

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	9 th May 2018
REPORT TITLE	Prevent Peer Review
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/18/009
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CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to note the findings of the recent Scottish Government Peer Review of our compliance with statutory PREVENT duties

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee

2.1 Approve recommendations made during the report

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies, listed in Schedule 6 to the Act, to have, in the exercise of their functions, “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent Duty came into force in July 2015. The duty does not confer new functions on any specified authority. The term “due regard” as used in the Act means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

3.2 The Prevent strategy, published by the UK Government in 2011, is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

3.3 The responsibility to tackle extremism is one we all share and Prevent work depends on effective partnership. In complying with the duty all specified authorities, as a starting point, should demonstrate engagement with multi-agency Prevent and wider CONTEST governance groups and processes. Prevent activity in Scotland is overseen by the Prevent sub-group of the Multi-Agency Strategic CONTEST Board (MASCB) for Scotland. Local multi-agency CONTEST groups oversee Prevent activity in their area and provide progress updates on activity contained in the local implementation plan.

3.4 In complying with this duty there is an expectation of active engagement from Chief Executives and the senior management team with the range of Prevent partners including police. There is also a requirement for local authorities to appoint a single point of contact (SPOC) for Prevent. At present, Derek McGowan, Chief Officer Early Intervention & Community Empowerment is the CONTEST lead for these purposes and Alana Nabulsi, Support Services Manager, is the local authority SPOC.

3.5 It is also expected that local authority arrangements in relation to the Prevent Duty are applied to schools. Local authorities would be expected to demonstrate an awareness of Prevent in their work to implement the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach. Further, the Prevent duty needs to be covered in contracts and grants made with and to any organisation performing a relevant function in the delivery of council services.

3.6 The Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) allows a framework to plan for and respond to emerging risks from whatever source, incorporating wider duties placed on the local authority as a “category 1 responder” under The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and associated Regulations in order to minimise disruption in the event of an emergency and to ensure that the UK is better prepared to deal with a range of emergencies.

3.7 There are seven main duties under Part 1 of the Act, aimed at ensuring effective arrangements are in place for planning for emergencies, responding to emergencies and the continued delivery of services. Within Grampian the local level of planning and response is coordinated for the Grampian area by the LRP. The LRP is supported by the Local Resilience Partnership Working Group (LRPWG). Derek McGowan currently chairs the LRPWG and CONTEST and Prevent are included in the agenda of quarterly LRPWG meetings which are reported quarterly to the Corporate Management Team.

3.8 One of the duty officer systems in place for responding to emergencies is the Duty Emergency Response Coordinators (DERC). One DERC is always available. Corporate Directors and Chief Officers participate in a rota system in which they act on behalf of the Chief Executive and will instigate the appropriate response to any emergency affecting the Council.

Prevent Peer Review

3.9 On 28th and 29th March Aberdeen City Council was subject to a Prevent peer review process and a preliminary report was presented to the Chief Executive Officer. The draft report findings are attached at Appendix 1 for your reference.

3.10 The Scottish Prevent peer review process is a sector-led improvement model which aims to evaluate the delivery of Prevent outcomes in a local authority; identifying good practice and making positive recommendations for improvement. The process was developed by the Scottish Government in collaboration with the UK Government and Scottish local authorities in order to support local authorities deliver the Prevent Duty.

3.11 The peer reviews are intended to be a constructive and supportive process with the central aim of helping local authorities and partners improve how they deliver Prevent outcomes. It is not an inspection or audit and is an entirely voluntary process available to local authorities. The review moves away from a 'tick box' approach to assessing past performance, to one that is based on mature reflection, constructively challenging self-assessment and critical friend challenge. It has two objectives: firstly, to support the development of an informed view, adequately evidenced, of how an area is doing in terms of delivering the Prevent Duty in partnership, and secondly, to identify practical actions to improve outcomes and productivity.

3.12 The UK Government has published statutory Prevent Duty guidance for Scotland which outlines what is expected of specified authorities under the duty and highlights the following as being key areas of delivery:

- **Leadership** – includes understanding the risk of radicalisation; ensuring proper governance structures; and communicating the importance of the duty.
- **Capabilities** – includes effective training; a referral process; and relevant policies and processes.
- **Partnership** – includes how the authority works with the local CONTEST group; other collaborative initiatives; and how the council links with national networks.
- **Information Sharing** – includes having relevant agreements in place; and whether the understanding of threat and risk is maintained and kept up to date.

3.13 As part of the peer review process, each Local Authority is asked to complete a fourteen point self-assessment framework. In order to evidence compliance with the Prevent Duty we were also asked to provide documents and correspondence as supporting evidence.

3.14 Feedback throughout the process was positive and constructive, highlighting the excellent leadership and collaborative partnership approach to Prevent delivery in the city amongst many other key strengths. The majority of areas identified for improvement referred to opportunities to build on existing good practice to refresh Prevent delivery following its initial implementation in 2015/16. In total, the peer review highlighted 18 recommendations. These include:

1. Strong CONTEST governance should ensure that Prevent is as incorporated and visible as other strands
2. Organisational change presents opportunity to review and refresh internal/external Prevent messages (Communications Plan)
3. Consider creation of internal working group to review Prevent delivery, peer review findings and identify early priorities

4. Review resources available for Prevent delivery to ensure appropriate contingencies
5. Referral process established and published – would benefit from being refreshed to reflect role of different stakeholders
6. Internal referral process could be evaluated to establish confidence of staff and management
7. Consider reviewing and formalising internal Prevent Professional Concern (PPC) process to clearly identify chair and adopting table-top exercise
8. Carry out stocktake and evaluation of current training to establish effectiveness and target future training appropriately
9. Use organisational change as opportunity to refresh relevant policies to include Prevent (venue hire, Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), procurement etc)
10. Ensure Prevent is considered in relation to outsourcing of public WiFi provision
11. Established structure of community engagement presents opportunity to communicate positively about Prevent and empower local communities
12. Existing partnership working arrangements (CONTEST, public protection, community planning) offers opportunity to manage and report performance
13. Build on existing relationship with Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations to identify opportunities to enable staff and empower communities on Prevent
14. Consider holding a partnership training event to raise awareness of PPC process
15. Refresh communications plan to ensure that key stakeholders are informed as to the value of Prevent activity and the council's responsibilities for delivery
16. Consider provision of information relating to on-going Prevent Case Management at partnership meetings (CONTEST, Prevent Delivery Group)
17. Feed into national work to review and refresh the Emerging and Residual Threat Local Profile (ERTLP)
18. Utilise existing community engagement to identify emerging community tensions and target services accordingly

3.15 These recommendations, if approved, will inform an action plan, overseen by the organisational Resilience Working Group, to ensure that the Council is able to adopt best practice in preventing the radicalisation of people within Aberdeen.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal framework is set out in the body of the report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal	Council fails to comply with Prevent duties	Medium	Approve findings of peer review and refresh current operational practice.
Employee	Staff fail to spot potential radicalisation of local residents due to insufficient training and awareness raising; or are unaware how to report an issue of concern.	High	Refresh communications strategy and refresher training to be provided to WRAP facilitators. All new staff to be trained.
Customer	Customers will not be protected from radicalisation	High	Provide further training to staff in order to identify customers who may be at risk of radicalisation
Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technology	Third party risk re. public wifi provision and IT access within schools	High	The contract management process; new online booking system; internet filtering policies and wider solution categorisation.
Reputational	We do not comply with duties and someone known to us is radicalised and commits a serious offence	Medium	Refreshing strategy, communications and training plans to deliver WRAP support.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous People	Approval of recommendations will help ensure that people are more resilient and/or protect them from harm
Prosperous Place	Approval of recommendations will help build more

	sustainable communities
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Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Organisational Design	All parts of the organisation are responsible for compliance with the Prevent duty and this will need to be reflected in design
Governance	Prevent will be strengthened as an aspect of organisational and City resilience.
Workforce	Supported to identify signs of radicalisation and protect customers from harm.
Technology	Prevent duties will need to be incorporated into our use of ICT internally and outwith the organisation
Partnerships and Alliances	Duties are imposed on ALEOS and partners. We will need to work together to comply with the Prevent duties related to the community.
Organisational Design	All parts of the organisation are responsible for compliance with the Prevent duty and this will need to be reflected in design
Governance	Prevent will be strengthened as an aspect of organisational and City resilience.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA not required
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for Scotland. Guidance for specified Scottish authorities on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Aberdeen City Council Guidance for Emergency & Incident Planning and Response

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Prevent Peer Review – Aberdeen

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Prevent Peer Review Report

Aberdeen City Council

March 2018

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1. Executive Summary

This is a report on the Prevent peer review hosted by Aberdeen City Council (ACC) on 28th and 29th March 2018.

The Scottish Government has worked closely with the UK Government and Scottish local authorities to design and implement a peer review process to enhance the support available to councils and partners in their delivery of the Prevent Duty and other legislative requirements established by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The peer review hosted by ACC is the second such review held in Scotland after a successful pilot exercise in February 2018. As such, the overall aims of the review hosted by ACC were twofold; firstly to support the council through identifying good practice and making suggestions for improvement; and secondly, continuing to develop the process to ensure its effectiveness and relevance for Scottish local authorities. To this end any feedback that ACC wishes to provide will be gratefully received.

The review team found that ACC have implemented the foundations necessary for successful Prevent delivery and this is underpinned by executive level leadership and a visible and engaged single point of contact (SPOC). A notable part of local delivery is found within the established partnership arrangements and ethos of collaboration that underpins much of the activity. This has enabled a shared approach to be taken towards such aspects as training and awareness raising with the Prevent sub-group being a positive example of local joint-working.

The key challenge for ACC in the future will be to build upon existing foundations to ensure that Prevent delivery continues to be delivered in a manner that is aligned to available resources and proportionate to local threat and risk. It is acknowledged that ACC is undergoing a significant period of organisational change which may present an opportunity to conduct an internal review of Prevent delivery to ensure processes and governance remain fit for purpose and commensurate with the revised council structures.

Key Findings:

- ACC can demonstrate a strong and established ethos of partnership working in their delivery of Prevent outcomes. The collaboration established through participation in the local Prevent sub-group is notable.
- The importance of staff awareness has been recognised by ACC and the variety of resources available means that training can be tailored according to role.
- The current phase of restructuring presents an opportunity to conduct an internal review of Prevent delivery to ensure that governance, ownership and processes remain fit for purpose and ACC may wish to consider the creation of a short-term working group to carry this out. There is no doubt that ACC have established the foundations for successful delivery which, if considered in light of organisational change, presents a real opportunity for positive consolidation in the future.

Acknowledgments

The Scottish Government is grateful to Aberdeen City Council for hosting this review and hopes that it was beneficial to staff and partners. The peer review team were warmly welcomed by council staff and partners and would like to thank everybody they met for their time and contributions. The team would particularly like to thank the Single Point of Contact, Alana Nabulsi, together with Calvin Cameron and David McIntosh for collating and providing evidence to the review team and for their support during the review itself.

2. Prevent Peer Reviews – Background

The Scottish Prevent peer review process is a sector-led improvement model which aims to evaluate the delivery of Prevent outcomes in a local authority; identifying good practice and making positive recommendations for improvement. The process was developed by the Scottish Government in collaboration with the UK Government and Scottish local authorities in order to support local authorities deliver the Prevent Duty¹.

The Prevent Duty came into force in July 2015 (and in September 2015 for higher and further education institutions) and required specified authorities – including local authorities – to have ‘*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*’.

The peer reviews are intended to be a constructive and supportive process with the central aim of helping local authorities and partners improve how they deliver Prevent outcomes. It is not an inspection or audit and is an entirely voluntary process available to local authorities.

The peer review approach is based on mature reflection, constructive self-assessment and critical friend challenge. It has two objectives: firstly, to support the development of an informed view, adequately evidenced, of how an area is doing in terms of delivering the Prevent Duty in partnership, and secondly, to identify practical actions to improve outcomes and productivity.

The UK Government has published statutory Prevent Duty guidance for Scotland which outlines what is expected of specified authorities under the duty and highlights the following as being key areas of delivery:

- **Leadership** – includes understanding the risk of radicalisation; ensuring proper governance structures; and communicating the importance of the duty.
- **Capabilities** – includes effective training; a referral process; and relevant policies and processes.

¹ **Disclaimer:** The recommendations offered in this report are based on the discussions and evidence considered during the Prevent peer review. This document is intended to be advisory and as such judgement and discretion should be exercised over how best to implement. It covers the substance of the review and there may be elements that have not been considered.

- **Partnership** – includes how the authority works with the local CONTEST group; other collaborative initiatives; and how the council links with national networks.
- **Information Sharing** – includes having relevant agreements in place; and whether the understanding of threat and risk is maintained and kept up to date.

Whilst there are fourteen aspects within the self-assessment framework, this report will present findings and recommendations based on the four key areas of delivery as shown above.

3. Review Process

The peer review team consisted of:

- Mark McCall – Service Manager, Safer Communities, Fife Council (Lead Peer)
- Mel Fowler – CONTEST Sergeant, Police Scotland
- Ray Powell – Cohesion and Prevent Officer, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Cherie Jarvie – Strategy and Performance Manager, Clackmannanshire Council
- Stuart Fletcher – Safeguarding and Vulnerability Team, Scottish Government (Review Manager).

The review consisted of six stages:

Stage 1: Self-Assessment – ACC provided a review of their Prevent delivery set against the fourteen key aspects of the Prevent Duty.

Stage 2: Evidence Review – key documents were provided to support the self-assessment and these were reviewed by the team to identify key lines of enquiry. The documents included: Prevent training action plan; internal staff communication; training resources; and minutes of meetings. The key lines of enquiry included: partnership working and delivery; internal leadership and governance; the management and ownership of training; internal referral processes; and policies relating to IT, venue hire and the relationship with Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs).

Stage 3: On-Site Review – the peer review team visited ACC for a two-day review on 28th and 29th March 2018 and held interviews with key stakeholders.

Stage 4: Presentation of key findings – at the conclusion of the on-site work initial findings were presented to a group of senior representatives from ACC.

Stage 5: Review Report – This report sets out key findings and recommendations for ACC. Whilst the focus is on the local authority, many of the findings will be applicable to the wider partnership.

Stage 6: Follow-up support – ACC may wish to seek further support or peer mentoring to explore any of the issues highlighted within this report. The Scottish Government welcomes any further opportunities to support ACC in this regard.

4. Self-Assessment Framework

The self-assessment framework forms the basis of Prevent peer reviews. It includes statutory obligations from the Prevent Duty, along with good practice and aspects relating to the multi-agency support mechanism provided to vulnerable individuals (Prevent Professional Concerns – PPC). The framework comprises the following aspects which ACC used to formulate the evidence provided to the review team:

1. The organisation can demonstrate active engagement with Prevent partners; has appointed a single point of contact (SPOC) for Prevent; and is aware of the different channels through which support for Prevent delivery can be obtained.
2. A representative of the local authority is engaged with the local CONTEST group and oversees the delivery of Prevent in collaboration with other local partners.
3. The local authority is engaged with the local CONTEST group which has considered and agreed a local Prevent implementation plan informed by the ERTLTP.
4. The organisation has sufficient partnership contacts to enable the identification and mitigation of threats and risks that emerge outside of the ERTLTP process (for example, community tensions following a terrorist incident).
5. The organisation has an agreed training programme in place and has conducted an internal training needs analysis to effectively target Prevent awareness raising according to staff roles.
6. The organisation has an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation and information concerning this process is accessible to all staff.
7. There are suitable processes and policies in place to enable the formation of a Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) multi-agency panel where required and a chairperson has been identified who will oversee the meeting and actions.
8. The organisation has agreed an Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) with relevant local partners to support both Prevent Case Management (PCM) and Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) processes.
9. There is a venue hire policy in place to ensure the organisation's venues and resources are not used by extremists.
10. There is an effective IT policy in place to prevent users of the organisation's networks from accessing extremist materials.
11. The organisation has implemented the Prevent Duty across its school estate and in relevant policy areas that affect young people.

12. Prevent has been embedded within commissioning and procurement processes and Prevent is given consideration in the organisation's relationship with arms-length companies where relevant.
13. The organisation has a communications plan in place to proactively communicate the reality and impact of Prevent work to senior management, elected members and front-line staff.
14. The organisation engages with a range of community groups, both faith based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent agenda.

5. Summary of Findings

In order to effectively capture the results of the review, the fourteen aspects as shown within the self-assessment above have been grouped into the four key delivery areas of Leadership; Capabilities; Partnership; and Information Sharing. Identified good practice and suggested areas of improvement are shown within each area.

Leadership

Good practice:

- The review team found that the Chief Executive demonstrates clear leadership in the council's delivery of the Prevent agenda. This can be illustrated through such aspects as internal messaging to staff and direction given to senior managers.
- It is recognised that the intention to locate the governance of Prevent delivery within the Public Protection committee process represents a proactive way in which performance reporting will be made increasingly more transparent to local communities. This is mirrored at a national level and ensures that ACC are in step with wider themes of delivery.
- There was much evidence to support the finding that the Prevent SPOC is a visible and respected part of delivery. Through its implementation of the Prevent Duty, ACC has ensured that the role is given due prominence and the current post holder is well engaged with colleagues and partners.
- The Prevent Delivery Group (PDG) was found to be an excellent example of how collaborative leadership has been used to drive delivery across Aberdeen. ACC is an important part of this group which has evidently enhanced partnership working.

Suggested areas of improvement:

- The review team found that the governance of CONTEST was strong with the Protect strand, in particular, being given emphasis. This effective model of delivery was felt to offer a potential opportunity to raise the profile of Prevent to the same level, with a corresponding uplift in resources where appropriate.
- The review found that ACC successfully put in place the essential elements needed for Prevent delivery during the initial implementation of the Prevent Duty. One aspect of this was through the delivery of internal and external communications. The current restructuring of council services and business areas could present an opportunity to refresh these messages and enable senior managers to reiterate the importance of Prevent to staff. ACC may also wish to consider incorporating this work within a refreshed communications plan.

- The foundations of leadership were evident throughout the review and ACC could consider the creation of a short-term working group to progress the recommendations within this report. This group could look at the development of a refreshed communications plan, for example.
- There is no doubt that the initial implementation of Prevent within ACC was driven by having sufficient resources allocated to delivering the agenda. Recent restructuring within the council means that ACC could take the opportunity to review the current resources tasked with Prevent delivery to ensure that there is sufficient resilience. In particular this could look at the support provided to the SPOC to ensure, for example, that periods of leave do not affect the response to referrals received by the Prevent email facility.

Capabilities

Good practice:

- The review found that ACC have developed an excellent range of training resources that have been made available to staff. Through provision of the Online Interactive Learning (OIL), WRAP and Toolbox Talks, ACC have ensured that awareness can be provided to staff which can be appropriately tailored to role.
- The review team were of the opinion that making the online training a mandatory requirement for new employees was a very positive step and reinforced the importance of staff awareness. In addition, by embedding completion within core competencies, ACC have ensured that all staff should be aware of Prevent.
- WRAP training has been rolled out to the majority of schools with a good coverage of trained facilitators.
- The review team were impressed that Prevent has been embedded within the education safeguarding policy. This is an important way of ensuring that Prevent considerations are 'mainstreamed' into core policies.
- The strong partnership ethos evident throughout Prevent delivery in Aberdeen could again be found within the provision of joint training events. This collaborative activity ensures that Prevent is viewed as a shared agenda and not one which is driven by the police.

Suggested areas of improvement:

- ACC have an established referral process which has been published and made accessible to staff. In order to ensure increased visibility and awareness amongst staff, the current process could benefit from review and would be enhanced through the provision of greater detail, especially around the role of Police Scotland; information sharing; and how decisions are taken in terms of the PPC process.
- Whilst the referral process has been published, ACC may wish to conduct an internal review to test the confidence of staff to refer individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The review team found that there was some indication of a lack of confidence and a review could deal with this issue. The suggested short-term working group could progress this activity.
- The PPC process is an important part of Prevent delivery and it is worth investing the time to ensure that internal processes are in place and all parties who will be involved in a multi-agency meeting are familiar with roles and expectations. The review team suggests that ACC may wish to look in more detail at their processes in relation to the PPC process to ensure that their obligation to 'have a panel of persons in place' is adequately complied with. Good practice from elsewhere in Scotland has established that a table-top exercise could be utilised to brief stakeholders and ensure that necessary changes to processes are made.
- The review team recognises the excellent work in relation to staff training. To further enhance this activity it is suggested that ACC may wish to undertake an evaluation of training provided to

establish effectiveness and target future training appropriately. This activity could run in tandem with the suggestion that staff confidence in the referral process is assessed.

- The Prevent Duty establishes obligations for the council to have appropriate policies in place covering such aspects as venue hire; commissioning and procurement; ALEOs; and IT usage. The on-going organisational restructuring presents an opportunity to ensure that that the Prevent Duty is appropriately reflected in relevant policies.
- ACC may also wish to review the provision of public-space WiFi through an external company and ensure that obligations relating to Prevent and IT usage are adequately reflected in this arrangement.

Partnership

Good practice:

- The review team found that ACC has ensured that an ethos of partnership working is used to drive Prevent delivery across Aberdeen. This was evidenced through such activity as the PDG and the provision of joint-training events.
- The partnership working established has also empowered external stakeholders to lead the shared approach to Prevent delivery. This can be evidenced through the fact that an external organisation chairs the PDG.
- The review team found that there appeared to be robust public protection arrangements in place with information being shared effectively between partners. Prevent considerations are a visible strand of these arrangements.

Suggested areas of improvement:

- It is evident that ACC has an established means of engaging with local communities. The council may wish to consider utilising this network to engage more widely about Prevent activity and this is something that could be rolled into the suggestion that a refreshed communications plan is developed.
- The review team suggests that ACC may wish to develop its processes for measuring performance and capturing good practice with the existing partnership working arrangements (CONTEST group, public protection committee, community planning) presenting potential existing structures to progress this.
- The existing relationship with ACVO was noted to be positive and strong. The review team would suggest that this offers an opportunity to work jointly with this organisation to broaden staff awareness of Prevent and empower local communities.
- The effective involvement of partners in the PPC process is central to ensuring that vulnerable individuals are properly assessed and provided appropriate support. As referred to above, ACC may wish to hold a table-top PPC exercise which will reinforce the importance of joint working in this area.

Information Sharing

Good Practice:

- The review found that the existing partnership structures allow for information to be shared effectively in relation to individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

- The relationship with Police Scotland is positive and has allowed for information on emerging risks to be shared in a proportionate and effective way. This enables an appropriate response to be taken and community tensions to be monitored.
- A suitable agreement to cover information sharing is a necessary part of Prevent delivery and the PDG has progressed an ISP which is awaiting sign-off by the respective partners.

Suggested areas of improvement:

- As referred to above, ACC may wish to give consideration to developing a refreshed communications plan which can be used to inform key stakeholders about the value of Prevent activity and the importance of effective information sharing.
- The review team acknowledged that the partnership meeting structures (CONTEST group, PDG etc) offers a good opportunity for information sharing between partners. This could be enhanced through appropriate sharing of information relating to any on-going Prevent referrals to ensure that partners are fully sighted on emerging trends. Such information would have to be shared appropriately and in compliance with any existing information sharing agreements.
- The information contained within the ERTLP document was welcomed by those receiving the briefing, although it was highlighted that more information regarding Prevent would be appreciated in future iterations. ACC should continue to work with partners within the multi-agency CONTEST group to feed views into the national governance structure dealing with this activity.

6. Next Steps and Further Support

All recommendations are presented above as positive suggestions that ACC may wish to consider as ways of building upon their current delivery of Prevent. The Scottish Government is keen to provide further support to the council and partners in the following ways:

- **SPOC Network:** The existing network can be utilised to provide further support should ACC wish to seek advice or good practice from other areas of Scotland. Whilst the network is divided on a geographical basis, the ACC SPOC is welcome to attend or dial in to meetings taking place in other areas of the country.
- **Peer to Peer Mentoring:** An expert peer may be identified from elsewhere in Scotland or the rest of the UK that could assist with a particular issue or theme. The Scottish Government is happy to facilitate an introduction of peers and support further discussion, either remotely or face to face, dependent on circumstances.
- **SPOC Knowledge Hub:** The Scottish Government will continue to support the current online knowledge hub that has been created for Prevent SPOCs. Questions to other SPOCs can be posted on this facility, along with information that may benefit the wider network.
- **Further Peer Review:** The Scottish Government may be able to facilitate a follow-up review at a later date should the authority wish to independently measure progress made on any aspect.

Appendix A

Participating Agencies

Aberdeen City Council

- Chief Executive
- Prevent Single Point of Contact
- Organisational Development Advisor
- Emergency Planning Strategist
- Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment
- Chief Officer, Integrated Children's and Family Services
- Infrastructure Architect
- Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Aberdeen University

- Prevent Lead

Health and Social Care Partnership

- Prevent Lead

Police Scotland

- CONTEST Lead
- Prevent Delivery Unit (North)
- Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer

NHS Grampian

- Joint Training Coordinator
- Prevent Lead

ACVO

- Prevent Lead