

Overview & Scrutiny Committee January 2019

Prevent in Tower Hamlets

Introduction

- Prevent is one of the '4 P's' of the Government's CONTEST strategy.
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out the legislative requirements on the Local Authority to deliver Prevent.
- The Prevent strategy is essential in safeguarding vulnerable people from all forms of radicalisation.
- Terrorism and extremism remains a significant threat to all our communities
- Overview and Scrutiny reported in 2017 and received updates against recommendations in March 2018.
- Home Office peer review conducted in February 2018.
 - *“Tower Hamlets is delivering Prevent to an extremely high standard with areas of national best practice”*
 - *“The Mayor, Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive take a strong leadership role with regards to Prevent, with clearly defined roles within their leadership of the delivery structure”*

Context of Tower Hamlets

- Tower Hamlets is assessed by the Home Office as one of the highest risk areas in London with regard counter terrorism.
- Staff resourcing: 1 x Manager; 1 x Prevent Education Officer; 2 x Prevent Engagement Officers; 1 x Project officer
- Project Resourcing (18/19): £139,000 (not including Home Office directly funded projects)
- Community perception of Prevent remains challenging
- Significant national expertise in child protection within the Prevent space

Counter Terrorism Threat & Risk

- Radicalisation using social media
- Supplementary schools and the unregulated space
- Mental Health
- Perception of Prevent in the community
- Right Wing Extremism
- Release of Anjem Choudary & Al Muhajiroun resurgence

What we did in 2018

- Built upon our nationally recognised good practice in safeguarding those vulnerable to radicalisation
- Continued our long standing work with schools and independent education providers.
- Increased involvement of young people.
- Introduced a community advisory group to shape delivery
- Held two community round tables
- Home Secretary visit to see our work in November 2018

What we delivered:

- A total number of 8,405 participants engaged
- A total of 163 sessions/briefings delivered

Projects

- **2018/19**
 - London Tigers
 - Equaliteach
 - SafeSpace
 - SFSC
 - Sheroes
 - Brave
- **2019/20 (Estimated budget 475K-675K)**
 - Bid process now being moderated by Home Office

What we are doing in 2019

- Gain community confidence in what we do through the advisory group
- Improve our external communications on Prevent
- Increasing coordination with our colleagues across east London
- Continue to safeguard and protect the most vulnerable in the community
- Continue to develop our Youth Prevent Champions Network and our engagement with young people
- Develop a real understanding of our Out-of-School Settings in the borough
- Identifying new local community projects to support