

PART H – Preventing Violent Extremism

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
2023-2024

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Version Control

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Prevent and Channel protect the most vulnerable in our society and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. Channel panels are there to ensure that individuals receive the support they need in a timely manner to guide them away from such activity.
- 1.2 The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act**, approved in March 2015, contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the Prevent duty. The act ensures that law enforcement and intelligence agencies have the powers they need to help keep the country safe from the threat posed by terrorism and hostile state activity.
- 1.3 In June 2018, a new **Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act** was introduced to the House of Commons and received Royal Assent on 12th February 2019. The act updates and closes gaps in existing counter-terrorism legislation to ensure that it is fit for the digital age and reflects contemporary patterns of radicalisation.
- 1.4 The Act enables local authorities, in addition to the police, to refer an individual at risk of being drawn into terrorism for discussion at a Chanel panel. Previously this power was only available to the Police. To achieve this change, the Act amended sections 36 and 38 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2015. This will streamline the process of referring individuals by removing some of the existing administrative burden on local authorities and the police and ensure that at risk individuals can be supported in a timely manner.

2. Prevent

- 2.1 Lincolnshire follows the Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities which is a framework that ensures legislation is being met.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities-and-partner-agencies>
- 2.2 Prevent is a key strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its main objective is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.
- 2.3 We all have an important role to play in identifying and preventing people from becoming radicalised into extremist violence. This role is an important part of the Prevent Duty, which became a statutory duty for organisations including Local Authorities, in 2015.
- 2.4 The PREVENT strategy has three specific strategic objectives:
 1. **IDEOLOGY & IDEOLOGUES** – To challenge the ideology that supports terrorism and those that support it;

2. INDIVIDUALS – To prevent vulnerable people from being involved in or supporting terrorism;

3. INSTITUTIONS – To support sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

2.5 Prevent is a multi-agency strategy and not solely a Police initiative. It is important everyone works together to disrupt those who promote violent extremism and identify people who are vulnerable to being recruited by terrorists, so the police and other agencies can offer them support.

2.6 Prevent operates in the non-criminal space. This means that individuals who are referred to Prevent can be supported to move away from terrorism, rather than being criminalised. This multi-agency process is called 'Channel'.

2.7 It is important to note that Prevent applies to violent extremism across all groups. Tackling radicalisation relies, to a certain extent, on the vast majority of people who reject violent extremism and are determined to challenge it.

2.8 Prevent is **not** about spying on people or stigmatising and criminalising individuals and/or communities. It is about working with communities to identify individuals who may be susceptible to being drawn toward a path of violent extremism. Our aim is to provide support to such individuals to divert them away from violent extremism before they commit any criminal acts.

2.9 The key aim of the Prevent strategy in Lincolnshire is 'to help local authorities, police, community safety partnerships and other partners and partnerships to develop and implement effective actions which make their communities safer. This will reduce the risk from terrorism and violent extremism, so that the people of Lincolnshire can go about their business freely and with confidence'.

2.10 Experience has shown that results are best achieved through:

- Partnership working and community engagement;
- Understanding the challenge and its context;
- Developing an effective action plan;
- Managing risk;
- Tracking progress and evaluating success;
- Sharing learning.

2.11 Prevent is included within the Council's safeguarding remit. Through awareness and partnership working, Prevent seeks to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals and protect communities. You can find further information about the Prevent duty for England and Wales online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

3. Channel

- 3.1 Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach designed to protect people at risk from radicalisation. It is a voluntary, confidential, early intervention programme that supports people who may be at risk or being drawn into terrorism.
- 3.2 Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.
- 3.3 Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police, and the local community to:
- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism;
 - Assess the nature and extent of that risk;
 - Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.
- 3.4 Taking part in Channel does not go on someone's criminal record and will not negatively impact future education or career prospects. It means an individual can receive the right support to move away from extremism and may also include help with mental health, substance misuse, education or career advice and mentoring.

4. Key Definitions

- 4.1 **'Extremism'** is defined in the 2011 Prevent Strategy 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. Also included in the definition of extremism is calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas;
- 4.2 **'Interventions'** are 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);
- 4.3 **'Non-Violent Extremism'** is extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence;
- 4.4 **'Prevention'** in the context of this work means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent includes, but is not confined to, the identification and referral of those at risk of being drawn into terrorism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert vulnerable people from radicalisation;
- 4.5 **'Safeguarding'** in this context is the process of protecting vulnerable people from crime, abuse or from being drawn into terrorist related activity;

- 4.6 **'Terrorism'** (UK definition as given in the Terrorism Act 2000) is defined as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the Government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause;
- 4.7 **'Terrorist Related Offences'** are those (such as murder) which are not offences in terrorist legislation, but which are judged to be committed in relation to terrorism;
- 4.8 **'Vulnerability'** in this context describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

5. Reporting Concerns

- 5.1 If there are concerns for an individual's immediate safety please call 999.
- 5.2 The national police Prevent advice line can also be called to share concerns in confidence with specially trained officers and for advice on next steps.
- 5.3 Anyone who is referred to Prevent is assessed to see if they are suitable for specialist support through Channel and a referral can be made online:
<https://www.lincs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/prevent/prevent/>
- 5.4 You can speak with the Designated Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer for advice or report a concern using the Safeguarding report a concern form on the Intranet.