



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 9th March 2016

Subject: Prevent Task Group Report

Author of Report: Diane Owens, Policy & Improvement Officer
0114 2735065

Key Decision: No

Summary:

The Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee set up a Task Group to look at Prevent. The Task Group carried out its review between September 2015 and January 2016, the focus was:

- To understand the implications of the recent Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in terms of the statutory requirements around Prevent and the implications for children and young people.
- To consider how we are responding to this in Sheffield and identify any recommendations.

The Task Group have now compiled their report which makes recommendations across four main areas: training & education, partnership working, safeguarding (telephone support and advice) and information / data gathering.

This Cabinet report presents the Scrutiny Committee's findings and recommendations to Cabinet.

Reasons for Recommendations

To enable the Scrutiny Committee to monitor the outcome of its recommendations the Committee would welcome a joint response from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families with regards to its recommendations (no 1-10) as outlined in its Prevent Task Group Report.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Note the Prevent Task Group Report
2. Request that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families provide a joint response to the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee in terms of recommendations 1-10 in the Prevent Task Groups Report, at a date to be agreed, but no later than December 2016.

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Liz Gough
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Deborah Eaton
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Adele Robinson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
NO
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
There are recommendations relevant to: Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
NO

Report to Cabinet
Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development
Committee: Prevent Task Group Report

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee established the Prevent Task Group (a sub group of the Committee) in September 2015.
- 1.2. The Group was chaired by Cllr Cliff Woodcraft, Deputy Chair of the Children Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3. As a result of the overlap with the work of the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee they were approached to appoint up to two members to the Task Group, which they did. The Task Group had a total of 8 members.
- 1.4. The Task Group review was undertaken between September 2015 and January 2016. The focus of the review was:
 - To understand the implications of the recent Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in terms of the statutory requirements around Prevent and the implications for children and young people.
 - To consider how we are responding to this in Sheffield and identify any recommendations.
- 1.5. The Task Group chose to focus on the new statutory requirements around Prevent which have arisen as a result of the recently enacted Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which came into force for the local authority and schools in July 2015.
- 1.6. As the Council is in the process of working with partners to develop its response to the requirements of the Act, it was felt a timely piece of work for Scrutiny to undertake.
- 1.7. The Task Group have now completed their report which makes recommendations across four main areas: training and education, partnership working, safeguarding (telephone support and advice) and information / data gathering. The relevant recommendations from the report (1-10) are extracted below:

Training & Education

In order to influence national policy and approaches:

1. The Children Young People & Families Portfolio continue to recommend to the Home Office / Department of Education that in reviewing Prevent training materials they ensure they are appropriate for the target

audiences, including those working with primary age children and that materials are accessible in terms of language (translation/interpretation) and cognitive ability.

2. The Children Young People & Families Portfolio continue to engage with the Department of Education to encourage the development of further curriculum based materials to support both Primary and Secondary Schools with work around cohesion and integration and managing “safe conversation” as required by the legislation.
3. Any relevant local best practice materials identified by the Children Young People & Families Portfolio are shared with the Home Office / Department of Education.
4. In order to support the development of good practice and ensure parents have effective advice and support we recommend that the Children Young People & Families Portfolio ensure e-safety training and best practice materials are shared more broadly within the City including all members of the 0-19 Partnership and Learn Sheffield.

Partnership Working

5. In order to ensure skills and expertise are maximised and that there is sustainability and continuity in terms of work undertaken the Prevent Silver Group work more closely with the voluntary, Community and faith sectors through existing networks, including the Equality Hub Network and the Religion and Belief Hub (a sub group of the Network).
6. In order to have a greater input from Elected Representatives as strategy and approaches are developed and to support engagement with communities, further consideration is given in terms of the options for increasing the involvement and engagement of Elected Representatives around Prevent.
7. That officers leading on Prevent continue to work with National Government to look at opportunities for funding to support work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors and local communities.
8. The Task Group recommends that, in order to ensure effective processes are in place, that referrals into the safeguarding service continue to be monitored; and that effective feedback is given to individuals and agencies to ensure that only appropriate referrals are being made.

Safeguarding - Telephone Support and Advice:

9. In order to monitor the impact of any changes to the telephone based safeguarding advice and support services the Children Young People & Families Scrutiny Committee requests an update report from Children Young People & Families Portfolio by August 2016.

Information / data gathering

10. In order to support work with vulnerable individuals the Council's approach to information / data gathering and collation continues to be explored and that Prevent leads engage in this work.

1.7 The report provides Cabinet with the Children Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee's Prevent Task Group Report in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedures Rules set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

1.8 The full Task Group report is attached as Appendix A.

2.0 What does this mean for Sheffield People?

2.1 The aim of the recommendations outlined in the Prevent Task Groups Report are to support an effective response to the recent Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in terms of the statutory requirements around Prevent and the implications for children and young people in Sheffield.

3.0 Outcome and Sustainability

3.1 The outcome of the Prevent Task Group Report will be determined by the response from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, as has been noted above, the Council is under a duty in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". There is also statutory guidance to which the Council must have regard when carrying out the duty.

The guidance states that the Government expects that those in leadership positions in councils will:

- establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation;
- ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;

- communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

The Task Group Report and the recommendations to Council are an indication that the Council is complying with its Prevent duties.

4.2 The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children Young People & Families are being asked to provide a joint response to the Committee by December 2016.

4.3 Where the Council chooses to implement a recommendation from the Committee's report that requires a further decision to be made this would be taken in the usual manner and in line with the Council's constitution / Leader's Scheme of Delegation. The legal implications of any proposal will be fully considered at that time.

4.4 Under the Local Government Act 2000 there is an explicit power for Scrutiny committees to make reports or recommendations to the Executive (section 21, clause 2(b).) This is enshrined within Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is very aware of the financial context in which the Council is now operating.

5.2 Where the Council chooses to implement a recommendation from the Committee's report that requires a further decision to be made this would be taken in the usual manner and in line with the Council's constitution / Leader's Scheme of Delegation. This would include any financial implications. This report to Cabinet is not seeking authority for new or additional expenditure.

6.0 Equalities Implications

6.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under Section 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010. These are often collectively referred to as the 'general duties to promote equality'. To help us meet the general equality duties, we also have specific duties, as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

6.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, due to the remit of the Committee (Children, Young People & Family Support) the report focuses on Prevent and the implications of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 for children and young people.

6.3 Where the Council chooses to implement a recommendation from the Committee's report that requires a further decision to be made this would be taken in the usual manner and in line with the Council's constitution / Leader's Scheme of Delegation. Any actions taken or decisions made would include consideration of any equalities implications, including equality impact

assessments and appropriate consultation to ensure the Council fulfils its statutory obligations.

7.0 Alternative Options Considered

7.1 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations below would be to do nothing with the Committee's report. However, given the time and effort spent by the Task Group, and contributions made to the work from other organisations this is not deemed a viable option.

7.2 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations below would be respond to the Committee's report over a much longer timescale. However, this would be at the risk of losing the opportunity for the report's recommendations to influence the Councils response to the requirements of the 2015 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.

8.0 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 To enable the Scrutiny Committee to monitor the outcome of its recommendations the Committee would welcome a joint response from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families with regards to its recommendations (no 1-10) as outlined in its Prevent Task Group Report.

8.2 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Note the Prevent Task Group Report
2. Request that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families provide a joint response to the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny Committee in terms of recommendations 1-10 in the Prevent Task Groups Report, at a date to be agreed, but no later than December 2016.