

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

14 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

WALES EXTREMISM AND COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT

1. Purpose of Report.

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the current threat of extremism and terrorism across the United Kingdom and to provide a local context.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

The Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) is a cross cutting, statutory plan that impacts on the whole of the council. Within the SEP are various strategic equality objectives that are linked to fostering good relations and community cohesion. Additionally, the following Corporate Priorities are supported:

- Priority 2: Helping people to be more self-reliant and
- Priority 3: smarter use of resources.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Cabinet Equalities Committee receives regular reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to their remit. Community representatives present on relevant topics at meetings to achieve a broader overview of issues and wider engagement.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU) was established in 2006 and created one Special Branch for the whole of Wales. Its remit covers international terrorism and domestic extremism and is driven by the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. Through working collaboratively WECTU aims to work more effectively in its response to the threat from national and international terrorism and extremism. It seeks to keep the people of Wales safer by building confidence and trust in our communities by working with the public and partners to identify, target and disrupt terrorists and extremists.

The Prevent Case Management Coordinator from the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit will raise awareness of the current threat and risk picture across the UK and will provide a local context. The Prevent Case Management Coordinator will also inform the committee of the new Prevent Duty under the Counter Terrorism Security Act 2015, and the Channel Programme, which is designed to manage and support people vulnerable to violent extremism. An overview of the new statutory authority duties in relation to the above will also be provided by officers of Bridgend County Borough Council.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but is required to effectively implement the Council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

Whilst no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, this report provides the Committee with information which will positively assist in the delivery of the Authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

None in this report.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

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Background papers: None.