

## **Report to Living in Hackney**

### **Item – Hackney Prevent Delivery Update**

#### **Report by Tracey Thomas Prevent Coordinator**

##### **1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 This report provides an update to the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission on the local Prevent programme delivery in the borough of Hackney and outlines how Hackney Council is meeting its statutory duty.

##### **2. National Context**

2.1 The Prevent Strategy, published in 2011, is one strand of the overall counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

2.2 The aim of the strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This includes non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and popularise views terrorists can exploit.

2.3 Prevent delivery in Hackney is guided by the specific objectives of the 2011 Home Office Prevent Strategy:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and of 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 which we need to address

##### **3. Local Context**

3.1 Hackney is a Prevent priority area and as such receives additional resources from the Home Office to deliver a local Prevent Programme. Priority status is apportioned as Hackney is to be of significantly higher risk than the majority of local authority areas across the country.

3.2 Hackney Council has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

3.3 In Hackney, Prevent is seen as a safeguarding duty to recognise the risks from grooming, extortion and harm that vulnerable people can be subject to. Local Prevent delivery strives to reach the whole of the community in Hackney and adopts a community led approach to determine Prevent related activities.

3.4 Prevent delivery in Hackney adheres to the Prevent Statutory guidance which highlights six key areas where activity should be evidenced, these are:

- **A risk assessment** – Hackney has a detailed risk assessment in place which includes restricted intelligence information to inform specified partners understanding of the local risk and threats.
- **An action plan** – Hackney’s Prevent action plan is informed by the local risk assessment and details the role of multi-agency partners to take responsibility to adequately manage the actions identified.
- **Partnership working** – the Hackney Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made up of statutory partners of the council, has strategic responsibility for the Prevent Strategy and the Prevent Partnership Group monitors progress against the agreed action plan.
- **Staff training** – an extensive training programme supported by a Prevent Education Officer is in place to support schools and other educational settings. Prevent awareness training is also available to partner organisations and council staff to better understand their responsibilities in regards to the Duty.
- **Provide support for agencies other organisations supporting children and vulnerable individuals** – The Prevent team work with Prevent partnership group members who represent key partners from statutory agencies, to identify third sector organisations to offer support with embedding safeguarding measures such as robust governance arrangements across statutory agencies.
- **Understanding and supporting out of school settings supporting children** – the Prevent team is working with partners to understand the supplementary education network. A mapping exercise is underway to identify such settings. It is intended to develop a package of free safeguarding training health and safety standards to raise standards in those settings.

#### **4. Activity Update April 2018 to March 2019:**

- Produced Prevent community newsletter to promote Prevent safeguarding training offer
- Children and Adults services Prevent referral pathways updated
- Refreshed Prevent action plan
- Successful delivery of Home Office funded projects reached a total of 571 + 1062
- Children and Adult services Prevent referral pathways updated
- 518 participants received Prevent Awareness training (WRAP or equivalent) excluding educational settings
- 34 community groups in local authority engaged on Prevent related activity including, but not limited to; Imece Woman’s Centre, Volunteering Matters, Connecting Communities, SAE Media College, and Universal Board Games.

- Helped to arrange support for 14 individuals with a Prevent related concern (excluding Channel referrals/ cases)
- 32 partners supported with embedding Prevent safeguarding policies
- Channel panel process refreshed in light of the Parsons Green terrorist attack and informed by the Police Hydra training for Channel panel members
- Robust understanding among Channel Panel members of what constitutes the appropriate threshold for Channel intervention
- Prevent Safeguarding toolkit produced for Hackney schools and early years providers
- 200 frontline staff and partners attended Prevent awareness raising training workshop (WRAP)

## **5. Partnership interventions delivered in 2018/19**

- 5.1 In recognition of the alignment between gang affiliation and radicalisation, St Giles - Brave workshops provided an alternative format to discuss this serious local issue. A total of 313 participants, including teaching staff students, professionals and community representatives, attended 10 Brave workshops
- 5.2 Spot the signs workshop were held in a variety of community settings, empowers families and communities to recognise the signs of radicalisation resulted in 116 participants go through the project.
- 5.3 The EqualiTeach project offers an engaging workshop that develops pupils critically thinking skills by providing a safe environment to hold challenging conversations. This popular workshop has been delivered across local schools over the last 4 years.
- 5.4 A building community resilience project focused on increasing the understanding of radicalisation, worked with 48 young people age 22-25 identified from local colleges, community centres and faith organisations.
- 5.5 Parent Zone, a resilient family's programme, provided an open access online training course, with supported material for parents, designed to explain the process of radicalisation. Parents and teaching staff were offered a yearlong digital resilience membership offering support and resources worked with 560 participants
- 5.6 Mentivation Services delivered focused sessions to 134 young people providing them with a safe space to raise awareness around gang activity and radicalisation based in Hackney's pupil referrals units, community groups and mainstream schools.

## **6. Peer Review**

- 6.1 The Office of Security and Counter Terrorism peer review team visited The London Borough of Hackney to conduct a peer review which took place over three days over 26 - 28 February 2019.

- Interviewed 37 key stakeholders from across the partnership
- Desktop review of key documentations
- Observed Prevent Partnership Board

## 6.2 Key findings:

- 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 Prevent Education Officer highly thought of across the partnership
- Redraft referral processes to ensure mainstreaming or responsibility and holistic approach to risk management.
- Develop Prevent Communication plan and publish
- Good opportunity for multi-agency tasking group at neighbourhood level to disrupt radicalising influences

## 7. Future activity

- Establish a community Prevent advisory group to provide the kind of critical feedback that is necessary to successfully counter radicalisation work
- Consider the Home Office recommendations and update the existing Prevent action plan in response to the findings
- Work with service managers from Adult Social Care, Housing services, and Children and Families services to deliver bespoke Prevent safeguarding training workshops for staff
- Joint project delivery with Hackney Learning Trust to complete a mapping exercise of out of school settings across the borough and develop a safeguarding offer to support those settings embed robust safeguarding standards
- To incorporate a methodology for tracking which members of staff have trained and which are still to receive Prevent related training
- To consolidate and expand reach, work with City and Hackney Safeguarding Board to offer partnership interventions to community based organisations not normally represented.

## 8. Conclusion

8.1 The UK continues to face a diffuse threat from radicalisation and terrorism. High profile cases, both nationally and internationally, have shown how quickly vulnerable individuals can find themselves on a path to extremism.

8.2 Working with 7 partnership interventions providers in 2018/19 has extended engagement with faith establishments, faith organisations and civil society groups. This work has encourage young and vulnerable people to develop an understanding of critical thinking and build resilience within local communities through greater awareness of the risk of radicalisation.

8.3 The Prevent team is focused on increasing community resistance to extremist narratives by increasing awareness of the causes and signs of radicalisation and the appropriate action to take.

### **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](#)