

What is Prevent?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy:

- Responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views;
- Provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

Prevent covers all forms of terrorism and extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. The Home Office works with local authorities, health, a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent strategy. The police also play a significant role in Prevent, in much the same way as they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes.

Prevent uses a range of measures to challenge extremism including:

- Supporting people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist or extremist activity through the Channel process (see the What is Channel section to find out more)
- Working with and supporting community groups and social enterprise projects who provide services and support to vulnerable people
- Working with faith groups and institutions to assist them in providing support and guidance to people who may be vulnerable; and
- Supporting local schools, local industry and partner agencies through engagement, advice and training.

Extremism – “The vocal or active opposition to British 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, whether in this country or overseas” (Report of Government Task Force on Extremism)

Radicalisation – “This refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. A radicaliser is an individual who encourages others to develop or adopt beliefs and views supportive of terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism” (Prevent Strategy)

Prevent is measured locally and nationally and forms part of both level 1 and 2 safeguarding training.

Prevent Priority Areas

- Increased from 30 priority areas across the UK to 46
- 22 priority areas in London with 8 of the highest priority areas also in central London (from a total of 10).
- Luton is a priority area for the East of England Ambulance Service.

It's a Statutory Duty

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Prevent Duty – Statue Law in July 2015
- Prevent is part the NHS Standard Contract
- Prevent sits across both Adult and Children Safeguarding
- **Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** places a **duty** on certain bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
The specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security and includes NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts

Spot the Signs


Individuals can be drawn towards the process of radicalisation in a number of ways, many of which may overlap. When we talk about ‘vulnerability’ or ‘susceptibility’ within this context we mean individuals who, because of their circumstance, experiences or state of mind can be lead towards a terrorist ideology. The following list of potential vulnerabilities is not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. It is important to stress that there may be no direct evidence of criminal behaviour. Remember that safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different to safeguarding them from other forms of potential harm. A SPOC referral needs to be made if you have any concerns.

- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- Social Networks involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- Being influenced or controlled by a group
- Opportunistic involvement
- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- Feeling under threat
- Relevant mental health issues
- Desire for status
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- A need to dominate and control others
- A desire for political or moral change.



What is Channel?

Channel provides support across the country to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The overall aim of the programme is early intervention and diverting people away from the risk they may face.



Channel is aimed at all individuals who may be most at risk of being drawn into terrorism – whatever section of society they may be from.

Vulnerability - A vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over:

Who is, or may be, in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability

Who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation (Dept of Health 2002)

Channel uses existing collaboration between safeguarding partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism. Who delivers channel? The process is a multi-agency approach with a wide range of agencies and local partners working together to provide support for individuals. Coordinators are usually police officers with the multi-agency panel being chaired by the Local Authority.

FAQs

If you have a question which is not answered below please feel free to contact the safeguarding team.

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT SOMEONE BEING RADICALISED. WHAT CAN I DO?

Whilst on Trust business, the route is through SPOC and raising a safeguarding referral for 'PREVENT' or 'radicalisation' on 0345 602 6856. You will also be asked to contact the local police on 101 to access the relevant support and advice. This would also be the direct route if not on Trust business.

AREN'T THESE ISSUES BEST KEPT WITHIN THE FAMILY?

During the course of radicalisation, behaviours as well as opinions are likely to change. These changes are often apparent to the friends and families of the person concerned. Such behavioural changes may be evident to family members but understanding how best to deal with them may be less clear. It's unlikely that close family members will have the necessary skills and expertise to determine the most appropriate course of action or whether any intervention is required. Seeking support by referring concerns to an external source at the right time may well help to stop a potentially dangerous situation from occurring, whilst protecting vulnerable family members from the damaging effects of radicalisation. To access the relevant support and advice you can contact your local safeguarding team or call your local police on 101.

BY INFORMING THE POLICE, WON'T THE INDIVIDUAL BE ARRESTED?

A referral can be made for a number of reasons, many of which are not criminal activities and will not require police intervention. The role of policing has been important in the development of Prevent to date, however it is important to note that Prevent is not a police programme and it will not become one. Crucially, the Prevent strategy is not about criminalising people but about preventing tragedies through early intervention, diverting people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

However, where propagandists break the law in encouraging or approving terrorism, it must also mean arrest and law enforcement action. Safeguards will ensure their integrity and, in particular, appropriate protection of data.

It is also important to note here that one of the effects of Prevent to date has been the improvement in understanding and cooperation between police and communities in this country on a range of issues, including national security.

SHOULDN'T THIS SORT OF THING BE HANDLED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?

Prevent depends on a successful integration strategy. Communities and local authorities have a key part to play in this strategy. It may be that, in some instances, support and guidance will be required from outside of a specific community and it is important to recognise when this is the case. There is no shame in acting on this recognition.

WE'VE KNOWN ABOUT HIM/HER FOR YEARS. SURELY THEY'RE HARMLESS?

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event and it may take many months or even years to develop. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

It may well be that a particular individual has demonstrated concerning behaviours that, until now you have personally deemed as acceptable. However, behaviours can change, become more severe and concerns may heighten. You may discuss these issues with colleagues who feel that a line has been crossed and you may no longer feel comfortable upon further examination of the situation. It is ALWAYS important to raise genuine concerns, if only to provide reassurance that no further action is necessary.

WILL EVIDENCE OF A REFERRAL APPEAR ON THE PERSON'S EDUCATION RECORD?

When a young person is referred to Prevent this carries with it a responsibility to inform the

parents or legal guardians, which will enable the referral to be taken forward. Many of the cases referred to Prevent involving young people occur in a school and in such cases a member of the Prevent team will engage with the school for assistance. Schools are particularly supportive and sensitive to these issues and cases can generally be resolved internally. However, if the behaviour were to continue, the school may decide to take some stand-alone action, which could impact on a future education record.

IF A REFERRAL IS MADE WILL IT AFFECT THE INDIVIDUAL'S CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE FUTURE?

A referral to Prevent is the process by which an individual raises their concern over another member of society. This may be due to certain behaviours, activities that have raised suspicion or a concern that the person may be in a particularly vulnerable position.

It may result that no action is necessary or an investigation may take place that leads to a more thorough examination of the situation. In either instance, appropriate decisions will be taken, dependent on the findings. In most cases the investigation leads to a satisfactory outcome where no further action is necessary and there is no adverse effect on the individual in question. No unnecessary steps are taken and disruption to the day-to-day life of the individual remains limited.

However, there are justifiable occasions where the enquiry leads to a more in-depth process in order to protect the interests of the public. The severity of the case, information and evidence available will determine the next steps to be taken and the effect it will have on the individual concerned.

IF YOU DON'T INTERVENE, DOESN'T IT MEAN YOU AGREE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON?

People who regularly come into contact with members of the public through their work have a unique opportunity to develop an insight into the life of those individual over a period of time. This often carries with it an obligation to be vigilant with regard to the safety and wellbeing of people and those around them.

Apprehension about sharing concerns may result for a number of different reasons from fear or confusion to worrying over intruding into people's personal affairs. It may also be the case that you're only seeing a small part of a much larger picture and are unable to ascertain all the facts. It may not necessarily be because you're happy to go along with certain behaviours or you're endorsing an individual's set of beliefs.

Prevent depends on the participation of the public and individuals will not be judged on their own beliefs and opinions. Failing to raise concerns, for whatever reason could result in a potentially dangerous situation that could well be turned around through awareness and intervention.

ISN'T PREVENT JUST ANOTHER FORM OF SPYING?

It is true to say that some people in parts of the community have felt they have been victims of snooping. Within the Prevent Strategy, which was reviewed and improved in 2011, there are clear definitions covering the proper scope of Prevent as an integral part of the counter-terrorism strategy.

Further, Prevent's guiding principles emphasise that it must not be used as a means for covert spying on people or communities – The Government is committed to improving trust in Prevent.

WHAT DOES SYRIA HAVE TO DO WITH US?

The process of radicalisation here and terrorist attacks planned against targets in this country have very often had connections overseas. Additionally, the great majority of terrorist-related websites of most concern are hosted outside this country.

Many people from this country who have been radicalised have travelled overseas and during that time have met and been influenced by extremist or terrorist organisations: their travel is part

of the radicalisation process. A significant number of radicalised people now resident here have travelled to this country from overseas and were radicalised before they arrived.

Currently, the conflict in Syria continues to generate great concern for the entire international community. The threat is real, both for individuals who travel there to support their cause and those who return to continue the fight against British citizens. It cannot be seen as an issue to be avoided and concerns this particular threat must be acknowledged accordingly.

