

Report of: Chief Officer Communities

Report to: Director of Communities and Environment Directorate

Date: 1st April 2018

Subject: Approval of proposed Prevent Projects 2018-19

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity or cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If 'yes', access to information procedure rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. CONTEST is the Governments strategy to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is organised around four workstreams: PURSUE, PREVENT, PROTECT, and PREPARE. The council has a statutory obligation to deliver against the Prevent strand of the strategy and is supported by the Home Office (HO) to deliver activity that will safeguard vulnerable individuals from becoming terrorists and supporting terrorism.
2. The Home Office provides the council with grant funding to deliver a range of community based projects in relation to the delivery of the national Prevent strategy which demonstrates compliance with the Council's statutory obligations, which include building the resilience of communities against terrorism and extremism and to increase the awareness of the risk of radicalisation.
3. The Council has been delivering Prevent projects across the city for a number of years with great success and there is a Home Office requirement to continue with such delivery during the course of 2018-19.

4. A proposed programme of activity and projects, as set out in appendix 1, has been submitted to the Home Office who have indicated their agreement to funding the proposals following a process of due diligence and moderation. Local approval is being sought prior to the issue of funding agreements.

Recommendations

1. The proposed projects, as set out in appendix 1, are approved to be forwarded to the Home Office for their ratification.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the delivery of a range of community based projects in relation to the national Prevent strategy which demonstrates compliance with the Council's statutory obligations, which include building the resilience of communities against terrorism and extremism and to increase the awareness of the risk of radicalisation

2. Background information

- 2.1 CONTEST is the Governments strategy to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism to that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is organised around four workstreams: PURSUE, PREVENT, PROTECT, and PREPARE. The council has a statutory obligation to deliver against the Prevent strand of the strategy and is supported by the Home Office (HO) to deliver activity that will safeguard vulnerable individuals from becoming terrorists and supporting terrorism.
- 2.2 The Home Office has deemed a number of areas across the country as priority areas for the delivery of Prevent activity. Leeds has been a priority area since the inception of the strategy in 2008. For each priority area, the Home Office provides funding for a dedicated Prevent Coordinator, a Prevent Education Officer, as well as funding for Prevent specific projects.

3 Main issues

3.1 Delivery of HO Prevent funded projects during 2018-19

- 3.1.1 In discharging the Council's statutory obligations in relation to Prevent, the HO expect each Prevent Priority Area to deliver a number of community projects, delivered by civil society organisations (CSOs).
- 3.1.2 Due to the nature of work and specific remit of what projects are expected to deliver, alongside the commissioning and grant contract process deployed by the HO, Prevent Priority Areas are required to follow a process as described below.
- 3.1.3 The process of commissioning in Leeds is no different to how CSOs are commissioned to deliver Prevent activity across the country in other local authorities. Prevent Teams are tasked to identify suitable organisations that have the ability and skills to engage with vulnerable groups and then to secure their buy-in.
- 3.1.4 Specific project proposals are then developed in tandem with these groups and these are forwarded to the Home Office for their consideration. The applications are scrutinised and assessed by two independent officials from across the OSCT department within the Home Office and then forwarded to a scrutiny and moderation panel to consider their assessment and either approve or decline the application.

- 3.1.5 A due diligence check is then made on the suitability of the groups to deliver the proposed projects. This process is conducted by the Home Office who will want to satisfy itself that all groups that deliver such work will not bring the Home Office or Council into disrepute.
- 3.1.6 Following this and subject to all groups passing the due diligence checks, final decisions made by the Home Office on project approvals are forwarded to the Home Secretary and Security Minister for sign off and ratification, after which time Prevent Priority Areas are informed of the outcome of their proposals.
- 3.1.7 A description of all project proposals appraised and supported by the Home Office can be found at appendix 1. There are a number of outcomes that will be achieved through the delivery of these projects. These include:
- an increase in the awareness of the risks to becoming drawn towards radicalisation;
 - building the resilience of young people to resist the lure of far right groups by providing them with critical thinking skills as well as the knowledge required to challenge such rhetoric;
 - an understanding of how vulnerabilities are exploited;
 - an increased understanding of the online risks in relation to radicalisation and extremist propaganda;
 - an ability to refute extremist messages and ideology through the delivery of counter narrative support;
 - the development of stronger family units that are able to support vulnerable family members;
 - more resilient communities that are able to resist and challenge extremist ideology, narratives, and support;
 - providing guidance and best practice around safeguarding, escalation routes and referral; and
 - developing the critical thinking skills of young people in schools.
- 3.1.8 The Home Office will provide a grant agreement that will cover all proposed costs for each of the projects that are approved by them. The total cost of the 10 proposed projects, is £222,837. However, two of the proposed projects (Future Proof and Digital Resilience Programme) will be centrally managed by the Home Office. The remainder 8 projects totalling £147,780 will be funded through a Home Office grant to Leeds City Council.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The Prevent Team has engaged with a number of communities and providers to assess their suitability for delivery of Prevent projects as well as their capacity and ability to deliver high quality programmes.

4.1.2 The Prevent Coordinator has consulted with the Chief Officer for Communities and Head of Service for Communities on the proposed projects for delivery during 2018-19.

4.1.3 The Prevent Coordinator has also discussed the above described process and projects with the Executive Member for Communities.

4.2 Equality and diversity, cohesion and integration

4.2.1 The proposed projects are all designed to combat extremism and vulnerability to radicalisation. Extremists and radicalisers promote a narrative that seeks to disrupt cohesive and integrated communities, cause division and fear amongst society, as well as reject equality and diversity as they create an 'us vs them' narrative. The projects we are seeking to gain approval for will address all these issues and build resilience and understanding so as to promote equality and diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council policies and the best council plan

4.3.1 The proposed projects support the Councils vision to be the Best City in the UK where we have a strong economy in a compassionate city. The primary aim of the approach is to ensure that we have safe, strong, and resilient communities that are able to both reject the ideology of violent extremist groups as well as safeguard individuals that are vulnerable to radicalisation.

4.4 Legal implications

4.4.1 There are no legal implications.

4.5 Resources and value for money

4.5.1 Subject to final approval by the Home Office, a grant of £147,780 will be provided during 2018/19 to enable the Council to commission the named organisations (excluding centrally funded projects) within appendix 1 to deliver Prevent related activity across the city as described within the project proposals. There are no budget implications to Council base budget in relation to the proposed projects.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Given the national severe threat risk, an attack is highly likely, and given the 5 terrorist incidents that took place in the UK in 2017 as well as a number of plots that have been disrupted since then, it is imperative that Leeds has a fit for purpose Prevent programme in place to ensure that Leeds residents are not drawn towards such activity and that vulnerable individuals are engaged with to protect and support them from being drawn towards radicalisation.

4.6.2 All projects will be subject to quarterly monitoring visits and any potential risks to effective delivery will be identified at an initial project meeting with each of the providers and a risk management and mitigation plan will be put into place.

- 4.6.3 The council's risk is articulated in a corporate risk around community cohesion at a council level with the Director for Communities and Environment and Chief Officer Communities being the risk owners at Council and Directorate level, respectively.

5. Conclusions

- 5.5.1 Delivery of a range of Prevent projects that tackle the national and local counter terrorism threat picture is expected by the Home Office. This report has outlined the process imposed on the Council in selecting appropriate projects, as well as providing an overview of the proposed projects that will deliver a range of positive outcomes for the city and contribute towards the city's ambition of becoming the Best City in the UK with a strong economy in a compassionate city.

6. Recommendations

- The proposed projects, as set out in appendix 1, are approved to be forwarded to the Home Office for their ratification.

7 Background documents

- 7.1 None

Appendix 1 Prevent Projects 2018-19

Project Name	Provider	Description of Project	Amount
Building Resilience with Migrant Communities	Leeds Refugee Forum	The project will work with newly arrived and settled migrant communities in Leeds to increase their knowledge and awareness of the causes and signs of radicalisation and the appropriate support and actions available to them. We will work with the Migrant Access Project (MAP) who work with communities from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Lebanon, Algeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Nigeria, Senegal and Cameroon. The project will train the community leaders (known as Migrant Community Networkers - MCN's) from a range of these communities on issues such as: understanding risks and vulnerabilities to radicalisation; understanding online radicalisation and recruitment; building resilience and interventions; and support for vulnerable individuals. The MCN's, using this knowledge, will deliver workshops to the communities that they work with so that they can increase awareness of the issues amongst their communities and highlight support mechanisms that are available to those that are vulnerable to radicalisation. The project will contribute towards a bottom-up approach to Prevent, will increase confidence in the agenda, and will help to increase awareness of radicalisation across the network of migrant communities that exists in Leeds. An end of project video will also be produced that will include credible community voices providing key messages on safeguarding against radicalisation.	£22,742
Conversations about Radicalisation	Shantona Women's Centre	<p>The project will increase the knowledge and awareness of the causes and signs of radicalisation and the appropriate support and actions to take amongst women from inner city communities, and will assist in creating solid and supportive family environments.</p> <p>Women have a significant role to play in the fight against terrorism and have a crucial role to play in the home in terms of providing appropriate support and a strong family support structure. We would like to open up the conversation as there is a lot of denial about radicalisation within the community, due to lack of understanding. Through a programme of conversations and activities, we will start the conversations and dialogue amongst women, from BME communities predominantly, that will increase understanding about the process of radicalisation and how vulnerabilities are exploited to move people towards extremist narratives.</p> <p>We will also enable participants to forge stronger relationships between themselves and their children which in turn will develop a sense of belonging for young people that can be a protective factor against the pull of extremism. Developing strong bonds between a mother</p>	£11,001

		and daughter also encourages women to have open discussions with their daughters about issues related to extremism and also enables them to provide support to those vulnerable members of our communities who may be susceptible to radicalisation.	
Rooting Out Far Right Narratives	Streetwork Soccer Academy	This project will work in community settings where far right narratives and support are known to exist. Through a targeted approach working with a consortium of organisations that already have a foothold in such communities, we will upskill these organisations with the knowledge of the range of far right groups and their narratives and develop their skills in challenging these in the communities where they exist. The project will develop a range of workshops aimed at tackling such narratives with young people through the assistance of Stop Hate UK (a national charity based in Leeds that tackles all forms of hate). 48 workshops will be delivered during the year in areas identified as vulnerable to far right narratives and where we know extremist groups (such as National Action) have met. The project will challenge the narrative of such groups and build the resilience of young people to resist the lure of far right groups by providing them with critical thinking skills as well as the knowledge required to challenge such rhetoric.	£22,000
British or Muslim	One Formation	<p>The British or Muslim project will be delivered to young Muslims in Leeds who will be drawn from a variety of areas and establishments from where the project will be delivered. It will seek to provide a counter narrative to the rhetoric being espoused by groups such as Daesh who seek to influence impressionable young people.</p> <p>The project will engage with hard to reach young people, outside of formal settings such as schools, through a credible local organisation called One Formation. Through this engagement and the building of trust and positive relationships with young people, we will deliver a series of workshops that cover 5 key themes that are often misrepresented by Daesh. These are: Terrorism, Jihad, Extremism, Identity, and Humanity.</p> <p>The workshops will aim to explain Islam's stance on these subjects, using the Quran and authentic Hadith as evidence against the propaganda put out by Daesh and refute their narrative on these subjects. We will encourage young people, through the relationships and trust we build with them, to attend the workshops. The workshops will last an hour each and are very interactive and engaging. They will take place throughout the year and at regular intervals so that as many different young people can attend. We expect to dispel the AQ and Daesh narrative by providing a true interpretation of Quranic scriptures and Hadith that are misconstrued by those who support terrorism, and opposition of extremist narratives that exist within the city. Too often, the voices of those who support terrorism or terrorist acts are</p>	£27,637

		heard, through various means, and there is insufficient information available within the city that directly opposes these. This project will aim to address the lack of a counter narrative.	
Street Mentors Outreach Team	Leeds Street Team	<p>The project will involve identifying and engaging with disaffected and disengaged young people who are involved in, or are vulnerable to, a range of criminal activity including violent extremism. The project will aim to draw in vulnerable young people to a range of activities, through credible voices and mentors, who will build their resilience against radicalisation. The project will utilise local credible voices and individuals to undertake outreach work 5 nights a week where they will target vulnerable individuals and engage them on the streets with a view to redirecting them back to Leeds Street Team's youth club. Here, further engagement will be undertaken with such individuals to safeguard them against a range of issues including radicalisation. This will be achieved through facilitated discussions and workshops that provide counter narratives, critical thinking skills, theological understanding, and support mechanism. The project will be delivered as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 credible outreach workers will engage with young people on the streets 5 days a week, on an evening for 2 hours. This will take place throughout the year. We aim to engage with at least 150 young people on the streets. - The aim of the outreach workers will be to get them into 'safe spaces' such as Leeds STREET Team's youth club. This will also operate for 2 hours every evening, 5 days a week. At least 100 young people will attend these sessions. - From the youth club, discussions and workshops will be held with young people that will discuss their vulnerabilities and grievances. 20 x 1 hour workshop will be held during the project that will discuss areas such as the radicalisation process, extremist groups and narratives, dangers of social media, etc. We aim to engage with 100 different young people during these workshops. - An intensive weekend residential will also take place with the most vulnerable young people during the year. This will provide an opportunity to develop young people into peer mentors and equip them with leadership skills so that they are able to positively influence their peers and challenge extremist narratives, and assist with the delivery of this project too by encouraging other young people to participate. We aim to target 35-40 young people. 	£44,900
Radicalisation Interactive Workshops	Odd Arts	Drama performance (approx 1.5 hours). The workshop uses a piece of theatre to highlight a number of issues related to 'radicalisation' including warning signs, triggers, vulnerabilities, safeguarding, communication and relationships - this is done through three characters based in a college setting (one White male inspired by far right groups, one mixed race male inspired by Islamic extremists, and one Muslim female of Arab descent who is victim of Islamophobia).	£4,500

BRAVE	St Giles Trust	<p>2 hours face-to-face training for young people from ConnectFutures and St Giles Trust (one on gangs and one on radicalisation but both are linked). BRAVE seeks to communicate a number of key messages identifying the similarities between gang involvement, extremism and radicalisation.</p> <p>The BRAVE programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps children and young people have greater awareness of the realities and issues surrounding gang involvement, drugs, violence, extremism and radicalisation, and learn about strategies to help avoid the risk of becoming involved in these activities • Supports schools and colleges to be able to tackle issues that they may feel ill-equipped to deal with, without the adverse publicity of being seen as 'having this problem' <p>Outcomes: Both sessions look at how and why the perpetrators recruit young people, and what they can do to stay safe. All young people will leave the sessions understanding the exploitative recruitment processes used by gangs/violent extremists and the catastrophic dangers involved with joining gangs/ violent extremist groups alongside the serious consequences of supplying drugs/committing crime. Most importantly, though, they will walk away with real tools to avoid recruitment and exploitation."</p>	£10,500
Choices	Peace Museum	<p>CHOICES is a touring exhibition and workshop programme created by the Peace Museum. Using WW1 as the focus of the exhibition pupils explore what courage means, how decisions are made and discover those who joined up to serve their country and those who spoke out for peace in times of conflict. The workshop examines British Values and considers how a positive contribution can be made to the world through peaceful means. At the end of the workshop there is discussion around issues such as terrorism, religious and far right extremism, and how to respond to current events.</p>	£4,500
Future Proof (centrally managed by the Home Office)	UK Youth	<p>FutureProof is a programme that explores complex issues affecting young people today; from being hyper connected in an online environment to supporting young people at risk of CSE and radicalisation. It aims to provide youth workers with the tools to identify young people at risk and how best to support them, develop strategies and processes to enable challenging conversations to take place and to address some of the issues facing young people today. It will also give organisations the tools to deliver effective services by providing guidance and best practice around safeguarding, escalation routes and referrals.</p> <p>The training will include 'Train the trainer' toolkit will showcase examples of activities and challenges from the resilience building personal development programme to inspire face to face delivery with young people. Topics include: Community Integration, Critical Thinking, Identity, Managing Conflict, Mental Health, Risks & Opportunities Online, Radicalisation and</p>	£49,057

		<p>Extremism.</p> <p>For the youth workers, the training will provide skills and tools to equip them to support young people to stay safe, cope with uncertainty, and build the life skills needed to succeed in a complex world. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore and reflect on the way young people live their lives online and offline, what the new challenges and opportunities are, and how best to manage them - Help youth workers identify health & safety/ safeguarding/ grooming/ radicalisation risks, on an offline, to keep young people safe - Equip youth workers to develop the life skills of young people so they can manage complexity and uncertainty (i.e. building their ability to be self-aware, resilient, receptive, confident, motivated, responsible and good at communicating)." 	
Digital Resilience Programme (centrally managed by the Home Office)	Parent Zone	<p>The Resilience Programme is designed to deliver a whole community approach to tackling online radicalisation and extremism. With a focus on working with parents to help them recognise and respond to the risks, it empowers parents and the professionals that support them to understand the risks and take proactive steps to prevent harm. Package 4 is a one day course for Resilient Families Training which trains community parent-facing professionals and includes Digital Resilience Membership.</p>	£26,000