

Invitation for Expressions of Interest to Evaluate Prevent Projects

The Home Office would like to invite expressions of interest from research partners to evaluate the impact of Prevent funded community-based projects that are being delivered between October 2016 and March 2017.

1. Background

The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT), in the Home Office, works to counter the threat from terrorism. Prevent is part of our counter-terrorist strategy, CONTEST¹. The aim of the Prevent Strategy² is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy specifically:

- responds to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevents people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- works with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

To deliver the Prevent Strategy and to help us to counter the threats that we face, we have worked with civil society and third sector partners, funding initiatives up and down the country. In 2015, 130 community-based projects, aimed at increasing participants' resilience to terrorist and extremist ideologies were delivered, reaching over 25,300 people.

The specific aims of these projects are to:

- increase awareness of how individuals can be drawn into terrorism;
- provide support for those vulnerable to or effected by terrorism;
- raise awareness of the possible actions to take when concerned about individuals being drawn into terrorism, including the support mechanisms available;
- raise awareness of, and resilience to, online radicalisation; and
- develop critical thinking skills and empower participants to counter extremist narratives.

Projects work with a range of people, including frontline staff (for example from education or health), parents and guardians, families, faith and community leaders, young people, and vulnerable individuals. Project delivery varies between short-term sessions that deliver to a large audience over the course of a few hours or a day, and those that deliver to smaller groups over a number of weeks.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011>

Evaluating the impacts of these projects is a key priority for the Home Office; key research aims are:

- to measure and assess the effectiveness of projects against the strategic aims of Prevent, for example, to measure the impact of projects on participants' vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism, and/or participants' ability to prevent others from being drawn into terrorism;
- to explore and develop appropriate and innovative methodologies for measuring the impacts of Prevent projects; and
- to gain an in-depth understanding of what makes a project successful, and how these components could be transferable to other projects.

2. The Requirement

In support of our wider evaluation programme **we would like to invite expressions of interest from research partners to evaluate the impact of Prevent projects delivering between October 2016 and March 2017.** This call for tender will consist of two stages:

Stage 1: Bidders are invited to complete an Expression of Interest (EoI) form which will be judged on bidders' relevant experience, and their capacity to undertake the work. Further details of requirements for stage 1 are outlined below in section 4.

Stage 2: If successful, bidders will be shortlisted to proceed to stage 2. Bidders will then be provided with additional information about the range of projects being funded, including approximate sample sizes and delivery plans. At this stage, bidders will be asked to submit a full research proposal, including a breakdown of costs. We will seek proposals that evaluate:

- projects within a particular theme (for example online radicalisation or counter-narrative work);
- projects working with particular cohorts or audiences (for example vulnerable people, young people, those for whom English is a second language, or hard to reach groups);
- a range of projects that address multiple themes or work with multiple cohorts, developing standardised evaluation methods and/or tools; or
- what aspects of projects are most successful, and how these could be transferable to other projects.

Further information, including the criteria against which proposals will be assessed will be made available if successful at Stage 1.

3. Funding and Proposed Timelines

In order to identify a range of different approaches to evaluating Prevent projects, we are looking to fund a number of research projects, and have a total budget of £100,000 (exclusive of VAT). The table below details an **estimated** project timetable for the project.

ESTIMATED PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE	
EXPECTED DATE	ACTIVITY
STAGE 1 – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST	
17 th August	Eol call issued by the HO.
Midnight 4th September	Closing date for Eol submissions
w/c 5 th September	Submitted Eols evaluated by the HO
STAGE 2 – FORMAL ITT	
w/c 5 th September	Formal invitation to Tender (ITT) issued by the HO to short-listed Tenderers.
28 th September	Closing date for submission of ITT responses. Submissions evaluated by the HO
w/c 3 rd October	Tenderers notified of outcome of appraisal and preferred Tenderer (or Tenderers) identified. Clarification meeting with the preferred Tenderer(s). Agreement of Final Specification; Project Plan; Price and Contract Terms
w/c 3 rd October	Contract awarded and signed
w/c 10 th October	Project commences

4. Instructions for Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest

All expressions of interest should outline the following:

1) Relevant Experience:

- Bidders should outline relevant specialist skills or methodologies used previously, and explain how this approach would enhance our evaluation of Prevent projects.
- We are interested in psychological or behavioural approaches, methodologies that utilise social media or website analytics, approaches based on robust research into vulnerability or resilience factors around extremism, or other justified methodologies. Please also make clear any existing research upon which methods are based.
- Bidders should also outline any particular skills or approaches used to conduct evaluation work with specific cohorts and audiences, for example those for whom English is a second language or who have a low level of literacy, those who are hard to reach, young people, and vulnerable people.
- Relevant experience and expertise of staff who would deliver this evaluation work should also be laid out.

2) Capacity to Undertake the Research

- Bidders should briefly describe their availability to undertake this work between October 2016 and March 2017. Please note that availability across the full timeframe is desirable but not essential, as some projects may deliver earlier or later within this period.
- Bidders should outline their capacity (resources and number of staff) to deliver this requirement.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by completing the attached EOI form. Additionally, Bidders are required to sign the attached confidentiality agreement should they be successful at Stage 1. Once both forms are completed, please send to sstcommercial@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk by **Midnight on Sunday 4th September**.

Please direct any clarification questions to sstcommercial@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk by Friday 26th August. Questions will be answered within 2 working days. Where appropriate, questions and answers will be shared with all interested bidders.