

## **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Prevent safeguarding in Hackney.**

This report updates Overview and Scrutiny Board stakeholders on some of the latest outputs and outreach of Prevent-led core work taken place in Hackney

### **1. Introduction**

#### **Prevent Strategy – national policy context**

Prevent is one of four strands of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST. The other strands are: Prepare; Pursue; and Protect.

Prevent is designed to support people at risk of joining extremist groups and carrying out terrorist attacks. Prevent addresses all types of extremism. Its core focus is to prevent vulnerable people from becoming radicalised and as such Prevent related work is conducted in the pre-criminal space.

### **2. Overview of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on Hackney and partners including NHS Homerton Trust, childcare establishments, probation and the police to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The government's 2011 Prevent Strategy objectives are to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those that promote it.
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

In 2011 the Home Office designated Hackney a Prevent priority borough based on the presence and /or activities of extremists and vulnerability of groups or institutions to extremism as identified by the police.

The Home Office provides Hackney with additional funding for a Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer to ensure the oversight of our delivery of the Prevent duty. This work includes training frontline staff, delivery of local projects, support a referral service for concerns to safeguard vulnerable people from radicalisation. The Prevent team also provides support and guidance to council services and partners to ensure the Prevent strategy is embedded into existing frameworks.

### **3. Hackney Threat Picture 2017 – 2018**

The threat from Syria, Iraq, and Islamic State of IRAQ and the Levant (ISIL) continues to be the greatest threat to London. During this reporting period we have seen a number of attacks take place worldwide which highlights the threat posed by Syria directed or influenced individuals or groups. There is no evidence of significant support for ISIL in borough. However there are many factors that can influence extremism locally.

Detailed below are key themes that cover ideologies, threat, harm, and risks across individuals and institution.

- This includes a range of groups linked to political extremism including Da'esh, Al-Qaida and Al Muhajiroun

- Large number of referrals from schools come from viewing of images or videos of an extreme nature
- Large number of affiliates of Al Muhajiroun live in the East London area including Hackney. Historically this has been through street based activity
- Online Islamist material and the risk of online grooming is high

Far-Right – threat to London from Domestic Extremism is persistent but low

- Driven by news feed and linked to events such as the release of Islamist prisoners
- Israelites United in Christ, a black separatist group have been distributed leaflets and hate preaching
- Sporadic and random displays of stickers and graffiti

The Kurdish Workers Party (PKK)

- The PKK is a proscribed terrorist organisation as detailed in the Terrorism Act.
- Evidence of illegal fund raising and travel
- A long history exists of simmering tensions between various fractions of the Turkish speaking community in Hackney

Extremism and Hate Crime

- Hackney reports the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest faith based rate of hate crime in London Borough of Hackney largely due to a high number of anti – Semitic reported incidences
- Increase in hate related incidents against our Muslim community tends to spike following a terrorist related incident however is in line with the national average

Risk factors

- Mental health and other vulnerabilities
- Viewing of extremist material

East London concerns

- Support for Al-Muhajiroun (ALM)
- Unregulated Spaces and Supplementary Schooling
- Islamist Extremism and Social Media
- Mental Health and other Vulnerable Groups
- Anti-Prevent engagement
- Extreme Right Wing

#### **4. Local delivery**

Hackney's Prevent programme adopts a community led approach and relies on the co-operation of many faith and non-faith organisations and community partners to be effective. The Prevent approach in Hackney will not stereotype or stigmatise communities and designed to:

- Divert vulnerable individuals away from racialisation and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support through safeguarding structures

- Deter extremists groups from disharmony and creating division, and spreading hate
- Keep the majority safe from a few who seek to harm others
- Ensure that sectors

Prevent delivery work strands can be broadly considered to fall in 6 different strands. These work strands make up our local delivery and are detailed below:

- **Safeguarding** of vulnerable individuals - Hackney's Channel multi-agency safeguarding panel voluntary support offer
- **Projects** with vulnerable community groups to increase resilience and address risk and vulnerabilities that have been identified
- **Capacity building and projects** with community partners and communities
- Wide-ranging **community engagement** to inform our approach, engender community trust and empower long term community responsibility
- **Disruption** of extremist speakers, and events by advising and working with partners on their due diligence procedures
- **Training** frontline staff to recognise and refer vulnerable individuals for further Prevent support and mainstreaming the implementation of Prevent and promoting service change e.g. The Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). This work is supported by research and presentations to improve understanding of the range of local risks, capabilities and vulnerabilities.

## 5. Prevent work activity update:

### *Safeguarding*

Prevent is designed to support people at risk of joining extremist groups and carrying out terrorist attacks. Prevent addresses all types of extremism. Its core focus is to prevent vulnerable people from becoming radicalised and as such Prevent related work is conducted in the pre-criminal space.

The Hackney Channel multi-agency safeguarding panel, chaired by the Community Safety and Partnership Manager, assessed 24 Prevent cases in 2017/18 ( data obtained from the Counter Terrorism Police Tracker). This number is slightly lower for 2017/18 recorded totalling 26. Of the 26 cases individuals and institutional referrals no case were accepted onto the Channel programme.

An analysis of the 2017/18 referrals to identify any significant trends revealed a high proportion of Prevent referrals have mental health issues or autistic spectrum disorders. 6 of the 21 referrals (4 referrals related to Police only casework), presented mental health concerns. At the initial screen stage 38 reported concerns were resolved without the need for further case work management. There has been a noticeable change nationally in referrals concerning young people who have experienced family breakdown in family structure.

Referrals in Hackney are low in comparison to other East London boroughs where a high number of referrals were recorded relate to police led investigations regarding Umar Haque (Ripple Road Mosque tutor), and Khuram Butt (London Bridge attacker. However the number of Hackney Prevent cases referred is comparable with other boroughs in London.

## *Projects*

Prevent project delivery for 2018/19 (detailed in Annexe A) centred on countering threats, vulnerabilities and local risks of radicalisation, particularly for young people when using the online space and extremism. Project delivery themes also linked with council work priorities including gang affiliation and safeguarding challenges presented by out of school settings.

### Capacity building

The Prevent team engagement activities centred on working with community groups and organisations not readily engaged with mainstream services. Work activities include ongoing engagement with a Somali woman's group with links to the Peabody Housing Trust. Led by the Turkish Police Officer the Prevent team established links with Turkish woman groups and delivered safeguarding teaching to staff at a Turkish supplementary school.

Led by the Prevent Education Officer, engagement with schools and other education providers including early years and out of schools settings. In 2018-2019 the PEO has worked with over 101 educational settings, trained 1,378 school staff and directly delivered workshops to 1,947 pupils.

### Disruption

Activities included taking practical steps to engage with established and trusted community members and organisations to address local sentiments following the distribution of abhorrent hate mail. The Prevent team supported a community based setting to address Prevent related safeguarding welfare concerns and signposted service partner to provide additional support.

### Training

Led by the Prevent Education Officer, engagement with schools and other education providers including early years and out of schools settings. In 2018-2019 the PEO has worked with over 101 educational settings, trained 1,378 school staff and directly delivered workshops to 1,947 pupils.

## **6. Hackney Prevent delivery overview:**

Work activities undertaken include:

- Children and Adult services Prevent referral pathways updated
- refreshed Prevent Action plan
- secured Home Office funding to deliver seven projects to engage communities and provide a safe platform to discuss ways in which people can be drawn into extremism and terrorism and the effect of this
- monthly held Channel panel process refreshed in light of the Parsons Green terrorist attack and informed by the Police Hydra training for Channel panel members
- produced safeguarding toolkits for schools and early years providers
- over 200 frontline staff and partners attended Prevent awareness raising training workshop (WRAP)
- Prevent Coordinator working with Adult Social Care manager to develop bespoke safeguarding training for social workers
- successful Home Office funding bid for 2019/20 project delivery

## 7. Peer Review

The Council underwent the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) Prevent peer review programme which aims to evaluate Prevent delivery structures and process with a view to developing recommendations for improvement and promoting best practice. The peer review team interviewed 37 key stakeholders from across the partnership. The key findings from the peer review highlighted the following:

- Strong commitment to integration and cohesion over a long period of time has made Hackney more resilient to radicalisation than many similar boroughs
- Prevent Coordinator and PEO highly thought of across the partnership
- Redraft referral processes to ensure mainstreaming of responsibility and holistic approach to risk management
- Develop Prevent Communications plan and publish
- Good opportunity for multi-agency tasking group at neighbourhood level to disrupt radicalising influences

### Useful links

Prevent Duty Guidance

[Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#)

Home Office Far Right Fact Sheet

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/03/19/factsheet-right-wing-terrorism/>

Community Engagement and EU Exit for local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-engagement-and-eu-exit-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme April 2017 to March 2018

[Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme statistics](#)

## Annexe A

### Hackney Prevent Project Delivery 2018/19

Project Title	BCR Project	Delivery Partner	London Tigers
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Young people considered at high risk of exposure to extremism	Counter Terrorism focus	Building Community Resilience
<p>London Tigers focused on working with vulnerable young people based in local community groups and youth hubs. As part of the BCR project London Tigers delivered a series of workshops at different locations in LB Hackney. Topics covered included Identity (British or Muslim), Living with Non-Muslims, How to make an Impact and What to do about Fake News; and other topics of relevance to the local Muslim community. These workshops gave participants knowledge with which to improve their understanding to steer clear from ideas alien to the main tenets of Religion used by extremists. Workshops were delivered to different participating groups. These include various sports and aerobics sessions together with other local community outlets and students from B'Six College.</p> <p><b>Overall number of workshops held 34 Total number of participants 48 ( 31 male / 127 female)</b></p>			
Project Title	Brave	Delivery Partner	St Giles
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Awareness and counter narrative to gang and extremist narrative	Counter Terrorism focus	Radicalisation, ideology and recruitment
<p>The Brave project was selected for local delivery due to definitive similarities that can be drawn between gangs and extremist groups. St Giles delivered interactive and frank workshops that presented the reality behind the 'academic views' on county lines and extremism interwoven with first-hand experience of many matters discussed to build resilience against violent extremism. Sessions were presented by former gang members and extremists who discussed the reality of gang association and extremist narratives that promote violence. Training sessions were tailored to the venue setting and to audiences of all ages and included schools, pupil referral units, alternative educational settings, community organisations and practitioners. A summary of the most useful aspects of the course participants highlighted:</p> <p><b>What was the most useful aspect of the course?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of it</li> <li>• St Giles presentation on Gangs &amp; County Lines very informative</li> <li>• Being shown signs to look out for</li> <li>• The County lines training was really informative &amp; inspiring - having speakers with personal experience gave the training real power</li> <li>• Arnold's presentation &amp; talk was most useful from personal experience</li> <li>• Listening to the gangs - ex gang members giving their account. So informative. The county lines training was fantastic - very informative, great terminology, examples, by case studies/ real life situations Lived experience trainers. Interactive current &amp; relevant</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall number of workshops held 10 Total number of participants 353 ( male199/ female 154)</b></p>			
Project Title	Safeguarding Training For Madrassahs	Delivery Partner	Minority Matters
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Empowering teaching staff to raise standards in out of school settings	Counter Terrorism focus	Building resilience to extremism
<p><b>Minority Matters</b> run an accredited teacher training programme focused on safeguarding and best practice in the classroom and offered a positive approach to engaging teaching staff based in Madrassahs. Delivered over 6 week, the training programme empowered teaching staff based in out of school settings to provide a safe environment for the children in their care. The training</p>			

enabled staff to recognise and challenge extremist propaganda. Participants were able to discuss sensitive issues with local police officers and council officers.

A six week training programme

**Total number of participants 32 ( male199/ female 154)**

Project Title	Parent Zone	Delivery Partner	
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Young people /parents / community Online safety	Counter Terrorism focus	<b>Digital online safety</b>

Parent Zone worked with young people, parents and professionals including teaching staff to educate participants on how to stay safe online. Session focused on what to do if participants found themselves in an uncomfortable situation and how to build their digital resilience. To create a platform to increase community wide resilience, parents were provided with a range of online resources to help their families meet the challenges of the digital age including a free internet safety magazines and access to online training for 1 year.

**Total number of participants 289**

Project Title	Think! Thought and Teacher Training	Delivery Partner	EqualiTeach
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Challenge bias and prejudices	Counter Terrorism focus	Resilient young people

**EqualiTeach**, an equality training organisation, delivered Think! And Thought interactive workshops in primary and secondary schools. The workshops supported children to develop their skills and ability to check out the reliability of information presented online and in person. The sessions held also explored issues such as Islamophobia, sexism, disability, homophobia and migration. Teaching staff also benefited from workshops which focused on holding challenging conversations with young people and to promote equality, celebrate diversity and tackle discrimination.

**Total number of participants 640**

Project Title	Road and Religion	Delivery Partner	Mentivation
<b>Focus</b>	Increase awareness of the dangers of gang activity and extremists	Counter Terrorism focus	Radicalisation

**Mentivation - Roads and Religion** workshops was delivered in alternative educational settings. The workshop engages vulnerable young people by drawing on the parallels between gang affiliation and the recruitment process adopted by violent extremists. The workshop provided a safe space for young people to debate controversial issues such as the glamorisation of gang culture. The workshop builds its message through discussion, use of videos, music and BBC news stories to provide the stark reality of the dangers of grooming and radicalisation.

**Total number of participants 320**

Project Title	Spot the Signs	Delivery Partner	Families Against Stress and Trauma
<b>Hackney Focus</b>	Building family resilience to extremism	Counter Terrorism focus	

**FAST- Spot the signs** works with communities and professionals to recognise the signs of radicalisation that can have a devastating impact on families. Participants are taught the possible factors and behaviours that are commonly found in those who may be exposed to extremist ideas. Participants also receive leaflets in community languages produced by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and where to seek additional advice.

**Total number of participants 98**

