

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Prevent Delivery Action Plan 2017 - 18

Introduction

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan aims to make the borough a better place for everyone who lives and works here. The borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths with the richness, vibrancy and energy that our communities bring. At the heart of the Community Plan is a commitment to build One Tower Hamlets, to tackle inequality, strengthen cohesion and build community leadership and personal responsibility. These objectives are reflected in all our key strategic activities.

In committing ourselves to building One Tower Hamlets, the Tower Hamlets Partnership has made a public commitment to treating people with fairness and respect, regardless of their differences, and to live safely within the borough. From our local research we have found that people get on well together and feel it is a borough where they feel safe to live and work. Violence and extremism are the exception rather than the norm within Tower Hamlets. Though we have experienced examples within the borough, including the 1996 Docklands bombing by the IRA, 1999 nail bombing in Brick Lane by the far right extremist David Copeland, repeated attempts by the English Defence League to demonstrate in the borough and Britain First extremists causing disruption and a climate of fear.

[REDACTED]. Although there are many different terrorist groups across the world, the greatest risk to national security now comes from Daesh and UK citizens and residents inspired by their heinous ideology.

strong local leadership and active community participation is required to address the threat of people becoming radicalised and the risk of local people supporting terrorism. Currently we are focused on providing understanding and support to individuals as part of a comprehensive safeguarding structure, and linkages with other vulnerabilities, particularly mental health. The most significant threat is individuals returning from Syria and Iraq having either been part of, or witnessed the fighting and atrocities out there. We recognise that these issues cannot be managed without good partnership working, clear strategic thinking, and buy-in from our local community.

In July 2015 the Government introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) legislation focused on countering terrorism and matters of national security. Within this legislation, specific attention is given to the risk of being drawn into terrorism (part 5) and it includes statutory duties for many public bodies (including schools and registered childcare providers) to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. (Section 26, ‘The Prevent Duty’.) The Tower Hamlets Prevent strategizing and planning must also take into account the forthcoming national counter extremism strategy, produced by the Home Office, and legislation regarding extremism to be announced in the Queen’s speech (both expected later in the year).

Local strategic Prevent objectives

The objectives are to:

1. Target social, peer and educational support and advice to individuals identified as at risk of involvement in extremist activity and violence
2. Strengthen community leadership to enable key individuals and organisations to challenge extremist ideology
3. Strengthen positive social networks and institutions to increase their capacity to challenge extremism and violence and disrupt networks and organisations which are sympathetic to extremism and terrorism
4. Ensure robust evaluation is built into the delivery of the Prevent programme and activities to ensure effective monitoring of impact and increased capacity of local organisations to deliver Prevent objectives
5. Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates in order to increase Prevent awareness and enhance referrals for those who are vulnerable to extremism

Local context

The profile of our population - the size of the borough's Muslim community, the high proportion of young people in our population and significant levels of deprivation – has put us at the forefront of developing a local response to this agenda. This needs to be put alongside our reputation for leading on cohesion and the wider diversity and equality agenda. The results of our Annual Resident Survey demonstrate strong community cohesion in the borough. In the 2015/16 annual resident survey 81% of residents stated that the 'local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together'.

The Muslim community in Tower Hamlets is not marginal or hard to reach – not least through the nature of our elected members. This is in contrast to the national situation and that in the majority of other local authorities. Clearly there are both big challenges and opportunities for us in engaging with this work.

This is illustrated when we consider how to recognise the threat of radicalisation and work together with members of all our communities to build resilience to extremist messages. Understanding the drivers of violent extremism is a notoriously difficult science, however early findings identify the following potential 'risk' factors:

- Low level criminality and gang mentality

- Predominantly young (often single) men are the majority of those affected by violent extremism. Adolescence is often a time when young people explore issues of faith, heritage and identity. It is also a point at which individuals may become vulnerable to extremist ideas that may help provide a spurious sense of purpose.
- Structural inequalities and deprivation are not often a direct cause but most of those who have been linked to violent extremist activity are not from privileged backgrounds. Underemployment, especially where employment is not commensurate with actual or perceived skills, education or ability and where this is not through choice or design, it can lead to frustration and a sense of grievance.
- Grievance narrative or feeling of disenfranchisement. An oft-cited grievance narrative in the UK in recent years has related to the UK's foreign policy, in particular the war in Iraq in 2006.

Local extremism threat:

Our most significantly publicised incident, making both national and international news was that of three female pupils from the Bethnal Green Academy that travelled to Syria in 2015. Lessons learned from this incident shaped our local delivery, through engaging more cogently with young females and helping parents up-skill in online safety and better understand the threats of radicalisation through online grooming style targeting.

We have also seen that the wider community has proactively challenged both local and foreign extremists and a number of local religious leaders have made effective use of social media to communicate these messages. Despite the widespread condemnation of extremism, groups that seek to radicalise are active in the borough. Although this group constitutes a tiny minority, it is important that they are prevented from increasing their membership and do not act as a starting point for radicalisation and influencing individuals onto further extremist groups, self-radicalisation, and subsequently committing a terrorist offence. It must also be noted that there is a significant 'anti-Prevent lobby' in the borough, with the most well known organisations operating out of and living in the borough.

In Tower Hamlets we recognise the national risk of terrorism as well as other forms of extremism. We have also seen evidence of different extremist groups developing which feed off each other's prejudice and hatred. Britain First, a far-right political activist organisation has attempted to gain support across the borough through running a number of high profile anti-Muslim activities. These have included a number of unexpected visits to East London Mosque, with the intention of causing disruption within the community, and gaining publicity, particularly through social media which the group uses to distribute much of their messaging. This has culminated in a number of these visits between March and April 2016 creating real counter protests and clashes within the

community and leading to arrests. This follows a formerly more visible threat of the English Defence League (EDL) throughout the borough, having intended to organise marches and protests between 2010 and 2013.

Projects

Local Strategic Objective	Description	Outcomes	Outputs	Timescale	Lead agency / service
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions.	Building community resilience	Build resilience throughout community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports sessions Specialised workshops covering safeguarding issues (minimum 20 sessions) Targeted interventions 	March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]
Objective 2 - Strengthen community leadership.	Upstanding Neighbourhoods	Create a network of community activists to build a local narrative to challenge extremist ideologies. Support organisations and individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run training for activists and organisations Run local campaigns Train young leaders Create safe space discussions 	March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]
Objective 3- Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	[REDACTED]	Build understanding and resistance to extremism from within the family unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run 6 workshops and 10 native language sessions Create Parent champions 	March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	[REDACTED]	Build critical thinking skills and resist extremist messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies held at schools Smaller class sessions Create safe space discussions to understand stereotyping 	March 2018	Community Safety
Objective 2 – Strengthen community	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 events Weekly sessions at specific institutions 	March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]

leadership					
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions		Improve engagement and foster links with female community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face engagement sessions • Large scale end event 	March 2018 TBC	

Statutory duties

Strategic Objective	Description	Outcomes	Outputs	Timescale	Lead agency / service
Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	Prevent Education Officer to continue curriculum development work with primary and secondary schools across the borough.	Educational institutions across the borough feel confident in undertaking responsibilities related to Prevent duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal provision of support • Develop and enhance curriculum materials for schools • Train safeguarding leads to be Home Office certified WRAP facilitators 	March 2018	Children's / Community Safety
Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	Training and guidance for educational establishments	Educational institutions across the borough feel confident in undertaking responsibilities related to Prevent duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools signposted to 'Educate against Hate' website • Training sessions run in colleges and other educational institutions 	March 2018	Children's/ Community Safety
	Workshops (schools) Delivered to TH parents	Parents and carers have a better understanding of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental Engagement Team deliver 	March 2018	Children's

Objective 2 – Strengthen community leadership	& carers	safeguarding risks	workshops to parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber safety and understanding online risks training sessions 		
Objective 2 – Strengthen community leadership	Cross-borough and other support working with external partners	TH continues to lead in work across Prevent. External partnerships are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBTH lead with Luton, Redbridge on specialised psychologist database • Help promote cross-border working through establishing informal working groups • Continue to commit to Prevent network and other working groups 	January 2018	Community Safety
Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	Identify and assess any vulnerable individuals and if appropriate take steps to safeguard them.	Vulnerable individuals are supported. Those making referrals feel confident and comfortable to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clarity and ease of referral process • Give training and support to those staff with statutory duties • Ensure effective gatekeeping and information sharing procedures backed by policies 	March 2018	Community Safety
Objective 1 - Target social, peer and educational support	Work to mitigate the problem of unregistered 'schools'	The safeguarding aspects of unregistered education providers are better managed. Parents are more aware of the dangers. LBTH has a comprehensive picture of establishments in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of unregistered providers is kept and updated at LBTH • THEOs and other frontline staff trained to recognise unregistered providers • Senior staff to continue lobbying DfE for better legislation in regards to unregistered provision. 	December 2017	Children's / Community Safety

Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	The Parental Engagement Team (PET) develops and embeds Prevent materials and resources	Parents and carers have a better appreciation of risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PET deliver workshops and training to parents and carers • PET to work with other teams to promote broad safeguarding programme • Parent champions and large events used to promote safeguarding • Help create digital champions and embed understanding of staying safe online 	March 2018	Children's
Objective 1 - Target social, peer and educational support	The multi-agency panels (SIP/SAP) assess vulnerable individuals and determine support if necessary	Those vulnerable to radicalisation are referred and dealt with as per Prevent Duty (2015).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel programme is undertaken across the borough. Those referred are discussed and given support if required • Review of SIP/SAP to evaluate impact and coherence 	March 2018	Community Safety / Police
Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	Training and Guidance for specialised services – particularly CSC	Specialised services receive specific support and training programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSC PVE team gains specific training and support • Youth Services gain specialised programme including curriculum support 	March 2018	CSC / Community Safety
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Close 'dawah' stalls or far-right stalls organised by extremist groups	Extremist messaging is not projected throughout the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THEOs are given relevant intelligence to spot known offenders 	March 2018	Community Safety / Police

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and guidance for local communities to empower removal of stalls • Intelligence is acted upon quickly and appropriately • Local project partners help create a community response to stalls or speakers sprouting up suddenly. 		
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Disrupt unregistered street funding collection by extremists.	Illegal charities or those linked to extremists do not take money from people in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster links with the Charities Commission to ensure dialogue about which charities are illegal. • Inform THEOs of intelligence gained about specific charities 	March 2018	Community Safety / Police
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Disrupting activities of proscribed organisations through various byelaw and criminal law enforcement.	Proscribed organisations do not operate in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence is shared effectively between partners • Threat perspective is kept up to date • Information is acted upon in a timely fashion 	March 2018	Community Safety / Police
Objective 5 - Mainstream Prevent across all Directorates	Provide Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and bespoke training	A suite of training is developed and delivered to relevant individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop relevant safeguarding input alongside VAWG and Hate Crime teams • Deliver WRAP training to college and HEIs • Deliver specialised briefing or training for 	March 2018	Community Safety

			elected Members		
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Promote Safer Giving locally.	Local people are aware of dangers of supporting unlawful charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer giving is promoted at events and other promotional activities. Hajj of particular importance. 	September 2017	Police / Community Safety
Objective 2 – Strengthen community leadership	Promote 'No Place for Hate' campaign to community venues across the borough.	Local community and organisations sign up to 'No Place for Hate'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend events alongside Hate Crime team • Where venues are using speaker of concern inform them of NPfH and get sign-up. 	February 2018	Community Safety
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Disrupt extremist organisation or speakers planning to hold events in local venues. Inform premises management of the risk involved and concerns.	Extremist speakers or events are not hosted in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure relationships with key venues are established and fostered • Keep list of banned or extremist speakers up to date • Get venues to sign up to NPfH organisational pledge 	March 2018	Community Safety / Police
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Help manage Tower Hamlets Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) during school summer vacation	Young people across the borough are kept active and involved during the summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Youth Services plan appropriate activities • Promote inclusion within our younger communities 	September 2017	Youth Services / Community Safety
Objective 3 - Strengthen positive social networks and institutions	Build work around Casey review and any other future reviews (such as CONTEST review when released)	Strategic thinking reflects reviews recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Cohesion, Engagement and Commissioning to ensure consistency in actions related to Casey review • Develop specific community-led work 	January 2018	Community Safety

Objective 1 - Target social, peer and educational support	Develop specific research and project to better understand and tackle radicalisation in prisons	Offenders are supported more effectively and risks to radicalisation better managed within prisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct scoping exercise in order to gain comprehensive understanding of radicalisation risks in prisons • Work with partners to develop targeted programmes and enhance resilience with inmates 	March 2018	Community Safety/NOMS
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Structure / staffing

Strategic objective	Description	Outcomes	Outputs	Timescale	Lead agency / service
	Recruit full-time permanent Prevent Coordinator (senior manager)	Effective management of Prevent strategically and day-to-day operationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive recruitment process (completed) • Prevent Coordinator starts in post (due June 5th) 	June 2017	Community Safety / Home Office
	Recruit full-time Youth Services Officer	Improved safeguarding throughout youth curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant agreement signed and JD/ Person Specification determined • Competitive recruitment process • Individual starts in post 	August 2017	Community Safety / Youth Services
	Recruit full-time Administration Officer	Enhanced organisation and knowledge of referrals and local threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant agreement signed and JD/ Person Specification determined • Competitive recruitment process • Individual starts in post 	August 2017	Community Safety / Home Office

