

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 17 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety
SUBJECT: Presentation: Channel - The Prevent Strategy
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The Board to receive a presentation from Emma Hart, the Prevent Engagement Officer on Channel – The Prevent Strategy.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) Members receive the presentation: and**
- (2) Members ask any questions about Channel as it operates in Halton**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Prevent strategy seeks to support people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Re-launched in July 2011, the new strategy is about providing early intervention and support, not criminalising. It is a shift away from general cohesion/integration works, and the introduction of an 'all-risks' approach. The core element of this new strategy is for local risks to be identified, assessed, and a proportionate response and support provided through Channel.

The strategy is aimed at 3 main objectives which are:

- 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/radicalisation and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Institutions: work with a wide range of sectors (in particular education, faith, health, the internet and criminal justice) where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Channel provides a mechanism for assessing and supporting individuals who may be targeted by violent extremists or drawn in to violent extremism. Channel is modelled on other successful multi-agency risk management processes.

Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners (such as the education sector, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services) and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn in to violent extremism;
- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.