

## Governing Body meeting (held in public)

DATE: 24 November 2016

<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>PREVENT</b>  <b>Does Bexley CCG have adequate assurance that the health providers for whom they are the lead commissioner are compliant with the Prevent agenda and are appropriately represented on the Channel Panel?</b></p>
<p>This paper is for - <b>Discussion</b></p>	
<p>Recommended action for the Governing Body</p>	<p>That the Governing Body:</p> <p><b>Agree that</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Assurance has been sought from providers for whom Bexley CCG are the lead Commissioner as to their compliance with the Prevent agenda.</li> <li>2) There is appropriate health representation on the Channel Panel.</li> <li>3) Bexley CCG is appropriately monitoring health engagement with the Prevent agenda.</li> </ol>
<p>Potential areas for Conflicts of interest</p>	<p>The Prevent strategy is controversial and Board members may have strong views.</p>
<p>Executive summary</p>	<p>All Clinical Commissioning Groups have been asked by NHS England to ensure that NHS mental health providers fully engage with the Prevent agenda and are appropriately represented on Channel panels.</p> <p>The Prevent strategy is part of the overall government counter-terrorism strategy, Contest. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people.</p> <p>Assurance has been gained from the London Borough of Bexley Channel panel that Oxleas NHS Trust has been fully engaging with the Channel process for the past six months. In addition to this Oxleas submit quarterly</p>

## Clinical Commissioning Group

	data to Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group providing assurance that they are on target for full compliance with the Statutory Duty under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.	
How does this paper support the CCGs objectives?	<b>Patients:</b>	Implementation of the Prevent strategy ensures the wellbeing of children and adults in Bexley by identifying and supporting people vulnerable to radicalisation at an early stage before harm is caused to themselves or to others.
	<b>People:</b>	
	<b>Pounds:</b>	
	<b>Process:</b>	Provider compliance with the Prevent agenda and Channel Process protects children and adults at risk from exploitation and radicalisation.
What are the Organisational implications	Key risks	Children and Adults in Bexley becoming radicalised and causing harm to self and/or others. Patients with Mental Health issues being targeted for radicalisation.
	Equality	None.
	Financial	None.
	Data	None.
	Legal issues	Compliance with a Statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
	NHS constitution	This paper supports the NHS Constitutional Standards.
Engagement	None	
Audit trail	Safeguarding Adults Quarterly Dashboard	
Comms plan	None	
Author: Judith Clark Quality and Safeguarding Lead	Clinical lead: Judith Clark Quality and Safeguarding Lead	Executive sponsor: Anne Douse Director of Quality, Performance and Business Services (Interim)
Date	28 October 2016	

**To: CCG Accountable Officers**

**CC: CCG Chief Nurse**

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[X] August 2016

Dear [CCG Accountable Officer],

### **Mental Health representation on Channel Panels**

The recent terrorist attacks in Europe are a reminder of the continued threat that we face from terrorism and the important role that individuals and organisations play in helping to keep the country safe.

The Government's Prevent strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act, which came into force in March 2015, includes a Duty which places a general requirement on specified authorities to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This applies to NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts.

Purpose of this letter is to seek CCG support for the Government's Prevent programme by ensuring that your NHS mental health providers fully engage with the Channel process and are represented on Channel panels.

#### *Channel Panels - Legal requirement for health representation*

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel Panels are multi-agency groups chaired by the Local Authority and made up of members from relevant local organisations, such as the NHS and children and adult social care services. Channel Panels consider referrals of individuals that have been identified as at risk of being drawn into terrorism and the agencies on the Panel will work together to mitigate those risks using a range of measures such as support plans. Contribution to the Channel process is part of the broader safeguarding responsibilities for health organisations.

The health sector is required under the Act to ensure that there is effective health sector representation on Channel Panels. Vulnerable individuals referred to Channel panels for assessment often have complex needs, including mental health aspects, and assistance on the panel by the NHS is considered to be critical for understanding the mental health needs and/or the available provision of NHS services.

A national review into the NHS contribution to Channel Panels has found significant variation in NHS membership. The survey found that whilst some Channel Panels have good health

representation, mainly from CCGs and mental health services, others do not have consistent NHS participation on the core Panel. As a result, the Channel panels that are lacking appropriate NHS representation are not in a position to assess the health needs of the individuals referred, which may result in these individuals vulnerable to radicalisation not receiving the most appropriate NHS support.

*Support in ensuring mental health representation*

It is essential that the NHS is appropriately represented on Panels. The evidence from Channel Panels indicates a number of referrals are for people with mental health concerns. In view of this it is recommended that the health representative be a core member of the Panel and is a senior mental health professional who has an understanding of the nature of mental illness and what services are available within the local system, and who would be able to liaise with other health partners to ensure delivery of the health element of the support plan decided at the Panel.

We are grateful for the support that CCGs and health professionals from other organisations have so far provided to the Channel process. **We would value your help in ensuring that your NHS mental health providers fully engage with the Channel process and that this engagement is monitored via normal contract monitoring arrangements e.g. yearly safeguarding audits.**

Throughout August the Home Office are conducting, via Local Authorities, a further survey of Channel Panel chairs to gather additional information on mental health representation. In addition, Regional Prevent Coordinators in NHS England will be contacting CCGs that sit within Home Office priority areas to check that this letter is being actioned and to seek assurance that health representation on Channel panels has improved. Contact your Prevent lead if you wish to check the level of NHS representation on your local Channel Panels.

Yours sincerely

**Hilary Garratt**  
**Deputy Chief Nursing Officer**  
**England**