

Preventing violent extremism pathfinder fund 2007/08 Case studies





Preventing violent extremism pathfinder fund 2007/08

Case studies

Department for Communities and Local Government Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU Telephone: 020 7944 4400

Website: www.communities.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright, 2007

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

This publication, excluding logos, may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium for research, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to it being reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the publication specified.

Any other use of the contents of this publication would require a copyright licence. Please apply for a Click-Use Licence for core material at www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/system/online/pLogin.asp, or by writing to the Office of Public Sector Information, Information Policy Team, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ. Fax: 01603 723000 or email: HMSOlicensing@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

If you require this publication in an alternative format please email alternativeformats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Communities and Local Government Publications PO Box 236 Wetherby West Yorkshire LS23 7NB Tel: 08701 226 236

Fax: 08701 226 237 Textphone: 08701 207 405 Email: communities@twoten.com

or online via the Communities and Local Government website: www.communities.gov.uk

Printed in the UK on material containing no less than 75% post-consumer waste.

April 2007

Product Code: 06 PEU 04493/b

Contents

Introduction	4
Promoting shared values	5
Supporting and nurturing civic and theological leadership	8
Increasing the resilience of key organisations and institutions and supporting early interventions	10
Capacity and skills development	12
Annex A: Authorities receiving funding	14

Introduction



The Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund was launched by the Department for Communities and Local Government in October 2006 to support priority local authorities in developing programmes of activity to tackle violent extremism at the local level. It forms an integral part of the Government's wider national framework which is set out in *Preventing Violent Extremism:* Winning hearts and minds.

As set out in the guidance published in February 2007, the fund aims to build on the work that leading local authorities are already doing – understanding and engaging in dialogue with their communities, forging partnerships with police, community and faith groups and working with mosques and institutions of education. It will enable and encourage a much wider group to follow their lead, acting as a catalyst in the development of bottom-up, community-based programmes to tackle violent extremism. The fund is intended to supplement existing funding streams and programmes that local authorities can and do use to tackle violent extremism and build community cohesion.

Local areas have developed wide-ranging and ambitious proposals covering the full spread of the themes set out in the guidance. This document outlines a small sample of the range of projects we are funding across the country against our key priorities — generating a dialogue on these issues, empowering mainstream voices, supporting theological teaching and building the capacity of institutions to recognise and challenge violent extremism. It highlights the key role that local authorities and police can play in building strengthened partnerships with local communities to isolate and defeat violent extremism. It also demonstrates how the Government is giving effect to its policy of fundamentally rebalancing its engagement and support towards those organisations which reject, condemn and actively seek to isolate violent extremism.

At the time of its launch, we stated that £5m would be made available for the financial year 2007/8. In light of the breadth and quality of the proposals made by local authorities and their partners, we have agreed that a total of £6m will be made available. This will support work in around 70 priority local authorities. A list of local authorities we are supporting can be found at Annex A.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will continue to work with government offices, local authorities, police services and community and faith groups to create a national framework to support local delivery. Firstly, we will work with regional and local partners to foster collaborative working and identify and disseminate good practice in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency. Secondly, we will develop and share with local partners an enhanced evidence base for local action. Thirdly, subject to the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, we intend to make additional funds available in future years.

Promoting shared values



It is not for government to intervene in theological debates, but there is a role for government in providing support where it is sought by institutions and communities. The fund guidance outlined the following areas of activity for local authorities:

- Providing effective local campaigns to confront extremist ideologies.
- Promoting local role models able to counter negative imagery and comment.
- Promoting understanding of the benefits that Muslims have brought to local areas.
- Promoting understanding and acceptance of key shared values, and promoting dialogue and engagement between communities in support of those values.

Case Studies

Tottenham Hotspur Youth Forum, Haringey

Lack of positive, inspirational role-models can be a key factor in young people becoming vulnerable to the messages of violent extremism. Haringey Muslim Youth Forum will work in partnership with Tottenham Hotspur FC and others to provide a platform to promote the positive values of Islam, and to improve self-esteem, confidence, and the development of other important skills.

High-profile Muslim footballers and coaches will act as role models for young Muslims who are not in education, training or employment and who lack positive aims. Sport and cultural programmes will provide positive alternatives to doctrines of hate and will seek to counter specific harmful views. The young people will be supported in integrating into British society in a way that is respectful of their faith and culture.

Barking and Dagenham Islamic Awareness

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham will support local organisations to provide education about Islam and its teachings, contrasting the reality of Islam against the rhetoric of violent extremism.

Improved awareness of the different facets of Islam as a religion and a culture will be delivered through:

• Seminars led by Islamic scholars to promote understanding of Islam and rebut jihadist myths and half-truths. Seminars will be run by leading authorities but

held in community locations, bringing the events to the wider Muslim communities and giving Muslim students access to influential public figures.

- Training, through Barking Mosque, to enable key individuals from local institutions to disseminate information on the principles of Islam and its incompatibility with violent extremism.
- A rolling programme of courses at Barking Mosque to highlight the opportunities for Muslims in their local communities, including opportunities for voluntary service.

Black Country Imams

Imams can be powerful voices in the theological debates on the true meanings of Islam and the rejection of violent extremism in the name of their faith. Dudley Muslim Association, the Black Country Sunni Ulema Council, the British Muslim Forum and relevant local authorities will develop a programme to give new skills to imams and help develop future 'home grown' British imams.

The programme will help support existing mainstream imams to counter the appeal of persuasive figures, fostering a new generation of moderate, mainstream faith leaders. Key activities will include:

- language courses to ensure that messages are equally accessible to all;
- training in citizenship and focused workshops on British history and the British legal system to inform them as community leaders;
- training on health and safety, child protection and other necessary governance functions.

It is hoped that the project will support the medium/long term development of a new generation of mainstream imams, well versed in the English language and with a solid understanding of the British legal and political systems.

Kirklees Webspace and Radio Activity

Kirklees Young People's Service will commission work to create a managed webspace for young people in Kirklees to express, share and develop their views on issues of identity and community relations, acting as an alternative to extremist websites.

The project will involve 40 young participants (aged 16-24) from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds in acquiring the skills (technical, communication and soft skills) to devise and produce radio programmes for broadcast, web cast, podcast and for web-based audio archive.

The purpose of the work is to promote British citizenship and acceptance of key shared values. It will foster democratic participation and promote dialogue and engagement between communities. It will also engage young people in new media and broadcast technologies.



Supporting and nurturing civic and theological leadership



Research shows that the vast majority of Muslims condemn terrorist acts as contrary to the teaching of Islam, but community and faith leaders are not always able to convey their arguments to those at risk of violent extremism. Local authorities will support the development of strong faith institutions and strong Muslim communities through activities such as:

- Supporting local community leaders, role models, local mosques, imams and madrassahs to tackle violent extremism and equip them with the skills necessary for these roles.
- Promoting democratic participation, engagement and civic involvement.
- Enabling members of communities to debate and question political and social issues in safe environments.
- Providing support networks for at risk and vulnerable groups within local communities.
- Promoting volunteering opportunities for local members of communities, particularly on work relevant to tackling extremism but also to foster greater engagement in community voluntary activities.
- Promoting Islamic awareness amongst Muslim communities and local communities more widely.

Case Studies

Birmingham Study Circles

Birmingham City Council will support the development of a series of community-led 'study circles' to help young people to develop a better understanding of Islam. This will help enable mainstream imams to re-connect with young people as mentors, teachers and authoritative voices, in countering the arguments of violent extremists.

The project will encourage young people to reject violent extremism from an informed position of spiritual strength and understanding. It will also help them to become more confident in promoting cohesion within their communities.

The study circles project will be managed in partnership between Birmingham City Council and a series of the city's Muslim youth groups, including the Young Generations Association, Kanz Ul Huda and Green Light Birmingham.

Life In Britain: Rights and Responsibilities

Calderdale Authority will work with the Local Education Authority, schools and local faith bodies to develop citizenship education resources that:

- Reject violent extremist ideology and actively condemn violent extremism.
- Provide accurate information on the laws relating to terrorism/violent extremism (a subject raised by children in recent discussions).
- Ensure that individuals who work with young people gain the skills and competencies required to explain citizenship requirements, and how they relate to different faiths.

The resources will be used by young people of all faiths in schools, and will also be used by youth groups and madrassahs to address the specific challenges that face the Muslim population. The resource is expected to help achieve a demonstrable change in attitudes, and a deeper understanding of the relationship between British citizenship and faith amongst young people.

"100 Voices" College Debate

Time spent in further education is a key period for forming political and social views. This initiative will help foster debate about a range of issues which affect students' lives, including shared values, belonging and violent extremism. It will also ensure that the voices of young people from all backgrounds are heard, helping to foster a sense of civic engagement and empowerment.

The results of the initiative will be used to influence service delivery – the outcomes of the "100 Voices" project will be turned into recommendations and initiatives, which students along with college staff and a range of local public service and community groups will implement.

Increasing the resilience of key organisations and institutions and supporting early interventions



Defeating terrorism is a shared responsibility of society. Government can and should take a lead, but it cannot fulfil every role. Local services and voluntary organisations also have a key role. Local government will contribute to this by:

- Improving the gathering and sharing of intelligence at a local level.
- Developing mechanisms to identify vulnerable communities and individuals in local areas, and develop strategies to address those at risk.
- Developing targeted programmes of counter- and de-radicalisation work in local areas, particularly in key institutions – such as universities, colleges and schools.

Case Studies

Engaging with at risk youth in Hounslow

Marginalised young people are vulnerable to those peddling violent extremist ideas.

Hounslow Asian and African Youth Group (HAAYA) will run outreach work concentrating on hard to reach youth who are unemployed or economically marginalised.

The HAAYA mentoring project will articulate an interpretation of Islam that supports integration, citizenship and the adoption of democracy. A Muslim Youth Forum will be established to give disengaged young people an opportunity to express their concerns and identify solutions. The result will be young people with a clear understanding of how to counter violent extremist messages and ideology.

Southwark Parents' Forum

Southwark will form a Muslim Parents' Forum to discuss and identify issues relating to extremism – empowering and training parents to challenge extremist views. This project will be run in partnership with Southwark Muslim Forum and the Metropolitan Police.

Birmingham Young Muslim Leadership Programmes & Green Light Resources

Young Muslim men and women have the strongest, most credible voices when turning their peers away from violent extremism. Birmingham City Council and the Black Country will support Young Muslim Leadership Programmes to hold workshops on issues such as citizenship, civic engagement, and how to respond to signs of radicalisation amongst young people.

Young people will be supported in working with at risk individuals by initiatives such as the "Green Light Tackling Violent Extremism" resource, which will include messages from some of the leading national and international scholars. These will rebut teachings advocating violent extremism, and build interfaith dialogue.

Lambeth Women's Forum

Muslim women are often unheard in the debate on the identity of British Muslims within society. A key challenge is to empower them to engage with their communities, and especially with disillusioned youth, on issues of integration and violent extremism.

Representatives will work with and empower women of all ages by promoting activities, such as the mentoring of Muslim women by Lambeth councillors. This is aimed at encouraging women to put themselves forward as councillors. Establishing a Muslim Women's forum and Muslim Women's student forum are also key priorities.

Capacity and skills development



Preventing Violent Extremism is a new challenge for many local authorities and local communities. Pathfinder funding will be used to support work to build local knowledge, awareness and capacity to address this issue, through activities such as:

- Supporting local Forums on Extremism and Islamophobia, in line with the Local Government White Paper.
- Learning and development programmes relating to violent extremism for local leaders and members.
- Providing guidance and awareness-training for front line staff and managers in organisations providing services or community support.
- Conducting research and attitudinal surveys of local Muslim and other communities – using shared methodologies to which local partners will have contributed.

Case Studies

Bristol Understanding and Engaging Communities

Bristol City Council will support and engage with the newly-formed Bristol Muslim Forum to understand the community perspective on violent extremism, and will run a joint conference with them later in the year. Bristol will support local young people in designing the conference which will build confidence and trust in discussing the issues surrounding violent extremism and Islamophobia and developing a collective way forward.

To inform the debate, Bristol City Council will work in partnership with local Muslim communities and mosques. The council will also conduct a mini-census of new and established Muslim communities in Bristol. The information will supplement the information from the last census and will include:

- population groupings and locations;
- theological and cultural traditions;
- economic characteristics; and
- patterns of mosque usage.

Crawley Awareness Training

Crawley Council will deliver awareness training to key service providers including police, teachers, neighbourhood housing managers, youth workers, and college lecturers. The training will include identifying and addressing:

- inter-generational issues;
- community structures and relationships;
- challenging stereotypes and 'myth busting'; and
- the impact of national or international events on local minority communities, and how negative impacts can be mitigated.

As a result, service providers and front-line workers will have a better understanding and awareness about violent extremism issues facing communities in Crawley and the capacity to respond effectively to this.

Work will be led by Crawley Borough Council and Sussex Police, working with other partners and where possible with imams and other faith leaders as part of a two-way process towards building capacity within the communities and creating a shared understanding of different cultures.

Understanding Communities in Peterborough

It is crucial to foster a debate on the challenges Muslim communities face. Meetings and events with Muslim communities will be used to generate discussion on Islamophobia, tackling violent extremism and the roles of the Muslim communities and the local agencies. Neutral venues and facilitators will be used to ensure that the results are as honest and open as possible. The results will build an understanding of the real life experiences of individuals in communities, informing their future approaches.

The debate will be strengthened by research to develop a better understanding of the diversity of Muslim communities in the area and their challenges, experiences and attitudes.

Watford Bridge of Peace

The objectives of the project are to enable the voices of Muslim women to speak out against intolerance and extremism, to influence and change their communities and to be ambassadors for understanding across the community. The Bridge of Peace Women's Group works by bringing Muslim women and Christian women together to share experiences and understanding, and support each other in promoting tolerance in their communities.

ANNEX A

Priority local authorities

Government	Priority local authorities
Office region	
South West	Bristol City Council
South East	 Wycombe District Council
	 Oxford City Council
	 Reading Borough Council
	 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
	 Slough Borough Council
	 Crawley Borough Council
	 Woking Borough Council
London	Barking and Dagenham Council
	 London Borough of Barnet
	Brent Council
	Camden Council
	 London Borough of Croydon
	Ealing Council
	Enfield Council
	Greenwich Council
	 London Borough of Hackney
	Hammersmith and Fulham Council
	Haringey Council
	Harrow Council
	 London Borough of Hillingdon
	Hounslow Council
	Islington Council
	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
	London Borough of Lambeth
	Lewisham Council
	 London Borough of Merton
	London Borough of Newham
	London Borough of Redbridge
	Southwark Council
	Tower Hamlets Council
	London Borough of Waltham Forest
	Wandsworth Borough Council
	City of Westminster City Council
East of England	Bedford Borough Council
	Luton Borough Council
	Peterborough City Council
	Watford Borough Council

East Midlands	Derby City Council
	Leicester City Council
	 Nottingham City Council
West Midlands	Birmingham City Council
	 Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
	 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
	 Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Walsall Council
Yorkshire & the Humber	Bradford Metropolitan District CouncilCalderdale Council
	Kirklees Council
	• Leeds City Council
	Wakefield City Council
North West	Greater Manchester:
	Bolton Council
	 Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Manchester City Council
	 Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	 Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	 Salford City Council
	 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
	 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Trafford Council
	Wigan Council
	Lancashire:
	 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
	 Burnley Borough Council
	 Hyndburn Borough Council
	 Pendle Borough Council
	 Preston City Council
	 Ribble Valley Borough Council
	Rossendale Borough Council
North East	 Middlesbrough Borough Council
	Newcastle City Council

