

Safeguarding Bulletin

9th September 2024

Prevent

The Prevent strategy is part of the counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act, this has been expressed as the need to “*prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*” by identifying the early, **noncriminal signs** of “radicalisation” in individuals and helping them to avoid moving into active support for or commission of terrorism. **In fulfilling the Prevent duty in Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 authorities are expected to participate fully in work to prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.**

Each school must have a designated Prevent lead.

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic aims:

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

The objectives of Prevent are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Prevent intervenes early by identifying people who are susceptible to radicalisation and providing support to those suitable for intervention. ***Who is vulnerable to radicalisation?***

Anyone can be radicalised, but factors such as being easily influenced and impressionable make children and young people particularly vulnerable.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination.

They may feel: *isolated and lonely or wanting to belong.*

Vulnerability Factors:

- Struggling with a sense of identity
- Distanced from their cultural or religious background
- Difficulty fitting in with British culture
- Questioning their place in society
- Family issues
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Experiencing racism or discrimination

Important
If a student expresses views about a particularly race, ethnicity, belief etc it is important to address it.

When speaking to a student, it's important for staff to educate them on the topic being expressed rather than simply shutting the conversation down.

Question; do they really understand the view they are expressing and where that ideology or belief stems from? Would educate around that reduce misconceptions and prevent negative behaviours?

Simply shutting down a conversation could have a more detrimental impact on the young person.

Some signs and indicators can include:

- Changing online identity
- Having more than one online identity
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone
- Accessing extremist online content
- Talking about specific groups and
- Their Ideals/beliefs

The Channel Programme:

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 made it a statutory requirement for public sector workers to refer students suspected of extremist ideas to the government's de-radicalisation programme, known as Channel, requiring workers from the child care sector up to university level to identify apparent signs of extremism in their students.

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multi-agency process, involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers and others. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist activity. If the person is under the age of 18, consent is given by a parent, guardian or agency that has responsibility for their care.

It is run in every local authority in England and Wales and addresses all types of extremism including the extreme-right and Islamist-related. It is about early intervention to protect vulnerable children and adults who might be susceptible to being radicalised, which, if left unsupported, could lead to involvement in terrorist-related activity.

Did You Know?

Our locality – 'the right wing'

A prominent belief in our locality comes from the right wing, for example the British National Party who are against immigration and want to maintain the British culture and heritage.

Someone who is "right-wing" usually supports tradition and keeping things the way that they already are. They believe that society's customs and traditions are a collection of things that we have learned from the past and are useful and should be maintained as much as possible.

Safeguarding Team:

Dawn Hindmarch – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Jackie Reynolds – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Jill Gray – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

All staff are requested to complete the additional training through The National College, using the following link:
<https://nationalcollege.com/webinars/online-sexual-abuse-strengthening-safeguarding-measures>

