

Prevent Policy

Introduction

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people.

This policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns for those young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the threshold of need and intervention model and the Channel process (see below).

Marshall ADG has a statutory duty to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". We need your help and support to help us comply with this duty.

All staff should have an awareness of the PREVENT agenda and the various forms of radicalisation takes in being able to recognise signs and indicators or concern and respond appropriately.

This policy will be reviewed when required by the Safeguarding Officer, the HR department and where appropriate the Trade Union.

What is PREVENT - National Guidance and Strategies

PREVENT is a key part of the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. PREVENT happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

At the heart of PREVENT is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Key Terms

- **Extremism** - vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- **Ideology** - a set of beliefs
- **Terrorism** - a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause
- **Radicalisation** - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

Vulnerability/Risk Indicators

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable young people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism. The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism.

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The following indicators may help to identify factors that suggest a young person or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism:

Vulnerability

- **Identity crisis:** Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- **Personal crisis:** Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- **Personal circumstances:** Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- **Unmet aspirations:** Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- **Criminality:** Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

Access to extremist influences

- Reason to believe that the young person associates with those known to be involved in extremism
- Possession or distribution of extremist literature/other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence
- Use of closed network groups via electronic media for extremist activity

Experiences, behaviours and influences

- Experience of peer, social, family or faith group rejection
- International events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Evidence of fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this

- Experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion
- History of criminal activity
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

More critical risk factors include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing extremist literature
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance/behaviour

Referral and Intervention Process

Any identified concerns as the result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations to suggest that the young person supports terrorism and/or extremism, must be reported to the Prevent Designated Officer at Marshall Centre immediately.

Where a young person is thought to be in need/or at risk of significant harm, and/or where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent may be withheld), a referral to Children's Social Care should be made in line with the Company's Safeguarding policy. However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature, in relation to violent extremism, are most likely to require a police investigation (as part of the Channel process).

As part of the referral process, the Prevent Designated Officer at Marshall Centre will also raise an electronic referral to Channel.

Channel referral

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations. The local Police will carry out an initial assessment and, if appropriate, set up a multiagency meeting to agree actions for supporting the individual. If it is deemed that there are no concerns around radicalisation, appropriate and targeted support will be considered for the young person.

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social

services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Where to go for more information

If you have any questions or concerns about Prevent and what it means, the below link will be useful for further information:

- HM Government Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It
 - <http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>