dedicated Prevent staff. The Home Office has also advised that ‘Local Authorities in funded areas, and in receipt of Home Office funding for Prevent provisions, will be unaffected by this Regionalisation’.
- 6.5 The Home Office has further advised that Regional Advisors will be funded and employed by the Home Office and they will operate across allocated regions to support those areas. They will be tasked with monitoring performance and bringing consistency across these non-funded areas that they cover. The Home Office aims to recruit one adviser per each of the following areas, East Midlands, West Midlands, Wales, South East, North East, East of England, South West and North West.

## Independent Review of Prevent

- 6.6 During the passage of the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 on 12 February 2019, the government committed to carrying out an independent review of Prevent. The report, including any recommendations of the review, must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, as required by the act.
- 6.7 William Shawcross was appointed as the new Independent Reviewer of Prevent on 26 January 2021. The independent review will consider the UK's strategy for protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and will make recommendations for the future. An updated Terms of Reference for the Review were published on 22 March 2021.
- 6.8 The Review will critically examine and report on the government strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as set out in CONTEST, June 2018. The [Terms of Reference](#) and the [ways of working page](#), both published in March 2021, provide more detail on the scope of the Review, and the way in which it will be carried out. The Review of Prevent will look at the effectiveness of the Government's strategy to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. It will also make recommendations for the future.
- 6.9 The reviewer announced a call for evidence at the end of March 2021 with a deadline for submissions to be sent no later than 26 May 2021, so this is now closed. The Independent reviewer had asked to hear a broad range of opinions, expertise, and experience from those who can offer an insight into what Prevent means, how it works, and how it affects individuals, organisations, and communities.

This includes:

- those working to deliver Prevent locally and nationally
  - those responsible for implementing the statutory Prevent Duty, for example health care professionals, schools, and higher education institutions
  - civic groups and charitable organisations
  - research and academic institutions with an interest in Prevent
- 6.10 The Prevent Coordinator will be consulting with local partners via the Barnet Prevent Delivery Group to carry out a review of Prevent delivery locally. This will allow partners to comment on what is working well in terms of local Prevent delivery while giving the opportunity to highlight areas for improvement and development. This consultation will take place over the autumn.

## 7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendation is for the Community Safety Partnership to note the contents of the report and to raise any relevant questions.

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

8.1 N/A.

## **9. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

9.1 N/A.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **10.1.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

That Barnet Council Corporate Plan for 2019 to 2024 aims to achieve the following outcomes for the borough focus on place, people, and communities:

- A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in
- our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected
- safe and strong communities where people get along well

The effective implementation of the Barnet Prevent Action Plan and the implementation of the recommendation in this report supports Barnet in achieving the 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.

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

10.2.1 The Prevent Coordinator and the Prevent Education Officer posts are funded through Home Office Grant Agreements which is refreshed annually. All projects identified for delivery in 2021-2022 will be funded directly by the Home Office. All proposed projects have been approved. As such, there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### **10.3 Social Value**

10.3.1 Not relevant in this report

### **10.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

10.4.1 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 (12<sup>th</sup> March 2015).

[Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK](#)

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

The Prevent Duty is re-affirmed in the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) published in 2018 which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>

The Home Office produced revised Channel Guidance which was published in 2020. The guidance can be accessed here:

[Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-duty-guidance-protecting-people-vulnerable-to-being-drawn-into-terrorism)

## 10.5 Risk Management

10.5.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. 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 risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.

## 10.6 Equalities and Diversity

10.6.1 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.

## 10.7 Corporate Parenting

10.7.1 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.

## 10.8 Consultation and Engagement

10.8.1 Consultation was undertaken with the stakeholder groups as follows:

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- The Chief Executive Officer for Barnet has been engaged through quarterly briefing papers which have provided regular updates on delivery of the Prevent Action Plan.
- The Council Management Team have received bi-annual updates on progress on Prevent delivery through update reports delivered to the Council Management Team (Assurance) meetings – formerly the Strategic Commissioning Board Assurance meetings.
- 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>2021-2022 Prevent updates</b>
Barnet Council Management Team / CEO Update Report	Council progress on meeting duty	Quarterly until April 2019 – Now reduced to bi-annual.	<b>Most recent update:</b> April 2021 <b>Next Update</b> August 2022
The Safer Communities Partnership Board	Partnership action and inter-agency working to respond to local risk	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> July 2021 <b>Next Update</b> July 2022
The Children 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	Mental health	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b> <b>Next Update</b> Date to be confirmed by the Prevent Coordinator
The Adult Safeguarding Board	Vulnerable adults	Annually	<b>Most recent update:</b> <b>February 2021</b> <b>Next Update</b> February 2022.

## 10.9 Insight

10.9.1 Not relevant in this report.

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1.1 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>