



Decision Pathway – Report

PURPOSE: For reference

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 October 2021

TITLE	Briefing on Bristol Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement		
Ward(s)	City-wide		
Author: Clare Sims	Job title: Safer Communities Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Officer Decision forum: Officer Meeting			
Purpose of Report: To provide Cabinet information outlining Bristol City Councils' compliance with the Home Office Channel Panel Assurance Statement following on from the revised Home Office Channel guidance.			
Evidence Base: 1. As set out in Appendix A1			
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations: 1. Notes the report which outlines our current Channel Panel Assurance Statement which was submitted to the Home Office in April 2021.			
Corporate Strategy alignment: Compliance with the Prevent Duty sits firmly in the Corporate Strategy theme of Empowering & Caring . Prevent activity, to include Channel delivery & Partnership working serves to: 1. Protect vulnerable children from exploitation and harm – by identifying and reducing vulnerabilities to radicalisation through awareness raising, empowering communities to act and directly through the Channel arrangements set up to safeguard children & young people identified as being at risk from a vulnerability to radicalisation. 2. Provides a social care and safeguarding provision – which does focus on help & early intervention - Channel arrangements are in place to safeguard both children and adults who are identified as being at risk from their vulnerability to being radicalised and drawn into terrorism. 3. Enables people to support their community – the Prevent agenda relies heavily on the power of communities – to identify and take action to safeguard individuals who are vulnerable to being radicalised and in turn reduce risks of terrorist activity in Bristol and further afield.			
City Benefits: Channel Panel activity provides a multi-agency safeguarding platform that assesses and manages risk factors associated with vulnerability to radicalisation – such as social care & health needs and promotes the reinforcement of protective factors such as having stable support networks, safe and secure accommodation, and an improved cognitive ability & social capital.			

Consultation Details:

The Channel Panel Assurance Statement that was submitted to the Home Office has been presented to the Keeping Communities Safe Delivery Group under the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Executive.

The Safer Communities Team have consulted and sought advice for compliance with the Channel Panel Assurance Statement with the following:

Counter Terrorism Policing Southwest
Home Office Channel Assurance Regional Advisor

Background Documents:

[Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974211/channel_duty_guidance_protecting_people_vulnerable_to_being_drawn_into_terrorism.pdf)

Home Office Channel Guidance 2020

Revenue Cost	£ n/a	Source of Revenue Funding	<i>Insert specific service budget</i>
Capital Cost	£	Source of Capital Funding	<i>e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.</i>
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: Channel Duty Guidance suggests that most support available in Channel is funded by the statutory bodies that provide it. The Home Office does however “have additional funding by way of the Channel Intervention Support Fund, which can be used in instances where provision from statutory partners, is not appropriate to reduce identified Channel vulnerability”. Use of these funds must be pre-approved by the Home Office to cover non-theological/ non-ideological support, training, or one-off purchases to support the effectiveness of an intervention. However, as it stands there are no current financial implications from the Assurance Statement update.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 03/08/2021

2. Legal Advice: Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CT&S A) places a duty on certain bodies including local authorities, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Section 36 of the CT&S A places a duty on local authorities to ensure that a panel is in place for its area to assess the extent to which individuals referred to the panel are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and provide support. The report outlines how Bristol City Council is fulfilling these statutory duties.

Legal Team Leader: Sarah Sharland 25/03/2021.

3. Implications on IT:

No anticipated impact on IT/Digital Services.

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver Director - Digital Transformation 19/07/21

4. HR Advice: The report sets out BCCs compliance with the Prevent Duty and Channel Assurance report as requested by the Chief Executive. This does not raise any significant HR issues for Bristol City Council Employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 26/03/21.

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	04/08/2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	ClIr Asher Craig	12/08/2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	N/A	N/A

Appendix A1 - Channel Panel Annual Assurance Statement (endorsed by Mike Jackson in April 2021)	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO