



Safer and Stronger Communities

**Prevent Strategy
2016-19**

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Introduction

This Strategy has been commissioned by Colchester Borough Council's Director of Partnerships for the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP). Community Safety Partnerships (formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)) were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in order to reduce crime and protect vulnerable groups. The SCP is made up of the Council and its local partners including Essex Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation and Health.

The Colchester Prevent Strategy sets out the Partnership's strategic aims over the next three years, but may be amended during this timeframe. A separate Action Plan sets out its objectives and how these will be met.

Sec 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the Act") places a duty upon local authorities including district councils to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism is part of a range of activities already undertaken by local authorities. The legislation seeks to improve consistency and spread best practice. Effective partnership working is key to Colchester Borough Council meeting its duties. The duty builds upon the PREVENT Strategy published in 2011. Prevent is part of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, which aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom from international terrorism 'so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.' These forms of terrorism include:

- Far Right extremists
- Al-Qaida influenced groups
- Environmental Extremists
- Animal Rights Extremists

'Contest' consists of the following four strands:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect – to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

The Prevent Strategy has three objectives, to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

Statutory Guidance to accompany the new duty was issued in April 2015 and has been used to draft this Strategy.

It is the responsibility of all SCP agencies to ensure that, where relevant, their policies, procedures and processes reflect this Strategy and its accompanying Action Plan.

Responsibility and Governance

The Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) is led by a Responsible Authorities Strategic Group (RASG) which consists of Chief Officers representing statutory partners and organisations that are well placed to help reduce crime and protect vulnerable groups. It aims to achieve sustainable solutions following the identification of local needs and priorities. The Council's strategic and overall lead on Prevent falls to both Lucie Breadman (as Head of Community Services) and Pam Donnelly (Director of Partnerships). The operational lead is provided by Andrew Harley (Equality and Safeguarding Co-ordinator) who liaises with Sonia Carr (Senior Community Safety Officer).

Local context

The population of Colchester is 180,420 (mid 2014 estimation) and is projected to grow by 8% by 2022, reaching 195,000. An estimated 39,770 young people were living in the borough in 2014 (those aged 18 years or younger), which accounts for approximately 22% of the total Colchester population, which is the same as that for Essex and for the UK. Those aged 65 or over accounted for 17% of the total Colchester population which compares with 20% for Essex and 18% for the UK.

The unemployment rate for over 16 year olds in the borough was estimated to be 5.9%¹, which is less than the England average of 7.2% and the Essex average of 6.3%.

The Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) Community amounted to 8% of the Borough's population in 2011. This compares with 14% for England and Wales and 5.6% for Essex. The largest BME group in the Borough is Asian or British Asian. In 2014 there was a 17.3 rate² of migrant workers registered to work in Colchester. This is higher than the rate for Essex which is 9.8 but lower than the rate for England and Wales which is 20.2. The five highest nationalities of non UK residents registered to work in the borough in 2012 were Polish (1770), Indian (990), Chinese (880), Lithuanian (570) and Filipino (480). Census data confirms that 94.2% of people living in Colchester spoke English as their first language. The next most spoken first languages were Chinese, Polish, Arabic, Nepalese, Filipino, Greek, Lithuanian, Romanian and French.

58% of the Borough's population identified themselves as being Christian and 31% as having 'no religion'. 0.6% identified as Buddhist; 0.7% as Hindu; 0.2% as Jewish; 1.6% as Muslim; and 0.1% as Sikh. Places of worship within the borough include more than 100

¹ 2013-14

² Based on National Insurance registrations per 1000 of the resident population aged 16-64

Christian churches, a Buddhist Centre, a Jewish Synagogue and two Mosques (on Priory Street and at the University of Essex).

The health of people in Colchester³ is varied compared with the England average. The rate of hospital stays related to alcohol-related harm was 495⁴ which is lower than the average for England. According to the 2015 Public Health Profile 16.3% of children in Colchester are living in poverty. The 2015 Public Health Profile does not provide values for Essex or the UK. However, according to the March 2015 update of 'Child poverty in Essex' (a review of the drivers of child poverty now, and children growing up to be poor adults), there are fewer children living in poverty in Essex (16.1%) than the national average (20.1%). The average IMD⁵ score for Colchester is 16.9 which compares with 17.1 for Essex.

The Colchester campus of the University of Essex is two miles from the centre of Colchester. The university is home to more than 10,500 students belonging to more than 130 different nationalities. Colchester Institute is a provider of vocational education in Colchester, Braintree and Clacton. The Borough is also home to 18 schools that provide secondary education.

No obvious community tensions were reported in Colchester based on the 2012/13 Residents' Survey results. 79% of respondents answered that they are satisfied with Colchester as a place to live, compared with the national average of 82%. Also, 60% of respondents reported they feel safe outside after dark and 62% feel that they belong in their local neighbourhood."

Colchester has 62 [Police recorded crimes](#) per 1000 of the population which compares with 53 for the 'most similar group average'. In common with Essex and UK data, there has been an increase in recorded crime since March 2015.

Community Partnership Working

The Safer Colchester Partnership is well placed to work with Colchester Borough Council to deliver the Prevent Strategy and to continue to help keep vulnerable people safe. Partnership initiatives have included its 'Day of Action' and 'Night of Action' events, as well as its Domestic Abuse Awareness campaigns. It also funds Colchester's 'SOS Bus' project which provides practical and medical help and advice to young people who are vulnerable. The Council works with its local partners by chairing and hosting a range of groups including the Essex Migrant Agencies Forum and the Young Person's Housing Forum. Colchester takes part in the 'Keep Safe' Scheme which helps ensure that people with a learning disability feel safe and confident outside their home. The Community Initiatives Team co-ordinated two 'Crucial Crew' events in 2014, designed to increase safety awareness. The Council's 'Zone Wardens' are active in the community in helping to support children and vulnerable people, including those with disabilities.

³ Annual Health Profile produced by Public Health England

⁴ Rate per 100,000 of population

⁵ Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Aims and Objectives

This Strategy has the same objectives as the national Prevent Strategy, namely to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

This Strategy is designed to address all forms of terrorism but continue to prioritise according to local knowledge. The allocation of resources will be proportionate to the threats faced.

The accompanying Action Plan takes into account the local context and the CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile) to establish operational priorities. Its purpose is to identify, prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism.

Delivering the Strategy

Evidence suggests that there is neither an obvious profile of a person who is likely to become involved in a terrorist related activity, nor a single indicator of when a person might move to support extremism. It is the case that anyone may be susceptible to radicalisation, and vulnerable individuals are particularly at risk.

Indicators of concern that staff may observe or identify in the behaviour of individuals may include:

- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting violent extremist messages or images
- Voicing radical ideology or the use of extremist or hateful terms to exclude others or incite violence
- The accessing of violent extremist material online, including social networking sites
- Individuals taking photos of shopping areas or trying to gain access to secure areas or buildings
- Parental/family reports of changes in behaviour or actions

Vulnerable individuals can be exploited in many different ways as a result of face to face contact, or indirectly through the internet, social networking or other media. Radicalisation is a process, and there is no single route or pathway to radicalisation. Access to extremist material is often through leaflets and local contacts although the internet plays an increasingly important role in the communication of extremist views. It provides a platform for extremists to promote their cause and encourage debate, and is a swift and effective mechanism for disseminating propaganda.

Reporting Concerns

Partner agencies should raise concerns about individuals being drawn into terrorism via their child and vulnerable adult safeguarding procedures.

Concerns about possible criminal activity may be passed to Essex Police via prevent@essex.pnn.police.uk , the national anti-terrorist reporting line on 0800 789321 or via Essex Police on 0300 333 4444.

It is important that partner agencies pass on concerns no matter how insignificant they may appear. There is no 'typical' person who could be immediately identified as a possible suspect planning a terrorist attack or trying to radicalise others.

Where an employee expresses views, distributes material, uses or directs others to extremist websites or promotes terrorism, partner agencies should follow their procedures in respect of managing allegations in the workforce.

Sources of Further Information

- [Let's Talk About It](#)
- [Essex Police Prevent](#)
- [GOV.UK Counter-terrorism policy](#)
- [Prevent Tragedies](#)
- [Link to Reporting Online Content](#)

Appendix – Definitions

Vulnerable Adult	<p>The 2014 Care Act extended the definition of a vulnerable adult for safeguarding purposes from someone 'who is or may be in need of community care services' to an adult who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); •Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and •As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.
Safeguarding Children	<p>The definition of a child is “anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday” (Children’s Act 1989 & 2004). ‘Safeguarding’ alludes to the protection of their welfare.</p>
Terrorism	<p>This is defined in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000) as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of political, religious or ideological gain.</p>
Radicalisation	<p>This refers to the process by which people come to support terrorism due to either the influence of others or a particular ideological theory.</p>
Extremism	<p>Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental values including democracy, the rules of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance or different beliefs and faiths.</p>
A Prevent Concern	<p>A Prevent concern is an allegation of potential radicalisation or indoctrination of a vulnerable individual.</p>
Vulnerability and Prevent	<p>A vulnerable person is particularly susceptible to being influenced by an extremist’s message and can be at risk of being drawn in to terrorism or supporting terrorism at a point in time.</p>
Channel Panel	<p>Channel is a Multi-Agency Process which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel uses existing collaboration between partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism.</p>