

# Thurrock PREVENT Strategy

## 2020/2023



# Foreword

The recent terror attacks on London Bridge and Streatham are clear reminders that this is an ever present threat. No matter what the ideology that inspires the threat is, the aim is to inflict fear, harm and damage on our communities.

Thurrock's PREVENT strategy outlines how partners will work with our communities to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation and to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

We will do this by continued awareness raising with the public and professionals and embedding the National PREVENT referral mechanism.

**Cllr Rob Gledhill,**  
**Cabinet member for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour**

# 1. National picture

## 1.1. Context taken from the counter terrorism contest strategy 2018

The PREVENT strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism – [GOV.UK: Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2018](#).

To safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, we will:

- focus our activity and resources in those locations where the threat from terrorism and radicalisation is highest
- expand our Desistance and Disengagement Programme with an immediate aim over the next 12 months to more than double the number of individuals receiving rehabilitative interventions
- develop a series of multi-agency pilots to trial methods to improve our understanding of those at risk of involvement in terrorism and enable earlier intervention
- focus our online activity on preventing the dissemination of terrorist material and building strong counter-terrorist narratives in order to ensure there are no safe places for terrorists online
- build stronger partnerships with communities, civil society groups, public sector institutions and industry to improve PREVENT delivery
- re-enforce safeguarding at the heart of PREVENT to ensure our communities and families are not exploited or groomed into following a path of violent extremism

## 1.2. Threat level

As of 4 November 2019 the terrorism threat currently to the UK has been downgraded to **Substantial**.

The threat level had been at Severe since August 2014. In 2017, it was increased to Critical twice in 9 months

On 23 July 2018, the then-Home Secretary announced two changes to the terrorism threat level system:

- the national UK terrorism threat level now takes into account all ideologies, including Islamist, Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Great Britain, right-wing, left-wing and so on – we retain a separate threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Northern Ireland
- some of the definitions within the threat level system have been updated to make the difference clearer

The threat level definitions are:

- CRITICAL – meaning an attack is highly likely in the near future
- SEVERE – meaning an attack is highly likely
- SUBSTANTIAL – meaning an attack is likely
- MODERATE – meaning an attack is possible but not likely
- LOW – meaning an attack is highly unlikely

Islamist terrorism is the foremost terrorist threat to the UK. Extreme right-wing terrorism is a growing threat.

We define Islamist terrorism as acts of terrorism perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups or individuals who support and use violence as means to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society. In the UK context, the Islamist terrorist threat comes overwhelmingly from Salafi-Jihadi movements, which are inherently violent.

We recognise that Islamism describes a spectrum of movements that hold a variety of views on the use of violence; some are conditional in their view on the use of violence and others are explicit in their rejection of it.

### 1.3. Review and recommendations 2018

The review of CONTEST in 2018 found CONTEST to be well-organised and comprehensive and recommended that we should update our approach within the tried and tested strategic framework of four 'P' work strands:

- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks.
- Protect – to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare – to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

The review concluded, however, that a change in approach would increase our ability to counter the shift in threat and made the following recommendations, which are relevant to the PREVENT element:

- **share information** more widely and support more local interventions with individuals in our own communities who are being groomed or incited to commit or support acts of terrorism
- the government will prioritise strengthening the **resilience of local communities** to terrorism as they are at the forefront of our response, in particular those where the threat from terrorism and radicalisation is highest

### 1.4. National strategic PREVENT priorities

The aim of the PREVENT strategy is:

- **we will safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism**

There are 3 National Strategic Objectives to deliver this:

1. **Identify** – we will work in partnership to better identify and refer those vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and those who pose a radicalisation risk to others

We will work with communities, local policing, counter-terrorism policing, public sector, businesses and charities.

2. **Safeguard** – we will work collaboratively across policing and wider partnerships to safeguard people and divert those vulnerable to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism
3. **Manage risk** – we will use our unique skills and powers, working in partnership, to assess, manage and disrupt those individuals who pose a counter-terrorism or extremism risk. This includes diverting or disrupting those who seek to radicalise the vulnerable

## 1.5. Counter-terrorism and the Security Act

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 is in response to identification that local areas need to, as a minimum, understand the local threat and judge whether activities underway are sufficient to meet it. It came into force on 1 July 2015.

The Act:

- created a new duty on local authorities, the police, prisons, providers of probation services and educational establishments to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- issued guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled
- gives the Secretary of State power to direct a body to take action

The Department of Education has said that schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which is underpinned by the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

Nevertheless, we recognise that schools need advice and support to carry out effective counter-extremism work. In the first instance, schools can seek help from the local authority and the local police.

Local authorities are vital to all aspects of PREVENT work and it is the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership to co-ordinate what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area and addressing potential impact on the community.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to outline Thurrock's multi-agency response to tackle extremism and ensure that we respond to the duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The PREVENT Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires all specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Local authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

We will ensure that, through this strategy, we build and develop our current PREVENT action plan. We will utilise the Local Authority PREVENT Duty Toolkit – [GOV.UK: PREVENT duty toolkit for local authorities and partner agencies](#) – which is designed to provide a benchmark and practical information and examples of best practice to support local authorities and their partners in their work to protect vulnerable people from radicalisation.

We have aligned our local strategic objectives to the national strategic objectives and these are:

1. **Identify**
2. **Safeguard**
3. **Manage risk**

To deliver these National objectives in Thurrock we will:

1. Identify – we will promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working
2. Safeguard – we will ensure that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism
3. Manage risk – through our Channel Panel we will take a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism

### 3. Local context

#### 3.1. Local threat

Thurrock has a diverse community and due to its demography is seeing rapid changes through migration from London and with its proximity to ports and road networks has seen an increase in illegal immigration. It must be noted, however, that there is no greater threat to Thurrock than any other area.

Thurrock mirrors national trends with an increase seen in reporting of right-wing extremism, and a continued threat from Islamist extremism.

Overseas travel remains a risk nationally, along with the threat of returnees and their children. Firearms remains a national priority, however has been removed as an Eastern Region priority.

Local risks are reviewed and updated quarterly through the strategic governance board for PREVENT and the action plan reviewed accordingly and are based on the Eastern Region Counter Terrorism Local Profile. The terrorist threat to the UK is constantly changing. For some the ideology is an obvious factor in engaging the individual in Acts of Terrorism. Identifying and challenging that ideology is key to reducing individual's vulnerability and the risks that they pose.

For an increasing number of individuals being referred to PREVENT, however, ideological drivers can appear mixed, unclear or unstable with referrals to PREVENT presenting with multiple and complex vulnerabilities and identifying and addressing those vulnerabilities – for example, mental health, substance misuse, may be the necessary response.

#### 3.2. Local duty toolkit

The Home Office have developed a PREVENT duty toolkit, which the PREVENT strategy group has rated as follows:

Benchmark	Red / Amber / Green (RAG) rating
1. Local Risk Assessment	Green
2. Multi Agency Partnership Board	Amber
3. PREVENT Partnership Action Plan	Green
4. Referral Process	Green
5. Channel Panel	Amber
6. PREVENT Problem Solving Process	Green

Benchmark	Red / Amber / Green (RAG) rating
7. Training Programme	Green
8. Venue Hire	Amber
9. Community Engagement	Amber
10. Communications	Green

### 3.3. Channel panel

The Channel Panel meets monthly and takes referrals. This strategy recognises that referrals are lower than expected for the demography of Thurrock and action planning needs to focus on addressing this.

Mental Health is a key driver for referrals. The main ideology being referred is for Right Wing Extremism, this is in line with national referrals.

### 3.4. Hate crime

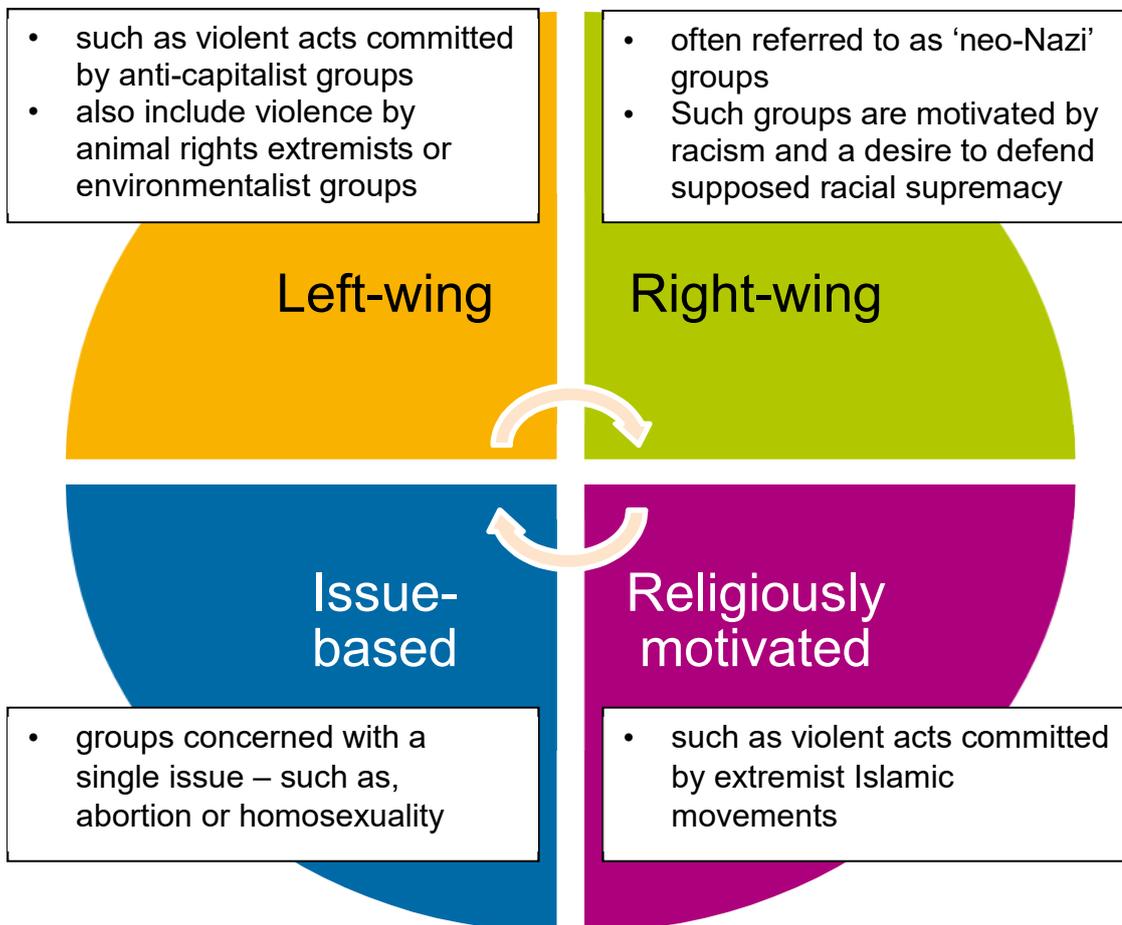
Hate crime can be a trigger for radicalisation. According to the **Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence (CPRLV)**, quoted in the SALTO resource pack, violent extremism can be categorised in four ways:

1. left-wing violence, such as violent acts committed by anti-capitalist groups in order to transform political systems – this category can also include violence by animal rights extremists or environmentalist groups
2. right-wing violent acts, such as those committed by far-right groups, often referred to as 'neo-Nazi' groups – such groups are motivated by racism and a desire to defend supposed racial supremacy
3. religiously-motivated violence, such as violent acts committed by extremist Islamic movements, which often have specific grievances against western governments in relation to foreign policy
4. issue-based violence, such as violence carried out by groups concerned with a single issue, such as abortion or homosexuality

Hate crime is directed at the 5 personal characteristics of:

- race
- religion
- sexual orientation
- transgender
- disability

For the year ending September 2019, Thurrock saw an increase in reported racially and religiously aggravated offences and we have a higher reported hate crime rate per 1,000 population than our Most Similar Crime Groups, based on provisional data.



### 3.5. Local priorities

The Community Safety Partnership has identified both Hate Crime and Counter Extremism and Terrorism as local priorities within their strategic assessment for 2019.

### 3.6. Ofsted

The 2019 review of Children's Social Care by Ofsted said the following with regards to PREVENT:

"The dangers of radicalisation are understood well by the Local Authority and partner agencies. The PREVENT referral pathway is clear, simple and easy to use. A heightened level of awareness, particularly on the part of schools and colleges, is helping to protect children and young people."

## 4. Planned response

### 4.1. Identify

We will promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working by:

- linking and tracking risks identified within the Counter Terrorism Local Profile with activity
- engaging with our local communities, understand their diversity and utilise Let's Talk About It materials to raise their awareness
- developing and using approach to community mapping

## **4.2. Safeguard**

We will ensure we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism by

- delivering training to raise awareness of PREVENT and hate crime across professional bodies
- improving referral rates to PREVENT across all sectors
- monitoring levels of knowledge through audits
- ensuring appropriate referral procedures are in place within children's and adult safeguarding services

## **4.3. Manage risk**

Through our Channel Panel we will take a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism

- embedding the National PREVENT Referral form
- sharing information appropriately and in a timely fashion with relevant agencies
- reviewing the effectiveness of Thurrock's Channel Panel and implementing any recommendations

# **5. Community responsibility**

## **5.1. Residents**

Whilst Thurrock is at no greater risk than anywhere else in England, everyone who visits Thurrock or lives or works here has a role to play in keeping Thurrock safe though countering the terrorist and domestic extremist threat which is currently recognised as Substantial and is a real and credible threat to our community.

We are very aware and understand that people may be reluctant to tell the Police / authorities about suspicious activity or behaviour because they think "It's probably nothing", however one small piece of information which may seem out of place can be useful as part of a bigger investigation. Just one piece of information could be vital in disrupting terrorist or extremist activity.

If you see or hear anything which gives you cause for concern, or seems to be out of the ordinary, you should phone Essex Police on 101.

If you believe that there is an immediate threat to life from the information you have, you should phone 999.

Alternatively, concerns can also be reported in confidence by visiting the [GOV.UK: ACT](https://www.gov.uk/act) website or phoning 0800 789 321.

Anything that gives you an uneasy feeling is potentially information the police need to know.

## **5.2. Education establishments**

Young people, says the government, are more susceptible to being radicalised than many other groups. "Schools are important not because there is significant evidence to suggest children are being radicalised – there is not – but because they can play a vital role in preparing young people

to challenge extremism and the ideology of terrorism and effectively rebut those who are apologists for it", says the strategy document – [GOV.UK: PREVENT strategy 2011](#).

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which is underpinned by the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism", which came into force on 1 July 2015.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks

In fulfilling the duty, Department for Education would expect the specified authorities to demonstrate activity in the following areas:

### **Risk assessment**

The specified authorities are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This should be based on an understanding, shared with partners of the potential risk in the local area.

Specified authorities will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate. Institutions will need to consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children's Social Care, for example. These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves are suitable and appropriately supervised.

Specified authorities should make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. They should know where and how to refer children and young people for further help.

PREVENT awareness training is a key part of this.

### **IT policies**

Specified authorities will be expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.

Advice on appropriate levels of filtering can be found at [UK Safer Internet Centre: Appropriate filtering](#).

### **Monitoring and enforcement**

When assessing the effectiveness of schools, Ofsted inspectors already have regard to the school's approach to keeping pupils safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism, and what is done when it is suspected that pupils are vulnerable to these.

Thurrock's PREVENT strategy would ask that all schools implement the following as a minimum to ensure that obligations towards the PREVENT duty are met. Schools should ensure that:

1. a safeguarding lead for your school has attended the WRAP training

2. the safeguarding lead delivers PREVENT awareness training to all staff within your school as part of safeguarding training
3. training is offered to your Board of Governors to raise their awareness
4. your safeguarding policy includes PREVENT safeguarding objectives
5. all concerns are raised as a safeguarding issue through Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Additionally:

6. all secondary schools are required to have completed a risk assessment
7. if any risks are identified, an action plan must be in place – **this action plan is mandatory for sixth forms and colleges**
8. we recommend looking at how you document what your school is doing on British values

### 5.3. Keeping yourself safe

**Run, Hide, Tell...** keeping yourself safe in the event of an attack.

While the general level of threat to the UK is substantial, the probability of being caught up in a firearms or weapons attack is very, very small. However, it is important the public know what to do in the event of getting caught up in such an incident.

#### **Run**

Run to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go then...

#### **Hide**

It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so...

#### **Tell**

Tell the police by calling 999 and tell them clearly your location and the location of the attackers.

Further information:

- [Let's Talk About It – Working Together to Prevent Terrorism](#)
- [YouTube: Run, Hide Tell video](#)
- [Thurrock Council: terrorism awareness training](#)

## 6. Governance

This strategy is based on the assessment of threat detailed within the Eastern Region Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) December 2019. This strategy and ensuing delivery plan is owned by the multi-agency PREVENT Board which is made up of partners from the Local Authority, Police, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Service, Health and Education.

The PREVENT Board coordinates the partnership approach to PREVENT and associated counter terrorism matters in Thurrock and is responsible for the strategic management and deliverables within the PREVENT priorities and objectives.

The PREVENT Board is chaired by Thurrock Councils Assistant Director for Housing and reports into the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board.

The duty places an emphasis on the Local Authority and Safeguarding to ensure that there is an appropriate response to threat and therefore the PREVENT Board will report annually to Directors Board, Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Adult Safeguarding Board, and the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership

## 7. SET guidance

The [Essex SET PREVENT Policy](#) is a guide for local partnerships and agencies in Southend, Essex and Thurrock in preventing radicalisation.

## 8. Equality impact assessment

See appendix 1.

## 9. Links and appendices

Further information is available at:

- [GOV.UK: PREVENT duty guidance](#)
- [GOV.UK: Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2018](#)

# Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

## About the service or policy development

<b>Name of service or policy</b>	PREVENT Strategy 2020/23
<b>Lead officer</b>	Michelle Cunningham
<b>Why is this service or policy development/review needed?</b>	<p>Thurrock's PREVENT strategy has been refreshed reflecting the latest threats as highlighted within the Counter Terrorism Local profile</p> <p>The National data used to inform the previous Equality Impact Assessment has not been reviewed since 2011 and therefore no new data has been added. Lord Carlisle is currently leading on a review of PREVENT. This will report to parliament by August 2020.</p>

## 1. Community impact

Criteria	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
<b>Local communities in general</b>	Yes			Awareness raising in community with reduced risk of extremism.	Through Improved engagement with communities and empowerment to challenge extreme views.
<b>Age</b>		Yes		<p>National response to PREVENT strategy 2011, 77% responded no to a negative impact and 77% no to a positive impact.</p> <p>Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum are particularly at risk.</p> <p>Channel Panel – individuals adopted by a local channel panel in 2018/19, 66% were aged 20 years-old or under.</p>	There is no age profile and applies to all age groups, however the action plan has a clear focus on prevention of radicalisation of young people and in particular on focus on local duty in educational establishments.

Criteria	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
<b>Disability</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 96% responded no to a negative impact and 85% no to a positive impact.	PREVENT needs to support people vulnerable to radicalisation due to learning disabilities or mental health and therefore may have a positive impact on this group.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 95% responded no to a negative impact and 86% no to a positive impact.	Not applicable
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 96% responded no to a negative impact and 87% no to a positive impact.	Not applicable
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 97% responded no to a negative impact and 91% no to a positive impact.	Not applicable
<b>Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 55% responded no to a negative impact and 63% no to a positive impact.	There is a focus in our local action plan on monitoring and tackling racism and this can be linked and fuelled by right wing extremism. This will lead potentially to a positive impact on racial tensions.
<b>Religion or belief</b>			Yes	National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 59% believed PREVENT would have a negative impact.	There is a concern nationally that PREVENT stereotypes the Muslim community and therefore has a negative impact on the Muslim population.  Our action plan identifies specific communities, however the biggest risk to Thurrock is right wing extremism.

Criteria	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
					A positive benefit of the strategy is to encourage dialogue between all communities.
<b>Gender</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 78% responded no to a negative impact and 77% no to a positive impact.  Channel Panel – individuals adopted by a local channel panel in 2018/19, 66% were aged 20 years or under and 88% of those were male.	Whilst a neutral impact was the response, PREVENT does stereotype men at greater risk of radicalisation, and more likely to be subject to stop and search. There is an opportunity to empower women to challenge extremism.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		Yes		National response to PREVENT strategy 2011 91% responded no to a negative impact and 85% no to a positive impact.	Impact of PREVENT may create a more positive climate to challenge homophobia.
<b>Any community issues identified for this location?</b>				With the Gudwara and Mosque situated in Grays there is a greater risk.  Hate crime at ward level is monitored quarterly.	Enhancing engagement with our faith community.  Hate crime activity is directed towards any wards where an increase is reported.

## 2. Consultation

Thurrock's PREVENT strategy has been consulted on with the members working group, the PREVENT Strategic Board and Directors Board. Consultation on our equality impact assessment has been taken from the National response 2011.

Intelligence and the action plan is informed by local partnership working including the faith community and IAG

### 3. Monitoring and review

Action	By when	By who
Development of action plan in line with refreshed strategy and ongoing implementation of the action plan	March 2023	PREVENT Board
Ongoing monitoring of safeguarding and Channel referrals in relation to PREVENT	Ongoing	PREVENT chair and Channel panel chair
Improved engagement and awareness within communities to challenge extremism	Ongoing	PREVENT Board
Monitoring of hate crime across all strands, particularly race and religion	Quarterly	Essex Police Community Safety Inspector
Encouraging dialogue and joint activity between all communities to benefit integration and race relations	March 2023	PREVENT Board
Raising awareness of hate crime in relation to PREVENT agenda through WRAP training	In place	My Learning and Development, Community Safety Partnership Manager
Ensuring that our IAG have an awareness of PREVENT through biannual awareness session	December 2021	Community Safety Partnership Manager

### 4. Next steps

#### Implications / customer impact

Whilst implementation of the PREVENT strategy and action plan for Thurrock has a positive impact on whole communities, ensuring that they are safeguarded from the impacts of extremism and prevents people from being drawn into extremism there is a risk of stereotyping Muslim, young people and males in particular.

Our action plan takes care to balance the risks of all areas of ideology. The focus on this action plan is in bringing communities together and empowering them to be able to challenge extremism in all its forms.

## 5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Assistant Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role	Date
Carol Hinvest	Chair of PREVENT Board	5 March 2020
Julie Rogers	Chair of Community Safety Partnership	
Natalie Smith	On Behalf of Thurrock Council	5 March 2020