

ACT for Local Authorities

Community Safety



Introduction

The work of community safety teams aligns closely with policing and counter terrorism objectives, and much of their existing day-to-day activity can easily incorporate consideration of protective security and counter terrorism preparedness.

Local authority community safety teams typically have primary responsibility for:

- Reducing crime
- Antisocial behaviour
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Hate crime awareness
- Community tension monitoring
- CCTV resources



Community safety teams often lead on the local authority's responsibilities under the Prevent Duty. This means that officers working within community safety teams may have a good understanding of the terrorist threat landscape, albeit from a counter radicalisation, rather than protective security, perspective.

Due to the crime prevention and safeguarding focus of community safety teams, protective security and preparedness considerations should align with existing work streams. Leveraging existing resources within community safety should allow counter terrorism protective security and preparedness measures to reach communities and areas which could benefit from specialist counter terrorism advice and guidance.

With ACT for Local Authorities, Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) aims to strengthen the working relationships between Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) and local authority community safety staff including, but not limited to, enforcement officers, community cohesion officers, safer neighbourhood officers, and CCTV operatives.

Whilst safer neighbourhood officers and enforcement officers will likely have the experience and knowledge to be able to highlight vulnerable spaces in their area, CCTV operatives are well placed to identify potential hostile reconnaissance and surveillance blind spots. All community safety staff can provide additional 'eyes and ears' in the identification and reporting of such activity when appropriately trained, due to their knowledge and familiarity with their areas.





Engaging and collaborating closely with community safety teams will enable the Counter Terrorism Protect & Prepare network to leverage existing relationships, forums, and engagement channels which are managed or overseen by local authority community safety teams. Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), local authorities are required to establish Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)¹. In addition to legislated partners, such as police, fire and rescue, and the probation service, CSPs are often attended by a variety of voluntary partners including housing associations, community and voluntary sector organisations, and faith groups. As such, they are an important channel through which protective security and preparedness messages can be shared and amplified. The important role of community, voluntary and faith groups in resilience has recently been highlighted in the UK Government's Resilience Action Plan, making these groups valued partners to Counter Terrorism Policing.

Working closely with local authority partners in community safety ensures that the appropriate advice and guidance can reach those working within local communities to make venues and public spaces safer and more secure for everyone.

¹ In Scotland, similar responsibilities are held by Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs)

Community Safety Tools

Legislation

[Crime and Disorder Act \(1998\)](#)

- Section 17 of the Act requires local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in their area.
- The Crime and Disorder Act does not specifically address terrorism, but the provisions in the Act which account for preventing crime and disorder could indirectly relate to terrorism prevention through its broad approach to public safety.

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act \(2015\)](#)

- Applies to Scotland only.
- Outlines the need for public bodies to create Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) in which community bodies must be invited to contribute to community planning. It gives communities more power to contribute to decisions about public services and local assets.

Guidance and Resources

- [ProtectUK: Working with CTSA's](#)
- [NaCTSO's Counter Terrorism Crime Prevention Toolkit](#)
- [NaCTSO's Risk Management Process](#)
- CTP's [Summer](#) and [Winter](#) Vigilance campaigns
- [Run, Hide, Tell](#)
- [ACT Suite](#) of free training and awareness packages

First Aid resources

- [ProtectUK First Aid Guidance](#)
- [ProtectUK PACT Kit Standards – Publicly Accessible Trauma kits](#)
- [ProtectUK First Aid Awareness \(Video\)](#)
- [Citizen Aid mobile phone app](#) (free to download)

NPSA

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) are the National Technical Authority for physical and personnel security. As part of the Security Service MI5, they are a key partner to Counter Terrorism Policing and provide detailed technical guidance which is available as open source. Below are some of their key guidance documents relevant to community safety.

- [NPSA's See, Check, and Notify \(SCaN\)](#)
- NPSA's Household Chemicals campaign (This is not publicly available, please contact NPSA or your local CTSA for details)
- [NPSA's Security On Your Side campaign](#)
- [NPSA's Security Control Room Operators course](#)

Security Advice for Everyone Programme (SAFE)

The Community Safety Trust's SAFE programme delivers free talks, webinar and training materials on the safety and security of community premises, places of worship and SAFE community members. SAFE shares CST's security knowledge with groups outside the Jewish community that are vulnerable to violence, extremism or hate crime.

- [Leaflet: About SAFE](#)
- The Community Security Trust SAFE: Security Advice For Everyone Scheme - [SAFE: Security Advice for Everyone – CST – Protecting Our Jewish Community](#)
- Neighbourhood Watch, and their [Terrorism Campaign Toolkit](#)

Schemes

Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI) [Community Safety Accreditation Scheme](#) (CSAS)

- CSAS grants powers to those who are in community safety/traffic management roles, which would typically be available to the police. These powers include the authority to issue fixed penalty notices for certain offences.
- Under the Police Reform Act (2002), any organisation/employer involved in community safety patrols (including local authorities) may seek accreditation under CSAS.