

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**23 FEBRUARY 2017**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: PREVENT AND HATE**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Board on the progress of some of the Prevent and Hate work, particularly in relation to community cohesion and to establish whether there is opportunity for future collaborative funding.

#### **Prevent Drama Production**

2. The launch of Alter Ego's "Going to Extremes" is to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March at De Lisle College, Loughborough. Invitations to the event will be circulated over the forthcoming weeks and will include Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs. Four weeks are now full with 2 performances a day in schools or community settings across Leicestershire.
3. The production will ensure the audience:
  - Has a raised awareness of how and why people can become radicalised
  - Has a raised awareness of the history/context of extremism and the different aims and objectives of different political/religious groups
  - Has a raised awareness of the processes involved in radicalisation
  - Has a desire to challenge radical/extremist narratives and discuss them openly
  - Has a raised awareness of where to get help and advice about the issues in the play thus safeguarding against radicalisation

#### **County Prevent Officer Post**

4. Since taking up post the Prevent Officer has trained over 3,000 front line staff across the County, in the Home Office accredited Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) programme. Referrals to Channel from across Leicestershire have increased over this period and the standard of those referrals has been of good quality.
5. To date no funding has been identified to continue the County Prevent Officer Post past October 2017. Leicestershire County Council is committed to this area of work and will continue to host and manage the post should further resource be found. The Home Office have been approached to contribute

towards the post, but will not fund any local authorities outside those which have been identified as priority areas. The Board is asked to consider whether further funding can be identified through the Partnership.

### **Community Cohesion and Integration**

6. Dame Louise Casey's recently published report "A review into opportunity and integration" looks at what divides communities and how better integration might be encouraged. The executive summary of the report can be downloaded at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/57597/5/The\\_Casey\\_Review\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/57597/5/The_Casey_Review_Executive_Summary.pdf)

7. Locally work is underway to establish how the partnership can begin to look at this locally; an agreed Community Tensions Monitoring process is being established; this will enable the partnership to identify localities where there may be underlying issues of concern that have not been picked up due to the low level nature of incidents.
8. To support this work and to understand who makes up local communities, local profiling work is to be undertaken within Districts and Boroughs. This information will lend itself to help in identifying links to community tension issues that may exist within communities either overtly or covertly. A Task and Finish Group shall be established to take this work forward.
9. An example of how this will assist community cohesion is the work underway with a Schools Alliance in the County following intelligence of low level far right wing narratives being displayed in schools. The issues only came to light because a member of the Community Safety Team visited the schools to deliver training.

### **Hate Action Plan**

10. Progress against the Hate Action Plan is going well. The Hate Campaign week took place in October 2016 and received a lot of promotion across Leicestershire. This initiative, co-ordinated by Leicestershire County Council's, Community Safety Team in partnership with the District and Borough Councils and Leicestershire Constabulary, Leicester City and Rutland County Council led to a rise in reports of hate incidents received immediately after the week. The full evaluation report has been circulated to Partnerships across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A programme to continue to raise awareness shall roll over the forthcoming year.

**Recommendations**

- i) That the Board notes the progress of the work to date.
- ii) That the Board consider the future funding of the County Prevent Officer post.

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