

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

2 JUNE 2017

LSCSB UPDATE: Prevent

Background

1. Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed 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. Prevent is delivered locally in areas considered to be at greatest risk. Thirty local authority areas are currently classed as Prevent “priority” areas and receive funding from the Home Office for a local co-ordinator – Leicester City is one of these areas; Leicestershire County is not.
3. The expectation has been that local authorities will work with local partners to protect the public, prevent crime and to promote strong, integrated communities and that frontline school staff should understand Prevent, be able to recognise vulnerability to radicalisation, and know where to seek further help.
4. A Prevent Officer was recruited in 2015; in year one jointly funded by Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council and collaboratively funded by all Districts, Boroughs and Leicestershire County Council (LCC) through Home Office funding in year two.
5. The funding for the Prevent Officer will end in October 2017; despite seeking further funding for the post none has been identified.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

6. In order to ensure service areas and Partners were aware of and compliant with the statutory Prevent duty much training has been delivered with over 3,000 front line staff being trained from across a number of agencies including:
 - Teachers (all County schools were written to and offered free training)
 - Governors
 - Adult education teachers
 - Foster carers
 - Early years providers

- Local authority officers
7. The Prevent Officer has been leading the work to co-ordinate the partnership response to ensure a consistent response to Prevent across Leicestershire and supported the work within each local authority to ensure corporate compliance with the duty.
 8. Warning Zone, a provision which has the majority of year 6 students through their door to learn about staying safe and criminal responsibility, have been supported to develop a package to raise awareness about the dangers of on line grooming and radicalisation using the E-Safety Zone.
 9. Alter Ego has developed an innovative drama production and delivered it to schools and communities across the County; the production “Going to Extremes” is now to be rolled out nationally. Reviews from young children and adults alike have been phenomenally positive.

Coming Year

10. An Exit Strategy is currently being considered for October 2017, when funding for the post ceases. LCC’s Community Safety Team shall continue to support partners with the work on Prevent and the partnership work shall continue through the Prevent and Hate Delivery Group with strategic direction provided through the ASB, Prevent and Hate Strategy Group.
11. There is good local intelligence and partnership arrangement through the sub regional Prevent Steering Group which includes representation from the Police and District/Borough Councils. Channel arrangements are robust, managed by the Police Prevent Team and support to vulnerable individuals is good.
12. OPCC funding has been secured for the recruitment and training of PREVENT youth champions to offer peer support within identified schools across the County including an early intervention element enabling young people to safely explore their relationship with the world around them; this will create safe spaces for young people to explore the use of language and political debate. The funding will also enable the delivery of bespoke Prevent training to people with Learning Difficulties in Leicestershire.
13. Alter Ego shall deliver further sessions of “Going to Extremes” for two weeks in October.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

14. Challenging and preventing radicalisation (be it far right, left, religious extremism etc.) is an important element in keeping our communities safe. With diverse communities across Leicestershire and increased pressures

through reducing resources and the impact of Brexit, a local focus is important to maintain the positive community cohesion that exists within Leicestershire.

15. Each District/Borough will be required to ensure continued corporate compliance to the discharge of the s29 duty; part of this duty will include the delivery of the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training. Each local authority has at least two WRAP trained officers within the organisation; all training requests from the locality will now be passed back to these officers to deliver. It will no longer be feasible for the Community Safety Team at LCC to deliver all of the training; where intelligence suggests there are specific issues the team will, of course, support delivery of any work.
16. In order to capture low level issues within local communities, a Community Tension Monitoring Document has been devised for partners. The police also have a link for partners to notify them of any non-urgent information about community cohesion and tensions: <https://leics.police.uk/contact/community-partnership-information> In order to prevent the escalation of simmering tensions within the localities it will be useful for this information to be collated and regularly reviewed. The Hate and Prevent Delivery Group will monitor the returns.

Recommendations for the Board

17. That the Board notes the contents of the report

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