

Community Care Live Tuesday 3 November 2015

Preventing Radicalisation

Victoria Latham, Prevent, OSCT

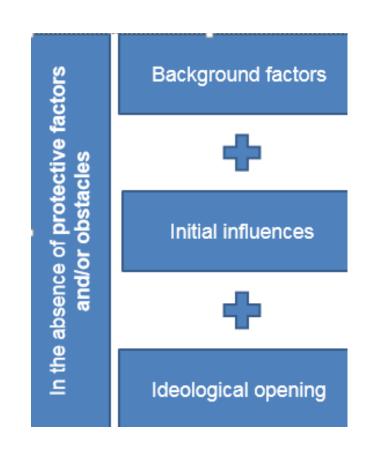
victoria.latham@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

The terrorist threat to the UK

- The terrorist threat level is 'severe' meaning that an attack in this country is 'highly likely'.
- But the threats we face have changed:
 - ➤ ISIL is much larger and better resourced than AQ and is trying to create and establish a state;
 - ➤ unlike AQ, ISIL is also trying to radicalise large numbers of people here and in other western countries and has attracted far more foreign fighters and supporters;
 - > its social media propaganda is intense.
- Foreign fighters and supporters are encouraged either to travel or to conduct simple but effective terrorist attacks here.

What we know about the radicalisation process

- Three factors acting together create the conditions for involvement in terrorism
- Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability...
- ... often when combined with specific influences family, friends, on line...
- and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer



Our response: Prevent

- The Prevent Strategy (2011) is part of our counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST.
 - Countering ideology: taking down harmful internet content; supporting organisations to develop effective responses;
 - Supporting individuals who are at risk of radicalisation notably (but not only) through Channel;
 - Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation and opportunities for countering radicalisation: education, health, local authorities, policing, prisons, charities, faith based organisations etc.

The Prevent duty requires specified institutions (including schools, local authorities, universities, early years provision) to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Prevent, local authorities and social work

- Local authorities have been integral to Prevent for many years.
- Work has been focussed in the areas of highest risk. It has included:
 - > running dedicated projects and personnel to address the specific risks in local areas;
 - training frontline workers through the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP);
 - > chairing Channel panels to deal with individuals at highest risk of radicalisation.
- The Prevent duty and statutory responsibility for Channel aims to establish consistency across the country and make it easier to share expertise so that we can more effectively deal with the threat.

Prevent duty: key themes

- The duty does not itself change the nature of our Prevent work –
 the strategy (2011) still stands and currently remains the basis for our
 work. This remains, ultimately, a <u>safeguarding issue</u>.
- There are five key themes throughout the guidance to the duty which apply across all sectors:
 - understand risks;
 - > ensure effective leadership;
 - understand and use the Prevent partnerships we/you have created;
 - develop capability/ knowledge and use the capabilities we have developed already; and
 - within existing legislation establish appropriate information sharing arrangements.

Conclusions

- ISIL is not more of the same: it brings a different kind of threat.
- ISIL makes Prevent increasingly important.
- The Prevent duty is part of our renewed response to the changing threat.
- It is based on the existing Prevent strategy and many organisations are already meeting its requirements.
- Effective multiagency partnerships have been for many years, and will continue to be, a key part of our response to the terrorist threat.