

11th April 2024

Geoff Thomas

Recommendation:

1. Partners to consider the draft Strategic Assessment for Prevent in Warwickshire and key themes for the updated County Prevent Action Plan
2. Partners to consider what actions they can undertake in support of the key themes and actions outlined in this Assessment
3. Following finalisation of this Assessment in the light of the meeting, partners are asked to share this information within their respective organisations

Warwickshire Prevent Risk Assessment

The following document aims to establish the risks around radicalisation in Warwickshire, and in the context of the statutory responsibilities set out **WHAT** we aim to achieve and **HOW** we will work as a partnership.

The Prevent Duty was established in 2015 and establishes a clear responsibility on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Home Office guide to the Prevent Duty and the specific requirements of individual sectors is available [here](#). Following the review of local issues at the Warwickshire Prevent Steering Group, the following key Prevent risks have been identified.

Nationally, the Government has stated that there is a **SUBSTANTIAL** risk of a terror attack. This means that an attack is considered likely. It has remained at this level since February 2022.

The most significant source of terrorism threat nationally, has been identified by Government as being presented by internationally inspired, Islamist extremist influences – in particular Al Qa'ida and Islamic State (IS). The Government has also confirmed that the fastest growing risk over the last 4 years has emerged from extreme right wing terror groups. The most recent publication of Channel referrals has indicated an increase of 6.4% in the year up to March 2023, which follows a 30% in Prevent referrals in the previous 12 months, with the largest source of Channel cases comprised of extreme right wing. The link to the Home Office fact sheet on Prevent Referrals can be found [here](#).

The international conflicts around the Ukraine and particularly Gaza have also raised concerns around possible implications for heightening grievance narratives, extremist activity and conditions for radicalisation. The substantial national increase in both anti-semitism and islamophobia highlight such concerns.

In Warwickshire, the Local Prevent Steering Group has identified that Extreme Right Wing risks are the highest priority for the partnership. This is based on reviewing reported intelligence of activity from extremist groups and individuals across the County, local prevent referrals and the experience of individual local partners.

In addition, islamist extremism has also been identified as a concern for Warwickshire, reflecting the national assessment regarding risk, which clearly have direct implications for the County.

Finally, the level of risk presented by Left Wing, Anarchist and Single Issue groups/individuals is considered by the partnership to be similar to that of Islamist extremism, however they are not directly comparable due the manifestation of any likely threat. However the partnership remains concerned to review any change in information in risk which might trigger a change in these judgements.

Warwickshire Prevent Steering Group – 10 Priorities

The Prevent Steering Group have undertaken a self assessment of its compliance with the Prevent Duty and the priorities for our activities for 2024/25. This was undertaken through use of the Home Office self evaluation toolkit and also through a workshop to look at risk and responses. The following ten points outline our priorities for the upcoming year.

Strong and Effective Partnership

Our overall aim is to be a consistently high performing Prevent Partnership, confident in our collective compliance with the responsibilities of statutory bodies under the Prevent Duty. We will undertake a regular review of our collective assurance arrangements against national standards, as individual agencies, collectively and with the support of the Home Office Regional Prevent Advisor.

Supporting those susceptible to radicalisation

Ensuring that all partners take steps to promote the importance of making Prevent referrals for those who may be susceptible to radicalisation, allied with an effective, multi-agency safeguarding response delivered by the Warwickshire Channel Panel to help keep the people of Warwickshire safe and supported.

Raising awareness of Prevent

To provide timely, proportionate and relevant information across our partnership and communities on the risks of radicalisation, the responsibilities of statutory agencies and how to access support. This will be supported centrally by providing opportunities

for training and provision of information and communications on Prevent, which individual agencies can access and supplement. The training will address the ideological drivers of hate that motivate violent extremist threat, along with information regarding signs and symbols.

Comprehensive and targeted action

As a partnership, we recognise that an individual can become susceptible to radicalisation in any area, or from any background. The susceptibility is unique to that person. From time to time however, we also experience indications of aggravated activism from extremist influences in localities. Our partnership will ensure a balance between providing a comprehensive support across the County, with targeted action in those areas identified as needing specific action to respond to any potential permissive environments where extremist narratives may emerge. This will include addressing thematic issues such as mental health which have been identified by the partnership.

Tackling Online Radicalisation

The growth of online extremist content seeking to radicalise individuals has been clearly documented and established. There are more Prevent referrals both nationally and locally which outline the role the internet plays in disseminating hate based material, drawing individuals into a virtual network of extremism and for some leading onwards to the adoption of violent extremist outlook and intent. This is an area for collective action.

Focus on Young People

National data confirms that more young people are linked to terrorism offences in the last 4 years. Channel referral information also confirms that young people are at great risk of radicalisation. The Prevent partnership will look to engage with more youth groups and services supporting young people to enable more widespread appreciation of the risks and in consequence the support to reduce those risks.

Alignment to Hate Crime

We will work closely with the Hate Crime Partnership to align our actions so that the links between Hate & Extremism are identified, our work is co-ordinated and impact of our work on engagement, training, communications are maximised.

Engagement and Communications

As a partnership we will seek out opportunities to engage with wider agencies and local communities in timely and proportionate ways. Information regarding our Prevent partnership and priorities will be publicly available.

Supporting Schools & Colleges

The education sector provides the largest source of referrals in Warwickshire and provides an essential and committed part in our Prevent programme. Our aim is to provide more support and resources to education partners, including advice with risk assessments, local communication resources, training and guidance.

Encompass emerging issues

As a partnership we aim to keep aware of changes in risk of established extremist concerns and to be alert to emerging issues, for example, conspiracy theories, Incel, misogyny, which might interact with other violent extremist narratives and provide new ways in which people can be drawn to grievance, hate and violence.

Summary and Way Ahead and Requests for Action

These priorities drive the detail of our local Prevent Action Plan. These are reviewed at each quarterly meeting of the Partnership and reported annually to the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB). A great deal of the content of the Action Plan is based on the support activity to this Partnership. In addition, Partners are requested to contribute any agency specific actions they will be undertaking aligned to the themes outlined above and to update the partnership on a quarterly basis.

Furthermore partners are asked to use this strategic overview of Prevent to link within their organisations, in particular through:

- Ensuring senior leaders are aware of this assessment
- Alignment with existing policies and plans
- Use for communications within and beyond your organisation
- To assist in developing and reviewing local agency plans

Geoff Thomas

Prevent Officer

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