

**Title:** Framework for responding to Speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance in venues in Haringey

**Report authorised by :** Eubert Malcolm, Assistant Director for Stronger and Safer Communities

**Lead Officer:** Karina Kaur – Strategic Lead of Communities

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non key-decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 This briefing note details information about the launch of Haringey's Framework for responding to Speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance in venues. This framework will be used to guide our local decision making on venues and events where concerns have been raised due to alleged hate speech.
- 1.2 The framework applies a consistent approach to responding to all forms of extremism, including but not limited to Islamist inspired, far right nationalist, Northern Irish republican, animal rights and environmentalist. An equalities and public safety approach is considered and proposed as an appropriate framework for the local authority to assess decision making with regards to speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance in venues in the borough.
- 1.3 In developing this framework, the local authority seeks to strike the right balance between addressing legitimate concerns caused by the promotion of extremist views with the rights of individuals to have freedom of speech. This framework is produced by Prevent, which forms part of the 'Stronger Communities' brief and is located within the Community Safety Unit.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 This framework will be used to guide our local decision making on venues and events where concerns have been raised due to alleged hate speech. This policy seeks to provide information on relevant considerations for decision making including advice and guidance to other venues in Haringey, information collected to assess for decision making about Haringey Council owned and run venues, considerations for open source information gathering, local cohesion statement,

legal considerations and considerations for collecting equality information and assessing the impact.

- 2.2 This Framework helps to guide internal and external venues in making decisions based on equality, cohesion, public order, and human rights considerations. priority for Haringey. This document's priority supports a number of ongoing workstreams in Haringey including the Community Safety Strategy, the Young People at Risk Strategy, and the Borough Plan.
- 2.3 It is also recommended that the board support and promote the implementation of the framework and use it to inform decisions throughout their individual workstreams.

### **3. Managing Hate Speech**

- 3.1 A consistent approach to respond to all forms of extremism, or any event that may challenge our existing high levels of local community cohesion in Haringey and our commitment to equalities principles is necessary.
- 3.2 This framework equips internal staff as well as local Haringey venues to make decisions on events where concerns have been raised where speakers may be spouting messages of hate and intolerance. The Prevent team can assist in offering consultation and advice, identifying the speaker or group, and conducting open source searches. In addition, advice can be offered for potential public order risks as well as if the speaker breaches the principles of equalities and cohesion within the borough.
- 3.3 The framework acts as a decision-making tool when assessing risks and considering whether an event should take place. The guidance does not aim to shut down freedom of expression but rather to allow balanced and rational approach.
- 3.4 A number of local voluntary and community organisations within the borough that are funded by Haringey Council also manage spaces that are often available for hire as a venue space. These are often located within local community centres and venue hire is a relied upon and core revenue source for voluntary and community organisations. The Council cannot direct an external organisation on whether to allow a venue hire and event to go ahead. The Council does though have an obligation to pass on notification of concern if it views the event to be in some way detrimental to equalities, local community cohesion and local public order.
- 3.5 Proponents of known extremist narratives and those that promote extremist messages are often explicitly promoting messages of hate and intolerance against groups with protected equalities characteristics. This guidance aims to combat these narratives and provide safe spaces for Haringey residents.

#### **4. Launching the Framework**

- 4.1 The Prevent team aim to launch the guidance document by training Haringey staff that have responsibilities for booking Haringey venues, including parks and other event spaces.
- 4.2 The guidance and training will also be offered to venues managed by community organisations and private or external venues. The training offer aims to raise external organisations understanding of extremist messages, hate speech and how their venues can be misused.

#### **5. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 5.1 This work contributes to the Contest Strategy (The United Kingdom’s Strategy for Countering Terrorism), our Haringey Borough Plan priority 2, and the Haringey Community Safety Strategy.
- 5.2 Officers and partners work strategically across related work areas and boards.

#### **6. Use of Appendices** n/a

#### **7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**