

To: **Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

On: **7 February 2017**

Report by:

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**COUNTER CORRUPTION, SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME
& COUNTER TERRORISM**

1. Summary

- 1.1 The following paper provides an update for the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board on the work within Renfrewshire to tackle the risks posed by Terrorism, Corruption and Serious Organised Crime. These themes are addressed by the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group and the Renfrewshire Council Integrity Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board notes the progress of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group and the Renfrewshire Council Integrity Group over 2016.

3. Counter Terrorism (CONTEST)

- 3.1 The Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group is a multi agency forum for joint tasking, ensuring that the Council and relevant partners comply with the duties set out under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Through 2016, the membership has been expanded to include a wider range of partners. The group now consists of the following local representatives:

- Renfrewshire Council - Single Point of Contact (Chair) & Service representatives
- Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland – K Division & Prevent representation
- Scottish Prison Service
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- West College Scotland
- University of the West of Scotland
- Engage Renfrewshire
- Renfrewshire Leisure



- 3.2 During 2016, the group's agenda has been progressed and refined to the extent that there is now an established rhythm of working and full understanding of the remit. There is confidence that the membership is sufficient to fully meet the needs within the area.
- 3.3 The approach to Counter Terrorism and Prevent in Scotland has been very different from the approach set out in England and Wales. There is a clear link to safeguarding and protecting vulnerable individuals within the Scottish approach which the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group are keen to promote, support and implement.
- 3.4 To support this approach, the Renfrewshire CONTEST (Prevent) Group has introduced the use of Positional Statements during 2016. These are required inputs from all group members prior to each meeting, highlighting: awareness raising activity, actions, training and any other pertinent information. The Positional Statements have formed a useful tool in creating a shared picture of activity from all partners across Renfrewshire, and will enable effective monitoring of progress as they are fully developed and refined. Initially they have highlighted best practice that is ongoing in NHSGGC around their understanding of the Prevent agenda and the Scottish Prison Service in relation to training and awareness raising.
- 3.5 In order to effectively focus working in relation to Counter Terrorism and Serious Organised Crime, it has been agreed that a Local Divisional Profile, which will highlight pertinent risks to the area, will be created early in 2017 by Police Scotland. This will be based on the most recent Emerging Residual Threats Local Profile issued by Police Scotland for Renfrewshire, covering an assessment of terrorist threats as well as local information related to the risks posed by Serious Organised Crime for the area. The Local Divisional Profile will be used as the basis for the development of an action plan covering training and awareness raising activities for the Renfrewshire CONTEST (Prevent) Group, ensuring that the focus of working is against the threats that are particularly relevant to Renfrewshire.

4 Counter Corruption and Serious Organised Crime

- 4.1 The Integrity Group is a Renfrewshire Council group focused on addressing the organisational risks and vulnerabilities posed by Corruption and Serious Organised Crime. During 2016, its membership was expanded to include Renfrewshire Leisure and the Council's newly appointed Cyber Security Officer reflecting the increasing risk posed by cyber security issues for all major organisations.
- 4.2 During 2016, Police Scotland's Counter Corruption Unit supported the Council in undertaking a significant assessment of the Council's position in relation to its vulnerability to Corruption and Serious Organised Crime. This Organisational Vulnerability Assessment highlighted a number of areas where recommendations for improvement have been provided.



- 4.3 The updated Integrity Action Plan will form the basis of the Groups work programme for 2017. The plan is organised by risk, and builds on work already undertaken during 2016. It includes work on the updating of policies such as whistle blowing, secondary business interests, ICT usage and provision of training to managers.

5 Training and Awareness Raising

- 5.1 Training and awareness raising is an ongoing activity across this area of work - however there are a number of particularly relevant initiatives and events that are worth highlighting. Senior Officers within Renfrewshire Council Children's Services were provided with a briefing on CONTEST (Prevent) by the Head of Public Protection and colleagues in Police Scotland. Taking place in November 2016, this briefing provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Council with regard to safeguarding vulnerable persons within Renfrewshire, as well as the wider context of Counter Terrorism/Serious Organised Crime. The briefing was well received and was followed up with additional sessions for Head teachers and Heads of Establishment within the service. The session will be adapted for delivery in other Council services and the material is also being used in the development of a Renfrewshire Council General Awareness I-Learn package.
- 5.2 In December, the West Local Resilience Partnership facilitated a multi agency workshop investigating the potential impact of the UK Terror Threat Level being raised to "Critical". The workshop took the form of a facilitated discussion, led by Police Scotland, with input from partners across Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire & Inverclyde. All three Councils were represented by their Single Point of Contact; with additional representation from key services, the Civil Contingencies Service and Health and Social Care Partnerships. The workshop also included representatives from local and national responder agencies, the armed forces and Coastguard and key critical national infrastructure sites within the area. Discussions at the workshop highlighted that existing arrangements were seen as robust and effective however a number of potential improvement actions such as reviewing security protocols or business continuity planning arrangements were identified and will be progressed through the Local Resilience Partnership and the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group.
- 5.3 One of the actions that will be progressed during 2017 will be the delivery of Exercise Agora Archway. This exercise will bring together key Council representatives and partners to test participants against a scenario where the terror threat level has been raised and there is significant community tension within the area. Participants will include members of the Council CMT and Resilience Management Team the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group and the Grey Space Community Tensions Group. It will be delivered by the Scottish Multi Agency Training & Exercise Unit, with input from Police Scotland and the Civil Contingencies Service in its design.

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