



Home Office

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Office for Security and
Counter Terrorism
2 Marsham Street
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[Sent via email]

02/09/2016

Dear Chief Executive

Prevent implementation: expressions of interest for peer support network

I am writing to inform you of the forthcoming support offer that will be made available to help local authorities implement their responsibilities under the Prevent Duty. This offer will be delivered by a peer support network, and I'm asking for your assistance to identify a pool of practitioners to form this network.

Since the Prevent Duty came into effect on 1 July 2015, local authorities across the country have been implementing key changes to their working practices to meet the threat of radicalisation. This progress is welcomed.

We recognise that each area is at a different stage of delivering the Duty effectively, and we are very keen to support local authorities to implement their responsibilities. Drawing on positive experience of practitioner led support in other areas, such as work to end gangs and youth violence, we have designed a support offer for all local authorities which will include:

- **Local assessment process:** a short onsite peer review with a group of Prevent peers, including interviews with key personnel, reviews of documentation and the production of a review report including recommendations to improve Prevent delivery.
- **Informal visits and mentoring:** OSCT Prevent officers or Prevent peers can arrange to meet lead officials in local areas to informally review policies and procedures. This can be expanded to a formal mentoring programme if beneficial.
- **Prevent Board observation and engagement:** OSCT Prevent officers or Prevent peers can attend Prevent Partnerships and develop a set of recommendations for improvement, as well as presenting on the latest direction from government.
- **Channel observation:** OSCT Prevent officers or Prevent peers can attend Prevent Partnerships and develop a set of recommendations for improvement.
- **Desktop document reviews:** Prevent peers can review and advise on strategies, action plans, policies and procedures remotely.

We recognise the importance of improvement services in local authorities being delivered by the sector, for the sector, and we are therefore seeking your assistance in recruiting a cohort of peers to form the peer support network. These individuals will provide a practitioner perspective and 'critical friend' challenge.

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Working as a team, and supported by a Senior Prevent Advisor Chris Williams (chris.williams10@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk), Prevent peers will spend time onsite at a council to help it with its improvement and learning. From the perspective of your authority, peers will learn the best practice in Prevent from across the country and return to your council with new ideas to implement and improve local practices. OSCT will fund the delivery of the support offer, so there will be no further cost implications to your authority than making time available for any prospective peer from your area.

Enclosed with this letter is an Expression of Interest form for practitioners to apply to be part of the peer support network. We are looking for individuals with specific knowledge, experience and interest in Prevent from a range of backgrounds, but particularly children's and adults safeguarding, community engagement and community safety. Those with experience in delivering Prevent programmes or working with Channel Panels would be particularly welcomed.

We are looking for approximately 15 practitioners from across the country to attend two-day cohort training on 4/5 October 2016 to become Prevent peers, and thereafter pilot the support offer outlined above. If this is successful, we intend to run further cohorts in coming months to train future Prevent peers.

I would be grateful if you could pass these details, and Expression of Interest form, to any within your authority you feel have the requisite skillsets to become a Prevent peers. Expressions of Interest for the first cohort of peers need to be returned by **16 September 2016** via email to localgov.prevent@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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