



Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps For Communities

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Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps For Communities

Foreword



In April 2007 the Government set out a series of practical actions to mobilise communities against violent extremists and their messages of hate. These actions were based on the idea that it is ordinary people, with their extraordinary capacity for courage, who are best placed to stand up to terrorism, to make this country a safer place, and to celebrate the common values that bind us together as a society.

Since then, we have learnt a great deal about what we can achieve together. We have worked with a range of government departments to support local people to take forward a series of initiatives which have strengthened our communities, building on people's innate decency and desire to live with their

neighbours in peace. This document reviews our progress to date, and celebrates the achievements of these local schemes and initiatives.

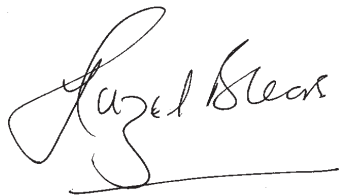
But more importantly, we are also setting out our priorities. Tackling violent extremism is a generational challenge: there are no quick fixes. There are a number of important themes for the future:

Local partnerships between community groups, local authorities, voluntary sector organisations, faith groups and social enterprises are the key to building resilient communities. Government has increased funding and support for local partnerships and will work closely with local partners to bring about a step-change in activity.

There must be leadership in the community. We have broadened and deepened our engagement with Muslim communities, giving a voice to young people and women in particular. We will support local leaders who want to stand up to extremism and build their capacity to shape the future of their communities.

Understanding faith is important. Those who seek to radicalise people are misusing theology to exploit weak and vulnerable people with a weak understanding of Islam, and disconnection from their faith institutions. We are working with Muslim communities to equip faith leaders with the skills and confidence to engage with young people, meet the needs of their communities and tackle extremist ideology. We are also working with mosques to support them to improve governance standards and become strong hubs at the centre of their communities; places which promote understanding and community cohesion and where the messages of extremism are confronted and isolated.

These themes will inform our work going forward. We will learn from experience and gather momentum. We will forge new partnerships and give confidence to a new generation of community leaders. We will unlock the energy and experience of communities to challenge, isolate and defeat those who seek to destroy our way of life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Hazel Blears'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the 's'.

Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government



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Introduction

1. In June 2008, the Government published *Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery* alongside *The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England*. Central government will take forward the national and international aspects of this work, but local communities have a key role within the strategy, and an integral part to play¹.
2. In April 2007 Communities and Local Government launched our *Preventing Violent Extremism: Winning Hearts and Minds* action plan. In that document we set out a range of proposals aimed at supporting a response across society to the current terrorist threat, working with a wide range of individuals and groups. We also promised to publish an annual update on our progress. This document fulfils that promise and celebrates the achievements of communities and local partners over the last year. A detailed update on our undertakings can be found at Annex A.
3. Looking forward, this document sets out how we will be working with our partners over the coming months to further strengthen our work with communities which – as the strategy published in June makes clear – are at the heart of preventing violent extremism.
4. In partnership with individuals, organisations and other government departments, we have made good progress against the commitments in our 2007 action plan. This paper celebrates the achievements of people across the country, uniting their communities against the divisive messages and activities of violent extremists. It also sets out how we will take this work forward in future years, broadening and deepening our response.



January 2008 launch of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group.

¹ <http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/prevent-strategy/>

SECTION A: CONTEXT

The Challenge

5. The National Security Strategy published in March 2008² set out how the Government is taking forward its most important responsibility of protecting the United Kingdom and its interests, enabling its people to go about their daily lives freely and with confidence, in a more secure, stable, just and prosperous world. That strategy revised the concept of national security to encompass all the factors that threaten individual citizens and our way of life, including long-term threats, such as those arising from the pressures created by climate change and poverty. It also grounded our response to a variety of security threats in a shared partnership across society around the core values of human rights, the rule of law, legitimate and accountable government, justice, freedom, tolerance, and opportunity for all.
6. Diversity has brought about enormous economic and cultural benefits, but changes in social demographics also create challenges to public service delivery and to relationships in and between new and established communities. Extremists try to sow division in this country and Government is taking decisive action on all fronts – including tackling the hateful views and actions of extreme right-wing groups.
7. The most significant terrorist threat to national security in the UK is from al-Qa’ida and associated groups, who use a distorted interpretation of Islam, history and contemporary politics to justify attacks against civilians in this country and overseas. They assert that Islam and the West are incompatible, that people should no longer be able to define themselves as British and Muslim. We reject that view unequivocally; all but a tiny minority of British Muslims reject that view unequivocally.
8. Experience has taught us a lot about why people are drawn into violent extremism, either actively or in a supportive role. 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 promoting violent extremism through a variety of places, institutions and media
 - Individuals who are vulnerable to the messages of violent extremists

² Available at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

- Communities which are sometimes poorly equipped to challenge and resist violent extremism
 - Grievances, some genuine and some perceived, and some directed against governments.
9. The Government's strategy has five key strands aimed at addressing these causal factors 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
 - Addressing the grievances that ideologues are exploiting.
10. These are supported by two cross-cutting work streams which are key enabling functions in delivering the strategy:
- Developing understanding, analysis and information
 - Strategic communications.
11. Communities and Local Government contributes to the delivery of all elements of the Prevent strategy, but in particular is responsible for leading the community-based response to violent extremism. We work closely with British Muslim communities, and wider society, to build capacity to resist and challenge the activities and ideas of violent extremists.

Our Vision

12. Our overall aim as a department is to create strong, prosperous and empowered communities: positive environments of which we can be proud, where people want to live, work and raise a family. To achieve this vision, we need to create an environment where every person can realise their full potential and feel they belong; where everyone, regardless of background, has the right to similar life opportunities, freedom and respect; where people know and act on their rights and responsibilities; and where people trust one another and local institutions to act fairly.
13. Communities and Local Government's role on preventing violent extremism is to put real power in the hands of local people; enabling a community-based and community-led campaign. Local authorities too play a key role – supporting grassroots organisations to deliver local solutions for local challenges.
14. Communities must be at the centre of the response to violent extremism. We need to ensure we foster community cohesion: building strong and positive relationships between people of different backgrounds, a sense of belonging and a shared vision for the future. Furthermore, strong, organised and empowered communities are better equipped to effectively reject the ideology of violent extremism, to confront and isolate apologists for terrorism, to channel legitimate grievances through democratic means and to provide support to vulnerable individuals. But we have seen that violent extremism can emerge from even the most cohesive and empowered communities – so we need a specific response to this challenge.
15. There is consensus, both within and outside Government, that a solely security-based response will not be sufficient to counter the nature of the current threat. We remain committed to a response that gives equal precedence to countering the ideas as well as the activities of violent extremists. And an approach that empowers communities to lead the response themselves, rather than believing that Government's action on its own can be sufficient.

16. It is essential that work on preventing violent extremism embraces the experience, energy and ideas of the whole community; everyone 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. Just as we support young people targeted by drug pushers, so all of us need to support those targeted by extremists. Just as we work with communities to root out anti-social behaviour and violent crime, we need to support communities to stand up to extremism. Collaborative work itself undermines the narrative of separation and conflict which is so often used by violent extremists, showing that there is more that unites us than divides us.
17. It is not the role of Government to seek to change any religion. However, where rhetoric aims to divide communities and foster hatred and resentment, Government must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with communities to challenge the extremist message, to enhance faith understanding, to foster trust and engagement and to support the people and places most at risk.



The Response

18. In the last year, our response to this threat has increased in scope, bringing in all arms of Government at a local, national and international level and involving departments and agencies who would not traditionally be involved in national security.
19. Alongside other government departments we are working to identify and address the grievances which can fuel discontent around the world. We are seeking to deepen our understanding of the diverse Muslim communities in the UK, including links with their heritage countries. We are also working with a range of partners across government to develop our understanding of the challenge of violent extremism and what works in tackling it. We will use this knowledge to better inform our work with communities in the UK to build their resilience to violent extremism.
20. Preventing extremism is a major long-term challenge, which will need to be addressed at every level – international, national and local. Our aim is to get to a situation where:
 - People speak out and contradict extremist messages where they come across them both in public and private spaces
 - People across communities recognise the warning signs of extremist behaviour in others and act on them appropriately
 - Individuals at risk – particularly young British Muslims – have the support, confidence and knowledge to resist extremist messages
 - Communities are equipped to effectively reject violent extremism and marginalise and undermine those actively promoting the ideology, while supporting and guiding those who are vulnerable
 - British Muslims participate more fully in civic society, making use of democratic avenues to address grievances and showing that our Muslim communities are an integral and positive part of British society.
21. We can only realise success if we empower local communities and put them at the heart of how every one of these objectives will be delivered. For example, the challenge and disruption of extremist messages and ideas is most effective when it comes from within peer groups, and the best support for individuals who may be vulnerable to extremism will always come from those immediately around them.

22. We recognise all policy areas of Communities and Local Government have a contribution to make to help build capacity across society to challenge any threat to our core values in the future by:
- Tackling inequalities and promoting equality of opportunity in housing and access to local services
 - Promoting strong, active, cohesive communities
 - Empowering local people to take meaningful decisions about their neighbourhoods and giving them a voice
 - Ensuring that local authority services respond to the needs of the people they serve and promoting local accountability
 - Promoting regeneration and tackling worklessness in our most deprived places
 - Helping communities to maximise the benefits of migration and minimise the impacts at a local level.
23. The challenge that we face requires a courageous response. We saw this in the strong and unanimous condemnation expressed across society following the terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow last July. We need to build on this unanimity and use it to give us confidence and energy to broaden and deepen our efforts in future. And just as we celebrate the work of those who have led this challenge successfully, so we also acknowledge that to support a wide-ranging and far-reaching response Government has to work in new ways and take risks in challenging strongly those who would seek to divide society and threaten our way of life. We will be robust in the way that we manage these risks, but we will not let them diminish our commitment, either to our objectives or our approach.



Looking Forward

In July 2007 the Prime Minister announced that over the next three years the Government would make £70m available for community-led work to tackle violent extremism – in October 2007 we announced that £45m of this would be allocated directly to local areas. Since this announcement we have identified further funding for this work, such that we can now make a total of more than £80m available over the next three years. This will enable us to provide more support to build the capacity of key groups such as Muslim women and young people, to enable them to play a greater leadership role in preventing violent extremism.

The rest of this paper explains how we will use these resources in more detail. Our four broad objectives over the next year are to:

- **Broaden and deepen our engagement and funding** for community groups through an increased investment in our Community Leadership Fund for 2008-09 and offering multi-year settlements to give applicants increased certainty, focussing on communities who have traditionally been hard to reach
- **Build better connections with local places and foster civic leadership to support increasingly effective delivery at the local level** through £45m funding over the next three years to provide support to 94 local authorities. We recognise the key leadership role for local authorities and the importance of mainstreaming this work into strategic planning. A Local Delivery Advisory Group comprising officers, elected members and other individuals directly involved in work at a local level will advise the Communities Secretary and Home Secretary to ensure we effectively support and engage local partnerships on the Prevent agenda
- **Improve faith understanding and put long-term measures in place to support faith leaders and institutions** to formulate a response to the distorted ideology promoted by violent extremists by continuing to support key strategic partners such as MINAB, establishing an independent Board of Muslim Theologians and supporting an independent review of training for Muslim faith leaders
- **Nurture community leadership through targeted projects for empowering Muslim women and young people** to play a more active leadership role and to encourage the emergence of new leaders from within peer groups at a local level including a wide range of mentoring opportunities. This will include a range of projects taken forward by members of the Muslim Women's Advisory Group and Young Muslims Advisory Group.

SECTION B: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND NEXT STEPS



Stepping Up Local Delivery

24. In order to achieve its Prevent objectives the Government needs to engage and empower communities to resist, challenge and isolate violent extremism and violent extremists. We will only ever reach into communities – and support them effectively – if we are able to help them work efficiently at grassroots level. Significant progress has already been made but we need to build on this if we are to meet the objectives set out in the Prevent strategy.
25. Communities and Local Government launched the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Pathfinder Fund in 2007. This was a £6m fund to support around 70 priority local authorities to work in partnership (for example with the police) to facilitate community-based, community-led responses to the challenge of violent extremism.
26. The Pathfinder fund has helped us to build capacity to tackle extremism within local communities. Local areas brought forward a wide range of ambitious and innovative proposals.

TAGMAP TV

In London the 'TagmapTV' project has filmed over 20 documentaries with young people discussing issues such as identity and religion. A website has now been launched where individuals can view these documentaries and add their own comments, creating an interactive space for discussion and debate.

"I became interested in the whole project and now I actually go out and interview people myself. Since working with the Tagmap TV team, I really feel connected to a community that wants to talk about what it means to be a British Muslim."

Rokia Begun
18-year old design student



HOUNSLOW ASIAN AND AFRICAN GROUP

In London, the Hounslow Asian and African Group is delivering targeted outreach work for at risk, disengaged and vulnerable Muslim young people. They have developed a mentoring project for hard to reach youth which articulates an alternative scholarly interpretation of

Islam, which supports integration, citizenship, and the adoption of democratic means. The aim is to build young people's capacity to deal head on with issues such as extremist ideologies and divert young people to adopt non-violent and democratic approaches.

27. At our 'Strengthening Communities' conference in October 2007 we brought together more than 600 people from local authorities, police, children and youth service providers and community groups working on this agenda to celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups who had led grassroots work during the year. More than 20 projects had stands at the conference.
28. One of the key things we have learned is that local partners need to tailor solutions to the needs and circumstances of their areas. We initially envisaged the establishment of more than 40 Local Forums on Extremism and Islamophobia. Nearly 20 forums have been established drawing on this model and these are having a strong impact on delivery.

REDBRIDGE FORUM AGAINST EXTREMISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

The Redbridge Forum against Extremism and Islamophobia has organised citizenship events in local mosque schools for children and their parents, where they have taught the importance of education, being a good citizen and how this relates to their Islamic faith. The Forum has made a significant contribution to the local community by building confidence and networks between peoples of different faiths and public and voluntary bodies in Redbridge.

"The work of the Forum has been well received by the Muslim community as a whole as they are pleased to see people with mainstream and representative views making it into the discourse."

Mohammed Azam
Treasurer

29. But experience has shown that a wide range of techniques and approaches can be adopted to engage effectively with communities. Assessing levels of engagement and local partners' understanding of their communities is at the very centre of how we will measure local progress on Prevent. We will continue to support those looking to establish forums but will also encourage local communities to determine the most appropriate way to facilitate such a dialogue and to share their learning.

THE VOICE INITIATIVE, PENDLE

The “Voice” Pennine group has brought key decision makers from public bodies and Local Strategic Partnerships across East Lancashire together with members of the Muslim Community from across Burnley and Pendle to tackle issues related to extremism and Islamophobia. The Forum has provided a detailed insight into the root causes of extremism and the methods used to radicalise Muslims living in the United Kingdom and abroad, and is now turning its

attention to young Muslims, challenging them to find the best solutions to the issues of extremism and Islamophobia, in an innovative TV show format.

“Voice has demonstrated how members of the Muslim community and key agencies are committed to working together to tackle an issue of mutual concern.”

Rauf Bashir
Chairman

30. The last year has helped stimulate debate, build relationships and improve engagement with communities. But empowering local partners and their communities to meet the challenge of violent extremism will be a long-term endeavour. We will continue to support local authorities to build capacity and share best practice about what works on this agenda in their local communities.



Progress

31. Local authorities have a central role in supporting communities and now see preventing extremism as part of their core business. Multi-agency working is seen as key to delivering an effective programme of work. Communities and Local Government has worked closely with the Local Government Association to develop a greater understanding of the PVE agenda among local authorities and identify ways in which we can assist them to increase community resilience to violent extremism.

Local Government Association (LGA)

"Councils recognise that as community leaders, they have a vital role to play in strengthening their communities against violent extremism. Councils have responded strongly to the challenge from central government to engage with their communities on the PVE agenda while maintaining focus on the delivery of community cohesion work."

The LGA, with assistance from the IDeA, will continue to support councils to identify the needs of their communities, develop PVE strategies and relationships with local partners, and mainstream PVE work into existing services."

Sir Simon Milton
LGA Chairman

32. We have increased investment in this area – rising to £12m in 2008-09, £15m in 2009-10 and £18m per year by 2010-11. But increased resources are only a small part of the picture. Government is working closely with local partners to deliver a wider package of support and guidance:
- The Prevent strategy sets out the challenge we face and the contribution local partners can make in delivering it. In June 2008 the Government published *The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England*, which provides more detailed guidance and a strategic framework for Prevent delivery. This makes clear the range of partners who should be engaged in this work; sets out expectations on how Prevent objectives can be furthered through mainstream service delivery; and outlines the partnership framework for this area

- The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) has developed an interactive web portal to maintain a dialogue between Government, local partners and communities engaged in preventing violent extremism work³. This “one-stop-shop” provides easy access to the latest sources of guidance, research and policy developments. It also provides a platform for communities to showcase good practice, enabling local areas to learn from each others experience and build collaborative solutions
- We have also supported the IDeA to train and accredit a pool of 25 peer mentors to build the capacity of local authorities and voluntary sector partners to support each other on this agenda. Following the Spring 2008 pilot the scheme will be fully rolled out in 2008-09
- Preventing violent extremism is core business for local authorities and police services and their performance will be managed through outcome indicators in the local performance framework and the Assessment of Policing and Community Safety. Delivery against these indicators will be reported through the joint inspectorates' Comprehensive Area Assessment, ensuring regular and independent assessment of local partnerships' work on this crucial issue
- We will enhance the dialogue between the centre and local areas by establishing a Local Delivery Advisory Group. This group will advise the Communities Secretary and Home Secretary on the development of the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda and its delivery in local communities. It will also provide leadership and support across the local government sector on Prevent, advising on the steps necessary to ensure that the sector has the capacity and skills required to effectively deliver this agenda locally.

³ Viewable at www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=7890410

A 'whole community approach' to preventing violent extremism

In February 2008, Lord Patel of Bradford, an expert on community cohesion issues, with an in depth understanding of the experiences of different ethnic groups in the United Kingdom, was asked to consider and offer his advice to the Communities Secretary on ways the Government could better develop 'whole community approaches' to preventing violent extremism and build upon its existing work with communities.

Lord Patel has undertaken visits to 12 local authorities covering a good cross section of the United Kingdom and met a wide range of stakeholders from local agencies and communities. He has focused his observations on three key areas, building on work that is already underway:

- **Empowering communities:** the extent to which local authorities have the skills and capacity to reach ordinary people, not just community leaders, engage with them effectively and build their own capacity and resilience
- **Understanding Muslim communities:** how far local agencies understand and have developed good relationships with their Muslim communities
- **National leadership:** the shape of the Government's Prevent programme, the clarity of its guidance and support for local agencies and communities in delivering these objectives, and local understanding of 'what works' in tackling violent extremism.

We will continue to reflect on Lord Patel's findings over summer 2008 alongside other review and evaluation work on the Prevent programme. We will set out our conclusions and the further action we propose to take to help develop community approaches later this year.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Greater Manchester Police, AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities), Government Office North West and Greater Manchester Police Authority work in close partnership on preventing violent extremism (PVE). This partnership takes the form of a strategic steering group that is chaired by Andrew Kilburn, Chief Executive of Oldham. The group meets every six weeks to provide a strategic lead on PVE in Greater Manchester to ensure that local authorities meet Prevent objectives. The steering group allows local authorities and the police to discuss current local issues around Prevent and reach joint decisions through shared learning. The group's partnership working is extended at a regional level through a PVE action learning network, funded through the Pathfinder fund and hosted by Government Office North West, which allows local authority practitioners to get together and share best practice, along with police representatives and members of the Voluntary and Community Sector.

"The strength of the partnership in Greater Manchester enabled us to move quickly to establish overall aims and objectives leading to identification of quality local schemes. The sharing of information in particular allowed a much clearer understanding between partners of the nature of the threat and how to develop appropriate responses."

Andrew Kilburn
Chief Executive
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

"Greater Manchester Police has found the partnership approach to Preventing Violent Extremism a very positive and productive relationship. This is a challenging and complex area that involves all agencies and communities. There are no simple answers and it is only by everyone getting together, sharing ideas and bringing different skills and approaches that we have been able to make progress. The approach has generated some interesting and innovative schemes which have striven to raise the issues but also maintain and develop community cohesion. From the police perspective this has been built into our approach to neighbourhood policing and greatly enhanced what we are doing as these issues begin and end in communities so this is where we have focused our efforts together."

Assistant Chief Constable
Justine Curran
Member of the Strategic Steering Group

Next Steps

33. Moving forward we will:

- Broaden and deepen our work, ensuring that a wide range of local stakeholders collaborate to deliver a programme which addresses all of the strands of the Prevent Strategy. In practice this involves:
 - Building key partners' understanding of the challenge, the national strategic framework and their part in delivering it
 - Building the capacity of key sectors to deliver this work through increased resources, training and support
 - Ensuring that all partners make this work core business and it is embedded in the work of existing partnerships (eg Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners, Children's Trusts)
 - Improving the flow of information, analysis and guidance on the challenge of violent extremism and facilitate local relationships to stimulate information flows at a local level and ensure effective responses
 - Taking forward the findings of Lord Patel of Bradford's work alongside other reviews and evaluations to further explore with partners techniques for improving community engagement and embedding Prevent within existing service delivery
 - Sharing our learning from the evaluation of the Pathfinder year and ensure we use these outcomes to enhance future local work.



Reaching Out Across Communities

Progress

34. In our action plan, we undertook to broaden and deepen the range of individuals and organisations that we work with, particularly focusing on women and young people. Through the last year we have supported groups from across the wide range of domestic Muslim communities, primarily through the Community Leadership Fund that we established in June 2007 to fund national scale or 'trailblazing' projects.

UK RACE AND EUROPE NETWORK (UKREN)

UKREN held focus groups with Muslim youth leaders to devise a resource pack to promote active citizenship from a Muslim perspective to young British Muslims. The pilot toolkit entitled *Young, Muslim and Citizen – Identity, Empowerment and Change*, provides ideas, activities and resources for

parents, teachers and youth leaders to use with young Muslims.

"I really enjoyed the Focus Group meeting – the projects and people were really interesting and inspiring."

Focus Group Participant

35. We have also sought to bring in a wide range of community organisations to the policy-making process, to ensure that we are taking the right approach. Through a series of Ministerial roundtables we have facilitated discussion and consultation on developing policy, including a range of events in partnership with the Home Office to gauge views and reactions to the draft Counter Terrorism Bill. We remain committed to this consultative approach, and will continue actively to increase the range of stakeholders we engage to ensure we seek the views of as many groups as we can.
36. Underpinning this has been our commitment to prioritise our support and engagement for organisations that uphold shared values and reject violent extremism. We will continue to work with local and national partners to support similar approaches elsewhere, sending a clear and unified message to all organisations that those taking a proactive leadership role in tackling violent extremism will be supported by Government.

37. We are currently taking forward research to increase our understanding of the diversity of our Muslim communities and identify pathways for engagement with those communities that we find hardest to reach. This will help us to identify further ways to connect and develop our relationships, because understanding our communities better underpins all that we do. From the hardest to reach Muslim groupings to those that we already know well, understanding how we can better engage and gain more insights about their needs helps us all build greater community resilience.

Next Steps

38. Moving forward our priorities are:

- To increase the size of the Community Leadership fund and continue to increase the number and range of projects funded including a new focus on projects with an online presence: www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/communityleadershipfund/
- To support new voices from local communities to emerge, including through the continued provision of leadership, media training and mentoring for community partners
- To broaden and deepen our engagement to ensure the full diversity of voices from Muslim communities are being heard and supported.

UNITY FM

Unity FM has developed a radio play which addresses issues of extremism with 100 women from the Muslim community who worked with script writers and production staff. This project has uniquely used the arts as a way of enabling Muslim women to give their views about what extremism means to them. The play will be broadcast across a number of community radio stations throughout Birmingham.

"It was very interesting as the workshops gave me the opportunity to meet new people and to explore different points of view concerning extremism. It was also very exciting to know that our ideas and opinions would be part of a local initiative to dispel common myths and to thereby portray Islam in a positive manner."

Workshop Participant

Work with Muslim Women

39. Muslim women have a key role to play in challenging prejudice and stereotypes both within their own communities and in wider society. They possess a largely untapped potential to challenge the attitudes that can foster violent extremist ideas. Muslim women are undertaking a multitude of roles at the heart of communities. Resilient communities cannot be built and sustained without the active participation of women.
40. All too often the voices of Muslim women go unheard. Some don't have the confidence or skills to speak up. Others face practical barriers such as balancing work and/or family life with other roles. In some circumstances they can be subjected to stereotypes and misconceptions and are therefore not included in the wider public debate.
41. This must change. We have to get better at listening to Muslim women, acknowledging their contribution to this country's economic, cultural and civic life, and opening the door for more women to become empowered to lead on this vital agenda.

Progress

42. In our action plan we said we would publish a good practice guide on effective initiatives to strengthen the role that Muslim women can play within their communities. We published *Empowering Muslim Women: Case Studies*⁴ in January 2008 which showcased 15 excellent projects.
43. To this end, in January 2008 we established the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) and published a set of case studies on empowering Muslim women. The group was launched at 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister and Communities Secretary. The NMWAG comprises a group of women who are in positions of leadership or who are working with communities. They will act as role models and represent the views and concerns of Muslim women. We are already investing in leadership and media training for members of the advisory group, to support them to reflect and represent the views of Muslim women in their local communities.

⁴ www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/empoweringmuslimwomen

National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group comprises 19 Muslim women representing a wide spectrum of communities, professions and traditions. They are an independent informal group that meets several times a year to advise on issues including empowering Muslim women; increasing their opportunities for education and employment; facilitating access for women to mosques and their management committees; engaging on cultural barriers including issues around forced marriages and increasing women's participation in civic, economic and social life.

The specific remit of the group is to:

- Act as ambassadors for Muslim women and represent their views and concerns to Government
- Provide leadership to communities and act as positive role models for Muslim women in society
- Empower Muslim women to engage more with the media on a wide range of issues and help dispel myths around the role of Muslim women in society
- Actively engage with Muslim women at all levels, especially women at grass roots
- Meet quarterly or as necessary in the form of a round table to discuss issues and concerns that are affecting Muslim women
- Represent their own views rather than that of the organisation they work for and reflect the diversity of opinions across Muslim communities
- Advise the Communities Secretary on policy in this area.

The members of the group are Siddika Ahmed (Manchester), Fareena Alam (London), Parvin Ali OBE (Leicester), Batool Al-Toma (Leicester), Naheed Arshad-Mather MBE (Yorkshire and Humber), Farkhanda Chaudhry MBE (Glasgow), Zulekha Dala MBE (Preston), Reedah El-Saie (London), Rokhsana Fiaz (London), Shaista Gohir MBE (Birmingham), Rukaiya Jeraj (London), Samina Kauser (Nelson, Lancashire), Shahda Khan (Middlesbrough), Sabira Lakha (London), Tasneem Mahmood (Birmingham), Adeeba Malik MBE (Bradford), Sabin Malik (London), Andleen Razzaq (London), Shahien Taj MBE (Cardiff).

Next Steps

44. The work of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group will complement local work. Group members will work closely with government offices and local authorities to map out the women's projects taking place in each region and the impact they are having in communities, and assist them in making informed choices going forward. The group has produced an action plan that identifies priorities for its work to ensure it has focus and impact.
45. These key priorities for work over the next year will be to:
- Raise the profile of Muslim women role models across communities to encourage more women to take up leadership roles
 - Improve the theological understanding of the role of Muslim women in society to address the stereotypes and barriers that hold women back
 - Increase the civic participation of Muslim women by working closely with the Councillors Commission and others.

SIZANANI AFRICA

Sizanani Africa developed a Muslim Women's Community Leadership Training Project to increase the confidence of Muslim women from the African, African-Caribbean and Asian communities. These women have developed their skills in advocacy, assertiveness and conflict resolution which have enabled them to work closely with 200 young people to engage with them on preventing violent extremism.

"I believe that this project has increased the confidence of Muslim women to influence young people. This was seen through their enthusiastic interaction with the young people and through the lively debates they held during festive events."

Elizabeth Kayembe
Director
Sizanani Africa

Work With Young People

46. Young people hold the key to building a future society that is resilient to the threat of violent extremism. They are particularly vulnerable to being influenced by those who seek to exaggerate and exploit diversity and difference. We need to teach young people to appreciate and understand different cultures and backgrounds and promote the importance of civic engagement.
47. Muslim communities in the UK have a young age profile compared to the rest of the UK population, with one third under the age of 16, 54 per cent under the age of 25 and 70 per cent under the age of 35. Almost half the Muslim population (46 per cent) were born in Britain and this proportion is only set to increase. The young age profile of Muslim communities, combined with the nature of the violent extremist threat which often means young people are targeted for radicalisation, makes young people a priority for engagement.
48. Young people are best placed to speak out against violent extremist groups. We need to equip young Muslims to take the lead in challenging prejudice and preconceptions, both within their own communities and in wider society. We need to encourage and empower them to speak out about issues that are important to them.

CHANGEMAKERS

Changemakers worked with young advocates who were trained, supported and linked with a mentor. Each young advocate recruited a team of ten young people to deliver community projects. A total of 55 young men and women aged 11-25 benefited from this project.

"The fact that the mosque has allowed this to happen shows they want to work with us and the community to overcome barriers and promote social cohesion."

Saiqa
Changemakers Project based in Dudley Mosque

SECTION B: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND NEXT STEPS

49. We are working with partners locally and nationally to engage and involve young people in a range of activities in support of the Prevent Strategy, these include:

- Building resilience to the messages of violent extremists through education and creating safe spaces for debate so that young people are better able to reject violent extremist ideologies. Violent extremists seek to distort and misrepresent Islam so we need to help young Muslims to develop a good understanding of their faith and ensure that they have access to a safe environment in which they can question and debate issues of concern. It is also important that young people from a wide range of backgrounds have an opportunity to come together to discuss extremism and other issues
- Ensuring young Muslims have access to constructive channels for dealing with concerns and frustrations, so that their voices are heard by policy makers, and they are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for democratic political engagement. Active citizenship through volunteering is also a channel for wider civic engagement that can provide young people with opportunities to act to make a difference on issues they feel are important to them. We need to do more to promote volunteering among young people in harder to reach Muslim communities
- Increasing access to positive activities which resonate with the most disengaged and disaffected. Sports, culture and the arts engage young people in positive and meaningful activities, promoting a sense of social engagement, celebrating diversity, reinforcing shared values and making it clear that there is more that unites communities than divides them
- Supporting those who are most vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism through mentoring and better targeted interventions and ensuring that mainstream statutory, voluntary and community support services for young people are faith and culturally sensitive and have the capacity to reach those who are in greatest need
- Building the peer leadership capacity of young people to play a proactive role in preventing violent extremism. Young people are most influenced by other young people, so we need to encourage the establishment of youth-led projects which foster new and emerging leaders in the Muslim community who will proactively challenge the ideas of violent extremists and are able to engage other young people in similar work
- Creating opportunities to engage with and listen to young Muslims. The direct engagement and active participation of young people in the preventing violent extremism agenda is far more effective than simply engaging with organisations that claim to represent young people, and is crucial in building and sustaining resilient communities.

Progress

50. Across government there has been a significant focus on work to support young Muslims. We have provided this support in local areas through the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund and at a national level through the Community Leadership Fund.

COMMON PURPOSE

Over 50 emerging leaders from Muslim communities have been sponsored to attend a range of Common Purpose Leadership Training programmes. We have concentrated on selecting women and young people to receive this training.

"The Common Purpose course removes blinkers and shares knowledge and this is

particularly important for the integration of the Muslim community. It gives confidence and builds new friendships and increases chances of collaboration across different areas of work."

Xhevat Ademi
Education, Youth and Community Leader



SECTION B: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND NEXT STEPS

51. We also announced a commitment to provide at least £250,000 each year for the next three years to support projects run by young people, for young people, such as peer mentoring and student support networks. This will be provided through the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund. Funding will be given to projects that will:

- Develop the effectiveness and capacity of support services to engage with vulnerable young people
- Support youth-led projects which develop peer leadership
- Develop the skills, knowledge and resources of workers engaging with young Muslims to be able to tackle violent extremism.

52. At the Preventing Violent Extremism: Strengthening Communities conference on 31 October 2007, Communities Secretary Hazel Blears announced a commitment to establishing a youth advisory group and a youth conference to enable young people to have a platform to get their voice heard on the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda.



Next Steps

53. Moving forward, our priorities are:

- To establish the Young Muslims Advisory Group (YMAG) in partnership with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This group will provide a platform for young Muslims to share their views on Preventing Violent Extremism across government and issues affecting young Muslims in Britain more widely, and to advise Government on policy in this area. The YMAG will give Government a platform through which it can engage more widely and directly with young Muslims from across all communities; provide peer leadership by consulting young people and having a presence in the media on debates affecting Muslim youth; promote role models and mentoring; and build the capacity of young people both in terms of skills and knowledge to counter the extremist ideology and promote an alternative narrative from within the faith. The call for nominations for young people to come forward to join the YMAG was opened at the end of June and is being coordinated by the National Youth Agency: www.nya.org.uk/information/100598/109667/113489/youngmuslimadvisorygroup/
- To deliver a youth conference during the next six months to provide Muslim youth with a platform to speak for themselves, discuss the challenges they face as young Muslims and their vision for their future as British Muslims
- To work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and strategic delivery partners such as Arts Council England and Sport England to identify specific opportunities, best practice and practical opportunities to ensure that the contribution of culture and sport in reducing tension between communities and providing opportunities for people to make the most of their talent are maximised. We will be setting up a centre of excellence to work with the leading organisations across culture and sport, nationally and locally. There will be a specific focus on those young people at risk of supporting violent extremism, including how to use cultural and sporting opportunities to build community resilience
- To work with a range of departments across government to develop a wider programme of work with young people to encourage civic participation and active citizenship through increased volunteering, and improve the provision of faith and culturally sensitive support services to vulnerable individuals through, for example, the provision of mentoring.

Building Faith Capacity

54. Communities and Local Government is working closely with Muslim communities to build capacity and improve teaching and governance standards in mosques and to equip scholars and leaders with the skills, confidence and space to confront violent extremism.

Faith Community Development Qualification

"We've been able to identify that there are commonalities in terms of our perception of life and the way we go about our duties."

"For me it drove home the point that people aren't really that different; the drivers are quite similar, they just get expressed differently."

"We're all from different cultures, races and backgrounds. I've gained an understanding of how to work and communicate better with those of other faiths, and am better equipped to engage with people from within my own faith."

55. We are clear that it is not the role of Government to seek to change any religion or religious community. Interpretations of the religion within any faith community are entirely a matter for itself. However, where Islamic theology is being used to justify violent extremist rhetoric or activity, to the extent that national security is under threat, Government will answer calls to assist communities to reinforce faith understanding and thereby build resilience to extremist interpretations of Islam. The Government is clear, however, that any such initiatives must not only come from Muslim communities, but must also be led by them.

Progress

56. Throughout this year we have focused on a wide range of immediate measures to increase the capacity of faith leaders and institutions to play a more active leadership role both in their immediate local communities and in wider society. This has included work with independent bodies and partner organisations to increase the provision of training for faith leaders, to support a new system of standards for mosques, and to encourage the uptake of citizenship education in mosque schools.
57. To support improved standards in mosques, we have worked closely with the Charity Commission to establish its Faith and Social Cohesion Unit (FSCU), launched officially in October 2007. Communities and Local Government has committed £1.2m to the Unit in 2007-09. This resource will be primarily directed towards outreach work and practical guidance to encourage mosques and Muslim organisations first to register with the Commission (in accordance with the Charities Act 2006) and then assist them in improving their standards of governance. The FSCU has engaged with over 300 mosques and Muslim organisations in London and the Midlands to date. The work of the FSCU will inform, and build, wider faith engagement and play a pivotal role in facilitating social cohesion.
58. We have also endorsed the work of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), which is an independent, community-led body aiming to establish core standards for mosques and Islamic training institutions in the United Kingdom. The interim MINAB body has embarked on a national consultation exercise to seek input and secure consensus on its draft Constitution and Standards for Mosques and Imams, which it published in November 2007. Following its formal launch in autumn 2008, MINAB will step up work to provide assistance and guidance to its members to implement the agreed standards through a model of self regulation. MINAB will also play a key role to assist the UK Border Agency in its development of pre-entry requirements for ministers of religion coming from abroad.

Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)

"The formation of the MINAB is one of the most important developments for the progression of Muslims in Britain since our parents came to this country."

Zareen Roohi Ahmed
Member of MINAB Steering Committee

SECTION B: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND NEXT STEPS

59. To support the skills development of Muslim faith leaders, we have jointly funded a number of training programmes, including developing and piloting a new Faith Community Development qualification for faith leaders, workers and volunteers in Bradford, Leicester, Sheffield and Tower Hamlets. Just under 50 individuals participated in the pilot programme, which was delivered by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). Through the next year, we will be working closely with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), who have co-funded the project, to encourage service providers to take up the qualification. NIACE will also be running further focused pilots with young people, women and chaplains, as well as broader inter-faith groups.
60. For Muslim faith leaders engaged in chaplaincy roles in public institutions (eg prisons, universities, hospitals), we will also be piloting from autumn onwards a framework of recruitment standards in key institutions across local areas.

INSTITUTIONS ENGAGING MUSLIM FAITH LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The Experience Corps, led by Maggie Semple, were commissioned to draw together and harmonise a framework of standards and processes which set out how Muslim faith leaders are appointed to work with public institutions such as prisons, the police forces, hospitals and educational establishments.

The Experience Corps identified that there was real diversity in terms of recruitment processes within and between sectors. The initiative to stimulate consistently high standards across sectors was welcomed by those consulted. The framework will be piloted in key institutions during the next year.

61. We have been repeatedly told by theologians and community leaders that the provision of training for Muslim faith leaders in the UK is often inadequate to enable them to fulfil their full potential for leadership within the community. In November 2007, the Prime Minister announced that Government would respond to calls for support in this area by commissioning an independent review of the training of Muslim faith leaders in the UK. The review will assess the strengths and weaknesses of current arrangements, looking at other faith and international comparators, and produce a set of recommendations for Government, Muslim seminaries and communities and mainstream academic institutions to consider.
62. We have also supported a number of community-led projects aimed at improving the faith understanding of young British Muslims. Building on this existing work and co-funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the School Development Support Agency (SDSA) in partnership with ContinYou is leading the delivery of the 'Islam and Citizenship Education' programme for mosque schools in conjunction with Muslim communities. Scholars, educational experts and mosque school teachers are currently working with SDSA to collate good practice and develop a set of training materials to be piloted in mosque schools in six local areas

from autumn 2008. The aim is to demonstrate to young British Muslims that their faith is compatible with wider shared values and that being a good Muslim is also compatible with being a good British citizen.

The Importance of Citizenship Training in Madrassahs

"Contrary to popular misconception, madrassahs are not isolated enclaves from a different and alien world that aspire to exclusivity. What is often lacking however is an understanding of what being a citizen actually means in practice. The project aims therefore to trail a number of citizenship lessons that use as their base Qur'anic and Ahadith references with the aim of supporting madrassahs to demonstrate that to be a good citizen is the same as being a good Muslim."

Maurice Irfan Coles

*Director Islam and Citizenship Education Project,
School Support and Development Agency*

63. The Radical Middle Way (RMW) roadshows have continued to attract large audiences. Complementing the programme of events, the RMW website has established itself as a credible resource of mainstream guidance and support and thousands of CD sets have been distributed as part of their outreach strategy. We are working with RMW as they are developing the next phase of their programme.
64. We are working closely with Department for Innovation Universities and Skills to take forward the recommendations in the Siddiqui Review of Islam at Universities in England. This includes strengthening the links between Islamic seminaries and mainstream academic institutions. Following the designation of Islamic studies as a strategically important and vulnerable subject by the Government last year, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) consulted academics and experts on how to increase the demand and capacity for teaching Islamic Studies within the UK. This consultation period culminated in an international conference in April 2008 and the HEFCE is due to report back to Government with its proposals during summer 2008.
65. Government has been asked to facilitate the development of a long-term and lasting response to the false ideology promoted by violent extremists. There is a growing consensus that Islamic theology is currently being misused by extremists to advance their agenda, but that theology could actually have a vital part to play in countering violent extremist ideology. To this end, we are supporting the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to work in partnership to establish a board of academics and scholars to lead the debate about Islam in the British context.

SECTION B: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR AND NEXT STEPS

Over the academic year 2008-09, the 'theology board' will host a series of workshops and deliver recommendations for Government, the education sector and Muslim communities to take forward. The content of these discussions, research findings and reports will be disseminated to a wide audience, helping to strengthen young people's understanding of their faith.

Next Steps

66. Moving forward, our priorities are:

- To continue to support improved standards in mosques through the work of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board and the Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit
- To continue to develop our understanding of mosques and imams in the United Kingdom through mapping exercises carried out in partnership with community organisations, an audit of skills' capacity and needs of Muslim faith leaders, and evaluation of related training programmes
- To identify, develop and support further training programmes for Muslim faith leaders, including extending the provision of the fully accredited Faith Community Leadership qualification and piloting the framework of standards for institutions engaging Muslim chaplains in public service and supporting an independent review of training for Muslim faith leaders, which will report in Summer 2009
- To continue to work with the UK Border Agency and faith communities to develop pre-entry requirements for ministers of religion coming to work in the UK from abroad
- To work with Muslim communities to pilot and encourage the uptake of citizenship education in mosque schools
- To support the Radical Middle Way's efforts to broaden the appeal of mainstream Islam to young Muslims
- To support the 'theology board' of Muslim scholars and theologians hosted by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and disseminate the results to the widest possible audience through the academic year 2008-09.

Conclusion

67. Work to prevent violent extremism across local areas is already gaining momentum quickly, thanks to the dedication and energy of those leading projects and working at the grassroots. The next year will test the degree to which we are making real impact in local areas, as we significantly increase the level of investment on a national and local level. This is both a great challenge and a great opportunity. And it is one that will require courage from all those working in this area, to draw in new partners and make new links so that we build a long lasting consensus against, and resilience to, the ideas and activities of violent extremists.
68. This paper shows how a wide range of partners are working together to prevent violent extremism as part of the overall Prevent Strategy. In going forward, we commit to the following principles in the way we will work:
 - We will listen to the views of those who have experience and credibility on this agenda and will ensure they inform our policy decisions, and we will draw on the full range of expertise available across local, national and international communities
 - We will continue to reach out further and will seek to engage at the grassroots, looking to support work that is both credible to our audiences, and that has a real and lasting positive impact on local areas
 - We will celebrate the successes of our partners in delivering on this agenda, and we will support and stand alongside our partners to take the risks that will be necessary to move this vital work forward
 - We will work closely with the sector to maximise the support and guidance that we can offer to local government.

Annex A: Delivery on Action Plan Commitments

Action	Status
We will support the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools, in partnership with the Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families), key educational partners and representatives from the Muslim communities, to develop by summer 2007 a plan to collate and roll out good practice guidance nationally.	Complete and ongoing – the plan was agreed with Muslim communities and in place by end summer 2007. School Development Support Agency (SDSA) in partnership with ContinYou (who run the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools on behalf of Department for Children, Schools and Families) has been awarded the contract for taking this work forward. Following a review of existing practice teaching materials and training methods are being developed and will be piloted in mosque schools in six local areas from autumn 2008 and the consolidated package rolled out by Muslim communities from Spring 2009. http://theiceproject.com/
Government will consider the recommendations from these reviews (Ajegbo, Siddiqui, Further Education) and develop them further where appropriate.	Ongoing – Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is leading on the implementation of the Siddiqui review and Department for Children, Schools and Families on Ajegbo. We work closely with both these departments on our shared Prevent objectives. With the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in particular, we are delivering a package of work aimed at supporting improved Muslim scholarship and imam capacity in the UK.

Action	Status
We will provide funding of £600,000, alongside £200,000 earmarked by the Charity Commission itself, to establish a Faith and Social Cohesion Unit (FSCU) within the Commission to support this work.	Complete and ongoing – The Faith and Social Cohesion Unit was established in October 2007. We have committed to funding this unit for two years. http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/tcc/faithsc.asp
The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will support the development of an accredited Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme for Faith Leaders from September 2007.	Complete and ongoing – The first pilot phase (with courses running in Bradford, Leicester, Sheffield and Tower Hamlets) completed at the end of March 2008. Accredited qualification in Faith Community Development will be delivered in September 2008. Second pilot phase – with focused programmes for women, young people and chaplains currently in development before roll-out autumn 2008. http://www.niace.org.uk/projects/leadwithfaith/Default.htm
We will work with other departments and community organisations to develop, by early 2008, a framework of minimum standards for all imams and Muslim chaplains engaged by the state.	Complete and ongoing – The Experience Corps have delivered a draft framework of recruitment standards for state institutions engaging Muslim chaplains in public service (e.g. in universities, prisons, hospitals, police and armed forces). We are scoping options for piloting the framework in key institutions and locations from autumn 2008.

ANNEX A: DELIVERY ON ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS

Action	Status
We will support platforms for mainstream interpretations of the role of Islam in modern societies including by continuing to support the Radical Middle Way roadshows.	Complete and ongoing – Radical Middle Way phase 2 (2007-08) completed the end of March 2008. They are currently planning their programme of events for 2008-09 and are looking to broaden both the range of speakers (to include more domestic and women scholars) and locations of events to reach out to grassroots communities across the UK. www.radicalmiddleway.co.uk
We will organise a series of roundtables with academics, theologians and community leaders to stimulate debate on this important issue (women's access to mosques) and to gain an understanding of why women are sometimes not allowed access.	Complete and ongoing – The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have been awarded a contract to convene a board of Muslim academics and scholars to lead thinking on the contextualisation of Islam in the UK.
We will build on existing work with universities.	Ongoing – The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is working with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the university sector to develop a comprehensive long term project to address the gaps in Islamic studies teaching and research. £1m has been committed from HEFCE to start this work. We are also supporting work in the sector to build better links between Muslim seminaries and mainstream education and to improve the pastoral support available to Muslim students.

Continued on next page

Action	Status
	Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has also, in the last year, issued guidance to higher education institutions and launched a consultation with the further education sector on “Promoting good campus relations, fostering shared values and tackling violent extremism on campus”. Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills wants to work with institutions and the wider community to ensure they are aware of the methods used by violent extremists so they can support young people at risk of being exploited and recruited into criminal activity.
We will support local authorities to deliver at least 40 local forums by April 2008.	Not completed – The Government is currently reviewing its approach to encouraging engagement at a local level and will consider whether we should be supporting a whole range of approaches. Lord Patel of Bradford has undertaken a review of community engagement on this agenda and we expect this review to lead to a range of community engagement models. So far, 17 local forums against extremism and Islamophobia have been established. We have also established a good practice sharing network for forum organisers, local authorities and the police. In addition, local authorities are engaging with Muslim communities in a range of different ways. For example, through focus groups and seminars with young people and women.

ANNEX A: DELIVERY ON ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS

Action	Status
We will support the publication of a good practice guide on effective initiatives to strengthen the role that Muslim women can play in their communities by autumn 2007.	Complete – <i>Empowering Muslim Women: Case Studies</i> was published on 23 January 2008, with the subsequent launch of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group.
Tackling violent extremism roadshows – we will now provide additional funding to support a series of events across the country over the next year, enabling a wider participation.	Complete – The Sufi Muslim Council has run 12 roadshows in 12 areas across the country and the British Muslim Forum ran one roadshow in Birmingham.
Government is giving priority, in its support and funding decisions, to those leadership organisations actively working to tackle violent extremism, supporting community cohesion and speaking out for the vast majority who reject violence.	Complete and ongoing – The Government has significantly broadened and deepened its strategic approach to engagement with Muslim communities.
We will promote links between Muslim communities here and overseas to develop joint projects to support the promotion of shared values and to tackle violent extremism.	Complete – In the last 12 months we have worked in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to bring delegations of leading Muslim charity workers (including from the Islamic Society of North America) and influential young Muslim outreach workers to the UK to meet officials, charity workers and opinion formers.
We will develop and promote mentoring opportunities for young people who would otherwise not have access to support.	Complete – We have funded Business in the Community's Mosaic Muslim Mentoring Network which currently has 110 mentors signed up to support young people and through Changemakers we have supported five young advocates to deliver community projects and be supported by a mentor.

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITIES

Action	Status
We will work over the coming year to provide additional support to help develop leadership skills.	Complete – We have run Common Purpose leadership training courses for over 50 people, and Muslim Youth Development Partnership has trained 36 young people to form a network of volunteer youth leaders. Sizanani Africa has provided 38 Muslim women with certified leadership training. FATIMA Women's Network has provided training to 30 Muslim women.
We will make a total of £6m available to fund work in around 70 local authorities across the country.	Complete – We distributed £6m of funding which delivered 200 projects. A further £45m has been identified for local partnership working through 2008-11 (£12m in 2008-09, £15m in 2009-10 and £18m in 2010-11).
We will learn the lessons of the Pathfinder projects, working closely with all involved and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to identify and disseminate good practice.	Complete – IDeA web portal online from September 2007, 28 peer mentors now trained and accredited. A number of Government Offices have also established their own best practice sharing networks.
Other	
We will do more to promote equality of opportunity (recognising that groups facing specific challenges will require tailored responses).	Ongoing – Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: two years on report published August 2007. The final update will be published later this year.
We will respond to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion.	Complete – Our detailed response to the CIC was published on 4 February 2008 and is available at www.communities.gov.uk.

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