

**Devon & Cornwall Police Authority Community Engagement Committee**

**03 July 2008**

Open for the purposes of FOI

Report of the Chief Executive

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**PREVENT Strategy**

**Recommendation**

**(i) That the contents of the report are noted**

**Introduction**

1. This report will provide members with a brief overview of the PREVENT Strategy which the Government has developed to assist agencies deliver effective services to prevent violent extremism
2. A copy of the Guidance is available to members, please contact Antoinette Buisman for a copy.

**Background**

3. To respond to the current threat of terrorism the Government has develop a counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST which has four main components:
  - Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
  - Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
  - Protect – to strengthen out overall protection against terrorist attacks
  - Prevent – to stop individuals becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists
4. There is a need for a longer-term programme of work specifically around the Prevent component and the Government has planned to address the causal factors influencing individuals to become terrorists through the PREVENT strategy.
5. The PREVENT strategy has 7 strands which are outlined in the accompanying table

**Specific Role for Police Authorities as outlined by the Guidance**

6. The Guidance specifically state the role of the police authority to be:

“The police authority sets the strategic direction for a police force and holds the chief constable to account on behalf of the local community. In fulfilling its statutory role, the police authority consults widely with local people to find out what they want from their local police. The police authority therefore has a role in ensuring that the force’s approach to preventing violent extremism is appropriate, is effective and makes good use of resources and partnership arrangements.”
7. Work is ongoing to identify appropriate action to enable the police authority to deliver on undertaking this role

**Contact for Further Information**

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Strand	Strand Details	What this means in practice
1	<b>Challenging the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Building an understanding and awareness of violent extremist ideology</li> <li>➤ Identifying credible mainstream voices and supporting these voices</li> <li>➤ Promoting a stronger understanding of faith, culture and history</li> </ul>
2	<b>Disrupting those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they may be active</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identifying individuals or groups who promote violent extremism</li> <li>➤ Supporting institutions through raising awareness and opening channels of communication</li> </ul>
3	<b>Supporting vulnerable individuals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improving the capacity to identify individuals vulnerable to radicalisation</li> <li>➤ Creating points of referral for individual cases</li> <li>➤ Devising, trialling and implementing a range of interventions</li> </ul>
4	<b>Increasing the capacity of communities to resist violent extremism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Active engagement with local communities</li> <li>➤ Build community capacity</li> <li>➤ Develop leadership</li> <li>➤ Promote positive alternative activities</li> </ul>
5	<b>Addressing grievances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide safe spaces for debate</li> <li>➤ Identify and consider grievances</li> <li>➤ Take action to address grievances</li> <li>➤ Effective consequence management</li> </ul>
6	<b>Developing Prevent-related research and analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify knowledge gaps</li> <li>➤ Commission research and analysis to build the evidence base specific to their local area</li> </ul>
7	<b>Strategic communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Effective communication should be a key element of a local programme of action</li> <li>➤ Communications need to be coherent across partnerships and across work areas</li> <li>➤ Communications need to be effective, and for that reason messages and information must be kept clear to ensure that they cannot be manipulated</li> <li>➤ When developing communications agencies need to bear in mind that they understand the audiences they are seeking to reach and that constructed messages reach and engage with these audiences</li> </ul>