

## **PREVENT POLICING**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the issues around and implementation of Prevent policing. The report outlines the strategy, success criteria and the expected role of police authorities. It also highlights the work being undertaken nationally to raise the profile of Prevent with partner organisations.
2. The Force will be providing, at the meeting, an update on the work being developed locally around Prevent from a force-perspective. In particular, the Force update will cover the work being undertaken by Supt Phil Walker from the Community Safety Unit.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Earlier this year, the Home Office clarified the vision for Prevent policing and determined how the police service, its partners and associated partnerships could most effectively contribute to the Government's Prevent Strategy.
4. In April 2008, 'The Police Prevent Strategy and Delivery Plan' was launched by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and complemented by 'The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England', which the Government published in June 2008. This set out how police and local authorities, working with the full range of partners, could help drive Prevent at the local level through establishment of effective partnership working and delivery of a joint programme of action.
5. The Association of Police Authorities (APA) strategy will be available in September 2008, setting out how police authorities will be expected to oversee and monitor local implementation of the national strategy.
6. These strategic documents will be supplemented by ACPO TAM's (Terrorism and Allied Matters) Implementation Plan and Guidance. This will be available in September 2008 and provide practical information for regional Counter Terrorism (CT) hubs, forces and BCUs (Basic Command Units) to support delivery of Prevent. This will be available in September 2008.

### **NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

7. Funding from the Home Office has been allocated to 24 forces this year. Additional posts are being funded in the regions.
8. Progress has also been made in the following:

- Ensuring that preventing violent extremism is core-policing business, including at neighbourhood level, and that information and intelligence is shared collaboratively with other key partners;
- Supporting and driving multi-agency delivery, e.g. delivering effective links with educational establishments by investing in Safer Schools Partnerships and building on existing links between NPTs (Neighbourhood Policing Teams) and University campuses; and
- Supporting vulnerable individuals through multi-agency interventions.

### **POLICE PREVENT SUCCESS CRITERIA FOR 2008/09**

9. Following publication of the national strategy and delivery plan, the Home Office set out success criteria for Prevent policing for 2008/09. This is reproduced in Appendix 1 for the information of Members. The success criteria are intended to provide a useful tool for forces and police authorities to monitor local progress in implementing the national strategy and delivery plan.
10. Police activity in support of these objectives goes to the core of what the police do in their role in respect of (i) the use of intelligence, (ii) CT activities and operations, (iii) being a pivotal player in partnerships and link-point with institutions, and (iv) utilising their vast experience in dealing with vulnerable individuals and reassuring communities.
11. The criteria provide a clear focus to the new Prevent police posts (mentioned earlier) and the important roles they will have to play in community engagement and intelligence. Additionally, the Home Office is looking to regional CT hubs to reassess what they need to do to support Prevent.

### **ROLE OF POLICE AUTHORITIES**

12. Police authorities have statutory functions in support of Prevent, such as securing the co-operation of communities, and ensuring that communities are consulted on crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their policing area. Humberside Police Authority will need to have arrangements in place to ensure Humberside Police, together with our local partners, are implementing the national strategy.
13. To enable the Police Authority to undertake this work, the APA (Association of Police Authorities) will be employing a new APA Prevent National Manager. This person will provide support, guidance and advice to police authorities in overseeing the delivery of Prevent locally. It is intended that this post will be in place in September/October 2008.
14. Humberside Police Authority will need to develop suitable arrangements locally and discussions have recently commenced with the Consultation & Partnership Manager. In addition, the Force is developing a Prevent Board, and it is envisaged that there will be Police Authority representation on this Board. Further details on this will be discussed at the meeting of this committee.

### **POLICE ROLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS**

15. The Home Office recognises that other key partners need to support delivery of Prevent as it is not a job for the police service alone.

16. Local authorities have a central leadership role alongside the police service and at the core is the relationship between local authority chief executives and BCU Commanders. There is also much work being undertaken nationally by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). For example, DCSF is developing a toolkit to help schools understand the risks and give practical advice on how to support pupils. In addition, Children's Services will commence work with local partners to tailor the toolkit and hold a series of briefing meetings with schools.
17. The Police Authority will need to consider their role in working with partners at a local level and how best this can be achieved. It is hoped that the APA guidance will provide some clarity in this area when it is published.

## **PERFORMANCE**

18. All forces are due to be inspected by HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) over the coming months. This is in order to assess local implementation of the national strategy and delivery plan, as well as assessing how forces are developing capabilities compared to peers as identified by ACPO's criteria for the distribution of additional resources. The inspections will not lead to the production of individual force grades, but will help to identify areas of strength and vulnerability.
19. In addition, Prevent is recognised by the Home Office as a relatively new area of CT policing and it is important for the service to learn about what works well and what can be done better. ACPO TAM's Implementation Plan and Guidance will be available in September 2008, setting out the activity which will enable forces to meet the success criteria for Prevent.
20. The Police Authority will need to ensure it is aware of the requirements of the HMIC inspection, the strengths/vulnerabilities and any implementation requirements identified as a consequence of the inspection.
21. In addition to the above, the Home Office has agreed a number of Key Diagnostic Indicators (KDIs) in respect of the 'rich picture'. At the next meeting of this committee on 18 November 2008, details of the measures and the process for providing the information will be discussed. The measures predominantly cover Prevent issues.

## **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

22. The National Prevent Steering Group will soon be issuing the first series of restricted level reports to local police and local government, initially intended to serve as introductions to key Prevent-related themes for local practitioners. More detailed and specific reporting will follow thereafter. The Home Office OSCT (Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism) website will, from autumn 2008, provide regular information for key organisations.
23. The Home Office is also developing other products to raise awareness, including an unclassified DVD to help explain Prevent to partners and clarify their role.

24. In addition, HMIC and the Audit Commission have undertaken a Learning & Development Exercise with 15 BCUs and 14 Local Authorities to identify what works, what doesn't and what looks promising in respect of local partnership working. This report will be published at the end of September 2008.

### **VISION FOR 2009/10 AND BEYOND**

25. The Police Prevent Programme is establishing mechanisms to capture good practice and evidence where initiatives are making a positive impact. ACPO TAM will review progress in support of the Prevent Strategy and target future CSR funding in 2009/10 and 2010/11 to areas of greatest need and for initiatives that offer greatest support to the Prevent strategic priorities.
26. The vision for Prevent policing is also complementary to that set out in the recent Green Paper, which reinforced the role of Prevent in meeting the challenges of terrorism.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

27. The financial implications of any changes in working practices required as a consequence of implementing Prevent will be monitored on an ongoing basis. There are also future CSR funding implications. In addition, Members will need to consider any regional funding implications.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

28. None identified at present.

### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

29. None identified at present, although Members will need to be mindful of the impact of any work around Prevent to our local communities.

### **CHILDRENS ACT 2004**

30. None identified at present.

### **CONCLUSION**

31. This report identifies that Prevent is a relatively new area of CT policing and that it is important for the service to learn about what works well and how we can do better. The Police Authority, with assistance from the APA, will need to develop suitable arrangements for overseeing delivery of Prevent at a local level.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

32. It is recommended that Members:
- (i) Discuss the issues raised in the report and in particular the expected role of police authorities and how this can be achieved locally;
  - (ii) Receive details of the outcome from the HMIC inspection of Prevent when the report becomes available;

- (iii) Receive details of the APA Prevent Strategy and the new APA Prevent National Manager at the next meeting of this committee; and
- (iv) Receive an update at the next meeting of this committee on progress with Prevent both locally and nationally as appropriate.

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**Background Papers:** Letter from Home Office dated 5 August 2008, entitled 'Prevent Policing – Update on Progress and Next Steps, Including Success Criteria for 08/09'

**SUCCESS CRITERIA FOR PREVENT POLICING 2008/09**

1. Forces, including at the local policing level, will have a Rich Picture understanding of their communities and use effective processes for gathering and sharing information with partners.
2. Forces will have an understanding of risk levels of violent extremism within their areas.
3. Neighbourhood policing teams will be trained, briefed and tasked to produce 'neighbourhood profiles', guided by the minimum standards produced by ACPO, and support 'Prevent' in engagement work with the community.
4. Police are engaged in a clearly tasked strategic partnership with local authorities and other partners to deliver an effective programme of action, that:
  - meets the specific objectives of the Prevent strategy;
  - is jointly agreed and managed by police, local authorities and other partners;
  - is proportionate to the level of the threat in their area;
  - reflects local needs; and
  - sets out clear and tangible milestones for tracking progress.
5. Where proportionate, these programmes of action will have joint interventions with partners to:
  - identify and provide support to vulnerable individuals;
  - disrupt those who promote violent extremism;
  - work with institutions where radicalisers may be active; and
  - support sections of communities to resist the challenge from radicalisers.
6. There will be evidence of effective collaboration between police forces and regional CT hubs and Government Offices in the use of intelligence to inform different Prevent strategies and interventions.
7. Forces will have appointed a Prevent Strategic Lead (likely to be ACPO rank) who oversees effective governance arrangements to deliver and embed prevent activity within a force's core policing business.
8. Forces and regional hubs will have mechanisms to review and improve their performance against 'Prevent' APACS (Assessments of Policing and Community Safety) indicators – KDIs, NI35 (National Indicator 35 is around building resilience to violent extremism), rich picture, disruptions, CT taskings.
9. Forces in receipt of CSR funding will have established Prevent Police posts in place performing the complementary community engagement and intelligence roles. In the case of forces within which CTUs/CTC are located, this will include regional co-ordination posts.