Thurrock Community Safety Partnership.

Prevent Strategy

2024-2027

Owner: Thurrock Prevent Delivery Group.

21 March 2024 – signed Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Board.

Vision and aims

Welcome to Thurrock's Prevent Partnership Strategy 2024/2027, our local response to the revised **Prevent Duty Guidance** that came into place 31 December 2023.

It outlines our multi-agency aim to **help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism** and ensures that we respond to the duty placed on specified authorities locally through a proportionate response reflecting local context and risk.

The objectives of Thurrock's prevent strategy are aligned to those of the Home Office guidance in that we will:

- **tackle** the ideological causes of terrorism
- **intervene** early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- **enable** people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

We will, through this strategy, which the Prevent Delivery Group (PDG) is responsible for, have a dynamic Prevent action plan which responds to changing risk and drives continuous improvement through the Home Office annual assurance process.

Definitions and glossary

Definitions

Term	Definition
Extremism	Extremism based on an ideology and can be based on political or religious views. It includes extreme Islamist ideology (an ideology and not to be confused with Islam the religion), right wing extremism and animal rights.
Islamist terrorism	Islamist terrorism is the threat or use of violence as a means to establish a strict interpretation of an Islamic society.
Extreme right-wing terrorism	Those involved in extreme right-wing activity who use terrorist violence to further their ideology.
Vulnerable person	Someone who may need special care, support or protection because of age, disability, risk of abuse or neglect.
Channel	A multi-agency programme across England and Wales that provides support to people susceptible to becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
Incel	Abbreviation of the term Involuntary Celibate and is a culture that encompasses misogynistic and violent views towards women as a result of feeling rejected by women.
Misogyny	The dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against, women or girls.

Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
CTLP	Counter Terrorism Local Profile
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Leads (Schools)
EPUT	Essex Partnership University NHS Trust
LA	Local Authority
PDG	Prevent Delivery Group
SPOCs	Single Point of Contact

Links to background documents

Prevent Duty Guidance –
www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Channel Duty Guidance refresh 2023 –
www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance

Prevent Duty Toolkit for local authorities –
www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities

National context

Threat and risk

An overview of the current threat and risk in the UK, in-line with the assessment in the revised Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023 (direct quotes from the published guidance are in italics):

> *The primary domestic terrorist threat comes from Islamist terrorism*
>
> *Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism describes those involved in Extreme Right-Wing activity who use terrorist violence to further their ideology. These ideologies can be broadly characterised as Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism*
>
> *Islamist ideology is resilient and enduring.*
>
> *Extreme Right-Wing ideology is resurgent.*
>
> *Other ideologies are less present, but still have the potential to motivate, inspire and be used to justify terrorism.*
>
> *Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism currently represents a significantly smaller terrorist threat to the UK and is not currently present at any significant scale.*

It also references the increased complexity of terrorists holding a range of personal grievances alongside the primary ideology for committing an attack (often referred to as Mixed, Unclear and Unstable). It notes that terrorist narratives have several common themes such as antisemitism, misogyny, anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority.

It also recognises that conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence and that the those who violently adhere to movements and subcultures (such as Incels) could also meet the threshold of terrorist intent or action.

It also recognises the threat from online radicalisation and the concern for the number of young people under the age of 18, downloading and disseminating terrorist materials.

The current threat level (January 2024) to the UK is **Substantial**.

For up-to-date threat levels, refer to www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency

Background

The government's overall aim of their counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. Prevent is one of the 4 key pillars of CONTEST:

- **Prevent** – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Pursue** – to stop terrorist attacks
- **Protect** – to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare** – to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The Prevent duty requires specified authorities such as education, health, local authorities, police and criminal justice agencies (prisons and probation) to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation.

The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

Local context

Threat and risk

The National Threat Level remains as **Substantial** meaning that an attack is **likely**.

There remains no greater risk to Thurrock than other areas of the UK.

Thurrock has the lowest prevent referrals to hate crime across the Eastern Region over a 12-month period and is below average proportion of referrals to hate crime.

Thurrock is a non-funded Prevent area, in that we have a lower threat/risk level and do not have a dedicated funded Prevent resource in place.

The Prevent Delivery Group are focusing on threats from Extreme Right-Wing activity locally, whilst mindful of the National threat from Islamist Terrorism.

We recognise the threat to young males in particularly through the Online space and influencers acting within it.

This is in addition to those who may be vulnerable due to mental health and neurodiversity.

When setting our strategy and developing our action plan to respond we are considerate of the ask of the Security Threat Check:

- *is this action mindful of the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*

- *is this action proportionate when placed against the UK's current terrorism and extremism threat picture?*

- *is this action likely to reduce the threat of terrorism or terrorist adjacent narratives?*

Strategic objectives

What's working well?

Tackle the Ideological causes of terrorism:

- information flow regards threat from CTLP briefing
- stakeholder communications
- training opportunities
- engagement in hate crime awareness week
- specialist officers in probation / police

Susceptibility to radicalisation:

- training for practitioners
- SPOCs and champions within police
- information sharing
- walk online roadshows for primary schools
- CONTEST – Essex forum
- response to identified risks – for example, misogyny training
- EPUT newsletters for front line staff

Rehabilitate – early intervention and referral to Channel:

- quality decisions at the channel panel, exploring issues and the context of the referrals
- quality information from the board, sharing of information and good practice from the police
- hate crime ambassador – for example, fire service becoming ambassador – there have been good conversations on how it has impacted on the communities
- the availability and breadth of training – for example, safeguarding website, hate crime ambassadors including non-professionals
- partners and police sharing good intelligence.

Identified gaps

Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism:

- briefing educational leads on local context
- up to date knowledge on evolving ideologies
- online risks – reaching parents, carers and children
- clarity on radicalisation versus hate crime

Susceptibility to radicalisation:

- knowledge of those that may be vulnerable
- no process for monitoring of who has attended training and if it is up-to-date
- champions / SPOCs across agencies other that police
- action plan – ongoing monitoring and holding partners to account for delivery
- referrals to Channel Panel are low

Rehabilitate – early intervention and referral to Channel:

- private sector engagement - particularly with private landlords, letting agents and business
- community training offer
- workforce knowledge in relation to their duty towards prevent, reporting and referrals
- changing demography of Thurrock build more links to the cultural diversity and understand what is happening in the community

Compliance with the Prevent Duty

What's working well?

Leadership and partnership:

- governance,
- action plan is dynamic and focused on outcomes
- commitment of partners, shared understanding of the issues
- information sharing

Capabilities:

- monthly training opportunities – training approach in Children's Services is "must do, should do, could do"
- misogyny awareness
- strong staff inductions in education and prevent is mandatory and within annual safeguarding training
- CTLP briefing

- Prevent board and sharing of risks
- walk online roadshows

Reducing permissive environments:

- retain best practice across engagement, communications, awareness-raising, safeguarding, training – much of the existing plan is relevant to the Prevent Duty guidance, but we may need to review how this is done to understand more about impact and reach so our efforts are not wasted

Identified gaps

Leadership and partnership:

- early intervention children
- understanding the platforms used online
- hate crime delivered in year 6 – opportunity to deliver earlier
- home schooled pupils
- referrals to channel is low – but support is good
- pick up good practice from other organisations – Police / LA

Capabilities:

- communication in relation to training promoted but not all attend
- cascading down from leadership
- engagement with social landlords, letting agencies and businesses
- DSL – how well cascaded to them? – they need to know which ideologies we're seeing most, as the number of ideologies is confusing

Reducing permissive environments:

- event planning and venue hire – best practice is written into guidance, but is this always applied to all events, and have all council hire policies reflected Prevent Duty expectations?
- licensed events – we assume these are screened, but how and can best practice be shared with others?
- private hire – how do we influence other venues to adopt, and is there a role For Trading Standards when carrying out visits?
- understanding scope of all groups – youth, sports, and so on

NOTICE - CHECK - SHARE

Our priorities

Our priorities are:

- proportionate response to risk – outlining the new Security Threat Check (STC), which consists of three questions, will ensure that high level decision-making within Prevent is always informed by proper consideration of the terrorism threat picture

- improve the quality of referrals – communicating the need for genuine concern about an individual's path to radicalisation and that ideology should be a critical consideration. Measured through those closed at initial assessment

- improve understanding and management of risk – through wider sharing of strategic risk assessment and identifying training needs across organisations

- develop the capabilities across the work force ensuring staff understand the risk of radicalisation building and promoting the capabilities including formal pathway to escalate concerns and refer through to Prevent

- focus on 'reducing permissive environments' as a key theme to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism and broader radicalising influences.

- engaging parents alongside young people

- identify shared opportunity for learning, including domestic abuse operations

- learn from those with lived experience to understand intelligence at a local level

Action Plan

Year 1, 2024/25

Leadership and partnership:

- embed the revised Channel Duty guidance 2023
- engage with private landlords

Capabilities:

- organisational assessment of training – identify where it should be mandatory and what monitoring needs to be in place
- develop approach to raising awareness of different ideologies
- respond to findings of vulnerability case studies
- identification and training of champions across partners

Reducing permissive environments:

- review policies to reduce permissive environments and raise awareness across council-managed venues
- Walk online roadshows with primary pupils

Year 2, 2025/26

Leadership and partnership:

- Prevent to be a standing agenda item for education forum

Capabilities:

- respond to identified gaps in organisational training assessment
- support champions to raise awareness within their teams
- programme of speakers across range of ideologies
- develop and promote a community training offer

Reducing permissive environments:

- Walk online roadshows with primary pupils
- raising awareness within voluntary sector

Year 3, 2026/27

Leadership and partnership:

- develop engagement with communities and clubs, increase awareness of Prevent

Capabilities:

- responding to changing ideologies through speakers at events
- partners work collaboratively to share resources and develop best practice guides
- develop Prevent ambassadors in community

Reducing permissive environments:

- Walk online roadshows with primary pupils and hate crime education programme extended
- expand awareness to private businesses

Partners

The following are partners on our **Prevent Delivery Group** and contributed to developing this strategy:

- representatives from Counter Terrorism Policing Team, Home Office and Department of Education Regional advisors
- Thurrock Council Housing, Emergency Planning and Community Safety, Community Development, Education, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care teams
- Community Policing team
- Thurrock Colleges – Adult Community College, USP and SEC
- Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership
- EPUT
- NELFT
- Integrated Care Board
- The Probation Service
- Essex Fire and Rescue Service

The following are all members of our **Channel Panel**:

- Head of Safeguarding, Adult Social Care
- Children Excluded or Missing team manager
- Channel Case Officer
- Community Safety Inspector
- Eastern Region Prevent representative
- Head of Learning and Universal Outcomes
- Integrated Care Body
- NELFT
- MASH service manager
- Youth Offending Service
- The Probation Service
- EPUT (mental health service)
- Border Force or Home Office Immigration

Elected members are key stakeholders in the Prevent Strategy and their views were sought through a paper taken to Committee on 20 February 2023.

Community Equality Impact Assessment

Summary

The assessment recognises that whilst implementation of the Prevent strategy and action plan for Thurrock has a positive impact on whole communities. It ensures they are safeguarded from the impacts of extremism and prevents people from being drawn into extremism.

The strategy aims to have a positive impact on some specific communities in order to mitigate risk where there is greater susceptibility to radicalisation.

The action plan takes care to balance the risks of all areas of ideology. The focus is in bringing communities together and empowering them to be able to challenge extremism in all its forms.

Agreed actions to mitigate:

- review education area of website
- raise quality of referrals – target from schools but not measurable by sector
- walk online roadshows for years 5 and 6
- roadshow for young people most susceptible
- webinars to be hosted in relation to identified strands more susceptible to raise awareness
- organisational assessment of training, identify where it should be mandatory and what monitoring needs to be in place