

PREVENTING RADICALISATION

Radicalisation involves persuading others of a world view that rejects society and encourages the use of violence to change society.

The *Prevent* programme is part of the national counter-terrorism strategy and involves identifying individuals being radicalised and drawn into terrorism or violent extremism, and working with those individuals – on a voluntary basis – giving them support and guidance to turn them to a different path.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty on local authorities such as South Gloucestershire Council to assess the risk of radicalisation in their local area and to take appropriate action in response to that risk.

While the national threat level from terrorism is 'Severe' (meaning a terrorist attack is highly likely) South Gloucestershire is classed as a low-risk area. As such it receives no additional Home Office funding to deliver its *Prevent* work. However that does not mean there is no risk in South Gloucestershire.

A Prevent Board for South Gloucestershire was established in order to co-ordinate work between key organisations operating locally. In 2015/16 a formal relationship between the LSCB and the *Prevent* Board was established. This includes the Council's Strategic Safeguarding Service Manager being a member of the *Prevent* Board, and an agreement that the *Prevent* Board's detailed Annual Report will be presented to the LSCJB annually.

Following an assessment of risks and readiness an action plan was agreed and implemented by the Prevent Board. Key actions included:

- Revising and communicating clear guidance on how individuals identified as potentially being radicalised could be referred for consideration and support.
- Establishing a monthly Channel Panel meeting to review live cases, co-ordinate support for individuals, and monitor the outcome of this.
- Creating a secure site where guidance and information including lesson plans is available for schools
- Training 263 staff from 54 schools in the national Workshop To Raise Awareness of *Prevent*
- Briefing all Council staff on the basics of *Prevent*, and giving more detailed (WRAP) training to 187 staff identified as being most likely to encounter radicalised individuals
- Building *Prevent* into standard safeguarding training on a proportionate basis

No resident in South Gloucestershire was identified as risk of radicalisation in 2015/16.

Looking to 2016/17 *Prevent* priorities will be to complete the work started in the previous year and to extend awareness of, and training in, *Prevent* to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, with particular emphasis on those working with vulnerable young people,