

Prevent – Role of Local Councillors

As local areas deliver processes to ensure that they are complying with the Prevent duty there are clear roles for local councillors.

Councillors can work to stop people from becoming terrorists and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism. Aspects of extremism may seem distant to the day-to-day role of local councillors - however, successful prevention strategies will only work when underpinned by the support of councillors' knowledge and relationships in a local area.

Councillors are well placed to listen to and understand constituents' concerns, and can share their understanding of sources of community tension with the local authority. Councillors involved in local overview and scrutiny will want to be assured about the nature of risk in their local authority area and the work being done to address any identified risk.

Councillors can also use their authority and legitimacy to challenge the narratives of radicalisers and extremists and put forward positive alternatives, working with the wider community to condemn the activities of extremists who misrepresent local community views.

In summary :-

- Safeguarding communities as community leader;
- Listen and understand constituents concerns;
- Challenge narratives of radicalisers and extremists;
- Understand how to signpost concerns;
- Promote positive messages about community activities and relationships.

Any concerns or guidance contact: Pam Smith, LCC Email: pam.smith@lancashire.gov.uk Tel: 01772 530591 Mobile: 07766306502 **OR**

Email the police directly on concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk **OR**

Call the confidential Anti-terrorism Hotline: Tel: 0800789321.

In an emergency ring 999.