



# Prevent Policy

Version 8

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Validated by:	Noel Johnson- Managing Director
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This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Springfield Training reserves the right to amend this policy, following consultation, where appropriate.

Date created:	May 2021 (to ensure new RoATP compliance)
Date of last review:	Jan 2021 (to include Channel/ Covid update)
Date of next review:	May 2022

14.05.2021

## **1. Prevent**

The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Delivery of Prevent is grounded in early intervention and safeguarding. Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism according to the threat posed to our national security. The allocation of resources will be proportionate to the threats we face. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations associated with Al Qa'ida, Daesh, terrorists associated with extreme right-wing ideologies and lone actors inspired by such organisations. This list is not exhaustive. Risk and threat to the UK is subject to constant review and updated accordingly.

The UK Government remains absolutely committed to protecting freedom of speech. But preventing terrorism will mean challenging extremist (and non-violent) ideas that are also part of a terrorist ideology, including instances of unclear, mixed or unstable ideology. Prevent also facilitates interventions to stop people moving from extremist activity to terrorist-related activity. The Counter-Extremism Strategy defines extremism as 'the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

Policy and procedure will be readily available to all staff, learners and stakeholders and a copy can be requested from [noel@springfieldtraining.com](mailto:noel@springfieldtraining.com). It is also available on our website at [Springfield Training](#)

## **2. The County Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

Section 26 of the County Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CT&S Act) 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'.

Separate guidance has been issued on the Prevent duty.

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

Channel forms a key part of Prevent. The process adopts a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. There is no fixed profile of a terrorist, so there is no defined threshold to determine whether an individual is at risk of being drawn into terrorism. However, signs that extremist views are being adopted can be used to assess whether the offer of early support should be made. Unlike mainstream safeguarding for adults and children, there is no threshold to make a Prevent referral for an individual to access assessment and specialist support. There may be cases that require a safeguarding response in conjunction with Prevent. Clear distinction should be made between individuals who present with a 'terrorism vulnerability' requiring Channel support and those who pose a 'terrorism risk' requiring management by the police. The process for undertaking assessments of risk and vulnerability informs this determination and is kept under review. Should there be an escalation of risk, the police may remove a case from Channel if appropriate.

The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

Critical- an attack is expected imminently

Severe – an attack is highly likely

Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility

Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely

Low – an attack is unlikely

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

### 3. What is CONTEST?

**CONTEST** is the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy, published in July 2006 and refreshed in March 2009. The aim of the strategy is 'to reduce the risk from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.'

The government counter-terrorism strategy will continue to be organised around four workstreams, each comprising a number of key objectives:

- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

[Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/counter-terrorism-strategy)

### 4. What is Extremism?

The Government has defined extremism as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs". This also includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces.

Please see British Values Policy for further information including how we embed this into the curriculum and learning journey.

## 5. What is Terrorism?

An action 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 threat must be designed to influence the Government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

## 6. What is radicalisation?

People can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. The risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified. Potential indicators include:

- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- Behavioural changes
- The expression of extremist views
- Advocating violent actions and means
- Association with known extremists
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

## 7. What is Channel?

[Channel guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Section 36 of the CT&S Act places a duty on local authorities to ensure that a Channel panel is in place for their area. This should constitute a single panel, with a single chair, covering the needs of adults and children, except in instances where combined arrangements have been agreed. The local authority Channel chair and panel members should have confidence that their arrangements are appropriate to cater for the unique vulnerabilities associated with those who may be drawn into or support terrorism.

Identifying individuals vulnerable to risk of radicalisation

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include:

- peer or family pressure
- influence from other people or via the internet
- bullying
- being a victim or perpetrator of crime
- anti-social behaviour
- family tensions
- hate crime
- lack of self-esteem or identity
- personal or political grievances

All Channel Case Officers and local authorities should develop effective links between

services, such as the education sector, social services, health, children's and youth services, offender management services and credible community organisations, so services are well placed to identify and refer individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism with whom they have contact. Channel Case Officers and local authorities should use their networks to highlight the importance of protecting those who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and to raise awareness about how Channel can offer support.

Details of available training for practitioners are provided in Section 7 of the guidance.

It is not expected that panel members, or professionals making a referral, should be experts in terrorism or radicalisation, however, they should be experienced practitioners in their own field. When assessing the vulnerabilities and risks of an individual being drawn into terrorism offending of any kind, consideration should be given to contextual safeguarding principles, and the full range of relevant indicators, influencing factors and relationships that may have an impact on an individual's level of risk and vulnerability at any given time. This may include direct contact with extremists, community, family influences or the influence of wider networks, such as materials sourced via online or social media platforms. Alignment and coordination with other support structures, available to address wider safeguarding needs (e.g. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or child in need), should be considered by the panel.

## **8. Risk**

Risk is a theme that runs through the entire Channel process – risk to the individual, risk to the public, and risk to partners or organisations providing support to the individual. In assessing the terrorism vulnerability, consideration should be given to:

- the risk posed to the individual of being radicalised and exploited
- wider vulnerabilities and needs of the individual

## **9. Implementation**

The successful delivery of Prevent is dependent on the engagement of national, regional and local partners across multiple sectors, including the community and voluntary sector. Public sector frontline staff have been identified as a key group that can make an important contribution to the identification and referral of individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of radicalisation.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding partners, as defined under the Children Act 2004 (and amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017), have a statutory duty to work with relevant appropriate agencies within their locality to safeguard and protect children.

A safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is:

- (a) the local authority
- (b) a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- (c) the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.

All three safeguarding partners have equal responsibility for fulfilling the role and for selecting the relevant agencies they will work with to safeguard and protect children in each locality, and to publish their local arrangements.

The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, sets out the legislative requirements and expectations on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>  
Safeguarding adults is also a key role for local authorities. Under the Care Act 2014, local authorities are required to have Safeguarding Adults Boards in their area. These boards provide strategic leadership to the work of the local authority and partner agencies on the development of policy and practice in relation to safeguarding adults at risk. Guidance on safeguarding adults is relevant in England in this context.

It is imperative that Prevent referrals are considered by the local authority and panel partners alongside their work to safeguard vulnerable individuals. Key links should be established with social services and other panel partners to ensure that an individual receives the most appropriate support available. Where a child or an adult is in receipt of social care support, as well as support through Channel, the social worker relevant to that local authority should be present at the panel and be involved in all decisions. Channel can run in tandem with, but must not be replaced by, other safeguarding meetings where safeguarding thresholds have been met.

## **10. Referral**

Prevent referrals are often likely to be made in the first instance by individuals who come into contact with those who appear to be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, usually following a degree of deliberation on the part of the referrer. Individuals making a referral should follow the 'Notice, Check, Share' procedure before making a referral to the police.

'Notice, check, share' is the initial procedure applied when there is a concern that someone might be at risk of radicalisation. Details are provided in the Home Office training accessed here: <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Local referral routes may include submission via local authority mechanisms, however, all Prevent referrals will be forwarded to police. All Prevent referrals are triaged in the first instance by specialist police officers and staff. These officers determine whether there is reasonable cause to suspect that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn towards any terrorism offences, and therefore appropriate for support through Prevent. This 'gateway assessment' draws upon police databases and other resources to determine the level of vulnerability and risk around the referred individual, and whether the referral/ case will move into (or out of) Prevent. After this gateway assessment, the primary route for individuals identified as having Prevent relevant vulnerabilities is support through local authority-led, multi-agency Channel panels. After the gateway assessment, individuals whom the police reasonably suspect pose a serious or imminent risk of terrorism offending, are unlikely to be signposted onwards for support through Channel.

## **11. Vulnerability assessment framework**

The assessment framework involves three dimensions: engagement, intent and capability, which are considered separately.

### **1. Engagement with a group, cause or ideology.**

Engagement factors are sometimes referred to as 'psychological hooks'. They include needs, susceptibilities, motivations and contextual influences and together map the individual

pathway into terrorism

2. Intent to cause harm. Not all those who become engaged by a group, cause or ideology go on to develop an intention to cause harm, so this dimension is considered separately. Intent factors describe the mindset that is associated with a readiness to use violence and address what the individual would do and to what end.

3. Capability to cause harm. Not all those who have a wish to cause harm on behalf of a group, cause or ideology are capable of doing so, and plots to cause widespread damage can take a high level of personal capability, resources and networking to be successful. What the individual is capable of is therefore a key consideration when assessing risk of harm to the public.

## **12. Vulnerability support hubs**

The hubs use a formulation-based approach to jointly triage referrals (police and health) to rate the concern and urgency of each case based on the referral information, and clarify whether individuals are known to mental health services. The Hub provides early assessment of an individual's mental health and psychological needs, which may impact on levels of risk, inform the vulnerability assessment and aid the development of Channel support plans.

## **13. Responsibilities and mitigating risk.**

Section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the Act") imposes a duty on "specified authorities", when exercising their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. There is an important role for further education institutions, including sixth form colleges and independent training providers, in helping prevent people being drawn into terrorism, which includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. It is a condition of funding that all further education and independent training providers must comply with relevant legislation and any statutory responsibilities associated with the delivery of education and safeguarding of learners.

[Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-further-education-institutions-in-england-and-wales)

We extend this to Employers when working with apprentices. Our expectation is that all employers with whom we work have a shared ethos to keeping apprentices safe.

All staff have a legal responsibility under the Prevent Duty to make sure that:

- They have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty as identified by their management
- They are aware of when it is appropriate to refer concerns about learners to the Prevent officer, usually the provider's DSL
- They exemplify British values of "democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs" into their practice

It is our responsibility and the responsibility of Employers for our apprentices to protect apprentices and employees from radicalising influences. We have mandatory Safeguarding and Prevent staff training for new staff and all staff complete this annually.

We ensure learners are safe, and feel safe and can identify concerns - we do this by building apprentices and employee's resilience to extreme narratives during our curriculum and ensuring this is embedded within the full learning journey. During support and supervision, we identify any vulnerabilities or worrying changes in behaviour and know what to do if you have concerns about an apprentice or employee. Or close communication with Employers ensures this ethos and commitment is shared as it is crucial for all education establishments and employers to be involved in the Prevent strategy. Springfield Training has a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Springfield Training focus on the risks of violent extremism, which represents the greatest threat at the national level while recognising that other forms of violence and extremism can and do manifest themselves within Springfield Training and other training settings.

In order to achieve these objectives, the strategy will concentrate on four areas:

#### *Leadership and Values*

To provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all learners, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation
- Building staff and learner understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them
- Deepening engagement with local communities
- Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies

#### *Teaching and Learning*

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of learners, by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner's voice. This will be achieved through:

- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion
- Promoting wider skill development such as social and emotional aspects of learning
- A curriculum adapted to recognise local needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights
- Encouraging active citizenship/participation and learner's voice

#### *Learner Support*

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- Establishing strong and effective learner support services
- Listening to what is happening at Springfield Training and the community
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour



- Helping learners and staff know how to access support at Springfield Training and or through community partners
- Supporting at-risk learners through safeguarding and crime prevention processes
- Focussing on narrowing the attainment gap for all learners

#### *Managing Risks and Responding to Events*

To ensure that Springfield Training monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on Springfield Training
- Understanding and managing potential risks within Springfield Training and from external influences
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on learners and communities
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within Springfield Training i.e. Safeguarding and Prevent risk assessment
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within Springfield Training
- Developing effective ICT security and responsible user policies

#### **14. What do I do if I am worried about the radicalisation of a learner?**

Designated Safeguarding lead: Katie Hackett- Quality and data lead

[katie@springfieldtraining.com](mailto:katie@springfieldtraining.com)

Deputy: Rachel Stuart- Lead Administrator

[rachel@Springfieldtraining.com](mailto:rachel@Springfieldtraining.com)

Deputy: Tracey Naylor – Vocational Teacher

[tracey@springfieldtraining.com](mailto:tracey@springfieldtraining.com)

All staff can be contacted by telephone: 08000 50 2324

If you're reporting a terrorist or extremist incident that's happening right now - or if there's a threat to someone's life - call 999 immediately. You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321 without delay, or at [\*\*gov.uk/ACT\*\*](https://www.gov.uk/ACT)

#### **15. Online radicalisation risk and mitigation**

All staff, associates and volunteers receive mandatory annual training and receive regular updates in e-safety and recognising and reporting concerns. Our policies recognise that Internet Safety is a whole team/organisation responsibility which includes learners and their parents and carers where appropriate. Young people and adults at risk may expose themselves to danger, whether knowingly or unknowingly, when using the Internet and other technologies.

We therefore recognise our responsibility to educate all learners, teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills as well as resilience to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the Internet and related technologies. These issues

are addressed within the learner journey, within relevant policies and procedures and with parents and carers where appropriate for under 18's.

We have adopted principles in line with government guidance that we expect all staff/volunteers to adhere to in order to safeguard those with whom we work, in respect of using all these forms of media, devices, apps and social networking sites. We have an I.T. / E- Safety policy to support this.

The impact of COVID-19 means that most of us will be at home for an extended period and are likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online.

To ensure that individuals vulnerable to radicalisation are given the safeguarding support that they need, priorities for the Government during this period include:

- ✓ encouraging people to practice digital safety so that vulnerable individuals are less exposed to online harms
- ✓ increasing awareness of the signs of radicalisation, enabling people to make informed choices
- ✓ and signposting parents, carers, family and friends to Prevent, or other appropriate safeguarding services

Radicalisation by extremist groups or individuals can be perpetrated via a number of means: face-to-face by peers, in organised groups in the community and, increasingly, online. Their targets are individuals or groups of people who can be easily led towards terrorist ideologies because of their experiences, state of mind or sometimes their upbringing.

## **16. Social Networking**

It's important to make sure it's safe, secure and responsible.

However, extremists attempt to influence vulnerable people, the internet invariably plays some kind of role ... being widely used both to create initial interest, and as reinforcement to other means of communication. As is the case with everything it is used for, the internet enables considerably larger numbers of people to be reached, in a wider geographic area, and with less effort by the perpetrators.

The power of social media is well-known, and it is this that is the main channel for radicalisation activity– be it Facebook, Twitter or the multitude of other sites and apps. Other online channels include chatrooms, forums, instant messages and texts. All are also used by extremists for their day-to-day communication, as is the dark web.

Social media is also used for research by extremists, making it easy for them to identify those who may be vulnerable from what they reveal in their profiles, posts/tweets, photos and friend lists.

Vulnerability to extremist grooming and brainwashing via social media sites, chatrooms, texts and instant messages.

## **17. Data Protection, Disclosure and Confidentiality.**

The GDPR, DPA 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA 1998) are not barriers to justified information sharing, but instead provide a framework to ensure that personal information about individuals is shared appropriately.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>

Under the GDPR and DPA 2018, information may be shared where there is a lawful basis to do so, for example when fulfilling a statutory function such as that set out in section 36 of the CTS&A. A full list of lawful bases, as published on the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website.

When requesting information from or sharing information with partners, the basis on which the request is being made should be stated clearly. When responding to a request to share information, the grounds for doing so must be legitimate and in accordance with the law. Information should only be used for the purpose for which it was requested.

Where a request for information sharing is made, the DSL and senior management would make a decision as to whether they are able to share the information and, if necessary, would seek relevant legal advice and advice from other bodies -all decisions taken about information sharing are expected to keep the safety of the young person or adult at risk of central and paramount importance.

We follow the 7 Golden Rules to Information Sharing as per the guidance document [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Channel is a voluntary programme through which individuals consent to receive support to address their vulnerabilities and reduce the risk to them. They should therefore not be subject to any negative consequences as a result of their involvement in Channel (unless criminality subsequently becomes apparent). Where a Prevent referral is adopted onto Channel, insofar as possible, the fact and the details of those interventions should remain confidential and should not be routinely disclosed outside of the partners involved in the Channel process. While Channel is a confidential and voluntary process, information shared for the purposes of Channel may be subject to disclosure to a third party when it is legal and proportionate to do so, e.g. to a family court.

## **18. Other relevant guidance**

<https://actearly.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation>

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/prevent-monitoring-requirements-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/>

[Prevent for Further Education and Training – Complying with the Prevent Duty \(preventforfeandtraining.org.uk\)](http://preventforfeandtraining.org.uk)

[Online Radicalisation | Get Safe Online](#)

