

## Desistance and Disengagement Programme

### **Overview**

- As set out in the refreshed counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, the **Desistance and Disengagement Programme** (DDP) will continue to focus on individuals who are subject to court-approved conditions, including all terrorism and terrorism-related offenders on probation licence, as well as those on Terrorism Prevention Investigation Measures (TPIMs) and those who have returned from conflict zones in Syria or Iraq and are subject to Temporary Exclusion Orders (TEOs).
- The programme aims to address the root causes of terrorism, build resilience and aid rehabilitation.
- The programme is delivered in conjunction with a wide spectrum of partners and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, Police and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service as well as non-governmental organisations.

### **Background**

- The DDP launched in October 2016, with an initial pilot focussing on those who have served prison sentences for terrorist offences, who were due to be released on licence. The programme expanded shortly thereafter to include those on Terrorism Prevention Investigation Measures (TPIMs) and those who have returned from conflict zones in Syria or Iraq and are subject to Temporary Exclusion Orders (TEOs).
- The programme provides a range of intensive, tailored interventions and practical support designed to tackle the drivers of radicalisation. Support could include mentoring, psychological support, theological and ideological advice.
- These interventions are designed to provide the best possible means for these individuals to disengage from terrorism and reintegrate safely back into society.

### **Key information**

- It is vital that we allow individuals who have been involved in terrorist-related activity a route back into society in a safe and managed way.
- Unlike the majority of programmes that make up part of the Prevent strategy, the DDP is mandatory in certain cases.
- Where mandated for individuals subject to TEOs, TPIMs or probation requirements, non-compliance could lead to the possibility of being charged for breach of conditions or being recalled to prison.
- The programme runs alongside existing statutory risk assessment and management processes such as the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), to ensure it bolsters existing provisions.
- Terrorism cases are reviewed regularly with other key stakeholders to determine how best to continue managing the risk an individual presents, as well as supporting their rehabilitation.

- The programme reflects increasing collaboration across different elements of the counter-terrorism system, notably Prevent and Pursue.