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Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

## **PREVENT – Was it fit for purpose? Report to Police & Crime Panel 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The Panel have posed the question: PREVENT – Was it fit for purpose?

### **Background**

2. The PREVENT Duty is part of CONTEST, the United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy.
3. The Prevent Strategy was first published in 2011 with three specific strategic objectives:
  - a. respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
  - b. prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
  - c. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
4. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies ("specified authorities" listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Guidance is issued under section 29 of the Act. The Act states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.
5. The Home Office oversees Prevent activity through the Prevent Oversight Board, chaired by the Minister for Immigration and Security.
6. Counter-terrorism is a Strategic Policing Requirement and in extremis the Home Secretary can direct a PCC to take specific actions to address a specific failure.

## Prevent guidance specifically related to policing

7. In complying with the duty, police should engage and where appropriate disrupt extremist activity, in partnership with other agencies. We expect the police to prioritise projects to disrupt terrorist and extremist material on the internet and extremists working in this country. Officers should consider the full range of investigative and prosecution options when it comes to disrupting extremist behaviour, including the use of public order powers where appropriate. This may include:
  - a. Enforcing terrorist proscription and public order legislation;
  - b. Working with local authorities to consider municipal powers, including local highways and leafleting by-laws, using safeguarding of young people legislation;
  - c. Advising other specified authorities, for example local authorities or universities, to develop venue booking processes and good practice;
  - d. Lawfully disrupting or attending events involving extremist speakers in both private and municipal establishments;
  - e. Providing high visibility police presence at relevant events in public places.
8. Prevent requires a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. When vulnerable individuals are identified the police will undertake the following:
  - a. In partnership with other agencies including the local authority, consider appropriate interventions, including the Channel programme, to support vulnerable individuals;
  - b. Work in partnership with and support Channel Panels chaired by local authorities to co-ordinate Channel partners and Channel actions;
  - c. Support existing, and identify potential new Intervention Providers.
9. Prevent requires a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. When vulnerable individuals are identified the police will undertake the following:
  - a. In partnership with other agencies including the local authority, consider appropriate interventions, including the Channel programme, to support vulnerable individuals;

- b. Work in partnership with and support Channel Panels chaired by local authorities to co-ordinate Channel partners and Channel actions;
- c. Support existing, and identify potential new Intervention Providers.

10. The police should:

- a. Engage fully with the local multi-agency groups that will assess the risk of people being drawn into terrorism, providing (where appropriate) details of the police counter-terrorism local profile (CTLTP);
- b. Support the development and implementation by the multi agency group of a Prevent action plan to address that risk;
- c. Support local authority Prevent co-ordinators, regional further and higher education co-ordinators, regional health Prevent leads and regional NOMS Prevent co-ordinators in carrying out their work;
- d. Co-ordinate the delivery of the Channel programme by accepting referrals, including acting as a conduit for Channel referrals with partners; and
- e. Ensure Prevent considerations are fully embedded into counter-terrorism investigations.

## National and regional context

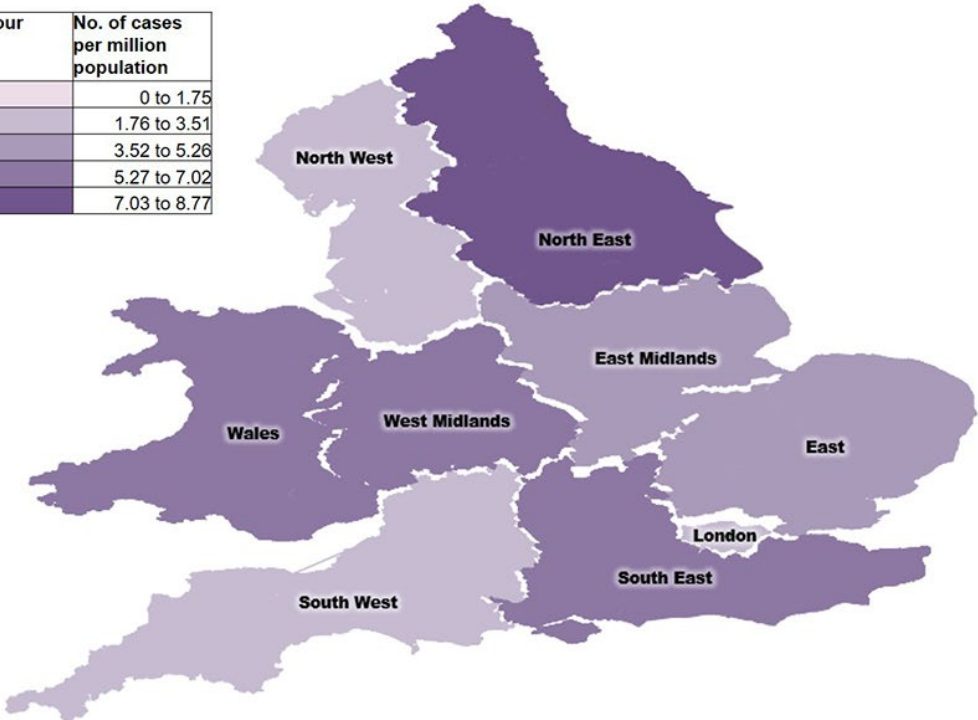
11. The United Kingdom threat level is currently at SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely.

12. Total number of referrals, those discussed at a Channel panel and adopted as a Channel case by region, year ending March 2021

Region	Prevent Referrals		Discussed at a Channel Panel		Adopted as a Channel Case	
	Total	Per million population	Total	Per million population	Total	Per million population
North East	881	107.4	188	22.9	124	15.1
North West	597	81.0	170	23.1	71	9.6
East Midlands	530	108.9	128	26.3	51	10.5
West Midlands	476	79.8	176	29.5	86	14.4
East	447	71.3	169	27.0	69	11.0
London	688	76.4	136	15.1	81	9.0
South East	774	84.0	244	26.5	126	13.7
South West	292	51.6	64	11.3	44	7.8
Wales	230	72.6	58	18.3	36	11.4
<b>Total England and Wales</b>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>11.5</b>

13. Channel cases for Extreme Right-wing radicalisation concerns per million population by region, year ending March 2021

Colour	No. of cases per million population
Lightest purple	0 to 1.75
Light purple	1.76 to 3.51
Medium-light purple	3.52 to 5.26
Medium purple	5.27 to 7.02
Dark purple	7.03 to 8.77



14. Channel cases for Islamist radicalisation concerns per million population by region, year ending March 2021

Colour	No. of cases per million population
Lightest purple	0 to 0.93
Light purple	0.94 to 1.87
Medium-light purple	1.88 to 2.80
Medium purple	2.81 to 3.74
Dark purple	3.75 to 4.67

