

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE

meeting date: THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024
title: REFERENCE FROM POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE - PREVENT DUTY
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To receive information and updates relating to the Prevent Duty.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Community Objectives – To ensure that Ribble Valley remains a safe place to live.
 - Corporate Priorities – To make people's lives safer and healthier and to ensure a well-managed council providing efficient services based on the identified customer needs.
 - Other Considerations – To work collaboratively with partners to ensure we safeguard our most vulnerable residents.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". To demonstrate compliance with the duty, specified authorities must demonstrate productive cooperation, in particular with local Prevent coordinators and other agencies, through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.

3 INFORMATION

- 3.1 Lancashire County Council produce a risk assessment and Prevent strategy including Counter Terrorism Local Profiles. This is informed by situational analysis reports completed annually by district leads. Prevent work is coordinated centrally for Lancashire by colleagues based within Blackburn with Darwen Council Community Safety Team. All referrals for counter terrorism prevention activities are overseen and recorded by the Channel Panel coordinated by the central team. Each district has designated trainers.
- 3.2 Each district is required to produce an annual district plan informed by the local priorities. RVBC Prevent District Plan 2024/25 can be found in appendix 1.
- 3.3 The Lancashire Prevent Partnership provides a toolkit for authorities to ensure they meet the minimum standards of the Prevent Duty. The outcomes of a recent benchmarking activity can be seen below highlighting the current position of the council:

- Quarterly multi-agency group oversees the Prevent delivery – **Exceeded:** due to the involvement of senior officers and partner agencies in the delivery of the Prevent duty for the Ribble Valley.
- Local risk assessment process - **Met:** local situational analysis is compiled in partnership with local agencies and informs the Lancashire Risk Assessment. Local risk assessment to be produced outlining the corporate risks of not meeting the duty.
- Partnership Plan – **Not Met:** The annual district plan, including the role of partner agencies will be included in the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan to meet this benchmarking criteria.
- Referral pathway- **Met:** A clear process is in place for the council to respond to Channel requests and provide the relevant information to allow vulnerable individuals to be referred for support and intervention. Lower-level intervention is undertaken with youth people identified via the youth referral panel.
- Training programme- **Met:** appropriate training has been identified and there is a clear plan to deliver this over the coming year. Training has also been offered to partners who may not access this via their own organisation. Training is an online offer that is free to all agencies linked to the Community Safety Partnership.
- Reduced permissive environments- **Met:** Prevent related issues are discussed regularly at the Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Referral Panel to identify and mitigate any risks and provide prevention education. The public sector venue hire and IT policy is in place to monitor use buildings and IT systems.
- Communications and engagement- **Met:** the council has a dedicated webpage to provide information relating to counter terrorism and training that can be accessed by anyone. [Counter Terrorism – Ribble Valley Borough Council](#) The council reposts all social media communications from emergency services including those relating to counter terrorism. The Partnership Officer regularly visits community activities to listen to concerns raised by the public relating to community safety. These concerns are reported to the Community Safety Partnership and discussed at local priorities meeting.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Any staff time spent in respect of coordinating the council's response to actions and sourcing external funding will be met from existing staff budgets and will largely fall to the Partnership Officer post. There are no financial implications relating to the provision of training.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The district plan is prepared under the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Security Act 2015. There are no technical or environmental implications. Any necessary information sharing will be governed by formal agreements between statutory organisations and will require consideration and signing by the Council.

- Political – None
- Reputation – By agreeing to the district plan the council upholds its responsibility to ensure that the Ribble Valley is a safe place to live maintaining its reputation as a well-run council meeting resident’s need.
- Equality & Diversity – Provides equal access to support and guidance to all those referred and improves access for the most vulnerable including those with disabilities and adverse childhood experiences.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE / CONCLUSION

5.1 Agree the revised Prevent District Plan, 2024/25 (appendix 1) as first presented and agreed by committee Tuesday 27 October 2015.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Sarah Wells, extension 4506.