

Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Mwy Diogel



Safer Bridgend

www.saferbridgend.org.uk

**Bridgend Community Safety Partnership
Prevent Channel Panel
Terms of Reference
2016-17**

1. Introduction

Safer Bridgend is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Bridgend County Borough covering the South Wales Policing area of Central BCU (West).

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CT&S Act 2015) places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism .

Section 29 of the Act provides a power to the Home Secretary to issue statutory guidance to local authorities as to how their general duty to pay “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” should be carried out. Current statutory guidance is set out in “Prevent Duty Guidance”.

Section 36 of the Act makes provision to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism.

2. Membership

Below is the current list of agencies represented on the panel;

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) (Chair);
BCBC Children and Adult and Safeguarding Services;
Youth Offender Service;
Community Safety Partnership;
Community Mental Health Team;
South Wales Police – Central BCU (West);
South Wales Police Mental Health Liaison Officer;
Health Bridgend Locality ABMU;
National Probation Service;
Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC);
Bridgend College; and;
Wales Extremist Counter Terrorist Unit (WECTU).

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Like child protection, Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme run in every local authority area in Wales and England. It works to support vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism and provides a range of support such as mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment etc. Channel is about early interventions to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity and addresses all types of extremism.

Participation in Channel is voluntary. It is up to an individual, or their parents for children aged 17 and under, to decide whether to take up the support it offers. Channel does not lead to a criminal record. (Home Office 2016)

The panel; will receive WECTU vulnerability assessed referrals, to consider and agree appropriate local interventions leading to the production of a bespoke action plan to meet the needs of the referred individual or group.

In producing the action plan the panel; will identify which organisation is responsible for taking forward each element of the recommended supportive interventions.

The panel; will review and evaluate the progress of the action plan and when appropriate request for a referral to exit the 'Channel' process.

Members will inform the Chair immediately of any issue that has the potential to detrimentally affect the referred individual / group, delivery of the action plan or otherwise impact on the risk assessment of the referral.

Intervention / support plans recommended by the panel; will be proportionate, justified, necessary, legal and where appropriate SMART.

The panel; will be responsible for highlighting **emerging tensions** as they relate to the 'Channel' process and any specific referrals.

The panel may also encourage attendance from other statutory, and 'Third Sector' organisations as and when required to influence issues associated with the work of the panel.

Membership of the panel will be subject to higher police vetting as appropriate.

The panel is currently chaired by the BCBC's Principle Community Safety Officer.

The Chair will represent the panel on the Western-Bay Regional Contest Board, as well as the Bridgend CSP Executive Group and LSB Chairs Board providing updates on important matters.

Delegation of attendance to Channel meetings is discouraged.

Delegation should only be considered as a last resort and members should be mindful of the 'restricted' nature of the matters under consideration. Details of any anticipated deputies must be forwarded to the 'Channel' Chair in advance for submission to WECTU. Continual or repeated delegation of attendance will lead to a review of that organisations membership status.

All panel members will be asked to confirm their support to the above priorities and objectives and to work within the terms of reference and achieving the aims of the panel through constructive working with other members; and that they are able to devote the necessary time to attend meetings, attend training and to network with a wide range of interests outside meetings.

Any member attending meetings or events relating to the business of this group in their 'Channel' capacity are required to inform the Chair to ensure records are maintained and the messages taken forward by 'Channel' members are consistent.

4. Information Sharing

The Western-Bay Regional Contest Board has in place a bespoke information sharing protocol (Welsh Government Waspi compliant), which addresses the needs of the 3 panels across the region. The agreement enables the sharing of personal information with consent and data, for the purposes of the 'Channel' process.

5. Confidentiality

Members must not disclose information of a confidential nature divulged at meetings to any third party without the consent of a person authorised to give such consent.

Members must be mindful of the 'restricted / classified' nature of Channel papers and the protective marking which must be adhered to at all times.

All members will be required to sign a confidentiality statement at the commencement of each meeting.

6. Administration

The panel secretarial and administrative functions will be provided by the; Chair.

Meetings of the panel will take place quarterly as a minimum and more frequently when necessary.

The times, dates and venues of the meetings will be agreed by the Chair, in consultation with members.

Agendas; will be agreed in advance of the meetings by the chair; ideally in consultation with the wider membership.

Members will be given a minimum of 10 working days' notice of meeting times, dates and venues unless circumstances require the panel to assemble at short notice.

In the spirit of partnership, decisions should be reached through the mutual consent of all members present. Where this is not possible, decisions can be reached through a simple majority vote. Where it is not possible to achieve a simple majority then the Chair retains the right to use a casting vote.

7. Equalities

The above work is constructed taking into account the three key Public Sector Equality Duty principles; namely:

- Develop good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not;
- Eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment and;
- Advance equality of opportunity between groups.