

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

15 June 2021

**SUBJECT: Countering Terrorism**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The West Yorkshire Police report outlines their current position in relation to Countering Terrorism.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Mayor uses their report to scrutinise performance in respect of Countering Terrorism.

**POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2016-21**

3. In addition to making sure we can effectively respond in event of a terrorist attack, we must all work together to prevent people from being radicalised in the first place. There are often several complex factors which can make somebody vulnerable to radicalisation so it is crucial that we work together across the community to identify those at risk as early as we can and safeguard them from extremism. The Prevent Duty gives direction for the police and partners around our shared responsibility to combat the threat of radicalisation within our communities and we will work together to ensure that we are all playing our part in this.

**KEY INFORMATION**

4. The Police and Crime Plan outlines that we need to make sure that we have the right resources, understanding, people and governance frameworks to tackle national threats such as terrorism, serious public disorder, organised crime, and civil emergencies. West Yorkshire Police is the lead force within the Counter Terrorism Policing North East (CTPNE) and as such, the Mayor has lead oversight for the region.
  - In addition to the general governance, accountability, and administrative oversight between the WYCA Policing and Crime Team and the police, the Mayor will work closely with the CTPNE and will keep in contact through regular meetings and briefings.
  - The Safeguarding Adviser is the lead policy officer for the police and crime plan priority of Countering Terrorism. This is to demonstrate the link between preventing radicalisation and safeguarding and supporting those who may be vulnerable within our societies.
  - The current Police and Crime Plan has now been refreshed and informed by our annual Needs Assessment, we have made Serious Violence a

standalone priority, and reframed the fight against extremism under the title 'Countering Terrorism'.

- *The reframed 'Countering Terrorism' priority is:  
"Acts of terror, inspired by extremist behaviours, are a significant threat to communities in West Yorkshire and nationwide. The grave consequences of terrorist acts mean we have to be vigilant and work together to intervene early to combat terrorism, and safeguard vulnerable people from extreme racist, political, or religious ideologies. A number of complex factors can combine to draw someone into extremism, so it is crucial that we work together across communities and partner agencies to quickly identify those at risk. I will continue to support our work at the local, regional, and national scale to prevent terrorism in all its forms, strengthen our communities' protective resilience, and support those people in West Yorkshire who may have been affected by a terrorist incident".*

## **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

5. Countering Terrorism can only be delivered in partnership between key agencies and with the support of our communities. Whilst the police take an active role in the delivery of Prevent, like any other safeguarding strategy many other partners are involved including those from health, education, local authorities, prisons and offender management and community groups.

- The Mayor/ Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime will support the response to countering terrorism through the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan and by continuing to work with partners and the communities of West Yorkshire.
- The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime continues to be represented at the West Yorkshire CONTEST board by their Safeguarding Adviser and are keen to ensure the work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority links with and supports the work of partners across West Yorkshire in countering terrorism.
- The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime are also represented by their Safeguarding Adviser at the West Yorkshire Police Counter Terrorism Threat Delivery Group.
- The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime are members of the national Counter Terrorism Collaboration Strategic Board which brings together senior leaders to discuss collaboration and developments in this area and represents the North East PCC's on Counter Terrorism at this important national meeting.
- The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime wishes to draw attention to the major new national initiative aimed at helping spot early signs of radicalisation or possible involvement in terrorism is directly acting upon years of research by University of Huddersfield academics. Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP), the national policing organisation which protects the UK from terrorism, has launched a new safeguarding website and social media campaign, called Act Early, designed to help people share their concerns about relatives or friends who they are worried are becoming radicalised by ideologies. Further information can be accessed here: <https://actearly.uk/>

- The office has supported a range of community groups through the Safer Communities Fund which are focused on anti-radicalisation and safeguarding vulnerable people from extremism. Since 2014 £184,927 of Safer Communities Fund monies have been awarded to 40 projects, £499,398 has been given to 110 projects to tackle Hate Crime and 248 projects have been awarded just over £1.6m to address various aspects of community cohesion.

## **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

The policing of countering terrorism and its policies and practices can have a significant impact on our communities and affects trust and confidence in policing. It is vital that we listen to our communities and encourage inclusivity and build relationships between our communities which promotes wellbeing and strengthens our resilience to the threats of crime, terrorism, and discontent.

Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Diversity, inclusion and respect for others are key principles in responding to the threat of radicalisation and extremism. Developing and communicating a counter narrative is vitally important in challenging and responding to those who would seek to exploit and abuse the vulnerability of others.

It is important to recognise diversity, ensure policies, practices and engagement is inclusive and build confidence in our partnerships and promote community cohesion through awareness, training, communication and challenging exclusive behaviour and language.

## **ATTACHMENT**

[Chief Constables Report – Counter Terrorism](#)