

One Minute Guide

November 2015

Prevent

What is it?

Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism strategy.

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

Extremism is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology. Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way, can go on to become terrorists. Violent extremism is also linked to the far right, neo nazi and some animal rights movements.

The Cheshire Constabulary Prevent team in partnership with local authorities and other partnership agencies is working to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists. This is being done through building stronger, safer communities.

There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame

Why are we doing it?

All agencies have a vital role to play in protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from the risks of radicalisation and extremism. A new duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 "**to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism**", (the "Prevent duty") came into force on 1 July 2015.

Three main areas of concern have been identified for initial attention in developing the awareness and understanding of how to recognise and respond to the increasing threat of children and young people being radicalised:

- Increasing understanding of radicalisation and the various forms it might take, thereby enhancing the skills and abilities to recognise signs and indicators amongst all staff working with children, young people, vulnerable adults and communities;
- Identifying a range of interventions - universal, targeted and specialist - and the expertise to apply these proportionately and appropriately;
- Taking appropriate measures to safeguard the wellbeing of children living with or in direct contact with known extremists.

In Cheshire East if you suspect a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, including being radicalised, then in line with child protection procedures contact **ChECS**; Cheshire East Consultation Service on **0300 123 5012** and you must also contact the **Police Prevent officer 01606 362121** or email prevent@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

For vulnerable adult and community concerns, the **police prevent officer** should be contacted in the first instance. All information containing personal or confidential details should be sent securely.

All agencies have a responsibility to ensure their staff and volunteers have a good understanding of Prevent and what this means for the groups they are working with. Organisations should ensure all their staff and volunteers have completed online training.

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html



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This is a good way of providing staff with information; there are case studies to help users understand the process of identifying and referring vulnerable individuals, in addition to providing them with support. Agencies have a key role in identifying concerns at an early stage.

What happens when someone is identified at risk

Channel

Channel forms a key part of the Prevent strategy. The process is a partnership approach to support individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists. Police Channel coordinators provide expert advice and guidance around issues of violent extremism to safeguarding boards, senior managers and front line professionals. They assist frontline professionals to assess the nature and extent of vulnerability, this could be in relation to knife crime, guns and gangs or involvement in violent extremism.

Wherever possible, Channel will compliment existing safeguarding mechanisms and processes in a supporting role.

What happens next?

Channel Panels

Channel Panels are multi agency panel meetings set up to identify and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism. They provide a forum for sharing information and identifying risk.

The first stage of Channel is to identify people who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity. Referrals are made to the police channel panel co ordinator who will undertake an assessment and liaise with the local channel panel chair when a person has been identified.

Although the extent of extremism may be perceived to be low – it has a high impact. Keeping children, young people, vulnerable adults and the community safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

What is your role?

All partner organisations should have in place arrangements to ensure that their staff are aware of the Prevent agenda, each agency should have a single point of contact, this may be their designated safeguarding lead.

What to do if you have concerns

If you have concerns about an individual , please call the Cheshire Police Prevent team on 01606 362121 or email prevent@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Sources of information

Police online campaign: "Prevent Tragedies" <http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk/>

Families against Stress and Trauma: 'Families Matter' <http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk/>

Channel E-Learning Package: http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness

Information on the prevent agenda and duty can be found on the LSCB website <http://www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/homepage.aspx>

Protecting Children from Radicalisation; The Prevent Duty

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

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