

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2ND NOVEMBER 2015

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Prevent Responsibilities

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To note the recent legislation and requirements placed on specified authorities.
- To confirm the nomination of the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy) as the Council lead for Counter Terrorism who will be responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of the Prevent duty and a way forward identified in establishing a Channel Panel

Reasons:

To raise awareness of the new duty placed on the local authority and other partners.

To adhere to the duty placed on the Council by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: N/A

EXECUTIVE BOARD / COUNCIL / COMMITTEE: TBC

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Pam Palmer

Directorate

Chief Executive's

Name of Head of Service:

Wendy S Walters

Report Author:

Kate Thomas

Designations:

Assistant Chief Executive
(Regeneration and Policy)

Community Safety Manager

01267 224112

wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224202

khthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2ND NOVEMBER 2015

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Prevent Responsibilities

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides a brief overview of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and, in particular, the statutory duties placed on the local authority to deliver *Prevent and Channel*. The *Prevent Strategy*, published by the Government in 2011, is part of the Government's overall counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. A CONTEST Board is in place at an all-Wales level and for each region within Wales.

2.0 PREVENT

2.1 Prevent has three specific strategic objectives; to:

- 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 they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

2.2 It addresses all forms of terrorist threat and aspects of violent and non-violent extremism. The strategy is flexible and addresses new and emerging threats.

2.3 Prevent is prioritised according to the risks we face regardless of faith or ethnicity. This prioritisation is based on an assessment of engagement, intent and capability, not according to demographics or communities.

2.4 The Strategy is about safeguarding vulnerable people. It aims to protect young people and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse or exploitation and stop radicalisation.

2.5 To be successful in eliminating the threat from violent and non-violent extremism, there is a need to build trust with all our communities and work in partnership with them, to enable people to make positive life choices.

3.0 COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY BILL

3.1 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*'. The Act states that the authorities subject to the provisions will include local authorities.

3.2 The specified authorities are:

- Local authorities
- Police
- Prisons
- Young offender institutions
- Providers of probation services
- Schools
- Colleges
- Universities
- NHS bodies.

The Home Secretary has issued guidance to those bodies on how the Prevent duty should be fulfilled.

3.3 Specified authorities must:

- Assess *risk* of radicalisation in their area or institution
- Develop an *action* plan to reduce this risk
- Train staff to *recognise* radicalisation and extremism
- Work in *partnership* with other partners
- Establish *referral* mechanisms and refer people to Channel
- Maintain records and reports to show *compliance*

3.4 Enforcement

Implementation of the Duty will be *inspected*.

The Home Office will:

- Oversee compliance
- Gather data from specified authorities
- Issue direct guidance if there is non-compliance with the Duty.

3.5 The local authority in complying with the duties will have to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in its area. There are three themes that the local authority, as a specified authority with a leadership role, should follow:

- effective leadership,
- working in partnership, and
- appropriate capabilities.

3.6 What does this mean for Carmarthenshire County Council?

The Authority should:-

- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group (Channel Panel) to agree risk and co-ordinate *Prevent* activity.
- Put in place arrangements to effectively monitor the impact of *Prevent* work.
- Use the existing counter terrorism local profiles (CTLP's) to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism. This includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism.
- Ensure that there are clear and robust safeguarding policies to identify vulnerable young people and adults susceptible to radicalisation, as the duty is relevant to fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities.
- Develop a *Prevent* action plan.
- Ensure frontline staff have a good understanding of *Prevent* and trained to recognise vulnerabilities associated with the potential to radicalise vulnerable people.
- Establish working relationships with schools, universities, colleges, prisons, probation services, Public Health Wales, the health board, immigration enforcement and faith institutions.
- Develop a framework to enable staff and partners to make appropriate referrals to *Channel*.

Specifically, schools should :

- Establish a single point of contact for *Prevent*.
- Assess risk of students being drawn into terrorism.
- Develop an action plan to reduce the risk.
- Train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism.
- Refer vulnerable people to *Channel*.
- Prohibit extremist speakers and events.
- Manage access to extremist material.

To ensure the Council meets the requirements of the legislation across the organisation and also in setting up the Channel Panel, a Council lead has been identified – the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy).

3.7 Since 2013, in Carmarthenshire *Prevent* awareness training has been delivered by Dyfed Powys Police to Council staff, in Social Services and Housing predominantly, with further sessions planned in the coming months. Training has also been provided to partner organisations including the Health Board, Probation, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Coleg Sir Gâr.

4.0 ESTABLISHING A CHANNEL PANEL

- 4.1 **Channel** is a local authority led and resourced multi-agency partnership to provide support to individuals who are at risk of radicalisation. It is an early intervention process that considers how best to safeguard their vulnerability through a support package tailored to their individual needs. The Council needs to establish a Channel Panel – it is understood that there are currently two individuals, who would need to be brought to a Panel meeting for consideration. The Council, in establishing a Panel, could either utilise an existing structure or set up a new arrangement. There are strong links to safeguarding and initial discussions have been held with the Director of Community Services. The Prevent lead for Dyfed Powys Police is able to provide a training session if required by senior officers in the Council to progress discussions in establishing a Panel. Such training can also be provided once a Panel membership has been identified to assist them in understanding their role.
- 4.2 In Ceredigion and Powys, the Council has taken the decision not to link in with existing structures, and, instead, have set up a new Panel. This is being managed and chaired by the CSP.
- 4.3 It is proposed that in Carmarthenshire a Channel Panel be co-ordinated by the Community Safety Manager, and reports in to the Community Safety Partnership structure with links to the existing safeguarding arrangements.

5.0 Funding

- 5.1 The Home Office have confirmed that they will make £10,000 available, for this financial year only, to each local authority in Wales (apart from Cardiff as they are a Prevent priority area and receive other financial support from the Home Office) to support implementation and awareness raising of the Prevent Duty.

6.0 Support available

- 6.1 The Home Office has recognised that some areas may require additional support to respond to the requirements of the duty. To cover this requirement, the Home Office will make available a national package of support. This will include:
- Access to training if required – including online access to WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent);
 - Regional Awareness Raising Events – 8 regional events held across England, Scotland and Wales directed at those most affected by the Duty
 - An innovation fund – a public fund available to specified authorities, third sector groups and business to support the expansion of Prevent activity and to increase the number and range of local partners delivering Prevent work.
 - A peer support group – a team of expert practitioners who will provide a dedicated source of expertise and best practice for bodies, particularly those who might be facing challenges in implementing the new requirements.

- Additional sector specific information – where required, provided by lead departments and sectors, to support implementation

6.2 This agenda is currently underfunded and the associated statutory duties that now present increase further the financial pressures. While the Home Office funding will alleviate an element of initial costs, it would be beneficial to assess the effectiveness of any new arrangements in six months and ascertain the cost implications in relation to the new duties under the 2015 Act.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy S Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

This is a new statutory duty placed on the Council which needs to become embedded in all departments.

2. Legal

There will be legal implications if the statutory duty is not addressed and implemented.

3. Finance

There is a one-off allocation of £10,000 for this financial year to cover activity required to commence the Duty. Thereafter, however, most activity should be mainstreamed into departments and existing community safety/safeguarding work.

5. Risk Management Issues

The Home Office will inspect the implementation of this duty and failure to comply with the Act's requirements would be dealt with, as appropriate, by the Home Office.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Wendy S Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A
2. Local Member(s) N/A
3. Community / Town Council N/A
4. Relevant Partners N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Prevent Duty Guidance England and Wales	Available through Kate Thomas, Community Safety Manager
Channel Duty Guidance for Chanel Panel Members	Available through Kate Thomas, Community Safety Manager