

Name of Policy: PREVENT
Version 1.0
Date last updated: October 2015

Links to Council Priorities:

Priority	Yes
Public Health & Wellbeing	Yes
Environment	No
Transforming our Community	No
Efficient & Effective Customer Focused Services	No

SMART Action Plan in this document?

Yes

Actions linked to corporate plan objectives?

Yes

Links to Other Strategies and Policies

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities (this includes district and borough councils) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Name of lead officer responsible for producing the action plan:

Melanie Harris – Head of Partnerships, Licensing and Safer Places

Phone: 01268 882369

E-mail: mharris@castlepoint.gov.uk

Castle Point Borough Council

PREVENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



castlepoint

benfleet | canvey | hadleigh | thundersley

1. Introduction

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities (this includes district and borough councils) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. **THIS IS KNOWN AS THE PREVENT DUTY.**

The Castle Point PREVENT Strategy and Action Plan will be refreshed on an annual basis and aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from international and home based terrorism 'so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.' These forms of terrorism include:

- Far Right extremists
- Al-Qaida influenced groups
- Environmental Extremists
- Animal Rights Extremists
- Faith based influenced groups
- Anarchists
- Hate Crimes perpetrated by racists and homophobes

CONTEST the national counter terrorism strategy, consists of the following four strands:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect – to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

PREVENT is a Government strategy led by the Home Office and focuses on working with individuals and communities who may be vulnerable to the threat of violent extremism and terrorism. Supporting vulnerable individuals and reducing the threat from violent extremism in local communities is a priority for statutory authorities and their partners.

The Castle Point PREVENT Strategy and Action Plan sets out what we plan to deliver and how we will govern and monitor the work undertaken over the next twelve months and beyond. The Action Plan also supports the Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnerships priorities. It will be overseen by the Local Strategic Partnership and delivered by the Community Safety Partnership.

2. Local Context

Community Safety

The Castle Point area is one of the safest places in the UK. With an all crime solved rate of 25.88%, Castle Point is 1.8% points better when compared to its performance during the same period last year. There is a dedicated Essex Police Hate Crime Officer based at Rayleigh Police Station.

The current local priorities for the Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership, based on the Strategic Assessment 2014 are:

- Burglary
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Violent Crime including Domestic Abuse
- Preventing Reoffending

These are in addition to the Police & Crime Commissioner's areas of focus within his policing plan - from April 2015 this has been expanded to include a focus on a range of issues that have been labelled 'hidden harms'. This term refers to harms that occur on a daily basis within Essex but are rarely reported to the Police or other statutory agencies, forcing victims to suffer in silence. Examples of these types of harm include rape, modern-day slavery, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and child exploitation. These hidden harms have been included in Community Safety Partnership initiatives as appropriate.

Deprivation

According to the annual health profiles produced by Public Health England, the health of people in Castle Point is varied compared with the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however there are significant pockets of deprivation in some Canvey Island Wards. About 16.8% (2,500) children live in poverty in Castle Point and studies show deprived areas can be fertile breeding grounds for Jihadists, Neo-Nazis and other lost and dispossessed souls.

3. Statistics – Castle Point

- The population of Castle Point is 89,000 and is expected to rise to 98,200 by 2035. (The ONS mid 2013 population estimate).
- The number of residents living in the Borough who are aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 21,700 people to 31,600. (Essex Local Authority Portraits, JSNA 2014).
- Castle Point tops the table for English identity – it is home to an older and predominantly white, working-class population where 8 out of 10 (77.5%) of people here ticked the English box in the census 2011.
- The Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) community amounted to just over 3% of the Borough's population in 2013. The largest BME group in the Borough is Asian which is 1.1%.
- 3.5% of residents in Castle Point are foreign born. Castle Point has seen numerical and proportional increases that are relatively small in terms of migration compared to the area as a whole. However local knowledge suggests that there may be an unmeasured transient population in the Borough.
- At 1.4%, Castle Point has the lowest proportion of housing association stock in Essex. (Essex Local Authority Portraits, JSNA 2014).
- 82.9% of residents own their own homes. (ONS, 2013).
- There are no registered Traveller sites or presently any unauthorised encampments situate in the Borough.

- There are no Mosques in Castle Point however there is a community venue used for prayer.

4. Aims and Objectives

This Strategy and Action Plan sets out the Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership's commitment to working with our diverse local communities to develop, implement and monitor local activities that relate to the objectives of the national Government policy.

The aims of the Castle Point PREVENT Strategy and Action Plan are to:

- Work with schools and institutions to raise awareness of PREVENT
- Through appropriate training develop a capacity of key individuals to understand and deliver the PREVENT agenda
- Monitor community tensions
- Ensure that PREVENT is included in safeguarding considerations

The objectives of the Strategy and Action Plan are to ensure that the core principles of inclusive and cohesive communities are safeguarded within the context of managing any possible threats from violent extremism. The local Action Plan will address the relevant parts of the objectives set in the national policy and Counter Terrorism and Security Act, which are as follows:

- Challenge the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it
- Prevent vulnerable individuals 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 need to be addressed

The purpose of this policy is to identify how staff will be supported to develop an understanding of the PREVENT duty and how they can utilise their existing knowledge and skills to recognise that someone may have been or is being radicalised. The policy builds on existing safeguarding policies and procedures that are already in place.

PREVENT as a whole will address all forms of terrorism but continue to prioritise according to the threat that is posed to our national security.

5. The Role of Castle Point & Rochford Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board

Board level leadership and responsibility for PREVENT rests with the Castle Point & Rochford LSP Executive Board. The Board will receive regular reports on PREVENT related matters including: anonymised information regarding PREVENT related incidents, PREVENT training data and PREVENT related infrastructure changes/challenges.

The Head of Partnerships, Licensing and Safer Places has been identified as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for PREVENT and will work in partnership with safeguarding colleagues across Essex.

6. Partner Engagement and the PREVENT Strategy

During the course of their duties staff may meet people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Therefore, where staff have concerns around the safety of a vulnerable individual there is a framework in place to enable these to be raised, which will also assist in identifying the risk to the vulnerable individual and/or staff and the Council. This in turn will ensure that those who are at risk or have been influenced by violent extremists will receive help and support from those partners best placed to meet the identified need. It is also necessary to make it more difficult for violent extremists to use existing benign environments as a recruiting ground.

These aims can be achieved by employing an appropriate and safe information sharing protocol, as well as building on existing partnerships with other PREVENT partners and relying on the safeguarding processes which are in place.

7. Duties

This PREVENT duty applies to all staff employed by the Council, either directly or indirectly and to any other person or organisation that uses Council premises for any purpose. Preventing someone from becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism is no different from safeguarding vulnerable individuals from other forms of exploitation or harm.

Therefore, this policy sits alongside Castle Point Borough Council's Combined Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults policy.

It should be stressed that there is no expectation that the Council will take on a surveillance or enforcement role as a result of PREVENT. By working effectively with partners, the Council can contribute to the prevention of terrorism by safeguarding and protecting vulnerable individuals and making the PREVENT duty a shared endeavour and common purpose.

8. Policy Process

Evidence suggests that there is neither an obvious profile of a person who is likely to become involved in a terrorist related activity, nor a single indicator of when a person might move to support extremism. It is the case that anyone may be susceptible to radicalisation, but it is recognised that vulnerable individuals are particularly at risk.

Indicators of concern that staff may observe or identify in the behaviour of individuals may include:

- Marauding terrorist fire attack (MTFA)

- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting violent extremist messages or images
- The accessing of violent extremist material online, including social networking sites
- Parental/family and school/college/university reports of changes in behaviour or actions
- Use of extremist or hateful terms to exclude others or incite violence

Vulnerable individuals may be exploited in many ways by radicalisers and this could be through direct face to face contact, or indirectly through the internet, social networking or other media. Access to extremist material is often through leaflets and local contacts; however the internet plays an important role in the communication of extremist views. It provides a platform for extremists to promote their cause and encourage debate through websites, internet forums and social media. It is a swift and effective mechanism for disseminating harmful propaganda material and is not always possible to regulate.

9. Delivering the PREVENT Duty

Radicalisation is a process not an event, and there is no single route or pathway to radicalisation. Evidence indicates that those targeted by radicalisers may have doubts about what they are doing. It is because of this doubt that frontline staff need to have mechanisms and interventions in place to support an individual being exploited and to help them move away from terrorist activity.

As a Council we have an obligation to ensure safe environments where extremists are unable to operate. It is therefore essential that all staff know how they can support vulnerable individuals who they feel may be at risk of becoming a terrorist or supporting extremism. PREVENT is an on-going initiative and designed to become part of the everyday safeguarding routine for staff.

Working closely with schools and institutions is a key feature in the delivery of PREVENT. The multi-agency group will work closely with the Essex Police Prevent Engagement Officer in the delivery of awareness training at relevant or identified educational establishments.

It is essential that frontline and direct care staff have an understanding of PREVENT and can quickly respond to vulnerable individuals who may be at risk of being radicalised. A brief overview of the national policy has been added to the Combined Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults policy which applies to all staff. Detailed accredited sessions to raise awareness of PREVENT, known as WRAP training, (workshops to raise awareness of prevent) will be provided to appropriate staff. Those who specifically require it are frontline staff (housing services, environmental health, benefits and customer service), CCTV staff and Community Safety accredited staff.

10. Reporting concerns

Any concerns coming from residents can be directed to the national anti-terrorist reporting line on **0800 789 321**. Alternatively callers can ring Essex Police on **0300 333 4444** and ask to speak to a Special Branch Officer for the local area or the Safeguarding reporting line on

0845 6037627. It is important to report possible concerns no matter how insignificant they may appear. There is no 'typical' person who could be immediately identified as a possible suspect planning a terrorist attack or trying to radicalise others. Suspicious or terrorist activity could include any of the following:

- People in stationary vehicles watching a building or structure, for no apparent reason
- Vehicles moving slower near public buildings, structures or bridges, or parked in suspicious circumstances
- People using recording equipment, including camera phones, or seen making notes or sketches of security details for no apparent reason
- Someone paying close attention to specific entry and exit points; stairwells, hallways, fire escapes for no apparent reason
- People loitering at or near premises for long periods, watching patrons, for no apparent reason
- People asking detailed or unusual questions about buildings and business operations, facilities (such as room layouts), security or parking for no apparent reason
- Members of the public in offices and 'off limits' areas, plant rooms and similar locations

A number of terrorist plots over the last decade have been thwarted due to the vigilance of casual observers reporting suspicious activity to the police or members of the security forces. Recent instances of 'Lone Wolf' attacks reinforce the need for vigilance from the public as intelligence agencies are not always aware of these potential attackers before they act.

If you suspect it, report it – call **0800 789 321 (if urgent call 999)**

In the event that a member of staff has concerns that someone may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, has begun to express radical extremist views or may be vulnerable to grooming or exploitation by others, they should contact the Council's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for PREVENT who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer who will respond. All concerns should be escalated, clearly identifying the precise nature of the concerns. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer determines that a referral needs to be made it will be done in accordance with the inter-agency safeguarding procedures and appropriate support for staff and the vulnerable individual will be identified.

Where an employee expresses views, distributes material, uses or directs others to extremist websites or promotes terrorism, the Council will invoke staff conduct procedures in order to address the concerns. If a staff member has a concern about a colleague it should be raised with their line manager who will then discuss the concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer before any disciplinary action is taken.

11. Useful documents

- The Government's national counter-terrorism strategy Contest (refreshed 2011) can be downloaded from <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest>.
- The Home Office's national Prevent Strategy (2011) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011>.
- Castle Point Borough Council's Combined Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is available at <http://intranet/main.cfm?type=rbmsafech>
- The Public Health England Health Profiles for Castle Point (2006-2014) are available here: <http://www.apho.org.uk>
- A dedicated website to report online content that may be illegal is available at <https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency/reporting-suspected-terrorism>.

Appendix – Definitions

Vulnerable Adult	A person over the age of 18 years who or may be in need of community care services (including health care) by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation (No Secrets 2000).
Safeguarding Children	The definition of a child is “anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday” (Children’s Act 1989 & 2004). ‘Safeguarding’ alludes to the protection of their welfare.
Terrorism	This is defined in the Terrorism Act 2000(TACT 2000) as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of political, religious or ideological gain.
Radicalisation	This refers to the process by which people come to support terrorism due to either the influence of others or a particular ideological theory.
Extremism	Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental values including democracy, the rules of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance or different beliefs and faiths.
A Prevent Concern	A Prevent concern is an allegation of potential radicalisation or indoctrination of a vulnerable individual that does not have to be proven beyond reasonable doubt; however it should be based on something that raises concern and is then assessed using existing professional judgement from health or social care staff.
Vulnerability and Prevent	A vulnerable person is particularly susceptible to being influenced by an extremist’s message and can be at risk of being drawn in to terrorism or supporting terrorism at a point in time.
Channel Panel	Channel is a Multi-Agency Process which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel uses existing collaboration between partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism.

Castle Point Prevent Action Plan 2015/16

	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE
1	Review Constitution/Councillor Code of Conduct to incorporate all elements of PREVENT Duty	Monitoring Officer to review Constitution/Councillor Code of Conduct to ensure that it contains relevant information in relation to PREVENT	Guard against extremist or abhorrent behaviour and beliefs becoming normal as part of standards in public life	31 st May 2016
2	Work with partner organisations to raise awareness of PREVENT	Promote PREVENT awareness & Signpost LSP member organisations to WRAP training and PREVENT awareness materials	Greater awareness across the communities	Ongoing
		Facilitate awareness workshops and training for LSP member organisations and community groups	Greater awareness in areas of identified need	Community training session by April 2016
		To positively deal with any PREVENT referrals from statutory and non-statutory agencies	Effective case management of referrals	Ongoing
3	Through appropriate training, develop a capacity of key individuals to understand and deliver the PREVENT Strategy (staff)	Two CPBC staff to gain WRAP “train the trainer” accreditation	Effective training can be cascaded through the organisation	Two staff members trained by Sept 2015 - Completed
		Provide WRAP training and appropriate refresher training to identified key staff & councillors	Training and awareness will be facilitated for frontline staff & appropriate cllrs	1 st April 2016
		Attendance of relevant training provided by outside sources	Greater awareness of and more effective ability to deliver the PREVENT agenda and maintaining a high level of	Completed

	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE
			knowledge	
4	Monitor community tensions	SPOC to continue receiving weekly email of Community Cohesion data from Essex Police as part of Operation Element	The organisation can be well prepared and have a structure in place to avoid escalation in community tensions	Ongoing
		Review the annual counter-terrorism local profile with Essex Police	Counter-terrorism profile signed off by Essex Police on an annual basis	Next review October 2016
		Through the Community Development Partnership (CDP) maintain positive relations with faith communities and monitor any issues.	Improved perception of community cohesion amongst all parts of the community.	Monitor outcomes of CDP at each quarterly LSP Executive
		Contribute to the Southend Independent Advisory Group (IAG) when appropriate for our areas.	IAG continues to meet quarterly and contributions from Castle Point agencies made when appropriate Increased community cohesion	As requested
5	Integrate PREVENT into Safeguarding practices	SPOC for PREVENT to work closely with Safeguarding colleagues through the Channel Panel	PREVENT to remain an on-going initiative designed to become part of the everyday safeguarding routine for staff and referral to Channel Panel in any identifiable cases	Ongoing

	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE
		PREVENT to be referenced in the Combined Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults accessible for all staff	Procedures in place to help prevent vulnerable people from becoming drawn into terrorism Better process for appropriate information sharing	Policy reviewed and updated December 2015
6	Staff policies and procedures	HR Manager to assess and adapt all policies and procedures to incorporate PREVENT objectives	Take action against any exponent of extremism	1 st January 2016
7	Licensing Policy to be amended as appropriate to have regard to PREVENT Duty	Head of Licensing to re-evaluate the Council's Licensing Policy to ensure that the Licensing Principles support PREVENT	To stop licensed premises becoming hot beds for extremist groups and to encourage licensed taxi and private hire vehicle drivers to report suspicious behaviour and activities	1 st April 2016
8	The Risk Register in the Borough's Emergency Plan to recognise the specific risk which exists from terrorist attack	Terrorist attack may be co-ordinated or come from a Lone Wolf and presents a clear and present danger to the community	The Emergency Plan should be assessed for soundness in the event of a terrorist attack	1 st April 2016