

PREVENT - Safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism

Radicalisation.... The process where someone has their vulnerabilities or susceptibilities exploited towards crime or terrorism - most often by a third party, who has their own agenda.

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

We define '**extremism**' as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism Strategy Act 2015 places a duty on Local Authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

What is Prevent

Prevent is part of the Home Office anti-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST. Prevent aims to reduce the risk we face from terrorism. The strategy promotes collaboration and cooperation amongst organisations, in order to support vulnerable individuals.

The strategy is made up of four work streams:

Protect – strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings and spaces against a terrorist attack.

Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped to reduce/mitigate its impact.

Pursue – to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks.

PREVENT – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist organisations.

Possible indicators of vulnerability

So how do we recognise if someone may need help?

- Identity crisis
- Links to criminality
- Absence of positive mentors/role models
- Exposure to traumatic events and violence
- Mental health issues
- Expressing support for violent extremist causes
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- Behaviour and behavioural changes i.e withdrawal from peers, mainstream society or family
- Scripted speech
- Grooming
- Exploitation
- Sense of injustice.

Of course having vulnerabilities doesn't automatically drive someone to terrorism. But it can often lead to a sense of injustice and make someone feel like an outsider, isolated and not listened to.

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Prevent has three main objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation we need to address.

What does this mean for me?

Prevent does not require you to do anything in addition to your normal responsibilities. What is important, is if you are concerned that a vulnerable individual is being exploited, you can raise a Prevent concern in accordance with your organisations existing safeguarding procedures.

**NOTICE
CHECK
SHARE**

The most important thing is to do **something**.

Channel

The procedures for sharing concerns within Prevent are designed to elicit a proportional and appropriate response. Whilst at times supporting vulnerable individuals may come from within your organisation's internal structures, there will be times when further support is needed.

In England and Wales this is a process, known as Channel.

How Channel works:

- Local authorities ensure that a multi-agency panel exists in their area.
- It is chaired by the local authority.
- The panel develop a support plan for individuals accepted as Channel cases.
- The panel consider alternative forms of support, including health and social services, where Channel is not appropriate.
- All partners are to cooperate with the police and the panel in the carrying out of their functions.

What Channel does:

- Channel covers all forms of violent extremism/terrorism
- All Channel referrals are treated and viewed as VICTIMS
- Channel is an extension of the

existing safeguarding procedures and not a process for criminalising people

- Channel is based on a multi-agency partnership approach, at the heart of which is effective information sharing
- It is not about spying, its about safeguarding our vulnerable individuals from exploitation

Who to contact if you have a concern?

- **Your organisation's designated safeguarding lead.**

- **101 or 999**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

- **Bracknell Forest Community Safety Team**

Email: community.safety@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Phone: 01344 352000

- **Confidential Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321**

stating you have a Prevent concern.

On line resources:

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness

or council staff can assess:

e-learning: Personal development - Prevent: Challenging extremist ideas