**Briefing Paper to Conwy & Denbighshire Local Delivery Group of LSCB**

This is brief summary to the Local Authority responsibility under the new Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The Prevent strategy published by the Government in 2011 is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

* respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and 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; and
* work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Whilst the Channel provisions in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the CT&S Act are counter-terrorism measures (since their ultimate objective is to prevent terrorism), the way in which Channel will be delivered may often overlap with the implementation of the wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from ourselves as SS.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

* identifying individuals at risk
* assessing the nature and extent of that risk
* developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receives support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become.

It is clearly defined that it the Local Authority duty to chair the Channel meeting and in particular would be responsible for the following:

* having oversight of all Channel cases in our area
* ensuring that the appropriate representatives are invited to each meeting as panel members
* establishing effective relationships across statutory agencies to ensure effective cooperation over information sharing and attendance at panel meetings
* establishing the appropriate support plan for identified individuals by using the expertise of the panel
* ensuring that risks of persons being drawn into terrorism are identified and are referred to the appropriate agencies for action
* ensuring an effective support plan is put in place, and that consent is sought from the individual before that plan is put in place
* ensuring individuals and/or organisations on the panel carry out their elements of the support plan so that an effective support package is delivered.

Chairs (David Lewis & myself (Conwy) and Karen Waring (Denbighshire) would liaise closely to the Prevent Engagement Officers from NWP on every referral discussed at panel so that we can assess all aspects of the case with rigour and agree the most effective support plan. NWP would be responsible in completing the Vulnerability Assessment Framework which is built around three criteria:

* Engagement with a group, cause or ideology;
* Intent to cause harm; and
* Capability to cause harm.

The criteria are considered separately and was advised that it is possible to be engaged without intending to cause harm and that it is possible to intend to cause harm without being particularly engaged. Also advised that it is possible to desist (stop intending to cause harm) without fully disengaging (remaining sympathetic to the cause); though losing sympathy with the cause (disengaging) will invariably result in desistance (loss of intent).

The three criteria are assessed by considering 22 factors that can contribute to vulnerability (13 associated with engagement, six that relate to intent and three for capability).

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