

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	23/02/2023
REPORT OF	Janice Spencer, Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT	Prevent & Protect Update
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

Having effective and robust arrangements in place to identify and support those vulnerable to being drawn into radicalisation, in addition to protecting publicly accessible locations from violent extremism through multi agency activity is paramount. The work undertaken to both prevent radicalisation and protect local communities supports the Council Plan priorities, namely people should: -

- enjoying good health and wellbeing
- live in a safe environment and have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.

The Council, as a responsible authority has duties under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to ensure arrangements are in place to tackle the evolving threat of radicalisation and extremism.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the current partnership approach to preventing violent extremism and protecting local communities across North East Lincolnshire and provides an update on progress.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

It is requested that the Communities Scrutiny Panel consider the content of this report and make any recommendations for consideration to the North East Lincolnshire Multi-Agency Prevent & Protect Partnerships which link into the wider Safer arrangements of the Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 The Contest Strategy

1.2 The UK Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy known as *CONTEST* (revised in 2018) sets out the long term aims of reducing the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from all forms of terrorism. Since the initial *Contest* strategy was developed in 2003 home grown and UK based terrorism has evolved so the arrangements have been reviewed and adapted to reflect this.

1.3 The *CONTEST* strategy remains focused around the tried and tested strategic framework of the four "P" work strands namely:-

- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks.

- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

1.4 **Statutory Duties within the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015**

1.5 Section 26 and 29 of the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015, places a duty on specified authorities in the exercise of their functions to have due regard from people being drawn into terrorism. This provides the framework for a consistent national approach to tackle the evolving threat of radicalisation and extremism. All authorities are required to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the local threat and risk and come to a judgement as to whether arrangements in place are sufficient.

1.6 The three themes identified around this risk-based approach, cover Leadership, Partnership Working and Appropriate Capabilities.

1.7 **Leadership** - for all specified authorities there is an expectation that those in leadership positions:-

- establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation
- ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- communicate and promote the importance of the duty
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively

1.8 **Partnership Working** - To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, specified authorities must be part of a coordinated approach with the Police, other authorities and agencies, managed through existing multi-agency forums such as Community Safety Partnerships. The Act applies to all authorities which have significant interaction with people who could be vulnerable to radicalisation. These bodies include the Police, Local Authorities, Health, Schools, Further & Higher Education providers, Prisons and Probation Services. It acknowledges that all forms of radicalisation are a threat to UK security.

1.9 The Act also requires bodies including Local Authorities to ensure that publicly owned premises, schools and universities are not used to disseminate extremist views.

1.10 **Capabilities** – The act also specifies that frontline staff who engage with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism because of it. They need to be aware of what is meant by “extremism” and the relationship between extremism and terrorism. There is a requirement that staff know what measures and support are available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to make appropriate referrals where there is cause for concern. All specified authorities subject to the duty are required to ensure they provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty.

1.11 **Power to direct** - The Act allows the Secretary of State to issue guidelines as to how relevant bodies duties should be fulfilled and gives the Secretary of State the power to direct that certain actions be taken in cases where he/she is satisfied that the relevant body has failed to discharge the relevant duty. These directions would be enforceable by a court order.

1.12 **Local Strategy**

1.13 The North East Lincolnshire Prevent, Protect & Prepare Strategy builds on previous work of engaging with communities and local stakeholders acknowledging that cohesive and empowered communities are better equipped to reject extremist ideologies. Reflecting the national CONTEST strategy and statutory duties, the local strategy centres around the following objectives:-

- Governance & Leadership
- Raising Awareness
- Challenging Ideology
- Supporting & Protecting Vulnerable Individuals
- Effective Partnership Working
- Joined up Approach to Protective Security

1.14 **Local Arrangements**

1.15 **Multi-Agency Prevent Partnership (MAPP)** – Local arrangements are well established via the MAPP to coordinate and implement activity and any recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. The Council remains a key partner within these arrangements with the Council’s Assistant Director for Safer & Partnerships acting as Chair.

1.16 **Local Protect & Prepare Group (PAPG)** – More recently North East Lincolnshire has become part of a regional pilot to assess and protect Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs). Supported by regional Counter Terrorism Security Advisors, this involves bringing relevant partners together to identify geographical zones that require assessment around the potential for a terrorist attack and then considering proportionate measures to mitigate the risk.

1.17 **Governance**

- 1.18 **Tri Board Reporting** - Progress and performance of the Prevent and Protect agenda is monitored by the Safer tri-board arrangements of the North East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership & Safeguarding Adults Board with additional reporting to the Council's Scrutiny & Leadership arrangements.
- 1.19 **Humber-Wide Arrangements** - Humberside Police have a central *CONTEST* Board which has North East Lincolnshire representation, with any relevant action being filtered down to local level when appropriate. This ensures there is a consistent approach across Humberside and areas of best practice can be shared.
- 1.20 **Home Office Support** – A representative from the Home Office also attends and supports the North East Lincolnshire MAPP, ensuring any national guidance and best practice is communicated. There is also a requirement to provide the Home Office with an annual Self-Assessment, an annual Channel Assurance Statement, and a Situational Risk Assessment.
- 1.21 **Channel** – Channel is the multi-agency framework established to provide support to adults and young people deemed to be vulnerable or at risk of being drawn into radicalisation extremism and/or terrorist related activity. The *Channel* process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation with referrals made by any concerned agency for assessment and deconfliction before being submitted to the multi-agency panel, known as the *Channel Panel*.
- 1.22 Panel members consider how best to support and safeguard the individual by assessing and addressing their vulnerability via a support package tailored to their specific needs. Partners in the *Channel* process include Education, Health, Probation, Youth Offending Service, NAVIGO (adult mental health services), Children's & Adult Safeguarding, Police and Voluntary Sector where appropriate.
- 1.23 Under the statutory duties, the Channel Panel is managed by the Local Authority and held monthly. Cases that are referred that do not meet the Channel intervention threshold but have other safeguarding support needs are either signposted or referred onto other agencies for support to address their specific vulnerabilities. Channel cases are reviewed to ensure any support and intervention is effective. Statutory requirements also build in a review after 6 and 12 months following closure.
- 1.24 **Role of Elected Members** - Elected Members can play an active role in Prevent, by overseeing and scrutinising local plans which ensure local communities are kept safe. The Council Leader and Portfolio Holder also have responsibility for ensuring the Local

Authority is fulfilling its statutory obligations in delivering the Prevent duty by holding officers to account. The Portfolio holder receives updates regarding Prevent & Protect via Portfolio Holder Briefings.

1.25 As representatives of their local communities, wider Elected Members will understand the challenges and concerns within their wards and are well positioned to listen to and raise community concerns on their behalf. It is also paramount that Elected Members understand the Prevent referral process so as they can give the best advice and assurance to vulnerable individuals, and to those concerned about those individuals.

1.26 **PROGRESS**

1.27 **Home Office Self-Assessment** – During 2022 the MAPP completed the Home Office Self-Assessment around the 10 national benchmarks. The Self-Assessment identified many areas of good practice which demonstrated that activity to tackle extremism in North East Lincolnshire was on par with several Prevent funded areas.

1.28 **Local Prevent Conferences** – North East Lincolnshire hosted a local Prevent Conference in both 2021 and 2022. This enabled a wide range of agencies to come together and receive information around national and local arrangements and receive presentations from a range of key stakeholders including Regional Counter Terrorism Officers, Intervention Providers and specialists providing information on new and emerging threats. Conferences were well attended and received positive feedback.

1.29 **Online Communications** – The MAPP continue to raise awareness through several on-line campaigns such as *Run Hide Tell, Act Now* and our local *Tom Campaign* which raises questions and concerns around a fictitious young person through the eyes of different people that are close to him. In total the online campaign reach from April 2021 to March 2022 was over 143,000 with over 4,500 engagements. From April 2022 to January 2023 there has been over 176,000 views and close to 10,000 engagements.

1.30 **Prevent Champions** – The MAPP has also established and developed a Prevent Champions network. Champions are a point of contact within their organisation, and cascade and share information to their colleagues via team meetings or briefings. The Champions receive quarterly updates regarding trends, legislation and current risks and threats. They also have opportunity to attend continued personal development (CPD) events specifically for Champions. There are currently 73 Prevent Champions.

1.31 **Training & Awareness** – To compliment the on-line Home Office training offer which agencies utilise to train staff, the MAPP continued to offer and deliver wider specialised training to frontline practitioners. This included refresher training around the Channel referral process. During 2021/22 an additional 50

practitioners received more focused Prevent training and awareness.

1.32 In addition, Prevent training is a mandatory training requirement for all NELC staff and Elected Members.

1.33 **Venue Hire Policy and External Speaker Policy** - To comply with the Home Office National Benchmarks contained within the annual Self-Assessment, in October 2022 Cabinet approved a venue hire and external speaker policy. The policy sets out that any person or organisation hiring Council assets shall not promote, or permit, the voicing of views in support of extremism, terrorism, radicalisation, or any proscribed organisations. Neither shall they promote or allow the expression of extreme views about individuals who have one or more of the protected characteristics specified by the 2010 Equality Act.

1.34 **NEXT STEPS**

1.35 **Counter Terrorism Local Profile** – As part of an annual refresh, a revised Counter Terrorism Local Profile will be developed by Humberside Police which will assess the national and local threat based on the latest intelligence and information and put in place recommendations for the local MAPP. Any recommendations will form part of a revised action plan for the 2023/24 period.

1.36 **Annual Schools Audit** – As part of an annual cycle, schools will undertake an audit to assess the levels of awareness, training and compliance with the Prevent duty. In previous years this has indicated high levels of knowledge and compliance, with schools aware of how to make a referral via the Channel process should they have any concerns.

1.37 **Training & Awareness Raising** - Recently the MAAP has been successful with a Home Office funding application which will provide training around on-line radicalisation. The training will aim to mitigate the risk to individuals by providing education and resilience to professionals, parents and carers around online safety and current grooming methods. The training will focus on social media and gaming sites and how these are used to groom and exploit children and young people. Practitioner places are fully subscribed with Parent and Carer training to be advertised in February and undertaken in March 2023. In total 180 professionals and 160 Parent and Carers will receive training.

1.38 **Community Engagement** – During 2022 a Community Engagement Plan was developed in partnership with the Home Office to build on the MAPPs awareness raising activity and provide additional focus to ensure greater emphasis is placed on engagement with local communities. Utilising existing community and voluntary sector networks, this activity will form part of the 2023/24 work programme.

1.39 **Protect & Prepare Group (PAPG) progress** – The PAPG continues to actively

undertake work to proportionately mitigate risk of a terrorist attack in local publicly accessible locations. Two days of action are planned for February and March where partners will visit local retail businesses in Grimsby Town Centre and Cleethorpes to raise awareness of the Governments *Run Hide Tell* campaign and provide wider information such as ACT e-learning and the Protect UK App which is full of useful resources and information. Businesses will also be invited to an awareness raising event to take place in May at Grimsby Town Hall.

1.40 **Independent Review of Prevent** – On the 8th February 2023 the Government published its Independent review of Prevent and its response. The review undertaken by William Shawcross made 34 recommendations all of which were accepted by the Government. The Local MAPP will work with the Home Office and Humberside CONTEST group to implement any recommendations that are required at a local level as and when further details and guidance is communicated.

1.41 **CONCLUSION**

1.42 It is reasonable to conclude that North East Lincolnshire Council and the wider partnership is in a strong position in relation to the duties around both Prevent and Protect with the progress detailed above demonstrating tangible action has taken place. The ongoing delivery of activity via the North East Lincolnshire MAPP and PAPG will serve to strengthen these arrangements incorporating any new and emerging national best practice ensuring both the Council and wider partnership is fulfilling its statutory duties.

2. **RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

2.1 The Council and wider partnership approach around Prevent and Protect to tackle the issue of radicalisation and violent extremism linked into the wider Humberside CONTEST Group and Home Office enables risks to be mitigated and opportunities for collaboration and best practice to be considered. It is felt that the current controls via the Council and wider Partnership are sufficiently in place to meet the duties as set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

2.2 Prevent is recorded on the Council's Risk Register and has a residual profile risk rating of *medium* with a controlled profile risk rating of *low* due to the range of control measures and actions in place to manage the risk.

2.3 The Council and wider Partnership approach also meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

3. **REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION**

3.1 There are potential negative reputational implications for the Council and wider borough resulting from the Council and its partners not fulfilling their statutory duties. However clear delivery plans are in place via the MAPP and PAPG overseen by the Community Safety Partnership arrangements to ensure those

responsibilities are fulfilled. This forms part of a wider strategy to prevent and support vulnerable individuals from becoming radicalised and protect publicly accessible locations and includes regular communications to ensure that consistent and appropriate messages are communicated.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial considerations in relation to the current partnership approach to Prevent and Protect. All vulnerable individuals are supported via the Channel process. Current partnership activity around Protect can be managed within existing resources.

5 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Supporting children and young people is central to the Prevent agenda with those working with children trained around Prevent and how to recognise concerns and make appropriate referrals to Channel. Wider training and awareness around emerging threats are also provided enabling a robust approach to safeguarding and supporting our most vulnerable children.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

7 MONITORING COMMENTS

- 7.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Prevent & Protect has the potential to impact all wards across North East Lincolnshire

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None

10 CONTACT OFFICER(S)

- 10.1 Spencer Hunt, Assistant Director, Safer NEL
- 10.2 Victoria Henley, Community Safety Officer, Safer NEL
- 10.3 Stewart Watson, Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

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Home Office

PREVENT

Handbook for Elected Members



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Prevent - Handbook for Elected Members

The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard vulnerable individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, by engaging with people vulnerable to radicalisation and protecting them from being targeted by terrorist recruiters.

Prevent uses a similar approach to public health models, which focus on prevention rather than treatment. Focusing solely on confronting ideologies alone will not undermine terrorism. Prevent provides holistic support to address some of the personal and social conditions which make vulnerable people receptive to radicalisation.

Alongside other public-sector bodies such as policing, healthcare and education institutions, Local Authorities play a vital role, and have a legal duty to implement Prevent to protect vulnerable people and manage the threat from terrorism.

As leaders and representatives of local citizens, Elected Members have the reach and understanding to create and maintain meaningful relationships with their communities. Although tackling radicalisation may appear to be distant from the typical day-to-day role of Elected Members, the delivery of Prevent requires the support of local communities, local partnerships and local leaders to be implemented effectively.

This document provides information for Local Authority Elected Members about the context, purpose and implementation of Prevent. It looks at the important role that Local Authorities and Elected Members can play at a local level, and how they can lead the vital work that is necessary to safeguard individuals against radicalisation.



THE UK COUNTER-TERRORISM LANDSCAPE

The Threat

- The UK is currently facing a number of different terrorist threats, ranging from Daesh and Al'Qa'ida-inspired to right-wing terrorism.
- The current level of threat from terrorism in the UK is substantial - which means an attack is considered likely.
- The threat has mainly been caused by Daesh (also known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - ISIL). Their ability to direct, enable and inspire attacks makes the group the most significant global terrorist threat.
- There is also a growing threat from right-wing terrorism. The Government has banned three right-wing terrorist groups - National Action, Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) and Feuerkrieg Division (FKD).
- Since 2017, there have been nine Daesh-inspired attacks and two right-wing terrorist attacks in the UK. These attacks have resulted in the tragic loss of many lives, as well as severe injuries and psychological impacts for victims.
- Terrorism also represents a huge cost to the country financially, with the direct and indirect costs of the 2017 attacks alone running into the billions of pounds.
- Some online spaces are used by terrorists to spread sophisticated propaganda designed to radicalise, recruit and inspire people, and to incite or provide information to enable terrorist attacks. Since 2010, over 310,000 pieces of illegal terrorist material have been removed from the internet by the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU), a body set up by the Home Office to help counter the spread of terrorist propaganda online.

CONTEST

- The UK combats the threats from terrorism through CONTEST, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk of terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.
- The most recent version was published in June 2018 as a result of a review of all aspects of counter-terrorism. The review was undertaken to ensure that Britain has the best response to the heightened threat, seen through the attacks in London and Manchester in 2017.

The framework for CONTEST, is made up of four 'P's:

Prevent:

to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Pursue:

to stop terrorist attacks

Protect:

to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

Prepare:

to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

WHAT IS PREVENT?

The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard people who are at risk of radicalisation and to stop them from being exploited by people who would want them to support terrorism. It is also about building resilience in communities through a variety of projects and civil society organisations.

The Prevent programme uses early intervention to protect individuals and communities from the harms of terrorism. Prevent works in a similar way to programmes designed to safeguard people from other harms, such as gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse, by tackling the underlying causes of radicalisation. Intervention support for vulnerable individuals is both confidential and voluntary. Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public-sector institutions.

Prevent work also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism through the Desistance and Disengagement Programme. This programme is a new element of Prevent that provides a range of intensive tailored interventions and practical support, designed to tackle the drivers of radicalisation. Support could include mentoring, psychological support, theological and ideological advice.

PREVENT IS:

- An extension of existing multi-agency safeguarding principles
- Working with communities and local civil society to build resilience to terrorist narratives
- Promoting debate in schools and universities
- Tackling terrorism in all its forms

PREVENT IS NOT:

- A spying mechanism
- Focussed on any particular religion or ethnicity
- Stifling free speech in higher education

Success in Preventing Terrorism

Over 310,000 pieces of terrorist material removed from the internet, since February 2010

203 community based projects were delivered in 2018/19 reaching over **142,000 participants**

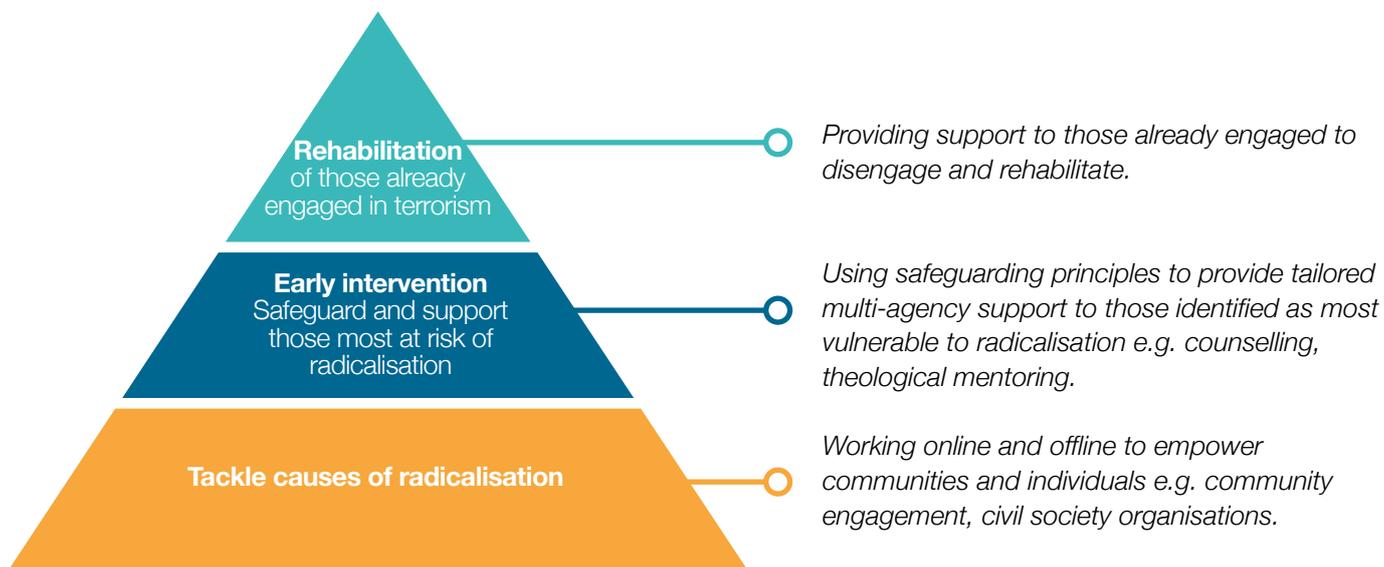
Over 100 children safeguarded by the Courts from being taken to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria since 2015

2,200 people adopted onto Channel since 2012

Prevent training has been completed **over 1.1 million times**

The Prevent Delivery Model

Prevent is risk-based and proportionate. The Prevent delivery model sets out how a broad range of Prevent initiatives tackle both the causes and risk factors that can lead an individual to become radicalised, and directly support those who are at risk through early intervention. Prevent also aims to rehabilitate the relatively small number of higher risk individuals who have already engaged in terrorism.



Tackling the causes of Radicalisation

Civil Society Organisations – what is their role in the delivery of Prevent?

Prevent works with a broad range of civil society organisations. In 2019/20 there were 226 community-based projects across the country with over 142,000 participants, addressing vulnerabilities from social isolation to substance misuse.

These civil society organisations play a vital role in building community resilience to extremist narratives and increase the understanding of the risks of radicalisation across the community. They can be key to providing holistic support to vulnerable individuals.

Case study: Prevent-funded Civil Society Organisations

Kikit Pathways is a Prevent-funded Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) specialist drug and alcohol support service that provides a range of services to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

Based in the West Midlands, Kikit work with mosques and communities to provide mentoring and support for individuals who are vulnerable to terrorist recruiters, particularly those suffering problems with drug and alcohol abuse – who can be targeted by recruiters. Kikit then help to establish referral pathways to the relevant safeguarding services, including Channel early intervention support where appropriate, so that individuals can get the assistance that they need.

The project provides specialist practitioner support and tailored mentoring for those exhibiting signs of radicalisation and grievance and, once assessed, beneficiaries are provided with holistic support to reduce their vulnerabilities. Kikit have a strong track record, including in preventing people travelling to Syria to fight for Daesh.



See some examples of the civil society organisations in your local area below:
(Please fill the below section in with examples of civil society organisations in your local area including, who they are, what they do and how they can help vulnerable individuals).

Example 1

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.....

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Example 2

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.....

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Early Intervention

What is Channel?

Channel is an early intervention safeguarding programme and the element of Prevent which provides bespoke support to children and adults identified as vulnerable to radicalisation, before their vulnerabilities are exploited by terrorist recruiters who would encourage them to support terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

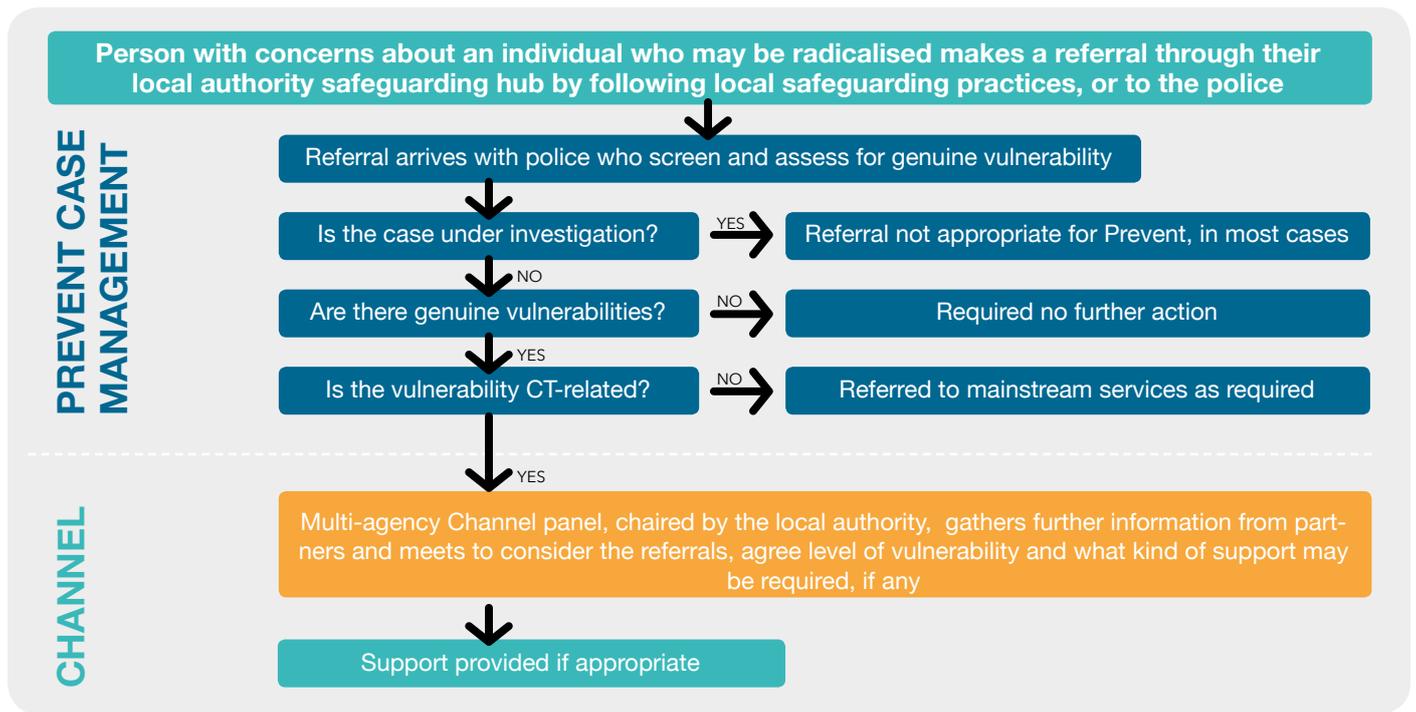
Channel works like other safeguarding interventions, identifying individuals at risk through referral, assessing the nature and extent of the risk and then by developing a support plan for the individual concerned. It is a voluntary and confidential programme.

Channel takes a multi-agency approach, involving a range of partners including the local authority, the police, education, social services, health providers and others to tailor the support plan to the individual's needs.

The type of support available is wide-ranging and bespoke. It can include help with accessing other mainstream services, such as education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug/alcohol abuse, and theological or ideological mentoring from a specialist Channel Intervention Provider, who works with the individual on a one-on-one basis.

In 2018/19, 561 individuals were adopted as Channel cases nationally. Of these, almost half were referred for concerns related to right-wing extremism, higher than the number who were referred for Daesh or Al Qa'ida-inspired extremism.

In 2018/19, 11% of Prevent referrals came from Local Authorities, while the education sector accounted for 30% and the Police 29%. Of individuals adopted as Channel cases in 2018/19, 88% were male and 66% were aged 20 years or under.



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Leon'

Leon was referred by teachers to Prevent at the age of 15, after searching for extreme right-wing material on the school internet. He had also been disclosing to staff that he felt angry and intimidated because he is a minority in his classes.

Leon disclosed that he hates all Muslims because 'they are all ISIS', and that he was part of an extreme right-wing group on Facebook. He also expressed his interest in football violence and gang culture, and that he felt picked on by teachers.

Through Prevent, a range of actions were undertaken as part of Leon's package of support, including providing mental health services to treat his anxiety and insomnia, a specialist Channel mentor who was able to discuss the origin of his views, and advice on internet safety for his parents. The local Prevent team also helped Leon enrol on the work placement scheme of a national construction company, which included support from a careers mentor, and onto the Premier League Kicks programme with his local football team.

Leon's case was successfully concluded and his behaviour in school noticeably improved, with no further issues of him being involved in anti-social behaviour. His mother expressed her gratitude for the intervention, saying "without the intervention from the Prevent team my son wouldn't be on the path he is now on".



Case study: Channel intervention for 'Misbah'

Misbah came across extremist propaganda online while struggling with his identity as a British Muslim teenager. He started to become supportive of the extremist material he was viewing online as it made him feel part of a bigger cause and gave him the direction he had been lacking.

After making worrying comments in class about terrorism, Misbah's teachers became concerned about him and his vulnerability to radicalisation, and he was referred to the local authority Prevent team.

Through the voluntary and confidential Channel early intervention support, Misbah was offered a specialist mentor who met with him weekly and with whom he discussed a range of issues from theology to his future ambitions.

The mentoring allowed Misbah to gain valuable knowledge and exposed him to new and challenging ideas which he may not have had the opportunity to consider otherwise. Misbah found it easy to relate to his mentor, who had a similar background, and they forged a relationship of mutual trust.

This, coupled with support from a teacher at his school, ensured that Misbah had positive influences which helped him overcome the negative ones, and he was able to reconsider his worldview.

Misbah went on to study interfaith reconciliation at university. He reported that he now has a clear direction in life and is considering a career in counter-extremism after graduation.



Rehabilitation

What is the Desistance and Disengagement Programme?

The Desistance and Disengagement Programme focuses on rehabilitating individuals who have been involved in terrorism or terrorism-related activity and reducing the risk they pose to the UK.

The programme works by providing tailored interventions which support individuals to stop participating in terrorism-related activity (desist) and to move away from terrorist ideology and ways of thinking (disengage). The programme aims to address the root causes of terrorism, build resilience, and contribute towards the deradicalisation of individuals.

The Prevent Duty

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced the Prevent Statutory Duty. The Duty requires Local Authorities, schools, colleges, universities, health bodies, prisons and probation and police to consider the need to safeguard individuals from being drawn into terrorism, embedding Prevent as a part of their wider existing day-to-day safeguarding duties. The roll out of the Duty has been supported with guidance for each sector and a dedicated training package.

Prevent, Counter-Extremism and Integration

HM Government's Prevent Strategy, Counter-Extremism Strategy and Integrated Communities Strategy all play important roles in tackling terrorism, challenging extremism and building stronger, more cohesive communities that are resilient to divisive narratives. Whilst these strategies are complementary, they each have distinct, separate objectives:

- **The Prevent Strategy** aims to safeguard those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- **The Counter-Extremism Strategy 2015** aims to protect the values which underpin our society - the rule of law, individual liberty, democracy, mutual respect, tolerance and understanding of different faiths and beliefs – by tackling extremism in all its forms. It addresses the promotion of hatred, the erosion of women's rights, the spread of intolerance, and the isolation of communities all of which can increase the risk of hate crime.
- **The Integrated Communities Strategy 2018** aims to create communities where people, whatever their background, live, work, learn and socialise together, and where many religions, cultures and opinions are celebrated. This is built upon shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities and underpinned by the shared British values that champion tolerance, freedom and equality of opportunity.

Integrated communities provide an important protective factor against the threat of terrorism, because of the association between support for divisive terrorist narratives and the deliberate rejection of strong and integrated societies. Marginalised communities who do not or cannot participate in civil society are more likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

As Prevent is largely a locally-led programme, Local Authorities are at the forefront of tackling radicalisation using their local knowledge, expertise and networks. While national Government provides a framework, guidance, support and funding for Prevent, it is essential that local partners develop responses to tackling radicalisation that are tailored to their local area.

To enable effective delivery of Prevent, the Home Office has worked with a range of local partners to produce the Prevent Duty Toolkit. It has been designed to enable Local Authorities to assess Prevent delivery in their local area against statutory requirements and examples of best practice from peers around the country.

All areas are expected to have Prevent plans in place that are proportionate to the local risk – that might mean some areas where the risk of radicalisation is higher should plan to exceed the delivery outlined in the benchmarks below.

Here is a summary of key benchmarks expected of Local Authorities in delivering Prevent activity:

1. The organisation has a local risk assessment process reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
2. There is an effective multi-agency partnership board in place to oversee Prevent delivery in the area.
3. The area has an agreed 'Prevent Partnership Plan' – this is a local delivery plan, developed against an assessment of local risk, which drives activity where it is most needed in an area.
4. There is an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation.
5. There is a Channel Panel in place, meeting monthly, with representation from all relevant sectors.
6. There is a Prevent problem solving process in place to disrupt radicalising influences.
7. There is a training programme in place for relevant personnel, mostly frontline staff such as nurses and teachers – so that they understand the signs of radicalisation and the referral process for vulnerable individuals.
8. There is a venue hire policy in place, to ensure that premises are not used by radicalising influencers, and an effective IT policy in place to prevent the access of extremist materials by users of the networks.
9. There is engagement with a range of communities and civil society groups, both faith-based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent Duty and local delivery.
10. There is a communications plan in place to proactively communicate and increase transparency of the reality and impact of Prevent work and support frontline staff and communities to understand what Prevent looks like in practice.

Full details corresponding to the benchmarks are provided in the Prevent Duty Toolkit, which was published by the Home Office in September 2018 (a web address can be found in the 'Further Information' section of this document).

ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Members are crucial for successful delivery of Prevent, by overseeing and scrutinising local plans which ensure that citizens are kept safe, and vulnerable people are given safeguarding support from the harms of radicalisation. Elected Members also play a critical role in representing members of their local community. They act as both a voice of local citizens; raising issues and concerns, whilst speaking on behalf of the Local Authority to communicate how policies and programmes operate.

There are three key roles for Elected Members in shaping and delivering local Prevent activity:

1) Leadership and Strategic Direction

Elected members can use their authority and legitimacy to challenge extremist narratives in the community by building community trust and ultimately, community resilience. In this vein, they can work with individuals and the Local Authority to amplify counter messaging to those aiming to harm the community and misrepresent its values through extremism.

Council Leader

The council leader has overall responsibility for setting the strategic direction of Prevent in their area. As a figurehead for the local area, the Leader of the Council has responsibility for ensuring understanding of Prevent services and activities locally. By explaining Prevent's position in the context of wider safeguarding practices, the Leader can become best positioned to talk about Prevent as a vital means to protect people from those looking to harm vulnerable individuals and protect the local community's values. The Leader can also consider the risks, demands and resourcing of Prevent in the broader context of service delivery across the borough.

Portfolio Holder

The portfolio holder with responsibility for Prevent plays a vital role in the delivery of Prevent locally. They ensure that the local authority is fulfilling its statutory obligations in delivering the Prevent Duty, through holding to account officials and supporting those holders of related portfolios (for example, Children's Services or Health) to meet their responsibilities. The portfolio holder should seek to stay updated on the work of the multi-agency partnership boards with responsibility for the governance of Prevent. They can provide advice and insight into how Prevent should be delivered in line with the Council's strategic direction of travel.

2) Community Dialogue

As representatives of their local communities, Elected Members often understand the challenges, tensions and concerns facing the local area. This means that they are well positioned to listen to and raise community concerns, and to be identified as the public face of Prevent delivery for the area. This provides the opportunity for Elected Members to talk to communities openly about Prevent, to listen to their concerns, explain the duty and role of the Local Authority in protecting individuals, and help to raise awareness about referral mechanisms and supportive interventions.

Elected Members should have the confidence and knowledge to engage the community, address concerns and answer questions about Prevent in any forum. By acting as the point of contact between the community and council through ward surgeries, regular emails and general local visibility, Elected Members can help diffuse tensions and misconceptions about Prevent. In some areas, Elected Members chair regular Prevent Advisory Groups; regular community platforms that provide the public with opportunities to play a role in shaping local Prevent plans, plus forums for dialogue.

It is vital that Elected Members understand their local Prevent referral processes in order to give the best advice and assurance to vulnerable individuals, and to those concerned about those individuals. Given this, Elected Members can enhance the number and quality of Prevent referrals from the community allowing an increasing number of vulnerable individuals to be supported.

3) Scrutiny

Elected Members may also consider their role in providing transparency and accountability in delivering Prevent through formal scrutiny procedures. By holding to account the local delivery of Prevent, improvements can be made to implementation, and communities can be reassured by increased transparency.

Elected Members have the opportunity to scrutinise the local implementation of Prevent as part of a Scrutiny Committee - these offer a continuous review and evaluation of local Prevent programmes.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Members should be able to access:

- A version of the local area’s Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) and/or the risk assessment based on the CTLTP. The CTLTP is produced primarily by local counter-terrorism policing with input from the Local Authority and provides insight on the local threat picture. The risk assessment based on the CTLTP can be more widely shared and should inform the Prevent Action Plan (see below).
- The Local Prevent Action Plan. This document is informed by the CTLTP and outlines how Prevent is going to be delivered locally, including aspects such as Prevent projects, Channel and community engagement. This plan should reflect the risks highlighted in the CTLTP and risk assessment.
- Prevent training delivered by Local Authority officials specifically for Elected Members. It is best practice that officials provide training opportunities to Elected Members on Prevent. This should not take the same format as WRAP training, which is used for statutory partners.
- Minutes of the multi-agency group responsible for Prevent. In some areas, Prevent may come under the Crime and Disorder group however, others have a group dedicated to Prevent work.

Case study: Luton – Elected Member

Luton Council’s ‘Member Prevent Engagement Group’ (MPEG) provides Elected Member-led support, advice, challenge and scrutiny of the council’s Prevent Board, which coordinates Prevent activity across Luton.

The MPEG is a sounding board on sensitive community issues linked to terrorism and radicalisation and as a conduit for direct and best practice on engagement with local people and institutions whilst being responsive to local and national requirements. The group is chaired by the Prevent Portfolio Holder and is made up of cross-party members.

MPEG’s role is to:

- Advise on Prevent communications and engagement activity, including reviewing plans and messages.
- Participate in engagement on Prevent with local stakeholders.
- Help the Prevent Board to develop counter narrative messages against extremist rhetoric.
- Provide a focal point for Elected Members on Prevent, including support for training and development, as well as Member-Led scrutiny and challenge.



Priority Areas Only

Overview of Prevent Staff in the Local Authority

(Please fill this section in with a list of funded posts in the local area, who is occupying them and their contact details)

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MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

There are widespread misconceptions surrounding Prevent. These myths do not reflect what the Prevent programme is or how it operates. Some common questions are outlined below:

Does the Prevent strategy target Muslims?

Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group - it deals with all forms of terrorism, including right-wing. Rather, Prevent protects those who are targeted by terrorist recruiters. Although right-wing terrorism is a growing threat, currently the greatest threat comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh and Al Qa'ida. Prevent will necessarily reflect this by prioritising support for vulnerable British Muslims.

Anyone who is at risk of any type of radicalisation can receive support from Channel. In 2018/19, almost half of those who were adopted as Channel cases were related to right-wing radicalisation, more than those related to Daesh and Al Qa'ida-inspired radicalisation.

Is Prevent doing enough to tackle right-wing extremism?

Prevent is implemented in a proportionate manner that takes into account the level of risk in any given area or institution. In some areas the risk of right-wing terrorism may be significant and Prevent activity will therefore focus on this threat – including protecting those most likely to be vulnerable to it. In 2018/19, 561 individuals were adopted as a Channel case. Of these, almost half were referred for concerns related to right-wing extremism.

Does Prevent encourage spying?

There is nothing in law, in the guidance, or in any form of training that requires, authorises, or encourages any form of spying whatsoever in connection with the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty does not require teachers to spy on pupils or to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life. It is about ensuring that teachers know how to identify behaviour of concern and how to refer pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation for appropriate support.

Does being on the Channel programme mean you get a criminal record?

Being referred or supported by Channel is not any form of criminal sanction; Channel is a safeguarding programme and not a programme to further an investigation. It will have no bearing on a person's education or career prospects.

Isn't the Prevent Duty an attack on freedom of speech in universities?

The right to free speech and protest are cornerstones of British democracy, which the Government has committed to protecting. Universities in particular represent one of the most important arenas for challenging extremist views and ideologies. The Prevent strategy in no way, shape or form undermines this commitment.

In 2019, the Government published guidance to help protect and enhance free speech on campus, to ensure they remain forums for open and robust enquiry. The Prevent Duty explicitly requires further and higher education institutions to have regard to their duty to secure freedom of speech and to have particular regard to the importance of academic freedom.

GLOSSARY

Counter radicalisation – refers to the process of protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist related activity.

Extremism – is defined in the Prevent Strategy as vocal or active opposition to fundamental shared 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.

Interventions - projects intended to divert people who are being drawn into terrorist activity. Interventions can include mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, developing support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).

Islamism – this term refers to the interpretation of Islam as a utopian model of politics, law and society superior to any other model. Islamists - those that follow the ideology of Islamism - seek to overturn systems based on non-Islamist values, which they consider to oppose their political interpretation of divine law and theology. Islamism is a political ideology and it is wrong to equate it to the Islamic faith.

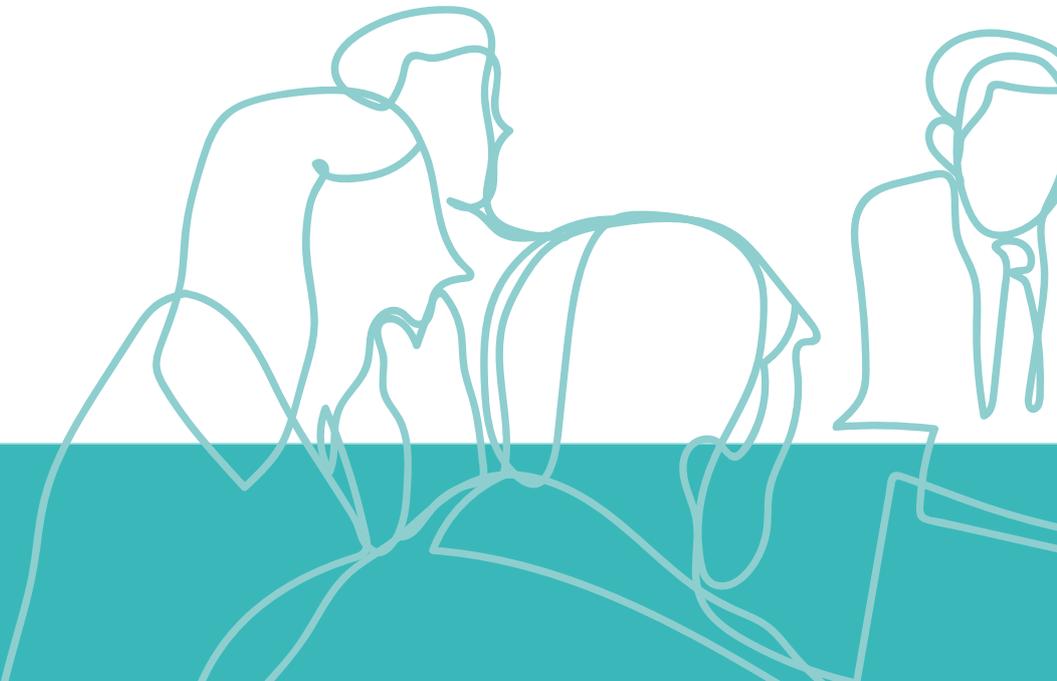
Radicalisation - refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Right-Wing Extremism – in the UK can be broadly divided into three strands;

- Cultural Nationalism is a belief that Western culture is under threat from mass migration into Europe and from a lack of integration by certain ethnic and cultural groups.
- White Nationalism is a belief that mass migration from the 'non-white' world, and demographic change, poses an existential threat to the 'white race' and 'Western culture'.
- White Supremacism is a belief that the 'white race' has certain inalienable physical and mental characteristics that makes it superior to other races.

Terrorism – an action (defined in the Terrorism Act 2000) that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of the threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing political, religious or ideological cause.

Vulnerability - within Prevent, describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Prevent: An Introduction - Home Office produced video explaining how Prevent works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otc2eaRY32s&feature=youtu.be>

Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities and Partner Agencies

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities-and-partner-agencies>

Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Channel Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>

Prevent E-Learning

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

Freedom of Speech Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-speech-to-be-protected-at-university>

Let's Talk About It – Counter Terrorism Policing website to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

<https://www.ltai.info/>

Educate Against Hate - Department for Education and Home Office website giving teachers and parents advice and resources on protecting children from radicalisation.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Safe Campus Communities - Provides access and links to a range of guidance, resources and case studies for the Higher Education sector.

<https://www.safecampuscommunities.ac.uk/>





Home Office

