

The Prevent Strategy



Local Landmarks



Newham at a Glance

- The most ethnically diverse place in England with over 200 languages & dialects spoken
- Highest proportion of young people in England
- The 25th most deprived council area in England, 25% of households live in poverty with 50% of children living in poverty
- Employment rate is 55.3%, the lowest in the country, childhood obesity is the 2nd highest in the country and life expectancy is 2 years lower than the national average
- 86% of residents say this is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well

The Threat

- The second highest number of TACT offenders in the UK
- The highest number of women and second highest number of children in Iraq/Syria
- The second highest number of referrals in London
- National hotspot for extremist street preaching

Contest

A counter-terrorism strategy launched in 2006 to combat the rising tide of extremist violence, it is a four-pronged strategy that includes:

- **Protect**: To strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks
- **Prepare**: Where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate against its circumstances
- **Pursue**: To stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent**: Aims to reduce the number of people becoming or supporting violent extremists, operates in the pre-criminal space

The Prevent Duty

- Since July 2015, section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has come into effect, thus rendering Prevent a statutory duty for local authorities, educational provisions, the health sector, police and prisons
- This, in effect, means all of these sectors are now obliged by law to have *“due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”*
- This includes: staff training, risk assessment, awareness of referral pathways, IT use policy, external speakers, contact points etc.
- This has a proactive element for educational provisions

Objectives of Prevent

- **Ideology:** Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- **Individuals:** Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- **Institutions:** Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address
- Prevent operates in the pre-criminal space, it is led by local government and can vary in its implementation depending on local political realities and challenges
- Prevent seeks to tackle all forms of extremism, primarily anything that promotes violence or encourages hatred

Channel

- Multi-agency panel, chaired by local authority, led by the police, that accepts referrals
- Referrals are discussed at panel and either signposted for other existing local services, offered an intervention or exited
- Intervention is voluntary and takes the form of a mentoring
- Progress is closely monitored until case can be exited
- Does not show up on future DBS or PND checks

Prevent Case Management (PCM)

- If a referral does not meet a Channel threshold, or if mentoring is not possible, it can enter PCM especially if there are existing extremism concerns
- The PCM process also deals with institutions or organisations that are of concern
- PCM is typically a monthly meeting between the police and the local authority Prevent team
- These meetings discuss cases and seeks to find appropriate solutions using existing local services
- PCM can also be used in cases where intervention becomes obligatory, i.e. when children are involved

Interventions

- The first aim of an intervention provider (IP) is to establish a relationship based on trust, this involves being transparent and explaining the importance of the intervention
- The next step is to explore the political, historical or theological understanding the subject has and how it has led them to holding extremist views
- Once trust and an understanding of the subjects views has been established the IP needs to develop a plan that tackles the views held and offer alternatives
- Typically interventions are only successful if the subject is keen to engage and IP understanding the key issues

Local Challenges

- Extremist influences from parents, siblings and family members
- Accessing and sharing extremist social media content, especially in light of ISIS increasingly target young males and females
- Supplementary school sector & Elective Home Education (EHE)
- Extremists targeting the vulnerable through public events in the borough including sporting activities and seeking platforms with mainstream figures
- Extremist groups recruiting through women's groups