

Leeds Prevent Programme



A programme
overview

28th April 2013

Safer Leeds
tackling drugs and crime



The threat from terrorism

- There is a substantial and sustained threat to the UK from international terrorism
- Between Sept 2001 and Jun 2013 – 2,465 people were arrested on terrorism related charges. 332 convicted.
- Syria conflict currently poses the greatest risk and challenge.

Terrorism

- Dealing with terrorism nothing new – throughout history, groups have used violence to achieve their aims
- 20 years ago, the major threat was from Irish terrorism – today it is Al Qaida
- But other forms of extremism and race or hate-based prejudice also affect individuals and communities across the country
- A security response is not enough – we need to address the underlying issues that can attract people towards these causes

Defining the terms of what we're talking about

'Extremism'

- vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

'Radicalisation'

- the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Types of extremism

Al-Qaida

- The most significant terrorist threat to UK national security comes from Al-Qaida and groups that have links to or are inspired by Al-Qaida
- Al-Qaida uses a distorted interpretation of Islamic teaching, history and contemporary politics to justify violent attacks on Islamic governments and Western states and civilians
- Al-Qaida has sought to bring together a number of extremist groups into a single global movement, some of which have no direct links to the organisation

Types of extremism

Far-right extremism

- Groups such as Combat 18 and the National Front encourage violent action towards ethnic groups and communities that are 'different' and the anti-fascist groups that oppose them.
- Use local economic and social grievances and a distorted analysis of migration, globalisation and history to justify violence.
- e.g. David Copeland convicted of nail bombings in Soho, Brixton and Brick Lane in 1999 and Nathan Worrell convicted in Grimsby in 2008 of racial harassment and possessing bomb-making equipment.

Anti-fascist groups

- Extreme anti-fascist groups have carried out violent attacks to disrupt meetings of groups which they regard as fascist.

Types of extremism

Irish Terrorism

- Irish related terrorism led to the death of 3,500 people in the UK between 1969-1998
- The threat from Irish terrorism has reduced since the Belfast power-sharing agreement of 1998
- Dissident republican groups opposed to the peace process have carried out attacks since then e.g. Omagh bombing in 1998 and the murder of two Army personnel and a Police officer in March 2009

Animal Rights extremism

- Some members of groups such as the Animal Liberation Front and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) have been convicted of planting bombs, blackmail and intimidation

The radicalisation process

- Length of radicalisation process varies
- Radicalisation does not always lead to violence
- Lone Actors and Group Influence
- Unsupervised, social settings
- Internet – videos, propaganda, social networking sites

What are the indicators?

- Graffiti, symbols or artwork promoting extremist messages
- Accessing extremist material online
- Changes in behaviour, friendship and actions
- Voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies or narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence

Policy

- National strategy to tackle terrorism in place since 2003
- CONTEST
- 4 key strands
 - Pursue
 - Prepare
 - Protect
 - Prevent

The Prevent Strategy

- Launched in 2008
- PVE Pathfinder Pilot Programme
- Focus is on Al-Qaida influenced terrorism
- Partnership working and community engagement
- Supporting vulnerable individuals and building the capacity of communities and organisations

Issue is 'vulnerability' not 'criminality'

The Prevent Strategy

3 objectives

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
- to protect vulnerable individuals from being drawn into terrorism
- supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation

The Channel Scheme

- Existing use of partnerships to:
 - identify individuals at risk of being drawn in to violent extremism
 - assess the nature and extent of that risk
 - develop the most appropriate support and interventions for the individual concerned

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