

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD:
17TH SEPTEMBER 2015

PREVENT: SECTION 29 OF THE COUNTER-TERRORISM AND
SECURITY ACT 2015

Introduction

1. Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty to specified authorities including County and District/Borough Councils, the Police, Health and Schools to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
2. The Prevent strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, and work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

Funding

3. The Home Office recognises that there will be some costs related to implementation of the Prevent Duty:
 - Additional training will need to be provided for local authority employees on Prevent related activity;
 - Training will need to be delivered to a number of partner agencies;
 - Implementation of an action plan will require additional funding for project work or training;
 - Policies and procedures will need updating;
 - IT systems may require upgrading to cover extremist material.
4. The Home Office has allocated all non-priority local authorities a £10,000 one-off payment to cover activity required to commence the Duty; thereafter activity should be mainstreamed into existing community safety and child safeguarding work.

Prevent Officer

5. The City and County Councils are jointly funding a post for a year to give capacity and ensure compliance with section 29. The post holder will:
 - Proactively support and influence local areas in delivery of the government’s Prevent Strategy across Leicestershire
 - Divide their time between a number of locations and partner agencies
 - Work across the County,
 - Link into the work of the City,
 - Explore the links between hate incidents and far-right extremism

- Run training sessions in schools
- Work with communities.

Proposal

6. The proposal is to pool 50% of the £10,000 from each District, Borough, Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils in order to extend this post for a second year and also give it a budget to work with to assist with county wide initiatives.
7. It is further proposed that each authority retains 50% of the £10k for projects which would give scope for further collaboration.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Board:
 - (a) Note the funding allocated by the Home office towards implementation of the new prevent Duty;
 - (b) Agree to allocate funding towards the Prevent Officer Post.

Officer to contact:

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