

31st October 2016

Information for Practitioners on the Prevent & Channel duties

What are they?

1. Prevent Duty

The Prevent Strategy was first published by government in 2011 as part of the overall Counter Terrorism Strategy – *CONTEST*.

The aim of the strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from Terrorism by preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy has three main objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people 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 that we need to address

To comply with the duty all specified authorities must demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area and ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

This duty depends on effective partnership working and training of professionals, to understand the duty and to recognise those who may be more vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation.

Within the Council this responsibility sits with the Head of Communities and includes:

- System Leadership
- Working collaboratively through a Multi Agency Partnership
- Utilising the Police risk assessment to inform local Prevent work
- The development of system wide training strategy

2. Channel Duty

Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy, supporting work within sectors, institutions and with individuals / families where a risk of radicalisation has been identified. As a Council we are responsible for ensuring that:

- A Multi Agency Panel exists in our area, and for administering the panel arrangements;

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- Chairing Panel (the Chair is the Principal Manager Partnership & Communities); ensuring Panel develops a co-ordinated support plan for individuals accepted as needing panels support and or for those where panel support is not appropriate accessing such service support that would be appropriate; and for ensuring that the panel are supported in carrying out their functions

Why are we doing it?

We are a specified Authority, and have a lead role locally for Prevent & Channel, the Specified authorities are:

- Local authorities
- Police
- Prisons
- Young offender institutions
- Providers of probation services
- Schools (Primary/Secondary)
- Colleges / Universities
- NHS bodies

The Home Secretary has issued guidance to those bodies on how the Prevent duty should be fulfilled

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388934/45584_Prevent_duty_guidance-a_consultation_Web_Accessible.pdf

When is it happening?

The initial Cheshire East Prevent Strategy & Channel Panel Multi Agency Group was held January 2016.

The Panel's focus for its first year of operation is the development of its collective practice, and ensuring that together we deliver our responsibilities under these duties, these are:

- Embedding Prevent into mainstream activities
- Building resilience to extremist ideologies within our communities
- Safeguarding those who are the most vulnerable to the messages of extremists

The panel is chaired by the Principal Manager Partnerships & Communities, with administrative support. The Panel meets bi-monthly to undertake its functions.

Part 1 of the meeting focuses on the Prevent Strategy duties and Part 2 on the Channel Panel case list, where panel members consider the risk of radicalisation and any need for multi-agency support.

There is also a Pan Cheshire (Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Warrington and Halton) Prevent Group, where Prevent & Channel Duties are reviewed, this group has a collective work plan which includes work that can be

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done once on behalf of the four Local authorities) such as the Cheshire Prevent Strategy, and Information sharing Agreement.

Where is it happening?

Referral analysis to the Prevent Strategy and Channel Panel will occur following 12 months of operation. This will then inform any targeted area work that may or may not be needed.

Referral numbers are currently small in number so analysis at this point would not be appropriate.

Who are the key players?

It is important that **all front line staff** understand our responsibilities in regards to the Prevent & Channel Duties.

You are a Key Player, and what you need to do in your work role is – **Notice a concern** when it's brought to your attention, **Check the consent to refer**, **Share the referral information with the Police Prevent Team** when you have a concern around an individual.

Please submit referrals to the Cheshire Police Prevent Team

Prevent@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Please refer to the LSCB and LSAB website to access the referral form. There is also guidance on seeking consent from the individual to support you with your decision making.

For informal discussion with the Prevent Team about your concerns the Telephone Number is: 01606 362121.

Contact Details: Name / E-mail / Tel No.

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk