



Bracknell Forest Prevent Strategy and Action Plan

2020 – 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Bracknell Forest is a low demand and low risk area regarding the threat of active terrorism and continues to be designated as a Tier 3, non-priority area in the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTPL, 2019). Bracknell Forest also takes pride in having a cohesive community despite having grown in diversity in recent years. In addition, our local authority and its partners have a strong record of working together on the Prevent agenda since the launch of government guidance, with the original board being established in 2012.
- 1.2. Our new Strategy and 3-year Action Plan has been produced considering the progress we have made in implementing our previous Prevent strategy, combined with this revised duty and changing local, national and global landscape.
- 1.3. It is also the product of a multi-agency forum – the Bracknell Forest Prevent Steering Group. It is a partnership document supported by all the specified authorities within Bracknell Forest and has been approved by the Community Safety Partnership. It aims to bring all Prevent work together into one place to ensure a strategic and co-ordinated approach which maximises the use of available resources in tackling the issue.
- 1.4. It is based on the following principles:
 - Prevent is everyone's business and therefore awareness will be mandatory for all specified authorities, including their commissioned services
 - Actions taken will always be proportionate to the risk identified for Bracknell Forest
 - Bracknell Forest specified authorities will work effectively together through the Prevent Steering Group to deliver the Action Plan, with local delivery arrangements in place where appropriate and proportionate
 - Prevent is part of the wider safeguarding agenda and thus will focus on providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism from an early stage
 - The Prevent programme must not involve any covert activity against individuals or communities
- 1.5. The rights of individuals will be protected when sharing personal information between specified authorities. When necessary to do so, we will ensure this follows relevant legislation as well as following guidance set out in the Community Safety Partnership's Information-Sharing Protocol 2020.

2. Legislative Context

UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2011 (updated in 2013 and 2018)

- 2.1. The UK government has a Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) in place which aims to 'to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence'. CONTEST is split into four work-streams that are known within the counter-terrorism community as the 'four Ps': Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare. It aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

- 2.2. The Prevent strand of this strategy has three key objectives:
- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat that we face from those who promote it
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

- 2.3. The full Strategy can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- 2.4. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies (“specified authorities” listed in Schedule 6 to the Act) in the exercise of their function, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

- 2.5. This Act was updated December 2019 and it introduced a new duty for local authorities to provide support for vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. In England and Wales, this is done through Channel Panels. More information on the Channel Duty is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revise-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

- 2.6. Home Office guidance on this duty states that for all specified authorities, those in leadership positions are expected to:
- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation
 - Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
 - Communicate and promote the importance of the Duty
 - Ensure staff implement the Duty effectively

3. Channel Duty Compliance in Bracknell Forest

- 3.1. The Government’s Channel intervention operates in a pre-criminal space, providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activities before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation could be comparable to other forms of harm and abuse. We therefore consider it a safeguarding issue which needs to be thought of alongside the wider safeguarding agenda.
- 3.2. Whilst each specified authority has this new Duty, the guidance does not expect organisations and institutions to tackle the issue alone. It clearly states that Prevent work depends on effective partnership-working and expects co-ordination of this activity through a multi-agency forum.
- 3.3. Bracknell Forest has an established Channel Panel which is compliant with the new Duty. The Bracknell Forest Channel Panel has monthly meetings scheduled

throughout the year. In addition, it meets twice a year to ensure the partnership structure is maintained and to discuss and share good practice and learning.

3.4. Current membership of the Channel Panel is shown in the table below:

Bracknell Forest Council	Community Safety Team
	Youth Offending Service
	Organisational Development
	Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board
	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
Police	Counter-Terrorism Policing South East
	Thames Valley Police – Bracknell and Wokingham Local Police Area
Health	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
	Clinical Commissioning Group
	Community Mental Health Team
Probation	National Probation Service
	Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

4. Bracknell Forest Context

4.1. Bracknell Forest lies 28 miles west of London, at the heart of the Thames Valley and within the county of Berkshire. The borough’s population is 118,025 (mid-2014 estimates, based on Census 2011) and the economy is of above average size and productivity compared to the county and nationally.

4.2. Bracknell Forest has 31 primary phase schools, 6 secondary schools, 1 SEND (special educational needs and disability) and 1 Pupil Referral Unit. Overall, results are consistently in line with or above the national averages.

4.3. The 2011 Census showed that 84.9% of the population was ‘white British’ and 15.1% of the population was Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and ‘white other’. The proportion of school pupils from BME groups has increased steadily from 10.8% in 2005 to 19.5% in 2015. 11.3% of pupils in Bracknell Forest schools have English as an Additional Language (EAL). There are 84 known first languages other than English spoken in our schools, although many of these in very small numbers. Bracknell has continued to grow and diversify since then.

4.4. In the last BFC Resident Survey conducted in 2017:

- 96% of respondents said that people from different backgrounds got on well together
- 90% of respondents were satisfied with the area as a place to live - up from 87% in 2014 (only 4% were dissatisfied)
- 68% of people were satisfied with the way the council runs things - an increase of 18% since 2009 (only 10% were dissatisfied)

5. Local Profile

- 5.1. The Bracknell Forest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) which is a restricted document produced by the CTPSE (Counter-Terrorism Policing South East, informs our awareness and understanding of the risk held locally.
- 5.2. The South-East of England has several identified potential risk areas and, while not specific to Bracknell, it is helpful for all local authorities to be aware. These include:
- Islamist extremism (including those within the prison estate)
 - Syrian returnees (those returning from Syria who may be returning to the UK to radicalise other people for their cause)
 - Al-Muhajiroun (a militant jihadist movement in the UK)
 - Aspirant travellers (those wishing to travel to join extremist movements abroad)
 - Anti-Daesh fighters (Daesh is also known as IS, ISIL and ISIS)
 - Animal Rights Extremism
 - Libyan Extremism
 - Lone actors
- 5.3. In 2018/19, referrals for right wing terrorist behaviour outnumbered those for Islamist referrals in all of Berkshire (CTLP, 2019)
- 5.4. International terrorism and home-grown terrorist have meant an increased role for policing in recent years. This has led to some in our communities feeling uncomfortable with a sense of being under scrutiny. The perception from some is that there is a focus on Muslim communities rather than on the very small numbers that support an extremist ideology. It is essential that Prevent work in Bracknell Forest does not stereotype communities and takes measures to counter this. It is important to have and maintain communication across communities and to make this work accountable to people within them. This is particularly true given that the biggest threat in terms of extremism in Bracknell Forest appears to be that of far-right extremism (CTPL, 2019).

6. Governance and Monitoring

- 6.1. This Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and will be delivered by the Bracknell Forest Prevent Steering Group. This is a multi-agency partnership group currently comprising representatives from the following agencies.

Bracknell Forest Council	Lead Member for Culture, Corporate
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	Services and Public Protection
	Head of Community Safety
	BFC Prevent Lead
	Youth Offending Service
	Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership
	Organisational Development
	Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board representative
Police	Counter-Terrorism Policing South East
	Thames Valley Police – Bracknell and Wokingham LPA Prevent Lead/representative
Health	Bracknell and Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group
	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Probation	National Probation Service
	Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
Bracknell and Wokingham College	Prevent/Safeguarding Lead

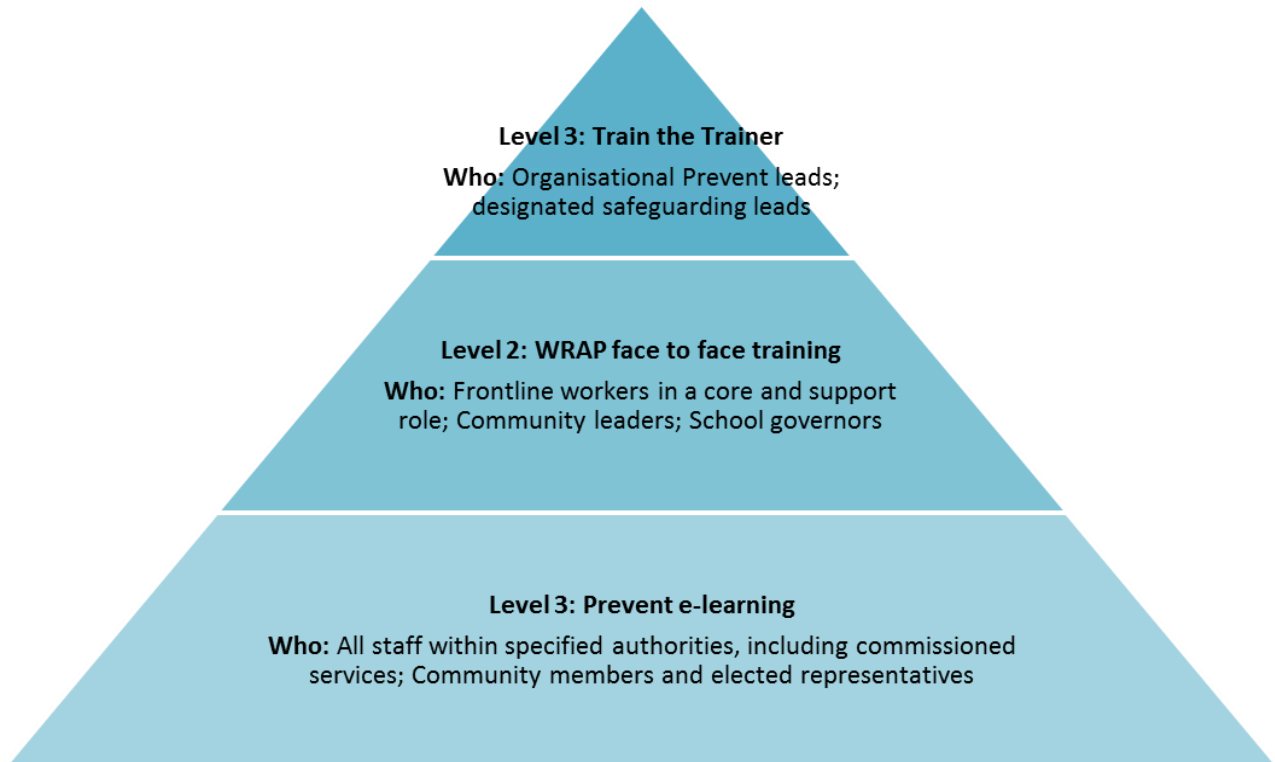
6.2. Progress against implementation of the action plan will be monitored by the Prevent Steering Group with any issues of concern being escalated to the Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership.

6.3. The Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership provides the direct governance for the Prevent Steering Group. However, Prevent is a safeguarding issue and therefore the Prevent Steering Group also has a line of accountability to the Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board, allowing those members to have reassurance of the ongoing work as well as being able to input to the further development of the Prevent work.

7. Resourcing

Co-ordination of the work will be carried out by the BFC Community Safety Team through the Prevent Steering Group. Partners will be expected to resource their responsibilities as outlined in the action plan.

8. Prevent Awareness



9. Educational Institutions

- 9.1. Our schools, colleges and childcare providers play an important role in ensuring the safeguarding of our young people from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. We are committed to supporting our schools, colleges, educational and childcare providers with their responsibility to embed the Prevent agenda, to provide safe places in which children and young people can discuss controversial issues and be given the knowledge and confidence to challenge extremist beliefs and ideologies.

10. Safety Online

- 10.1 The great features of the internet including ease of access, lack of regulation, vast potential audiences and fast flow of information have been abused and used to the advantage of groups committed to terrorising communities to achieve their goals. Extremist propaganda is now widely available, particularly online, and can have a direct impact on radicalising those vulnerable individuals at risk. Building the resilience of children and young people to develop their critical thinking to challenge extremist narrative is a priority.

11. Interdependencies with Other Work

- 11.1. Prevent work in Bracknell Forest cross cuts across a number of other strategies, plans and programmes of local activity including the following:
- Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board
<https://bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk/>

- Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/>
- Bracknell Forest Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/.../multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>

11.2 The Action Plan does not intend to duplicate work being led by others but to bring together work across all sectors on the issues of Prevent into one cohesive, co-ordinated statement.

Action Plan 2020 - 2023

The Bracknell Forest Prevent Action Plan has been designed to support the national strategy objectives of:

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

The work we have identified cuts across all of these objectives and so our design takes an approach based around key pieces of work that we have identified as essential in delivering this agenda:

1. Leadership, governance and accountability – to ensure strong, co-ordinated community and partnership action which is accountable to the local community
2. Awareness, learning and development – across all sectors, public, private, community and voluntary
3. Safe education – in early years, schools and colleges
4. Community cohesion – ensuring the voice of the community is heard
5. Support – establish appropriate support for those identified as vulnerable and their families
6. Intelligence and communications – mechanisms to monitor local community tensions, identify vulnerable individuals and communicate Prevent activity across Bracknell Forest agencies and communities

Objective 1 Leadership and Governance			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
1.1 All specified authorities to identify Prevent leads within appropriate service areas to act as the link between the PSG and their service, to disseminate communications as required by the PSG and provide a single point of contact for staff on Prevent issues	Specified authorities and Prevent Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified authorities are fully linked into the borough's action plan. • Prevent leads facilitate a 2-way communication mechanism. • Specified authorities fulfil their statutory Prevent duty. • Staff have a nominated individual they can turn to for advice and information. 	
1.2 Prevent page on the Bracknell Forest website to be developed as a hub for all information on Prevent, including learning and development packages, how to report concerns, pathways, the Channel process, etc. Links to be made to the Safeguard Board Website	Prevent Lead/Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified authorities and wider partnership members have the information and the tools they require to support the borough's efforts in preventing terrorism in Bracknell Forest. 	
1.3 Prevent Steering Group and Channel Panel to review their membership annually and confidentially agreement	Prevent Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified authorities and voluntary and community sector organisations are appropriately represented on the PSG and able to influence the direction of travel for Prevent work in Bracknell Forest. 	

Objective 2 Awareness, Learning and Development			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
2.1 Review and refresh current Prevent learning and development packages annually to ensure that they meet requirements	Prevent Lead Channel Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements and developments are identified and implemented. 	
2.2 Make Prevent awareness mandatory for all staff and ensure key staff receive training	Prevent Lead Learning and Development Team within specified authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full compliance with the statutory duty. 	
2.3 Monitor take-up of the Prevent e-learning and WRAP training (and future training as developed)	Learning and Development Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified authorities can monitor compliance and target groups that have not undertaken the required learning and development activities. Feedback can be collated from course participants to make further improvements. 	
2.4 Monitor the impact of Prevent training and awareness raising by regular reports to the PSG of numbers of reported concerns and referral source	CTLTP Prevent Lead Channel Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the learning and development can be measured. 	
2.5 Monitor numbers of returnees and unaccompanied asylum seekers arriving in Bracknell	Prevent Lead, CTPSE, Safeguarding, Inclusion Team, MASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report outcomes, develop of services, respond to needs. 	

Objective 3 Safe Education Setting			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
3.1 Disseminate a range of educational packages appropriate to early years, primary, secondary, post-16 and SEN settings which raise awareness of Prevent, promote fundamental British values and challenge extremist ideologies	Prevent Lead. Safeguarding and Inclusion Team – Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people are aware of extremist narratives and feel confident in reporting concerns to teachers Prevent leads 	
3.2 Monitor take-up of the Prevent e-learning and WRAP training by school staff (and future training as developed)	Learning and Development. Prevent Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified authorities can monitor compliance and target groups that have not undertaken the required learning and development activities 	
3.3 Have a clear and robust referral process accessible to educators	Prevent Lead. Channel Chair. Safeguarding and Inclusion Team – Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear referral pathway and protocol High quality and appropriate referrals 	

Objective 4 Community Cohesion			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
4.1 Ensure links between the PSG, Community Safety and the Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership are in robust to ensure a coordinated approach to tackling hate crime and community feedback	Community Engagement and Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community tension is effectively monitored. • Reporting of hate crime is encouraged. • Community and non-statutory partnership feedback 	
Protect vulnerable groups against victimisation or stigmatisation following regional, national and international terrorist events	Community Safety CCEP TVP Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Hardening • Sig flags • Community messages 	

Objective 5 Support			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
5.1 Map and review the Channel Panel process and support pathway, including links to MASH and Vulnerable Adults	Prevent Lead Channel Chair CSC lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support pathway is clear for both the referring agencies and for the referred individuals themselves • The process is inclusive and considers different individual needs 	
5.2 Maintain an effective Channel Panel and ensure all members are aware of their role and responsibility	PSG Prevent Lead Channel Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly panel meetings • Review attendance and escalate as required 	
5.3 Create mandatory 6-month review of all cases reviewed and managed by channel to look at lessons learnt and disseminate learning across all partners and neighbouring borough	Prevent Lead Channel Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit protocol • Roundtable partnership workshops 	

Objective 6 Intelligence and Communication			
Key action	Lead Officer/Agency	Desired outcomes	Progress
6.1 Circulate the daily Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) RICU bulletin	Community Safety Team Prevent Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent Steering Group members are alert to any emerging issues 	
6.2 Review arrangements/booking conditions for lettings of community and private venues to ensure no venue is used by extremist groups	Community Engagement and Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and private venues are not used by extremist groups 	
6.3 Distribute and review resources provided for use by frontline professionals	Prevent Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on risks, vulnerabilities and referral process is easily accessible to front line staff 	
6.4 National mechanism for reporting online terrorist material to be promoted	Prevent Lead Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online material is reported and challenged by the appropriate authorities 	
6.5 Community reassurance following terrorist incident or hate crime. Communication Strategy	Thames Valley Police BFC comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified authorities can monitor compliance and target groups that have not undertaken the required learning and development activities Feedback can be collated from course participants to make further improvements 	