

London Borough of Bromley Prevent Strategy – Channel Referral Process

Version 1 Feb 2017

1. National Guidance and Counter Terrorism Strategy

1.1 The Government's counter terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST, of which PREVENT is one. The strands of the strategy are as follows:

- PURSUE: to stop terrorist attacks
- PROTECT: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks
- PREPARE: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.
- PREVENT: seeks to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, in all its forms.

1.2 The three objectives of the Prevent strategy have been identified:

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

1.3 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. “Having due regard” means that the authority should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when we consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

1.4 The Home Office recognises Local Authority areas across the UK on the basis on risk as either Priority (Tier 1 and 2) or non-Priority (Tier 3) areas and Bromley has been deemed to fall within Tier 3 and as such receives no specific funding for Prevent activity.

1.5 It is essential that staff who provide any service to children, young people and adults are able to identify individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. This responsibility also extends to anyone who may come into contact with children, young people and adults during their work delivery.

1.6 Prevent is safeguarding and is no different to safeguarding individuals from other forms of harm. The [Bromley Thresholds of Need Guidance](#) should be used when considering needs and concerns.

2 Local governance arrangements of Prevent

2.1 Specified authorities should ensure they have in place adequate arrangements to safeguard individuals from extremism and radicalisation. In doing so, London Borough of Bromley has put in place:

- Clear governance arrangements and accountabilities
- Appropriate training for staff
- Processes to ensure cases are referred and managed effectively
- Systems to support those identified as being vulnerable

2.2 The Community Safety Team, which is part of Environmental and Community Services Division, will co-ordinate the Prevent Strategy on behalf of the London Borough of Bromley. Guidance published under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out considerations for the local authority when carrying out its duty.

2.3 The Chief Executive Corporate Leadership Team acts as the strategic prevent panel and will receive an annual update on the authority's response to the duty.

2.4 The Safer Bromley Partnership will oversee delivery of the outcomes of the Action Plan. The sub-group will consist of representation from Community Safety, Police and Safeguarding Leads from Adults & Children's services, mental health and Bromley CCG.

2.5 All relevant staff in the organisation, especially those working with children, young people and adults should make sure their staff have training to help

them identify individuals at risk of being drawn into radicalisation, and know how and where to refer those individuals for further help. The Workshop for Raising Awareness on Prevent (WRAP) is aimed at frontline staff and is a government source of training. It is available to all London Borough of Bromley Staff and it is the responsibility of senior leaders within those work areas to ensure their staff attend the relevant training.

- 2.6 Where a professional has identified a vulnerable individual, the relevant safeguarding procedures should be followed to ensure that an appropriate referral is made to Children's or Adult Safeguarding services.

3 Channel Panel

- 3.1 Channel supports Prevent. It is a confidential and voluntary process where safeguarding professionals meet to discuss support options which can be offered to residents vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity. Core members include Police, mental health, education, adults and children's services and community safety.

- 3.2 Police own the terrorism risk relating to referrals but local authorities and other partners own the safeguarding risk and have a key role in the process.

- 3.3 The process aims to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into radical extremism
- Assess the nature and extent of the risk
- Develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

- 3.4 An Information Sharing Agreement for the purposes of the Channel project in Bromley between the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Borough Bromley is renewed annually and held by the Head of Community Safety & Trading Standards.

4 Referral process

- 4.1 In most cases referrals go directly to Prevent Police, via the relevant safeguarding lead. The Local authority Community Safety Team may receive referrals, but these must then be sent directly to Prevent Police. It is critical that LBB staff and partners understand the referral roles within their own

organisations. *No further action should be taken until Police indicate information gathering can commence.*

- 4.2 Police prevent officers gather additional information to ensure the referral is not malicious, misguided or misinformed and to check the referral is not subject to a live investigation.
- 4.3 Where the threshold is met, Prevent police will send the appropriate referral to the local authority seeking further information – guidance dictates this should be sent to a single point of contact mail box and not an individual. Urgent referrals will be accompanied with a phone call.
- 4.4 The local authority will gather information from relevant partners to ascertain if the individual is already known, what support may be in place, and what information is available to help inform the decision around vulnerability. Partners will be asked to provide information and where necessary additional information can be provided at the panel meeting.
- 4.5 The Panel collectively discuss and assess the risk, support needs and whether specialist Channel intervention is required. If there are existing multi agency care plans the agencies involved will be notified and required to attend the channel panel meeting.
- 4.6 Any referral containing personal information must only be sent via secure emails and staff should check that emails received from police are handled securely. Emails between LBB officers should be sent using standard email, this is considered secure. Emails between public sector organisations (LBB, Met, NHS, Oxleas etc) should use GCSX accounts and any contracted or external services should utilise the egress switch.

