



LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2017

PREVENT - UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Home Office pilot - Operation Dovetail and to inform the Board on how the Prevent agenda will be managed within Leicestershire County Council following the cessation of funding on 31 October 2018.

Background

2. Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty on specified Authorities, including County, District and Borough Councils, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Local Authorities across Leicestershire have discharged this duty with support from the Prevent Officer based at Leicestershire County Council who supported them with the drafting of individual Prevent Action Plans and with delivering Home Office accredited Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training.
3. Since September 2016 the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) has undertaken a pilot (known as Operation Dovetail) to assess the feasibility of transferring responsibility and resources for Channel programme case management from the police to local authorities. Channel is part of the Prevent strategy and is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support at an early stage to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Home Office Pilot – Operation Dovetail

4. Nine pilot areas were identified and funding was provided for 12 months for Local Authority Channel Coordinators (LACC) to lead on managing the Channel process (assessing referrals, managing cases and the administration of the programme). The roll out is intended to reach the East Midlands in spring 2018.
5. The main points for consideration are:
 - i. The Local Authority will take the lead on information gathering (in the pilot this has assisted in building better relations with other partners

such as health, education, and other Local Authority-led functions such as Social Services);

- ii. There will be a five working day deadline to complete information gathering (in the pilot the Local Authority Channel Coordinator (LACC) spent time navigating an organisation to find the most appropriate contact);
 - iii. On consent, more consideration will be given to the most appropriate partner to approach an individual rather than the default position of this being a police role. A number of the pilot sites developed practical guidance on gaining consent which will be reviewed and, potentially, incorporated into national guidance;
 - iv. The police will transfer appropriate referrals to the Local Authority in a timely manner and the Local Authority will recommend whether to progress a referral to Channel;
 - v. Training will be arranged by the Home Office to ensure that Local Authorities are confident in assessing referrals and developing a deeper understanding of the drivers to radicalisation. In the pilot Local Authorities were heavily reliant on the police, especially around understanding the radicalisation risk and ensuring that the Vulnerability Assessment Framework was completed accurately to determine next steps;
 - vi. The Home Office will ensure that all regions have access to CMIS through existing networks before any region goes live. This is the database holding information on individuals enabling the sharing of all referrals between the Local Authority and the police.
6. Funding will be available for the roll out of Operation Dovetail to fund LACCs; whilst the Local Authority will chair panels and have oversight of Channel cases, they will draw on LACCs to work with a number of different panels as determined by demand. The location of the resource within each region will be subject to consultation with local authorities, and will reflect referral and case activity.
 7. Across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), whilst no firm position has yet been reached by Members and Chief Officers, as the majority of Channel cases are referred from within the City the discussion will probably centre around whether the City Council will host Channel and the LACC. If this is the proposal, consideration will be given to ensuring the checks and co-ordination of data is appropriate and within the timeframes for County and Rutland referrals.
 8. A further issue worthy of note is that the funding for Intervention Providers may cease with this new arrangement. The Intervention Providers are individuals who work with vulnerable individuals through Channel to de-radicalise them; for 2016/17, across LLR, the programme costs were:

Q2 (July-Sept)	£4,900
Q3 (Oct – Dec)	£9,599
Q4 (Jan – March)	£16,174

9. The Community Safety Manager is working with the Home Office and City Colleagues to ensure LLR concerns are highlighted and considered.

Leicestershire County Council - Prevent Post

10. The Prevent Co-ordinator post was funded for one year through the Home Office in 2016; the funding came to an end on 31 October 2017. This post was the single point of contact for internal staff and partners across the County and Rutland (including schools and District Councils), delivered the Home Office accredited WRAP training and ensured the County Council and District Councils were compliant with the Section 29 duty.
11. The Community Safety Manager sought funding from a range of sources, but has to date been unsuccessful. The Community Safety Team has been reorganised in order to accommodate the Prevent work, with the Community Safety Officer who has the lead for Hate becoming the central point of contact for Prevent queries and work on community engagement. The WRAP training will be delivered, predominantly, by the Learning and Development Team and the Community Safety Manager shall resume the responsibility for the corporate duty. Other members of the Community Safety Team will be trained to deliver the WRAP programme, to support districts and borough colleagues in delivering their corporate Prevent Duty and to deliver awareness raising sessions as and when required.
12. The new Channel responsibility, even if the City Council host the panel, will increase workloads as the County Council will be required to co-ordinate information for any County referrals.

Recommendation

13. That Members note the contents of the report.

Officer(s) to Contact

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