The Prevent Strategy:
A Guide for Local Partners in England

Stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists and violent extremists
This guide is aimed at local partners in England. However, much of the cross-cutting information it contains will help local authorities, the police, Community Safety Partnerships and other partners and partnerships in the devolved administrations to develop and implement effective actions that will make their communities safer.
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Ministerial Foreword

Everyone has a right to live in a safe and welcoming neighbourhood where they feel they belong. In 11 years, the Government has invested in the infrastructure and services – housing, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and police – that help make communities strong, safe and prosperous. But no neighbourhood can truly succeed unless local people define their future by working together to tackle the challenges they face.

When people have a say in the design and delivery of public services, those services better meet their needs. Places where local people have the opportunities, skills and confidence to come together and address the problems they face are more likely to resolve them.

This country, like many others, faces a challenge from terrorism and violent extremism. A very small minority seek to harm innocent people in the name of an ideology which causes division, hatred and violence. It is the role of government to take the tough security measures needed to keep people safe. But a security response alone is not enough; as with so many other challenges, a response led and driven by the community is also vital.

We need to work in partnership with communities to challenge and expose the ideology that sanctions and encourages indiscriminate violence. We need to work together to stop people, especially young people, getting drawn into illegal activities associated with violent extremism. We need to expose and isolate the apologists for violence and protect the places where they operate.

Local authorities, the police, and their partners in schools, other educational institutions and elsewhere, have a critical role in preventing violent extremism. They understand the local context. They are in a unique position to talk to local communities, hear their concerns and enable people to stand shoulder to shoulder, confident in their rejection and condemnation of violence.

Over the past year, our funding has supported projects in 70 local authorities designed to enable local people to support this agenda. This guidance shares examples of success – including multi-agency partnerships to protect vulnerable individuals, leadership programmes, citizenship classes, training for imams, myth-busting roadshows, and projects using sport and drama. It explains how good communication and co-operation has established strong local partnerships. It also makes clear that, at national and local level, we will support only those groups that condemn violence and work actively against violent extremism.
Over the next three years, this guidance and a significant increase in funding are intended to help local partners develop more projects on the ground and ensure that mainstream services are able to contribute to preventing violent extremism.

We face a serious and long-term threat from terrorism. But, as we have seen repeatedly in the last few years, people of every creed and background are ready to resist those who threaten both their safety and the cohesion of their communities. This strength of purpose is the most important asset we have in our work against terrorism and violent extremism. It is at the heart of the agenda set out in this document.

Hazel Blears  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Jacqui Smith  
Home Secretary

Ed Balls  
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

John Denham  
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills

Andy Burnham  
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Rt Hon Jack Straw MP  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Executive Summary

Introduction
The UK faces a severe and continuing threat from international terrorism. The Government is taking tough security measures to keep people safe, but action at a local level is also essential to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists or violent extremists.

Local authorities and the police need to take a lead in ensuring that local partnerships have been clearly tasked with driving delivery of a jointly agreed programme of action.

This guide aims to help local authorities, the police and other partner agencies, including members of Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, to take this work forward.

This guide provides:

a) advice on establishing effective partnership working, planning and implementing a programme of action and monitoring its impact; and

b) more detail on each of the objectives of the Prevent strategy, outlining why each is important and how they can be addressed at a local level. For each objective, this guide explains what central government is doing, provides local case studies and signposts additional information and support.

Local partners should not regard this guidance as exhaustive or prescriptive – responses need to be appropriate and proportionate to local circumstances. Although this guide is primarily targeted at local partners in England, partners in other parts of the UK may also find it useful.

Challenge
The most significant terrorist threat to the UK is currently from Al-Qaida and associated groups. Al-Qaida uses a distorted interpretation of Islam, history and contemporary politics to justify attacks against civilians in this country and overseas.
The Director General of the Security Service spoke publicly at the end of 2007 about the threat to this country from Al-Qaida-influenced terrorism. He estimated that there were around 2,000 individuals who the Security Service believed posed a direct threat to national security and public safety because of their support for terrorism. The figure in 2006 was around 1,600. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases; 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty.

To respond to this threat, the Government has developed a counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST. This has four main components, each with a clear objective:

- **Pursue** – to stop terrorist attacks;
- **Prepare** – where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact;
- **Protect** – to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks; and
- **Prevent** – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists.

The Government is taking tough security measures to keep people safe, but this is not enough. We also need a much broader and longer-term programme of work, notably around Prevent.

Experience in this country and elsewhere has told us a lot about why people are drawn into the world of violent extremism, either as actors or supporters. Our assessment is that violent extremism is caused by a combination of interlocking factors:

- an **ideology** which justifies terrorism by manipulating theology as well as history and politics;
- **radicalisers and their networks** which promote violent extremism through a variety of places, institutions and media;
- **individuals who are vulnerable** to the messages of violent extremists;
- **communities**, which are sometimes poorly equipped to challenge and resist violent extremism; and
- **grievances**, some genuine and some perceived, and some of course directed very specifically against government.

Preventing extremism is a major long-term challenge, which will need to be addressed at every level – international, national and local.
The Prevent strategy

The Prevent strategy has five key strands aimed at addressing these causal factors and in support of the overall aim of stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists or violent extremists:

- **challenging** the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices;
- **disrupting** those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they are active;
- **supporting** individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism;
- **increasing** the resilience of communities to violent extremism; and
- **addressing** the grievances that ideologues are exploiting.

These are supported by two cross-cutting work streams which are key enabling functions in delivering the strategy:

- developing **understanding, analysis and information;** and
- strategic **communications.**

The Prevent strategy requires a specific response, but we must also make the most of the links with wider community work to reduce inequalities, tackle racism and other forms of extremism (eg extreme far right), build cohesion\(^1\) and empower communities\(^2\). For example, reducing inequalities undermines the narrative pushed by Al-Qaida and by promoters of violent extremism, which relies on encouraging a sense of victimhood. Likewise, it is recognised that the arguments of violent extremists, which rely on creating a ‘them’ and an ‘us’, are less likely to find traction in cohesive communities.

Local delivery

Central government will take forward the national and international aspects of this work, but **local communities need to play an integral part.**

Local authorities and police forces should take the lead in establishing effective multi-agency arrangements to develop and deliver a co-ordinated response. Delivering an effective Prevent response requires the active participation of a wide range of other

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\(^1\) The Commission on Integration and Cohesion considered how local areas can make the most of diversity while being able to respond to the tensions it may cause. Its final report – *Our Shared Future* – and the Government’s response can be found at [www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk](http://www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk/)

\(^2\) Community empowerment is about giving people more control over their lives, creating more active citizens who contribute to their communities. It involves revitalising democracy, involving voluntary organisations in improving people’s lives and their neighbourhoods, and improving responsiveness and accountability in public service organisations. The Government published an Action Plan in April 2007 and will publish a White Paper shortly: [www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/245624](http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/245624)
partners, including representatives from the education sector, children’s and youth services, the Youth Justice Board through Youth Offending Teams and the secure estate, probation services, prisons and the UK Border Agency. A full list of local partners is at Annex A.

It is essential that local work on preventing violent extremism embraces the experience, energy and ideas of the whole community. The community should be actively engaged in multi-agency partnerships and should shape the development and implementation of a jointly agreed programme of action which meets the objectives of the strategy.

The challenge varies significantly from place to place, depending on existing patterns of radicalisation and the size of the communities which partners need to engage with to build resilience. The programme of action should be proportionate to the local circumstances. Areas with a high level of challenge will need to develop a more detailed and wider programme of action and are likely to require particularly strong partnership arrangements. Areas with a lower level of challenge may wish to select the strategy objectives that are most appropriate locally (eg reviewing the nature of the challenge, awareness raising) and link these into partnership arrangements.

As a result of a wide range of existing programmes, particularly the 2007/08 Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund, there is a wealth of innovative work already going on across the country. The publication of this guidance presents an opportunity to review and build on this work in the light of the Prevent strategy, identifying gaps and scope for further development.

The Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary have recently announced additional Prevent-related funding for the police (for an additional 300 officers) and through local authorities (£45 million from 2008/09 to 2010/11). A full list of sources of funding is at Annex B.

As the Communities Secretary made clear in her letter to local authorities of 11 March, the step change in funding for local partnerships building resilience to violent extremism necessitates a step change in activity at a local level.

Preventing violent extremism is firmly embedded in performance management frameworks, including National Indicator 35 (NI 35) and Assessments of Policing and Community Safety Indicator 63 (APACS 63). The Comprehensive Area Assessment process will also embrace Prevent work, but local partners themselves should ensure that arrangements are in place to evaluate the effectiveness of their response and the way risk is managed.
Part A: Delivery Framework

Establishing an effective delivery framework

Preventing terrorism and violent extremism raises some difficult issues, but the underlying delivery principles – and the skills required for effective interventions – are common to many policy areas.

There are gaps in our knowledge and understanding of what methods work best at local level and how effective they are in reducing the risk in the long-term. We need to move forward on the basis of the available evidence and make full use of the approaches that have served us well in other fields.

Experience has shown that the best results are achieved by:

- partnership working and community engagement – getting the right people working together;
- understanding the challenge and its context;
- developing an effective action plan;
- managing risk;
- tracking progress and evaluating success; and
- sharing learning.

Partnership working and community engagement

Multi-agency working is the key to delivering an effective programme of action to prevent violent extremism.

✔ A partnership group should be clearly tasked to take forward local action on Prevent with the right level and spread of representation to take effective decisions.

✔ Local authorities and the police should take the lead and ensure that other partners from the statutory and voluntary sector – including those representing children’s and youth services, schools, further and higher education, the Youth Justice Board through Youth Offending Teams and the secure estate, probation services, prisons and the UK Border Agency – are involved.

✔ Communities do not stop at local boundaries. Local partners should work closely with neighbouring areas, and with Government Offices, to deliver effective programmes of action.

✔ The local community, including Muslim groups, should be actively engaged in the partnership and in the development and implementation of programmes of action.
A ‘whole community’ approach should be taken to ensure that this work does not inadvertently lead to increased pressure on vulnerable sections of the community. All communities should help to support those individuals, institutions and communities that are most vulnerable – making the most of the energy and experience of a range of groups working in other faith and non-faith communities, and fostering a climate of mutual understanding and respect.

Strong multi-agency partnerships focused on preventing violent extremism have been established in many areas, with police forces, local authorities and their partners working closely together to oversee and deliver projects. Some areas have set up a group focused specifically on Prevent. Other areas are using an existing group, such as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership or a Local Strategic Partnership.

Organisations that may be involved in local partnership working at various levels include:

- police forces;
- police authorities;
- county, district and unitary local authorities, including:
  - social services;
  - cultural services, including libraries;
  - sports and leisure services;
  - children’s services;
  - youth services/Youth Offending Teams/youth inclusion programmes;
  - community safety leads;
  - equalities and cohesion leads;
- community representatives;
- further education colleges;
- universities;
- schools (maintained and independent);
- probation services;
- local prisons;
- strategic health authorities;
- local primary care trusts;
- local public health agencies;
- voluntary services (including youth clubs, associations and community groups);
- UK Border Agency regional offices; and
- Government Offices.

Police authorities and their members will have a role to play at force level in working alongside local authority councillors (and others) to oversee local implementation.
Government Offices in the regions, as well as the relevant inspectorates, will wish to assure themselves that effective co-ordination and clear leadership are in place in each locality.

There is a range of partnerships which need to be involved in Prevent work locally. It is up to local partners to decide which takes the lead and how the work of these partnerships will be co-ordinated.

- **Local Strategic Partnerships** will be involved in the preventing violent extremism agenda in the context of their wider role and responsibility for reporting progress through the National Indicator Set. They also provide a vital link to related agendas such as work to reduce inequalities and improve cohesion.

- **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships** need to play a key role in preventing violent extremism as part of their work to prevent crime and address its causes in keeping with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. They are likely to have a particular involvement in work focused on supporting vulnerable individuals.

- **Children's trusts** bring together local services for children and young people, and focus on providing support for vulnerable young people; they will therefore be important in ensuring that impact is achieved through mainstream delivery. Vulnerable young people not reached by either mainstream or specialist services should be supported through targeted youth support. This ensures co-ordinated multi-agency support, through a lead professional, which is tailored to an individual young person’s needs and can include family support if appropriate.

The **National Community Safety Plan** ³ and the **Children's Plan** ⁴ both make clear the importance of work to prevent violent extremism, as does the local government **White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities**. ⁵

Communities are not defined by local authority boundaries so **partnership working between areas, as well as within them, will be critical**. The Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund enabled valuable partnerships between local areas, which can offer economies of scale, allowing for more efficient use of funding and the sharing of best practice and learning.

- Where local authority funding has been made available at a district level in two-tier areas, we expect county councils to play a strong and active role in developing and delivering work to prevent violent extremism.

- District councils should ensure that they are working closely with county councils, and county councils will wish to consider how they can deliver appropriate outcomes through their role in delivering important mainstream services such as social services, education, culture, sport and leisure provision.

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³ [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitysafety01.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitysafety01.htm)


⁵ [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongprosperous](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongprosperous)
West London Alliance

In 2001 six west London boroughs decided to pool their resources and create a partnership called the West London Alliance (WLA). Building on their track record of developing collaborative and innovative programmes, they went on to deliver the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund together. By working in partnership they were able to harness together the expertise across the six boroughs. By overcoming the restrictions of borough boundaries they were able to ensure that they engaged as widely as possible with their Muslim communities. The partnership as a whole was able to represent the interests of the sub-region.

By pooling its resources, the WLA has developed and delivered a number of innovative and unique preventing violent extremism projects over the Pathfinder year across this sub-region, such as the West London Evaluation and the WLA Communications Strategy.

Association of West Yorkshire Authorities

The Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA) acts as the local government voice for the West Yorkshire authorities.

The five West Yorkshire authorities (via the AWYA) agreed to share the allocated Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder monies between them equally and then to provide long-term support for each other as their agreed work plans developed. This included support for sub-regional as well as smaller, more local projects.

The AWYA has its own staff, who manage work on behalf of the authorities in the partnership. As part of their work, two of these co-ordinate and manage meetings on preventing violent extremism that are held between senior West Yorkshire council officers, the police, the Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber and other key partner agencies. This partnership working will continue and will do all that it can to help support local authority areas in the Government Office region which have recently received preventing violent extremism funding as part of their area-based grant.

The partnership recently produced a joint statement: Cohesion and Preventing Violent Extremism: Identifying the Links, which also recognised the difference in these two very important agendas.
Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council has worked with a range of partners to deliver a broad range of local projects. The Reclaiming Islam Project, for instance, is delivered in partnership with local mosques, madrassahs and a range of youth groups including Birmingham Central Mosque, Sultan Bahu Trust, Sparkbrook Islamic Centre, the Tyga Youth Forum, the Somali Council Youth Group and Green Light (Birmingham).

Understanding the challenge and its context

Annex I provides an overview of Government’s understanding of radicalisation and what draws individuals into violent extremism. In order to develop and deliver an effective programme of action, local partners need to understand the challenge in their locality and develop an understanding of the wider context in which this plays out. There are two key aspects to this:

✔ The **threat of individuals and communities in the local area becoming involved in, or supporting, violent extremism should be assessed and regularly reviewed** using information from the community, local partners such as the police, and other sources (see the section on objective 6 in Part B of this guidance). In understanding the extent and nature of the challenge in an area, local partners should assess:

  – where radicalisation is occurring;
  
  – which groups of people may be most vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism and why; and
  
  – which sections of the community are most likely to need support if they are to challenge and resist messaging and overtures from violent extremists.

✔ **A deeper understanding of local communities should be developed** to help inform and focus the programme of action – this may include mapping denominational backgrounds and demographic and socio-economic factors as well as establishing community infrastructure and ways of accessing and influencing communities. This will help local partners to develop a richer understanding of the factors underpinning the challenge in a locality, and will provide a firmer basis on which to engage local communities.

It is important that strategic decision-makers, including elected members, are appropriately briefed on the nature of the challenge and the emerging analysis. This will enable their involvement in formulating the response, and will help secure their support for the programme of action and the resources it requires.

Delivering an effective Prevent programme requires action by a range of agencies and frontline workers who come into contact with communities and vulnerable individuals. It is important that they understand the communities they serve and are appropriately briefed about the challenge of radicalisation. This will enable them to engage confidently with diverse communities, provide effective support to vulnerable individuals and refer issues of potential concern to relevant agencies.
Part B sets out further advice and guidance about how this improved understanding can be used to develop an effective programme of action.

**Developing an effective action plan**

The increase in resources for this strategy reflects the need to deliver a step change in the local response to violent extremism, building on work to date.

Local partners should put in place a programme of action that:

- meets the specific objectives of the Prevent strategy;
- is jointly agreed and managed by the police, local authority and other partners;
- is proportionate to the level of threat in the area;
- reflects local needs; and
- sets out clear and tangible milestones in tracking progress.

Information sharing and support between partners will be crucial. A number of local authorities and police forces have put in place protocols on information sharing to help ensure effective working.

Local partners should ensure that current projects and programmes are mapped against the Prevent strategy to identify gaps and opportunities for development.

As well as broadening the scope of projects being delivered at a local level to ensure that a range of work is delivered across all strands of the Prevent strategy, local partners will wish to ensure that they:

- **make full use of community resources and expertise**, involving communities in developing and delivering programmes. Engaging local people in delivering projects (by undertaking surveying work and peer education, for example) will help build confidence and capacity;
- **strike the right balance** between targeted interventions with individuals and community-wide longer-term work to build resilience in communities;
- **mainstream Prevent activity** across the work of all partners, not least in relation to providing support to vulnerable individuals (eg through building on targeted youth support arrangements); and
- **increase the focus on young people of school age**, to equip them with the confidence to reject violent extremism. Working with schools, youth services and colleges is a critical element of work to tackle violent extremism and build long-term resilience.

Given the importance of preventing extremism work, it is important that action plans are discussed and endorsed by key strategic leaders within organisations (and by cabinet in local government) and by multi-agency partnerships.
Managing risk

✔ Robust audit and oversight arrangements for the control of funding are an important part of effective risk management; local partners must be clear how funding to prevent violent extremism is being used.

This is a difficult and challenging agenda and one which requires local partners to take carefully managed risks. An effective and innovative programme will involve working with a range of community groups, many of which will have limited capacity. It will involve testing new approaches and trying ideas, accepting the fact that not every project will be a success.

Local partners should, however, take proportionate steps to mitigate risks associated with this work. In particular, there is a strong expectation that local partners will only work with those groups who **uphold our shared values of tolerance, respect and equality** and who **reject and condemn violent extremism**. Local authorities should continue to work with the police and other partners to ensure that they are involving appropriate partners, and that those who may have aims contrary to this agenda are neither provided with a platform, nor involved in partnerships, and do not receive funding. Local councillors will, of course, want to be closely involved in assessing the approach taken to manage this risk.

Guidance on how to go about engaging with partners is at Annex E.

Tracking progress and evaluating success

National Indicator (NI) 35 and APACS 63 seek to measure overall progress by assessing the levels of engagement and understanding that local partners have of the local community, the strength of their partnership working, the effectiveness of their strategies and their effectiveness in implementing them. As part of the National Indicator Set, work to prevent violent extremism will, of course, be part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Long-term success is represented by communities that condemn and reject violent extremism and support those most at risk from within their communities. Success will be reflected in the effectiveness of mechanisms in place to support individuals, and also in attitudes within the community.

✔ Effective programme and performance management arrangements should be in place to track progress and ensure that learning can be shared.

More information on NI 35 is included in Annex D.

Government expects local partners to put in place project and programme management arrangements to ensure that work streams are implemented as planned and achieve the desired outcomes.
Sharing learning

This is a new and rapidly developing area of work. The Government is committed to ensuring that examples of good practice at a local level are shared and that local solutions help to shape the implementation of the national development programme.

To help local partners, the Government has supported the Improvement and Development Agency (lDeA) to develop a web portal for Prevent practitioners and train and accredit a group of peer mentors. Further details are at Annex F.

Local partners can make use of existing structures – such as regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) – to share learning and identify measures necessary to build capacity.

Local partners should engage closely with Government Offices which facilitate the sharing of good practice across regions, and with central government departments. There is an expectation that local partners will continue to be open to scrutiny, and will continue to share good practice and learning.

Further support and advice

We recognise that this is a far-reaching and challenging policy agenda, and that local partners will continue to require support to deliver it.

This guidance represents only one part of an ongoing dialogue between local partners and central government, as we will continue to provide further guidance, advice and information both nationally and regionally. Annex F provides details of further sources of information and support.

The next section of this guidance sets out the key objectives of the Prevent strategy and how local areas can ensure that these are taken forward.

Annex G sets out the roles of individual government departments and Annex H sets out how the overall governance structure and local delivery arrangements come together.
Part B: The Strands of the Prevent Strategy

This section of the guide explains how local partners can achieve the objectives of the Prevent strategy as part of a jointly agreed programme of action.

As described previously, the Prevent strategy has five key strands and two strategic enablers:

- **challenging** the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices;
- **disrupting** those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they may be active;
- **supporting** individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism;
- **increasing** the resilience of communities to violent extremism; and
- **addressing** the grievances that ideologues are exploiting.

These are supported by two cross-cutting work streams which are key enabling functions in delivering the strategy:

- developing **understanding, analysis** and **information**; and
- **strategic communications**.

Local partners have key roles to play in meeting all of these objectives. The following section explains why each objective is important; what local areas should consider when planning and implementing their programme of action; and what support and advice is available.
Objective 1: Challenging the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices

Why is this important?
Al-Qaida and other violent extremists have developed an ideology which sanctions and even requires violence against civilians. They justify the use of violence by presenting a distorted interpretation of Islam, history and contemporary politics. The ideology is one factor in the radicalisation process – albeit never the only factor and seldom the most important. Countering that ideology – exposing its inaccuracies and shortcomings – is an important part of Prevent. But this work can rarely be done directly by government.

What this means in practice
Supporting local communities, organisations and institutions to challenge the messages of violent extremists who misrepresent the Islamic faith and endanger communities is critical. Muslim voices also play an important role in promoting shared values and providing young Muslims with positive British Muslim role models. Local partners should support those individuals and institutions who can effectively refute the extremist narrative and who positively articulate our shared values, and should encourage new voices to enter into the debate. Communities and individuals should feel confident, and able, to speak up against the extremist rhetoric. It should be noted that in this, as in other areas of Prevent, the wider strategy looks to other governments and communities overseas, in and outside the Islamic world, to contribute.

✔ Build an understanding and awareness of violent extremist ideology
Local partners need to understand the narrative put across by violent extremists and raise awareness of the false theological and historical arguments on which it is based, both within their own organisations and within communities.

✔ Identify credible mainstream voices
Building on existing engagement, local partners should be working with their communities to identify those who can engage with young people and effectively refute the extremist narrative. This will include working with, among others, community leaders and workers and faith leaders and workers.

These individuals and groups should reflect the diversity of Muslim communities, including Muslim women and young people. Women can be a particularly effective voice as they are at the heart not only of their communities but also of their families, while peer-to-peer conversations between young people are often an effective means of communication. It is important to reach beyond would-be gatekeepers to the community when seeking strong community voices.
✔ Support those voices

Local partners will need to work with these individuals and groups to:

- develop their communication, representational and leadership skills;
- develop their organisational capacity and capabilities;
- provide them with platforms for their views and help them develop networks which can support them in their work;
- support events and provide training, such as media training, which can make their voices heard more widely;
- support the development of skills which allow them to be more effective in debate and raising awareness of counter-arguments; and
- support events, projects and programmes which allow them to develop their work and which focus on providing a voice for communities.

Nationally we are supporting the development of a Continuous Professional Development programme for faith leaders and workers. We also sponsor the Radical Middle Way roadshows which provide platforms for mainstream Islamic voices in the UK.

✔ Promote a stronger understanding of faith, culture and history

We need to develop a stronger understanding of Islam and Islamic culture, society and history across all communities, breaking down the suspicion and misunderstanding that can result from ignorance. This can be done by:

- using opportunities in the school curriculum – and in colleges, universities and elsewhere – to convey a deeper understanding of faith, history and culture;
- working particularly with the Muslim community to help strengthen religious understanding among young people and in particular support an understanding of citizenship in an Islamic context. This may include work in partnership with Islamic institutions such as mosque schools; and
- working particularly with Muslim communities to undermine the myths and half-truths being peddled by violent extremists and to equip communities with a counter-narrative.

This work should, of course, build on and complement existing inter-faith and community cohesion initiatives. Both these strands of work are important in undermining the ideology of division and conflict. But there must also be work focused more specifically on undermining the distortion of the Islamic faith by violent extremists.

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6 www.niace.org.uk/projects/leadwithfaith/
7 www.radicalmiddleway.co.uk/
Nationally, we are supporting the development of citizenship teaching materials for mosque schools across the country, building on existing local initiatives and teaching.9 We are also supporting a regional tour of the British Library’s ‘Sacred’ exhibition (see below).

Black Country Imams

The Black Country Imams project is developing a pioneering imam training programme. A total of 36 imams from Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall and Birmingham are taking part in training which will make them not only more effective as teachers and community leaders but also more accessible to young people by improving their communication skills.

In partnership with Stourbridge College, the imams have received training in English language, reading, writing and speaking skills. They have also done specialist courses in first aid, child protection and information and communication technology. Further courses will include teaching and learning styles, together with management training. The purpose of the programme is to equip the local imams to deal with the issues facing their communities. It is unique as the imams come to training four times a week, and have already begun to show improvements in confidence by joining interfaith networks and becoming more active within their communities.

“We are making sure the imams are able to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Already some of the imams are confident in delivering part of the Friday sermons in English. The dedication of the imams towards this project and the pathfinder as a whole is an inspiration to us all.” Mohammed Afzal, Dudley and the Black Country Pathfinder co-ordinator

“We were always told about the problems of extremism but were never talked to about practical solutions. We feel this is one such project that deals with practical solutions to the issues faced by imams every day. The project has not only improved our communication skills but has also increased our confidence in dealing with the growing needs of our congregations, especially our young people. We must remember that imams are great theologians but often lack the communication skills to effectively answer the queries of our young people, and through this project we hope we can address this issue.” Imam Hashmi, Dudley Central Mosque and project co-ordinator

9 www.theiceproject.co.uk/
British Library’s ‘Sacred’ exhibition: regional tour

A touring version of the British Library’s recent ‘Sacred’ exhibition is visiting around a dozen towns and cities across England. The exhibition uses documents held by the British Library to show the many historical links and shared values between Islam, Christianity and Judaism, undermining the extremist narrative of fundamental differences between Islam and the West. The exhibition will be in major public libraries and will be accompanied by a programme of training; this will enable local partners to deliver dedicated and intensive discussion sessions with local communities and, in particular with young people, about the contents of the exhibition.

Luton Ambassadors Project

The ‘Ambassadors for Islam’ project works with a group of young Muslims to build understanding and equip them with the theological arguments to counter extremist ideologies, dispel misapprehensions and develop their role as citizens, leaders and positive role models, so that they can become ‘ambassadors’ for mainstream Islam and assert their British identity.

The project was commissioned by Luton Borough Council through the Islamic Cultural Society and is based at the Central Mosque in Luton. Tariq Mahmood is the project manager. The project initially ran from October 2007 to March 2008 and has been extended until July.

Twenty-four young men have taken part in classes. They are taught by a British-born Islamic scholar with seminars from various visiting Muslim and non-Muslim speakers. Visitors to the classes have included a senior rabbi from London, local police officers and church leaders, all of whom have given very positive feedback.

The project is working towards forging strong working partnerships with the Chaplaincy of the University of Bedfordshire, local colleges, the charity Crime Concern and other local and national faith/non-faith organisations. It is now planning a joint seminar with the University of Bedfordshire, with Ed Husain (the author of The Islamist and co-founder of the Quilliam Foundation launched in April) as the guest speaker. The seminar will aim to open up theological debate to a wider audience. The Ambassadors for Islam project will be reviewed soon to plan how to progress it beyond July.
Birmingham study circles

Birmingham City Council has helped to support the development of a series of community-led study circles to help young people develop a better understanding of Islam. The study circles have enabled mainstream imams to reconnect with young people as mentors, teachers and authoritative voices, in countering the arguments of violent extremists. Birmingham has worked with the Radical Middle Way project and the British Muslim Forum to facilitate discussions between the study circles and leading Islamic scholars, leading to better understanding of Western values and their shared roots with the Muslim world.

“The study circle enabled me to understand Islam from the original sources, to interpret it in accordance to my life as a British citizen and to know how to live peacefully with other communities.”  

Young person, Tyga Youth Forum

“A critical part of the Radical Middle Way project has been to create spaces where leading Islamic scholars and thinkers can engage with young imams, scholars and scholars-in-training in Muslim communities, in order to build a contemporary approach to Islamic values that connects the classical Islamic tradition to our British context. By addressing critical issues, this engagement has resulted in a number of important programmes across the country that build the capacity of young scholars in Britain to serve their communities, while building a strong theological approach to citizenship and belonging. Birmingham’s study circle project is one such programme that we hope to continue working with in the future.”  

Abdul Rahman from the Radical Middle Way
Citizenship and mosque schools

Local community-led projects in many areas (such as Barnet, Birmingham, Bradford, Leicester and Rochdale) are working to develop or have developed teaching materials about citizenship for use in mosque schools (madrassahs). The materials are based on the Koran and Hadith, have approval from local Islamic scholars, and focus on encouraging respect, tolerance, harmony and an active role in local life. They also provide young Muslims with a better understanding of how their faith is compatible with wider shared values and with living in Britain.

Most prominent among these local projects is the work done by the Bradford Council of Mosques through the Nasiha Project10 (‘nasiha’ meaning ‘good and sincere advice’) to develop lesson, plans and various teaching materials; and the award-winning work done by Barnet via their Madrassah Citizenship Programme,11 which has trained local youth workers to deliver a 10-week course to teenagers highlighting the links between Islamic sacred texts and good citizenship, and will be delivered to madrassahs, youth centres and supplementary schools in the borough.

Nationally, through the Islam and Citizenship Education (ICE) Project (www.theiceproject.co.uk), Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working in partnership with the Muslim communities and mainstream educationalists to identify good practice from these local projects, to align materials more with mainstream education and to encourage more madrassahs to adopt citizenship programmes.

10 www.nasiha.co.uk/
11 www.barnet.gov.uk/press_releases.htm?id=1689
Objective 2: Disrupting those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they may be active

Why is this important?

In this country and overseas propagandists are an essential part of the process by which individuals are recruited to the cause of violent extremism. The medium is as important as the message.

Propagandists make use of a wide range of institutions and other platforms. Local partners with others have an essential role to play in disrupting the propagandists and also in supporting the institutions where they may be active.

What this means in practice

✔ Disrupt those who promote violent extremism

Disrupting those who promote violent extremism requires action by the police and Crown Prosecution Service through the courts and is a vital part of Prevent. But there are often other preventative steps that partners can take. Local partners, in close collaboration with the police, need to establish a process to:

• identify individuals or groups which promote violent extremism;
• create a referral point and context in which agencies can consider appropriate action; and
• consider action that may be required in advance of or in addition to police action: this might include disrupting or removing funding streams or removing the access of groups or individuals to particular locations.

✔ Supporting institutions

While much violent extremist activity is likely to take place behind closed doors, violent extremist networks do often have a public face and can be active community institutions. Local Prevent action plans should consider the following activity:

• Local authorities’ Prevent leads, Basic Command Unit (BCU) commanders and counter-terrorism intelligence officers (where relevant) may identify the locations where radicalisation may already be taking place and consider immediate targeted support.
• Local partners may prioritise institutions or places that are in need of support based on a local risk assessment.
• Local partners can assess levels of risk in different institutions, organisations or places, and keep it up to date as risks change.
Local authorities and police should work with local institutions to:

- raise awareness within institutions or organisations about what makes them vulnerable and what warning signs to look out for (by issuing advice on different groups that are active within the area and their methods of recruitment, for example);
- act as a source of advice for other partners locally;
- establish channels of communication for institutions to refer to support services for vulnerable individuals (including a single point of contact in the local authority and police);
- assist institutions and organisations to design policies and procedures that will strengthen them against activities of radicalisers. For example, institutions and organisations could:
  - ask police to conduct pre-appointment checks on candidates who would be working on projects receiving preventing violent extremism funding, and to be a source of broader advice for groups working with young people;
  - organise staff training to ensure awareness and understanding of Prevent issues;
  - adopt policies on working with individuals who may not be reached by mainstream services (eg those young people who are not in education, employment or training); and
  - adopt appropriate policies on internet access.

The Government is currently working to make the internet a more hostile environment for terrorists and violent extremists. We are working with industry partners to scope ways of reducing access to terrorist and violent extremist-related material on the internet, and we are also developing programmes of work to support mainstream websites and increase the volume and profile of popular Islamic websites. Local partners should be aware of the work that is going on at national level and feed in as appropriate.

There are many types of institutions that local partners need to consider, within and outside the remit of local authorities. The process should therefore involve all local partners and partnerships including Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, children’s services and probation services, as well as private organisations, other educational establishments and community groups.
Governance toolkits for mosques

Birmingham City Council has worked with mosques to develop a governance toolkit. The project has led to a new positive relationship between the city and its mosques. It has also enabled better governance in those mosques that were a part of the pathfinder pilot, by helping them strengthen and improve existing structures of governance – through increased participation of young people and women, for example. The pilot project was run with nine mosques during the pathfinder year, and the council is aiming to widen this to over 80 mosques over the next three years.

“As the representative of Birmingham Central Mosque (BCM) who took part in the pilot programme I felt that it could not have come at a better time or juncture in time for us as an organisation. We are at the beginning of preparing a new five-year strategy to turn BCM into a ‘model mosque’, a central resource hub for the community offering all sorts of educational, recreational and leisure opportunities, aside from the main congregational prayers, for all sections of the Muslim and non-Muslim community. Looking ahead I feel it is inevitable that faith centres of this kind will need to implement good governance practice to help achieve their full potential and expand the services they currently provide to meet the changing needs of their congregation/target audience.” Birmingham Central Mosque

National support

A range of useful guidance has been developed at national level to support local partners in tackling radicalisers, and to support institutions and other meeting places.

- Higher education guidance, Promoting Good Campus Relations, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism in Universities and Higher Education Colleges, was updated in January 2008.12
- The Government has consulted on further education guidance, The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism.13 The final version will be published in due course.
- Guidance on controversial publications in public libraries and how libraries can ensure access to a balanced book stock for everyone in the community was published for consultation earlier this year. The final guidance will be published at the end of July by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.
- The Faith and Social Cohesion Unit in the Charity Commission is providing support and advice to faith groups through outreach work, capacity building and training, publications and guidance.14

13 www.dius.gov.uk/consultations/index.html
14 www.charity-commission.gov.uk/tcc/faithsc.asp
At a national level, Communities and Local Government also supports the work of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) to build capacity and improve teaching and governance standards in mosques.¹⁵
Objective 3: Supporting vulnerable individuals

Why is this important?

Apologists for violent extremism very often target individuals who for a range of reasons are vulnerable to their messages. Although there is presently less evidence on vulnerability in relation to violent extremism compared with other forms of crime, local partners will recognise relevant factors: peer pressure, the absence of positive mentors and role models, a crisis of identity, links to criminality including other forms of violence, exposure to traumatic events (here or overseas), changing circumstances (eg dislocation to a new environment, including migration and asylum) and a sense of isolation from a community. A range of existing structures and programmes are already in place to support people exhibiting many of these vulnerabilities (eg helplines, mentoring programmes) and it is critical that we build on and make the most of these.

What this means in practice

✔ Improving the capacity to identify individuals vulnerable to radicalisation

There is a range of agencies which will routinely come into contact with vulnerable individuals; eg mosques and community organisations, children’s and youth services, schools, further and higher education, the Youth Justice Board through Youth Offending Teams and secure establishments, police, probation boards, local prisons and immigration facilities. A key strand of activity for local partners and partnerships in this area is to emphasise the connection between familiar vulnerability and the often less familiar issue of radicalisation and to consider preventative action. This should include:

- identifying and engaging with the full range of agencies in their areas which may come into contact with individuals vulnerable to radicalisation;
- ensuring that those people receive basic training on radicalisation issues and how they can provide support. A range of training is being developed both centrally and locally to raise awareness. Information regarding radicalisation can be found at Annex I; and
- ensuring that arrangements are in place to share information about vulnerability.

✔ Creating points of referral for individual cases

Once a vulnerable individual has been identified, trusted channels of communication are needed so that information about the individual can be passed to those in a position to provide support.

- In order to develop a process for effective referrals, local authorities should consider using their relationships and networks across communities to encourage them to identify cases where support might be appropriate.
- Areas should look to develop effective links between those coming into contact with vulnerable individuals, eg existing hotlines, crime prevention networks, social service networks, neighbourhood organisations and child support networks.
- The place to which a case is referred might be a support service (such as those providing targeted youth support) which is expanded to cover issues around radicalisation or specific schemes.
It is an important assumption of this part of the Prevent strategy that we do not wish to put through the criminal justice system those who are vulnerable to, or are being drawn into, violent extremism unless they have clearly committed an offence. It is vital that individuals and communities understand this and have the confidence to use the support structures that we shall be developing.

Channel Project

The Channel Project is a multi-agency approach to support vulnerable individuals. It is a local and community-based initiative, which utilises existing partnership working between the police, local authority and the local community. The project takes referrals from a number of sources on individuals that may be vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism. A joint risk assessment of each individual case is then made by project members and any issues of concern are identified. A programme of intervention tailored to the needs of the individual is then developed and implemented. Involvement of community partners is key. They will have expertise and insight into the process of assessment, referral and intervention.

Further information is available from the ACPO National Community Tensions Team at nctt@acpo.pnn.police.uk

 ✓ Devising, trialling and implementing a range of interventions

• Annex I sets out a range of factors that we believe may be relevant in an individual’s vulnerability to violent extremism. This is included to illustrate the types of issues local areas should consider rather than any attempt to provide a comprehensive account of a radicalising process. Not all these factors are likely to be present in the case of every vulnerable individual.

• Local areas should construct a programme of interventions that address these factors in the round. While in some cases interventions that address faith issues may be appropriate, some factors which can give rise to vulnerability (eg personal issues such as divorce, estrangement from family or community, employment and housing issues and experience of migration) are not specific to violent extremism and local partners need to consider what support can be provided on the full range of factors.

• Delivery of interventions by community partners is critical in the success of this work – they are more likely to understand, and have credibility with, those individuals who require support. Areas should consider whether existing partners or projects funded through preventing violent extremism funding can contribute to this objective.

• At one end of the spectrum, interventions may seek to address those who are believed to be vulnerable to radicalisation but who have not yet become committed to violence. These might include ideological and social interventions such as:
  – referral to youth mentoring projects (an example of a mentoring scheme is set out below);
  – engagement with positive role models;
providing positive alternative activities such as volunteering; and

- projects aimed at developing a stronger faith understanding.

At the other end of the spectrum, interventions need to be developed to address those who have already been radicalised. Schemes aimed at reversing that process are sometimes known as ‘de-radicalisation.’ Nationally we are developing a UK de-radicalisation programme. That involves learning from overseas, from other professions, and through pilot programmes. We recognise that more specialised techniques are likely to be necessary but a key element of this approach is for local partners to identify and work with organisations that may be able to provide this capacity. An example of a local scheme is set out below.

**Mosaic Mentoring Scheme**

The Mosaic Muslim Mentoring Scheme received funding from Communities and Local Government’s Community Leadership Fund with the aim of recruiting 100 Muslim professionals to mentor disadvantaged young Muslims in schools and colleges. The scheme aims to raise aspirations and reduce the sense of isolation experienced by young Muslims in marginalised communities, addressing one of the factors that can contribute to sympathy with violent extremist actions. The mentors benefit themselves by using their experiences to help others maximise their opportunities and contributing to the development of the leaders of tomorrow.

Mosaic has recruited nearly 200 mentors to date who have been carrying out mentoring sessions in London, the East Midlands, Lancashire and Bradford, and are looking to expand over the next few years. So far Mosaic has directly contacted schools but there is clearly a role for local authorities for helping Mosaic target its activities.

Mosaic can be contacted via its website where people can exchange ideas with other mentors online (www.mosaicnetwork.co.uk).

“It’s really encouraging to learn that someone from the same background as me can be really successful and reach the top of their profession, by working hard and being enthusiastic.”

Salwa Abdulraham, Year 11, Brent
De-radicalisation Project

A community-based programme in Leicester is being funded to deliver a mentoring programme for vulnerable individuals. It aims to encourage young people to feel more valued and to eradicate myths and assumptions which lead to young people becoming alienated and disempowered, and thus vulnerable to the threat of radicalisation. The group was already working in the fields of substance abuse and social exclusion before further funding allowed it to expand its work to include preventing violent extremism. It has developed good relationships with local police, primary care trusts, schools, mosques and other key partners and is seen as part of a community response to the problem of radicalisation. Such an approach could be successful for other community organisations.

- Local authorities and police play a key role in this process, but the breadth of factors that can contribute to the radicalisation process means they should consider the full range of statutory partners which may be able to deliver interventions.
- In particular, the link between criminality and radicalisation means that police and offender management teams (e.g. Youth Offending Teams) should consider whether they are working with those who may become interested in violent extremism and consider what interventions need to be incorporated into processes to rehabilitate offenders or divert people away from criminality. The Government is already funding the Youth Justice Board to deliver this through their existing delivery structures.
- Going forward, the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism will provide resources to local partners, in addition to the preventing violent extremism funding, to assist them in developing their capacity to support those vulnerable to violent extremism.
Objective 4: Increasing the capacity of communities to resist violent extremism

Why is this important?

Strong, organised and empowered communities are better equipped to effectively reject the ideology of violent extremism, to isolate apologists for terrorism and to provide support to vulnerable institutions and individuals. We want communities to take the initiative in these areas but we can work with communities to enable them to do so. Collaborative work itself undermines the narrative of separation and conflict which is often used by violent extremists, emphasising that there is more that unites us than divides us.

What this means in practice

✓ Active engagement with local communities

Local communities must be at the centre of the response to violent extremism, helping to develop and deliver the response to it. Engagement may take place through:

• forums;
• groups and networks;
• events and conferences;
• research and focus groups;
• outreach workers; and
• education services.

The police service is enhancing community engagement through the embedding of neighbourhood policing teams, now in place across England and Wales. Additional resources are being provided for the police to further develop community engagement capacity in key areas. The police service will also use Key Individual Networks and Independent Advisory Groups to inform their approach. From a local authority point of view, engagement must build on dynamic community leadership and basic good councillorship.

The National Muslim Women’s Advisory Group provides advice to the Secretary of State for Communities on issues around empowering Muslim women through increasing their participation in civic, economic and social life. The group also provides a regional network of champions with whom local partners can engage in developing local projects to support and empower Muslim women.16 Communities and Local Government in conjunction with the National Muslim Women’s Advisory Group has published a document providing case studies of local work to support and empower Muslim women.

16 www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/669801
www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/680335
**Build community capacity**

The capacity of communities to reject, condemn and isolate violent extremism is built on strong community organisations and an active voluntary and community sector. Working with community groups, local partners can:

- build their organisational reach and sustainability (for instance, by supporting the development of business plans and marketing);
- develop the range of services they provide and their capability to address community issues; and
- support them in delivering products and services to prevent violent extremism.

**Develop leadership**

Developing strong leadership helps give communities a strong voice, and provides individuals with the strength to challenge the arguments put to them. Leadership should particularly focus on developing the skills of Muslim women and young people, but should also involve existing community leaders such as local councillors. Programmes may include:

- developing bespoke leadership programmes focused on the particular issues that may face Muslim communities;
- ensuring that Muslim communities are appropriately represented on existing leadership programmes and opportunities; and
- raising the awareness and understanding of existing leaders.

**Promote positive alternative activities**

Providing positive activities for young people helps them develop skills and motivation, and provides support networks and friendships which can better enable them to counter those who promote violent extremism. Partners can:

- ensure that existing services and activities are delivered in a culturally sensitive way, building on the equalities agenda;¹⁷
- promote positive alternative activities such as volunteering (including those opportunities overseas promoted by the Department for International Development);¹⁸
- provide positive alternatives such as sports participation and skills development; and
- in a further education or university context, ensure that a range of activities is available that will reach out to Muslim young people.

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There is already considerable expertise across the culture and sport sectors in working with a broad range of vulnerable people. We will now bring this expertise together in one central place under the leadership of the strategic delivery bodies across culture and sport. The aim of this ‘centre of excellence’ will be to improve the general understanding nationally and locally between Muslim communities and cultural and sporting bodies. It will also work with a wide range of partners to help raise understanding of how cultural and sporting opportunities can be used to build resilience to violent extremism and engage effectively with those who are vulnerable to targeting by violent extremists.

**Business in the Community – Business Bridges**

With funding from the Community Leadership Fund, Business in the Community has used private businesses to build the capacity of small community-based projects in key Muslim communities which are delivering services and opportunities for individuals and groups in deprived areas.

**Waltham Forest Young Muslim Leaders Development Programme**

Waltham Forest Council and the local police jointly commissioned two local community organisations to develop a leadership programme for young Muslims in Waltham Forest. Twenty-one young people were trained and, while the activity was under one brand, each organisation had the autonomy to develop a programme to meet the needs of the young people they were working with.

Leytonstone Muslim Community Centre developed a programme based on an understanding of Islam and leadership skills, delivering it to a group of young men and women who were in higher education and were at risk of isolation and detachment from their previous support networks.

The Active Change Foundation worked with a younger group of mostly young men who lived in the most deprived ward in the area. It provided them with interventions in relation to citizenship, conflict resolution and coping skills to deal with the risks of drugs, alcohol and involvement in antisocial behaviour as well as extremism.

The programme has just been independently evaluated by Renaisi, a social regeneration company. The evaluation concluded that the young people demonstrated confidence and pride in their roles, and spoke of an enhanced understanding of their faith and a personal commitment to tackling extremism.
National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

The National Muslim Women’s Advisory Group comprises women who are in positions of leadership or are working with the Muslim communities in Britain.

The group is chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, and advises Communities and Local Government on issues around empowering Muslim women through increased participation in civic, economic and social life.

The group acts as an ambassador for Muslim women, representing their views and concerns to Government and providing positive role models.

Sizanani Africa

Based in the London borough of Redbridge, Sizanani Africa aims to build the capacity of young people from marginalised communities to achieve integration through economic independence and social well-being.

Sizanani Africa received funding from the Community Leadership Fund in 2007/08 for its Muslim Women’s Community Leadership Training Project, which aimed to empower Muslim women to identify and tackle signs of extremism and become peer mentors for women and young people.

The majority of service users are new arrivals in the UK from central and west Africa, and feel isolated and marginalised as English is not their mother tongue. The befriending and outreach services that Sizanani Africa offers are drawing many young people from isolation into expanding social networks. In addition, coaching and workshops to help individuals gain employment are provided.

By empowering Muslim women in identifying and tackling signs of extremism, the project can support those who are vulnerable and use their knowledge to support other women in their community to do the same.
The Muslim Youth Development Partnership

This Nottingham-based partnership comprises three charities: the Karimia Institute, Crime Concern and Muslim Hands. Each organisation contributes different qualities to the partnership, such as designing and delivering Islamic Studies courses, project managing and fundraising. In particular the Karimia Institute is a centre for worship, education, training and self-development and has run successful sports coaching programmes and residential youth camps for young people.

The partnership received support from the Community Leadership Fund in 2007/08 to build the leadership capacity of 45 young Muslims aged 16–25. It did so by training and supporting them to form a network of volunteer youth leaders from two ‘hubs’ – one in the north (Bradford, Halifax and Manchester) and one in the Midlands (Birmingham and Nottingham). The project equipped the youth leaders with the organisational abilities, skills and resources to work with mosques and Islamic centres on the delivery of local youth activities that promote volunteering and community cohesion among Muslim young people.