



South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council Prevent Duty Risk Assessment 2023/24

Context: Prevent Duty Guidance on Risk Assessments

The Prevent duty guidance states: *"We expect local authorities to use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLPs), produced for every region by the police, **to assess the risk** of individuals being drawn into terrorism. This includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit*

The duty requires partners to use the CTLP to assess the risk, meaning there is a requirement to create a risk assessment based on the CTLP (the CTLP alone will not suffice).

This risk assessment indicates the borough is comparatively **low risk** from terrorist activity. South Tyneside has not been identified as a Prevent funded priority area by HM Government in 2022/23.

The current terrorist threat level in the UK has been assessed as **substantial** by HM Government. The primary threat to the UK stems from Islamist terrorism, but there is a growing threat from Right Wing Terrorism (RWT).

South Tyneside Council Community Safety Team have no specific information to suggest Islamist terrorism/ideology are prevalent locally, but we are aware of some localised leafletting and social media activity by far-right activists and groups. We are aware of the divisive narratives and cohesion challenges that groups such as Patriotic Alternative can present, with increasing asylum numbers arriving in South Tyneside likely to have some impact on community tensions.

Self-initiated terrorists (formerly known as Lone Actors) continue to be the most significant threat to the UK and across Northumbria. The actions of a S-IT are difficult to detect and deter. They can mobilise to action quickly using low sophistication methods of attack using readily available items that require no specialist knowledge or training. In response to the challenges posed by S-IT type attacks HM Government are set to introduce new Public and Accessible Location Spaces legislation as they seek to significantly strengthen the Protect and Prepare elements of CONTEST (National Counter Terrorism Strategy).

There were no terror related arrests in South Tyneside in 2022. The annual CTLP 2023 produced by Northumbria Police continues to highlight online RWT as being the main ideological threat and potential source of radicalisation – locally and regionally.

Across 2022 there were **14 Prevent referrals** recorded in South Tyneside, a figure that remains comparatively low and inline with other Local Authority areas within the Northumbria Police area. The majority of Prevent referrals raised continue to relate to RWT online activity and young people.

In 2022, there were **289 hate crimes** recorded by Northumbria Police across South Tyneside. This number remains comparatively lower than neighbouring authorities, with race, homophobic and faith continuing to be the most reported categories of hate locally.

Category of Hate Crime	January 1st till December 31st			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Age				1
Disability	45	42	49	48
Faith	18	21	18	13
Gender				2
Homophobic	17	50	54	55
Racist	142	157	178	159
Transphobic	4	5	9	11
Totals	226	275	308	289

The key factors that could limit the prevalence of extremist activity in South Tyneside are:

- Limited evidence of established or organised extremist groups and/or networks
- Organisations actively encourage community engagement; and promote equality, inclusion and diversity in service provision.
- Agencies have a good understanding of the Prevent Duty and the importance of safeguarding vulnerable individuals and promoting online safety.
- High levels community cohesion with limited evidence of any recent or recurring community tensions
- Low numbers of students and young people away from home for the first time

South Tyneside benefits from particularly strong and well-established inter race/faith relations. We have no information to suggest any residents have travelled to zones of conflict and have no evidence to suggest extremist influences are coming from within locally based religious, political or familiar networks.

Two young people from South Tyneside, Liam Curry and Chloe Rutherford, tragically lost their lives in Manchester Arena bombing on 22nd May, 2017. The subsequent public inquiry concluded that there were several missed opportunities to investigate suicide bomber Salem Abedi in the months leading up to the attack. It is therefore reasonable and understandable to expect some lack of confidence in the efficacy of elements of HM Government Contest Strategy within South Tyneside.

South Tyneside Council are not aware of any local venues being approached in 2022 to host questionable preachers or extremist activists, though we know some residents are likely to access events in other areas.