

## **PREVENT Annual Report - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

This report provides information to HEFCE on how the RVC has continued to show 'due regard' to the statutory Prevent duty for the Higher Education Sector. The report follows the requirements laid out in the Framework for the monitoring of the Prevent duty in higher education in England.

### **Evidence of Ongoing Engagement**

The College's Prevent Steering Group continues to meet annually in January each year to consider best practice, current risks including the RVC's assessment of its risks and changes in the 'Prevent' landscape (such as the inclusion of National Action on the proscribed list).

A Staff Wellbeing Committee has recently been set up and 'Prevent' will also form part of its agenda for the year as it reviews wellbeing and welfare systems for staff at the College and updates the current processes for the reporting of staff wellbeing concerns. Our Equality and Diversity Group has considered any potential impact the 'Prevent' action plan may have on particular staff or student groups but has not currently flagged any areas of concerns with regard to the implementation of the 'Prevent' duty at the RVC.

On the student side the 'Prevent' leads continue to engage with the RVC's Student Union to keep them engaged with issues around events, freedom of speech, the approach of the College and their role in student wellbeing and the reporting of concerns.

Our Professional Services Division has recently restructured and we now have a Director of Learning and Wellbeing (Students) this is a new post and division which incorporates the student advice centre as well as the Chaplaincy, and the 'Prevent' leads will be working with the new Director to ensure that the new 'student wellbeing framework' takes full and effective account of the 'Prevent' duty and the means and modes by which issues of concern are identified and escalated to the right sources of resolution. The RVC also has a new Chaplain who will be meeting the 'Prevent' leads to be briefed on the RVC's approach and the Chaplaincy's role within it.

The 'Prevent leads' have attended the HEFCE events on focussing on what works in IT welfare and safeguarding and have used these to assess the RVC's own practices.

## **1. Responses to previous actions**

College Executive Committee's (CEC) considered of web filtering on the recommendation of our IT Security Group who had agreed that CEC should make the decision in the context of information and consideration around about costs and benefits. The CEC concluded that this is not an appropriate action for the RVC to take and that focus should be directed towards Prevent-related support and resources in staff and student induction programmes. CEC noted that the Prevent Duty requires institutions to consider using web filtering methods to minimise the likelihood that a member of their community would get drawn into terrorism. Members discussed the approach taken by other institutions in the sector, the challenges regarding academic freedom and the ubiquity of internet access, the potential effectiveness of the various options at hand, the extent of risks posed and RVC's existing framework of checks and balances and existing wellbeing support options. Information considered also included the low incidences of cyberattacks at the RVC from potentially filterable / blockable websites and the potential costs of purchasing a filtering solution as well as wider issues

## **2. Data & Commentary**

*3a. Number and proportion of staff who have received Prevent-related training:* In addition to training 85 staff (21% of 2016 headcount) last year, 379 staff have been trained (47% of 2017 headcount) in 2017. Considering a growth in the number of staff, this represents a total of 57% of staff (2017 headcount). This includes 176 staff in our academic departments and 203 in our professional departments, with at least 50% trained in each department and departmental sub unit.

Given the sector input into the Safe Campus Communities webinar, this was the primary resource used in this year's training campaign, which was supported at the highest level of the institution by the COO. However, there was a significant technical issue with the UUK SCC website which had prevented some staff from timely completion. Furthermore, due to the fact that staff completing the training have to self-report that they have done so to their departmental coordinator, collated by a Prevent lead, there is a likelihood of underreporting of our figures. We would encourage that SCC collect training data or allow administrator access to institutions so that this can be better managed.

HR has successfully embedded references to Prevent in pre-existing management and pastoral training. Prevent leads continue to attend HE/FE regional coordinator conferences when made available. Given the high penetration rate of training, the Prevent Steering Group will review the best way to continue to keep momentum with key Prevent messages, particularly for the Student Union representatives that change on an annual basis. The Director of Learning and Wellbeing and the Staff Development Manager are now part of the Steering group, which will help further align Prevent activity with broader wellbeing and staff development objectives.

*3b. The number of high-risk events escalated to the highest levels of approval: 0*

Being a small and specialist institution, the majority of our events both internal and external are very discipline focussed and therefore do not involve the kind of topics or speakers who are engaged with or close to breach of the various forms of legislation that provide legal parameters for free speech and expression. No events have required escalation or even consideration in the past year, however we continue to monitor the situation.

*3c. Welfare concerns escalated internally and shared externally with Prevent Partners: 0*

We have had no welfare concern arising from either the staff or student body that have been escalated to the 'Prevent' leads. We are confident based on previous experience and on the ongoing training programme that the routes for reporting and escalating concerns are clear.

*3d. Formal referrals to multi-agency Prevent processes (i.e. Channel referrals): 0*

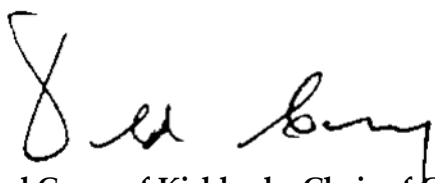
Please see 3c. No other causes of concern have been reported and internal processes and appropriate consultation with partners will always be undertaken before a Channel referral is considered.

**Declaration from the Council of the Royal Veterinary College**

Throughout the academic year and up to the date of approval, the Royal Veterinary College:

- has had due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty)
- has provided to HEFCE all required information about its implementation of the Prevent duty
- has reported to HEFCE in a timely way all serious issues related to the Prevent duty, or now attaches any reports that should have been made, with an explanation of why they were not submitted.

Signature:



Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Chair of Council

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017