



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

Operation Nicole Factsheet

Prevent Delivery Unit

Operation Nicole is a table top exercise that has been developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) *Prevent Delivery Unit* (PDU). It is predominantly aimed at Muslim communities and specifically designed to break down barriers between police and communities by promoting an understanding of how counter-terrorism operations work.

This table top initiative is hosted by a police force and delivered by independent facilitators using a storyboard style format. This is based on a realistic counter terrorism incident. Members of the community attending the exercise are divided into individual groups and invited to adopt the role of police officers during the exercise. To help them make decisions as the 'incident' unfolds, they are also advised on operational and legislative guidance from a counter terrorism senior investigating officer and a police tactical firearms advisor.

Operation Nicole has been designed to provide communities with an understanding of the police response when managing counter terrorism incidents. Just as importantly it provides police officers attending the event with an insight into Muslim community concerns and the impact that counter terrorism operations can have. It also addresses some of the myths that surround counter terrorism work.

Although other similar interactive exercises are aimed at all communities, Operation Nicole takes a different approach. The initiative is specifically developed for Muslim communities and feedback during the event

has helped to shape the exercise and its content. While we know that terrorism isn't solely a problem for these communities, at this time the most significant threat to the UK comes from Al-Qaida groups or Al-Qaida influenced ideology who purport to act in the name of Islam. Therefore, counter terrorism operations can disproportionately affect members of Muslim communities. Operation Nicole provides a safe space for community members to discuss their concerns.

Operation Nicole is delivered by police forces across the country and receives positive feedback from those attending. Every event is evaluated, and learning from the initiative has indicated that it has enhanced understanding between police and communities.

Operation Nicole is one of a number of similar initiatives that have been developed for a wider audience to raise awareness and encourage debate about counter terrorism policing. Due to the ongoing demand for the product local facilitators within police forces can be trained by ACPO PDU staff and accredited in the independent delivery of Operation Nicole.

By recognising, engaging and listening to our communities, we can all contribute to tackling the challenge from terrorism.

Resources included:

- Nicole CD-Rom
- Nicole workbooks one per participant
- One set of facilitator notes per facilitator

Time needed: Five hours

Audience: Predominantly aimed at Muslim communities

For more information on Operation Nicole email Prevent@acpo.pnn.police.uk or call 020 7084 8776.

Police officers and police staff can also gain more information via www.pnct.pnn.police.uk