

PREVENT – Guidance

What is Prevent?

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011 and refreshed in 2018, is part of our overall Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The 2018 Prevent Strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenges of terrorism;
- Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support;
- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

“Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm” – The Prevent Strategy.

What is the different between extremism and terrorism?

Extremism: The vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

Terrorism: The use or threat of action, both in and outside of the UK, designed to influence any international government organisation or to intimidate the public. It must also be for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

The Prevent Duty is concerned with all forms of terrorism and extremism. It also includes some forms of and non-violent extremism:

- Far right and extreme far right groups
- Religious extremist groups
- Environmental and animal rights extremism

- Mixed, Unclear, Unstable Ideology (School Massacre, Incel)

What is the Prevent Duty?

From the 1st July 2015, under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Prevent Duty requires that, in the exercise of their functions, specified authorities have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

This places a duty on:

- Schools;
- Registered Childcare Providers;
- Local Authorities; and
- Other specified institutions to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to young people and adults who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- Identifying individuals at risk;
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Success of the programme is very much dependent on the co-operation and co-ordinated activity of partners. It works best when the individuals and their families fully engage with the programme and are supported in a consistent manner.

What do I do if I have a Prevent concern?

If a person, child or adult is at immediate risk, report this to the Police through 999 and follow existing safeguarding procedures where appropriate.

NOTICE - Are you worried that someone is being radicalised / susceptible to being drawn into supporting terrorism or becoming a terrorist?

- Observe concern, listen to disclosure;
- Record concern on organisations on safeguarding recording form;
- Talk with Prevent Designated Safeguarding Person in line with local process.

CHECK - Speak with the person to get a better understanding of what they are saying where appropriate.

- Talk with Prevent Designated Safeguarding Person;
- Seek advice from HCC Prevent Programme Manager
- sophie.lawrence@hertfordshire.gov.uk | 07773094897.

SHARE - If Practitioner still has concerns, make referral.

- Complete Prevent Referral and send to Hertfordshire Prevent at prevent@herts.police.uk;
- Remember: consent is NOT needed when making Prevent referrals;
- Consent will be sort if concern is adopted by the Channel Panel;
- Update your organisation's recording systems.