Safeguarding From Harmful Radicalisation

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly

PREVENT
TRAINING HANDBOOK

This handbook has been designed as a guide to be provided alongside training in the safeguarding process known as **Prevent.**

Contents

If you're worried that someone you know is being radicalised, visit **actearly.uk**

ACT | ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

Safer Cornwall: www.safercornwall.co.uk

email: prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

Tel: 01392 225130

1. Introduction

Prevent is a safeguarding process, like any other. It's the responsibility of all of us to play our part in safeguarding people from harm. Prevent protects people from being exploited by extremists in the same way that we protect people from, neglect, sexual exploitation, drugs, gangs and modern-day slavery etc. Some people are more vulnerable to being exploited and you can spot worrying behaviour at an early stage and help the person to get the support they need to move away from extremism.

Prevent protects people from being groomed and exploited.

Extremism and radicalisation can have a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities. Helping to protect them from extremist influences is an important part of our overall safeguarding role. In this context we refer to extremism that is harmful and hateful. Radicalisation is the process by which someone comes to support harmful extremist ideologies. This can sometimes be the precursor to terrorism which involves serious criminal acts for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. This is explained further throughout this handbook.

This handbook reminds you what to look out for and what to do if you're worried someone is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others.

If you raise a concern, you will not be wasting time and you won't ruin lives, but you might save them.

Safer Cornwall takes a proportionate response to Prevent as part of its overall cohesion work.

In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly we pride ourselves on a long tradition of strong and resilient communities, good relationships and positive partnerships. However there are some individuals and groups that might advocate or promote harmful extreme views including for example, hatred, community divisions and the use of violence.
There are many varied ideologies that motivate people and groups and we take a balanced approach acknowledging the right to free speech, human rights and equality.

2. What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy known as **CONTEST**.
CONTEST has 4 work strands known as the 4Ps:

Pursue:
to stop terrorist attacks happening in the UK and overseas.

Protect:
to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack in the UK and overseas.

Prepare:
to mitigate the impact of a terrorist incident if it occurs.

Prevent:
to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The objectives of Prevent are to:

1. Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism;
2. Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation;
3. Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a statutory Prevent duty (including guidance) on specific authorities in the exercise of their functions, to have: "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The revised Prevent Duty (2023) supports the aims of the national Prevent Strategy.

The Prevent duty guidance explains that terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology, developed by extremist organisations. Some people who join terrorist groups have previously been members of extremist organisations and have been radicalised by them.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. It often involves the exploitation of a person's vulnerabilities by a third party that has a harmful agenda.

The national Prevent strategy deals with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. In preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, it also makes it clear that there is a need to challenge extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. Prevent safeguards individuals who are at risk of being drawn into this.

There is no fixed profile of a terrorist and there is no defined threshold to determine whether an individual is at risk of being drawn in. However, signs that extremist views are being adopted can help to identify someone needing safeguarding support.

Prevent responds to the ideological challenge that we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, as well as the threats that we face from those who promote these views. It provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn in and makes sure that they are given appropriate advice and support.

Prevent is multi-agency; it involves a wide range of partners working with the Home Office. As with all safeguarding functions, this includes local authority, education, faith, charities, health and criminal justice sectors.

The police also play a role in the same way that they do when taking a preventative approach to crime.

A significant part of Prevent is 'Channel' which provides early support for anyone who is susceptible to being drawn into extremism, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background. Individuals can receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those who want them to embrace extremism and take a path that could lead to criminal terrorist-related activity.

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being radicalised and drawn into extremism and terrorist activity.

3. What is Channel?

Channel is part of Prevent. Channel can help people to make positive choices about their lives. It is an early intervention multi-agency safeguarding scheme that supports people who are at risk of radicalisation and provides practical support tailored to individual needs.

Channel can help stop the progression of radicalisation and safeguard people by providing factual information, discussion and wider opportunities. It can stop people from being drawn into harmful extremist ideologies before they become involved in illegal activity.

Taking part in Channel is voluntary. It is a supportive process to help anyone, regardless of their age, background, faith or ethnicity.

Channel can offer a wide range of coordinated support, including:
- Education, training and mentoring opportunities.
- Access to services and activities that offer support tailored to an individual's needs
- Access to people with specialist knowledge, or just someone to talk with
- Open and honest conversations about issues of concern
- Support for family members and loved ones.

The process for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly referrals is:

- **NOTICE:** Person vulnerable Identified

- **Person in immediate danger or immediate risk to public - PHONE POLICE**

- **CHECK:** If no immediate danger or risk: Discuss with team manager/designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or Channel single point of contact (SPOC) for your service or organisation.

- **SHARE:** If you decide to make a referral please call 01392 225130 to discuss your concerns prior to submission of any Prevent referral form. Completed referral forms are sent to: **Prevent.referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk**

- It is important that you put as much information into the referral form as possible so that it can be fully assessed.
- For advice/guidance about concerns you can also contact the Prevent Police Team: **01392 225130** or The Cornwall Channel Chair - Email: Prevent@cornwall.gov.uk
- Alternatively, people can visit Counter Terrorism Policing's safeguarding website, **https://actearly.uk/**   or call the national police Prevent advice line on **0800 011 3764** to discuss any concerns.

Cornwall Prevent Referral Form: Click here

What happens to a Prevent referral?

- Referrals are received by Prevent Policing Team and copied to the Cornwall & IOS (Local Authority) Channel Chair.
- Referrals are assessed by police to see if suitable for Channel
- If suitable they go to the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Channel Panel.

- The multi-agency Channel Panel considers, seeks consent from the individual or parents/ guardians and identifies safeguarding support.
- The Panel reviews the support plan monthly and once vulnerabilities are addressed or if no consent is given – closes the case.
- The Panel also reviews cases twice after closure, first after six months and finally after twelve months.

4. Ideology

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism and therefore all forms of associated extremists' ideologies. Risk and threat to the UK is subject to constant review and updated accordingly. It is a complex picture because extremist ideologies, methods used to draw people in and the activities continuously change.

The specific ideology, grievance or political perspective is somewhat irrelevant as the process of radicalisation to harmful extremism is the same.

We also continue to be absolutely committed to protecting freedom of speech, but preventing terrorism means challenging extremist (and non-violent) ideas that are also part of a terrorist ideology. Prevent also tackles other ideologies and concerns that may pose a terrorist threat. Established terrorist narratives exhibit common themes such as antisemitism, misogyny, anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority. Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism currently represents a significantly smaller terrorist threat to the UK than Islamist terrorism or Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism and is not currently present in the UK at any significant scale. Prevent also facilitates interventions to stop people moving from extremism to terrorist-related activity.

Prevent is about safeguarding people from harm and not about restricting ordinary activism.
The terms 'radical' and 'extreme' can also be used in their pure descriptive, non-condemning sense and can refer to ideology that is considered to be far outside the mainstream attitudes of society. This can be pro-social (positive, helpful, of benefit to society in general) as well as anti-social (destructive or harmful).

Prevent is focused on harmful extremism and that means challenging extremist ideas that are also part of a harmful/ terrorist ideology.

Counter-terrorism efforts encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture. Terrorists can hold a range of personal grievances alongside the primary ideology for committing an attack. Individuals are increasingly adopting a mix of ideas from different ideologies into their grievance narratives. This contributes to the increasing challenge of assessing the motivation behind an individual's violence, determining the most appropriate mitigations to put in place and judging whether or not that violence constitutes an act of terrorism. Activism and Protest - Lawful non-violent protest or activism does not meet the threshold for Prevent. Holding legitimate political views is not an indicator for extremism provided they are not expressed or furthered by statements, deeds or actions which result in harassment, intimidation, or threats of violence against individuals or society itself.

[Annual statistics on the people referred to Prevent, which includes a breakdown of ideology and type of concern, can be found on GOV.UK](). Information and analysis on extremist and terrorist ideologies is available from the [Commission for Countering Extremism](), the government's 'centre of excellence' on counter extremism.

5. Examples of extremist ideologies:

This is not an exhaustive list but just a couple of the more commonly seen examples:

Mixed Unclear And Unstable Ideologies

There's an increasing number of individuals being referred to Prevent that hold a worldview with elements of more than one ideology (mixed), no clear ideology (unclear), or switch from one ideology to another (unstable). Evidence suggests vulnerable individuals without clear ideologies can be strongly influenced by previous high-profile cases of mass violence. There are consistent themes in the content produced by those who go on to perpetrate or attempt mass violence. This includes an adulation of mass killers, coupled with a morally accepting attitude towards mass murder, often along with a generalised or specific hatred towards a particular group of people based on grievance.

Extreme Right Wing

Extreme right-wing is an umbrella term encompassing all ideologies that seek to undermine fundamental values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance) and feature an intense hostility to minorities and a belief that violence between ethnic and religious groups is inevitable. These ideologies include Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism. Cultural nationalism is ideology characterised by anti-immigration, anti-Islam, anti-Muslim, anti-establishment narratives, often emphasising British/English 'victimhood' and identity under attack from a perceived 'other'. White nationalism is ideology seeking to create a white-only 'ethnostate'. Similar beliefs to white supremacists, but less likely to publicly hold racist and antisemitic views. White supremacism is ideology defined by belief in 'races' as biologically distinct and hierarchical, with the 'white race' at the top of the hierarchy. Highly antisemitic and conspiratorial, almost always believing that Jews have undue control over world affairs and almost universally hold anti-Islam and anti-Muslim views.

International Terrorism

International terrorism refers to terrorism that goes beyond national boundaries in terms of the methods used, the people that are targeted or the places from which the terrorists operate. The UK is a priority target for Islamist extremists 'Islamist extremism is a distinct ideology which should not be confused with traditional religious practice. It is an ideology which is based on a distorted interpretation of Islam, which betrays Islam's peaceful principles. Islamist extremists deem Western intervention in Muslim-majority countries as a 'war on Islam', creating a narrative of 'them' and 'us'. They seek to impose a global Islamic state governed by their interpretation of Shari'ah as state law, rejecting liberal values such as democracy, the rule of law and equality. Their ideology also includes the uncompromising belief that people cannot be Muslim and British and insists that those who do not agree with them are 'not true Muslims.'

Extremist Ideology Variations and Connections

The explanations here are not exhaustive or completely definitive. There are many variations and considerable overlap between different ideologies and subcultures. They change constantly and rapidly; they often morph, merge or interlink. A lot of the activity is hidden so the different groups' ideological affiliations, fusions and changes are difficult to determine and very ambiguous.

There is no set profile of a harmful extremist or someone that's being drawn into extremism but the process of radicalisation is pretty much the same, regardless of ideology.

6. Radicalisation – the grooming process

The radicalisation process that leads someone to support harmful extremist ideologies is similar for any type of ideology. Radicalisation is a grooming process and as with any other exploitation, groomers operate by using and providing something the victim wants or needs to take control and manipulate e.g. befriending, making the person feel they belong which is followed later by pressure to conform. The process includes providing a sense of belonging and pride in promoting a common cause with a common grievance, 'us and them' thinking, and then promotes a call to action.

What do ideologies have in common?

A Grievance (perceived) → **Who do we blame?** (We are the victims...) → **A Call to Action** (So, this is how we show them)

As well as preying on people's vulnerabilities, radicalisers often draw upon similar themes to validate their grievances and also tap into things that people care deeply about to attract attention and promote their cause. They can instill a strong emotional response that is steered towards blaming a specific group or groups of others and justifies retribution.

Common themes include:
- Child sexual exploitation or other harm to children – Who is to blame? Who are the perpetrators? who is covering it up?
- Mistrust of authorities, institutions, experts and democratic processes – They are lying to you. They are all corrupt. They are taking your freedoms and rights away. Your opinion is more valid than any expert.
- Health, wellbeing and prosperity - They are trying to harm you and your family or take away your hard-earned funds or possessions. You would be better off without them.

The claims often seize on a grain of evidenced truth, an article or news story and spin it into a misleading narrative without the evidenced facts to back it up. This can draw people into taking a blind leap of faith leading to unsubstantiated, distorted viewpoints. For example, the evidence of abhorrent child sexual exploitation does exist, but there is no evidence that all perpetrators are of one specific race, religion, social, economic or political stand-point.

This type of misinformation is deliberately designed to persuade, and we see this pattern occur in most harmful extremist claims. They will often target a particular group for blame and use arguments laced with distortions, anecdotes, generalisations and misinformation to frame their unsubstantiated claims.

Online radicalisation:

Over the last few decades, technology has shifted the way that community and communication work. People are spending more time online, with an increasing overlap between life on and off the internet; work, education, access to news and information, social life and communication with family and friends. For some, especially younger generations, there is little difference at all.

These platforms operate business models designed to retain people's attention and encourage them to stay on the site, clicking through videos, articles and other content. They have designed algorithms that come to understand the user's tastes and interests. They then serve content back to the user that it knows will entice them. This retains their attention but reinforces the user's prejudices; limiting their access to other content that could challenge a view, offer alternative perspectives and counter misinformation.

Social media sites and other mass communication platforms exist in an ever-evolving ecosystem. Advances in technology and consumer habits result in fluid decision making. The companies themselves are able to respond rapidly with changes in policy and position. It is an industry built on high frequency change and innovation. So much so, authorities and regulators have a near impossible task of keeping up.

These platforms can be a highly effective tool of radicalisation. Despite attempts to clamp down on the spread of misinformation and harmful content, extremists have been able to exploit them to hook in new audiences and propel and perpetuate harmful theories.
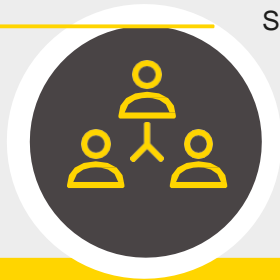
Conspiracies theories.

There is a link between conspiracy theories and extremism. Whilst conspiracy theories are not always harmful, similar methods can be used and some seemingly harmless conspiracy theories can harbour more dangerous ideologies.

The campaign group Hope Not Hate describes some conspiracy theories as employing "a binary world view that divides societies between corrupt or evil elites and the pure or unknowing people, the framework that contextualises fears and hardships by personifying them into an identifiable enemy."

Extremism employs similar techniques of preying on grievances to draw people in, framing somebody to blame and issuing a call to action against the perceived enemy. There are also similarities in their use of misinformation.

Conspiracy theorists use misinformation to further their own agenda whilst accusing others of doing the same. They are often instigated by someone making money, seeking power and control and/or furthering a political or ideological goal. At the same time, they also claim that authorities and media sources are the ones spreading misinformation for the same reasons and that those who believe them have themselves 'fallen victim.' This deliberately creates confusion and a vacuum of uncertainty into which they can reinforce their message and strengthen their reach. They regularly claim to have a greater level of awareness, that they are enlightened or have 'woken up' where everyone else is 'asleep' or obliviously indoctrinated. They claim to be the only ones that are immune to mind control or indoctrination.

Conspiracy theories are reinforced by circular reasoning and resistant to being falsified. Any evidence that refutes the conspiracy theory or even points to a lack of evidence for it, is re-interpreted as more evidence that it's true: e.g. 'they are trying to shut us up which proves we are right'. It then becomes a matter of faith rather than something that can be proven or disproven. 'Conspiracy theories' are different from 'conspiracies' which can be evidenced.

While this was something we were already aware of, the pandemic brought it into a sharper focus and accelerated the existing trend of people spending more time online.

The rapid growth of the QAnon movement provides an example. QAnon is a big-tent conspiracy network through which a large variety of theories and ideologies pass. It brought together the threads of conspiratorial thinking, a fast-moving online community, platforms that enhance and encourage the spread of harmful misinformation, exploitation of current events and creating a sense of urgency to explain and address them. While the network was originally associated with the USA, the tools of mass communication facilitated its rapid growth around the world, especially in the UK.

The network harnessed the method of applying unsubstantiated narratives and explanations to present-day events. The COVID-19 outbreak provided a breeding ground for such narratives. As the world grappled to process a seismic event, conspiracy theories around vaccines, links to 5G and political and corporate corruption took hold, against the backdrop of a fraught political climate and laced with a seemingly legitimate aim of tackling child sexual exploitation. Whilst these individual theories are not exclusive to QAnon, it provides an example of how extremist ideologies are able to quickly adopt existing baseless claims and prey on the uncertainty and complexity of real-world events.

The QAnon example also evidences how the harmful spread of conspiratorial thinking can lead to real world violence and intimidation, with QAnon cited as a motivating factor in the January 6th, 2021, insurrection of America's Capitol Hill. There was also an attempt on the German parliament building in August 2020 where many of the demonstrators openly identified with QAnon.

Why people become radicalised.

Anybody can be radicalised. On the surface, extremists tempt people with the offer of fulfilment from an exclusive community that provides a much-valued sense of belonging, pride, social connection, humour, kudos and power. Radicalisers promote the sense of camaraderie with seemingly like-minded people and can use this to help allay the fears and grievances that they have already hyped and amplified.

For example, the subculture of 'Incels' has provided a sense of community for 'involuntarily celibate' men. The term Incel was originally used in the early 1990s for an online group of people of all genders to share thoughts and experiences about their inability to get a romantic or sexual relationship despite wanting one. Some 'Incels' remained part of the harmless subculture that considers these concerns, but the term became more commonly known for being part of a wider community of male dominated groups - known as the Manosphere. They followed the similar pattern of grievance, blame and action. Incel groups often blame women for their celibacy and come to resent the upward mobility of females in society, harbouring violently misogynistic views.

Several high-profile attacks and mass shootings have been attributed to the more extreme forms of 'Incels' group. There is also some cross over in parts of the subculture with right wing extremism. Merely identifying with these groups does not in itself make a person an extremist - some elements of the Incel community are rooted in a relatively harmless, satirical meme culture.

Being drawn into extremism doesn't make a person stupid. Radicalisers use expert techniques, cleverly designed to prey on people both online and in person. Information sources are more complicated than they have ever been. Mass communications and technology have made it even harder to navigate to reliable and trustworthy sources of information.

The validity of science and expertise is being questioned. We have all, at some time or another, believed something that didn't turn out to be true. Innocuous social media posts have been widely spread by people that are oblivious to their origin. It can be hard to recognise sources that lead to harm but we can learn, build up our knowledge and resilience, support better analytical thinking and help to protect others that are more susceptible.

7. Who is vulnerable to radicalisation?

Anyone can be radicalised.
We have all fallen victim to misinformation, dishonest or devious methods used to persuade us of something at one time or another. Extremists are skillful and use deceitful techniques but people can be more susceptible to this type of persuasion when vulnerabilities are present and at different times in their lives. There are many factors that can make someone vulnerable to radicalisation.
They can apply to any age, social class, religion, ethnic or educational background.

Signs and Vulnerabilities

There is no single route to radicalisation. However, there are certain behaviours you can watch out for that we often see when someone is being led down the path of extremism. Experience shows that some of these behaviours and vulnerabilities can make a person more at risk of being exploited. Identifying them doesn't necessarily mean someone is being radicalised. There can be other explanations behind the behaviours you are seeing. If you are worried, then act early and reach out for help to discuss your concerns.

It can be helpful to think about what radicalisers (those who target and choose individuals to groom) are looking for. These signs and vulnerabilities are not listed in any order of importance.

- Lonely/Isolated
- Victim of abuse
- Under pressure/being bullied
- No sense of belonging
- Problems at home
- Influenced by people you know
- Not able to form relationships Low self esteem
- Has a disability/Mental health needs
- No sense of purpose

8. How might I spot someone who is being radicalised?

More important than any one specific sign is the sense that something is not quite right with the person you're worried about. You could spot one sign or a combination of signs that are increasing in intensity.

Sometimes they can be indicators of other underlying issues or challenges that are not connected to radicalisation. If you are concerned, trust your instincts and tell someone.
Like all forms of safeguarding it is often about using your gut instinct and acting if you are concerned

Remember to Notice, Check, Share.

NOTICE: You notice a change or are concerned about a particular behaviour, it's that feeling/niggle you have about someone or something.
CHECK: You still have a concern, check your concerns with a colleague/ team manager/designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or Channel single point of contact (SPOC) for your service or organisation.
SHARE: If you still have a concern share, discuss with the relevant people and make a referral

Identifying individuals vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation
There is no single way. This is not an exhaustive list, but some examples of factors that may have a bearing are:
- Life stage transition or major life change
- Mental health issues, stress or depression
- Peer or family pressure
- Influenced by other people or via the internet
- Victim of bullying or discrimination
- Being a victim or perpetrator of crime, anti-social behaviour or hate crime
- Family tensions
- Lack of self-esteem or identity, isolated or lonely
- Personal or political grievances
- Financial and other worries

Examples of Behaviours
It is very difficult to know at what stage certain views can become dangerous, or if someone is being exploited and manipulated into becoming a part of an extremist group. Signs aren't always obvious, but indicators that someone is being radicalised may include:
- Withdrawal from family and friends or changing circle of friends
- Displaying feelings of isolation, depression or losing interest in activities they used to enjoy
- Questioning their own identity or beliefs
- Hostility towards others, talking as if from a script, being unwilling to discuss their views
- Increased levels of anger
- Being secretive, particularly around what they are doing on the internet
- Using extremist terms to exclude people or incite violence 'us and them' thinking
- Supporting violence and terrorism towards other cultures, nationalities, or religions
- Possession of extremist literature or other material, or trying to access extremist websites
- Possession of any material about weapons, explosives, or military training

These signs don't necessarily mean that someone is being radicalised. Sometimes this can be normal behaviour, particularly for teenagers or an indicator that something else is going on.

9. How to make a referral for help

Remember that it is important to follow your organisation's safeguarding policy and report any concerns you have to the correct people.

If you are concerned about someone it is best to talk to them about your concerns first, if you can. You do not need consent to make a referral where you believe that the person or others are at serious risk of harm or in order to prevent serious crime, where sharing information may be counter-productive to managing a situation. This also applies to consent from parents or guardians in the case of children and young people. Consent is always sought at a later stage by the Channel Panel where support is being offered.

What happens to a Prevent referral;
- Referrals are received by the Prevent policing team and are carefully assessed by police to see if suitable for Channel following multi agency information gathering,
- If suitable, they then go to the Cornwall Channel Chair in preparation for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Channel Panel

How does a Channel panel work?
The multi-agency Channel panel collectively assesses the risk to and vulnerability of a referral and decides whether intervention support is necessary and appropriate. If Channel support is considered to be appropriate, the panel works with local partners to develop a suitable tailored support package.

Referred individuals are informed and must give consent (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place. The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel Panel. Once the vulnerabilities are addressed or if no consent is given, the panel closes the case. The panel also reviews cases twice after closure, first after six months and finally after twelve months.
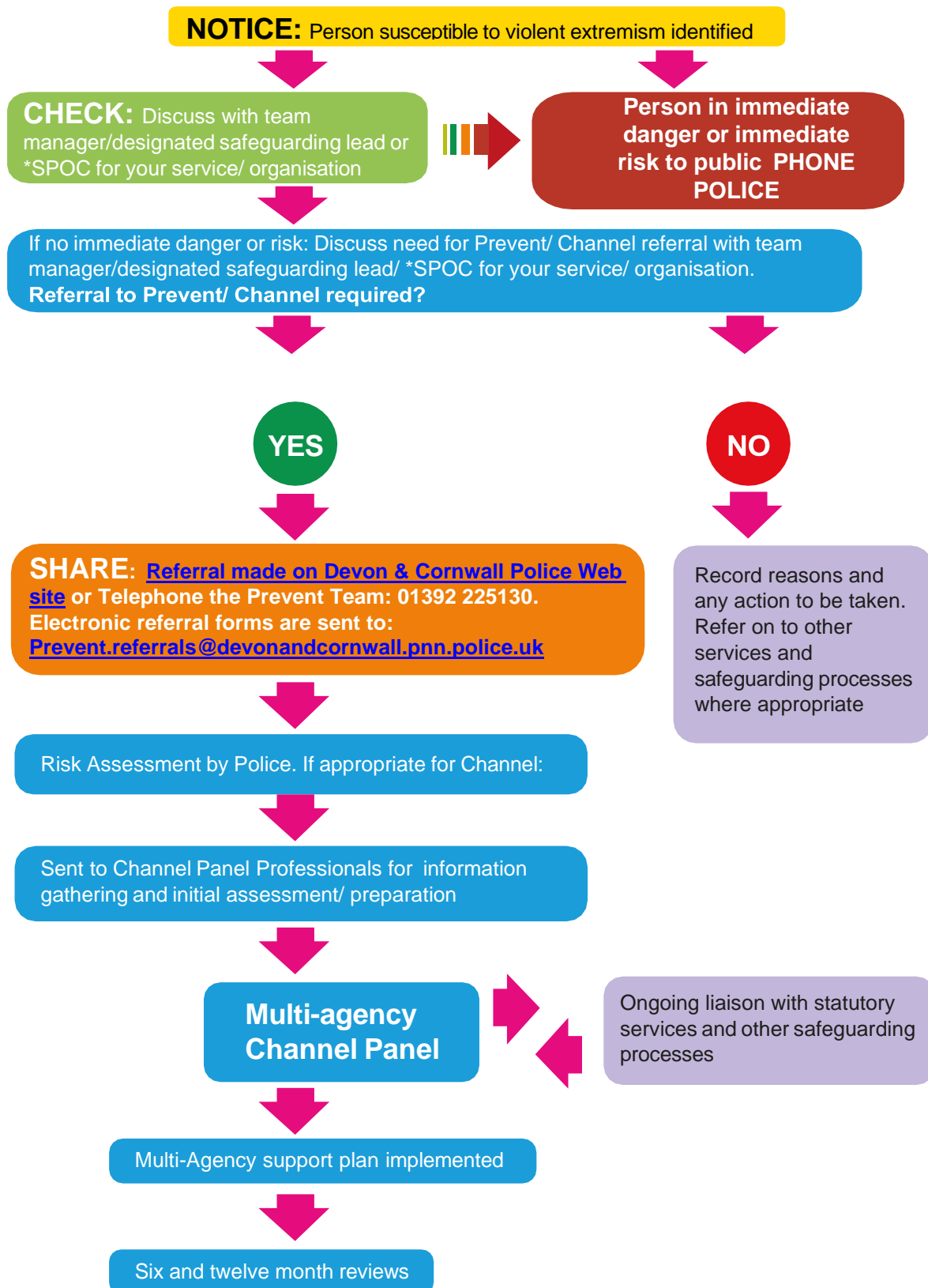
Who sits on a Channel panel?
The Channel panel is chaired by the local authority and can include a variety of statutory partners such as the police, children's services, adult social services, health and mental health care professionals.

What kind of support is offered via Channel?
The type of support available is wide-ranging, and can include help with education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug/alcohol abuse, online safety advice for parents and specialist mentoring from a Channel Intervention Provider.

Responding to Adults and Children vulnerable to messages of Violent Extremism

NOTICE: Person susceptible to violent extremism identified

CHECK: Discuss with team manager/designated safeguarding lead or *SPOC for your service/ organisation

Person in immediate danger or immediate risk to public PHONE POLICE

If no immediate danger or risk: Discuss need for Prevent/ Channel referral with team manager/designated safeguarding lead/ *SPOC for your service/ organisation. **Referral to Prevent/ Channel required?**

YES

NO

SHARE: Referral made on Devon & Cornwall Police Web site or Telephone the Prevent Team: 01392 225130. Electronic referral forms are sent to: Prevent.referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Record reasons and any action to be taken. Refer on to other services and safeguarding processes where appropriate

Risk Assessment by Police. If appropriate for Channel:

Sent to Channel Panel Professionals for information gathering and initial assessment/ preparation

Multi-agency Channel Panel

Ongoing liaison with statutory services and other safeguarding processes

Multi-Agency support plan implemented

Six and twelve month reviews

*SPOC is the Single Point of Contact and usually the safeguarding lead for your service or organisation
- For advice/guidance about concerns you can also contact the Devon & Cornwall Prevent Police Team: **01392 225130** or The Cornwall & IOS Channel Chair - Email: Prevent@cornwall.gov.uk
- Alternatively, people can visit Counter Terrorism Policing's safeguarding website, **actearly.uk** ACT Early or call the national police Prevent advice line on **0800 011 3764** to discuss their concerns.

# 10. Real stories of people supported
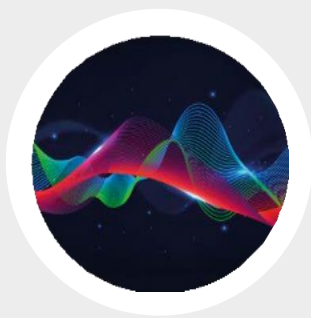
Liz's story

Liz faced a period of homelessness after her relationship had broken down due to domestic abuse. Isolated and alone she turned online to find new people to connect with and became involved with an extremist group and made plans to travel abroad to meet them. She failed to raise funds to do this, however. Liz was arrested and police found extremist material on her computer. She was offered support through the Prevent programme and was assigned a mentor who worked with Liz and helped her to get her life back on track. This support meant that Liz was diverted away from a pathway towards extremism. She felt confident to learn new skills that could help her get back into work and now has a part time job.
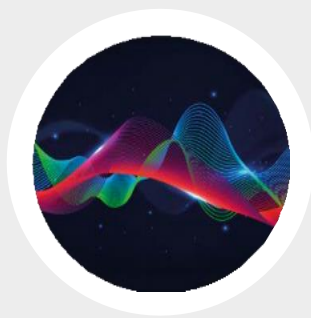
Owen's story

Sixteen-year-old Owen was referred to Prevent by his school for his extreme right-wing views. He was assessed and considered at risk of radicalisation. A support package was put in place over the next two years including being assigned a mentor who was able to unpick and challenge the false narratives the extreme right-wing groups were using to lure Owen down the wrong path. Owen was also provided with help and support around work placements and is now in a job. He has improved his confidence and personal relationships and is no longer considered vulnerable to radicalisation.
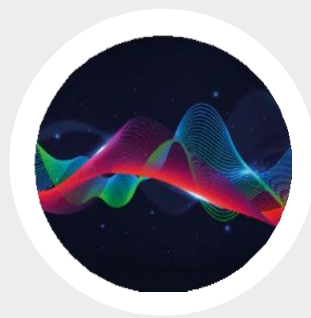
Ali's story

Thirteen-year-old Ali was witnessing domestic abuse at home and was feeling bullied and rejected by his peers. Angry and isolated he started to watch extreme violent videos online. A teacher at school noticed he had started to draw violent images and asked him more about it. Ali was referred to Prevent and working together with his local authority a comprehensive support package was put in place for Ali and his family. Over time Ali's confidence and self-esteem grew and his vulnerability to radicalisation diminished.

Jane's story

Jane's son Cameron is a bright teenager with autism. He doesn't have any friends, either in school or online and likes to spend time researching topics that interest him. It was during his research that he developed a concerning interest in extreme right wing.
This is her story.
"I felt alone and that I couldn't ask anyone for advice, it's not like you would be asking about Minecraft or something.
I knew something was wrong and I felt frightened, nervous like the sand was shifting under my feet.

I feel I was naive as I thought it was a passing phase, but you don't see terrorism or think about terrorism where we live. We live in the countryside and terrorism doesn't seem real. It felt overwhelming to think about involving the police, I didn't know what to say. I felt relieved when the school referred my son to Prevent.
The Prevent officer has been great. He organised for my son to visit a car service centre, as he's interested in mechanical engineering. He's

very bright. He can be obsessive and needs a shift in focus. A new direction, maybe an apprenticeship. I thought he was amazing to do this for him, to redirect him. I am not close to my son; he's become out of reach. I just want to peel back the layers like an onion. It's still him inside. It feels like this should be happening far away, but it's not, it's happening in my home." Cameron is continuing to work with Prevent officers and he is getting the support he needs to move away from extremism.

11. Key points to remember

- Prevent is a safeguarding process and like all other safeguarding processes it is the responsibility of all of us and is designed to protect people from harm. Similar to protecting people from other forms of harm like drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation, modern day slavery, it protects vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists.

- Anyone can be radicalised and there's no single profile of a person that is vulnerable to exploitation by extremists. More important than any one specific sign, is the sense that something is not quite right with the person you're worried about. If you are worried tell someone. Remember to **NOTICE, CHECK, SHARE.**

- Grooming and radicalisation can happen to anyone particularly when they are at their most vulnerable or in need of support. There are lots of reasons that can leave people more open to exploitation and this applies to people of any age, social class, religion, ethnicity or educational background.

- The same kind of grooming process is used for organised crime, county lines, child sexual exploitation and extremism. If we can inform people about how predators operate, then we can build resilience and increase protection.

- Individuals that have been referred (or parents and guardians in the case of children) are contacted by supportive and specially trained staff. Channel Case Officers follow up on referrals and make appointments to meet up. Professionals are given regular training so that they are skilled and knowledgeable about safeguarding and assessing appropriate referrals.

- Consent from the individual (or parents and guardians in the case of children)) must be given before any Channel support is put in place. The process is a voluntary agreement.

- There is a wide range of professionals who can be involved in the Channel process. The people that are included will depend upon the individuals' needs. It is a needs led service that will bring the relevant people together to maximise the support that can be given. In this way any provision that is offered is done so with that one person in mind.

- The Channel programme does not criminalise people. Participation in Channel does not show up on security checks and will not create any barriers for future plans.

- The many testimonials of people that have participated in Channel demonstrate a high level of professional care, successful safeguarding and positive transformation of lives.

12. Hiring out venues

The Government's statutory Prevent duty requires that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. It is advised to consider this for all venues and you might want to include this in your venue hire policy if you have one.   A due diligence check document has been created to help venue holders to make decisions and is available on request from the Council using: Prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

Useful tips for considering venue hire if you have concerns:
- Check the list of proscribed organisations. This is a list of banned organisations under UK law.
- If concerns are raised but the organisation is not proscribed, consider conducting an open-source internet search to research the organisation, topics or speakers to inform your decision-making

- If a charity, you can check if it is registered on the Charity Commission website. **www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ charity-commission**
- Are there concerns that this could contravene your policies and values or breach UK law e.g. the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010?
- Is there a chance this could cause any tensions, attract protest groups or the reputation of your organisation?
- Are there health and safety issues that need to be addressed or security required?
- Are there any mitigating circumstances that may impact on the level of risk?

13. Contacts and further resources

For any further information on this handbook you can contact
Prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

We have a comprehensive list of information sources and resources available on request from the above email address as well as well as the training plan that maps Prevent training requirements according to different roles and responsibilities.

Further information can be found at
https://safercornwall.co.uk/prevent-and-radicalisation/

Key contacts and resources:

ACT | ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

Act Early
CT Policing safeguarding website www.actearly.uk aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.
Are you worried that someone you care about is at risk of radicalisation, but not sure what to do? #ActEarly and find out what support is available
actearly.uk

Home Office Online Prevent Training Modules:
Prevent awareness E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk
Channel Awareness E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals
Prevent referrals E learning - www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness

Government Prevent Duty Guidance
www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Government Channel Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance/channel-duty-guidance-protecting-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation-accessible

Banned Groups
Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations
www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations - 2

The referral process for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly is on page 4

Click here

Appendix 1.

What does good practice look like in education?

1. Leadership and governance

- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other types of harm.
- Prevent implementation should be led by those who have the responsibility for putting policies and procedures in place and ensuring that they are adhered to.
- Prevent can sometimes entail the sharing of sensitive information and other bodies may expect to engage with the information and other bodies may expect to engage with the school leadership.

2. Training

- Individual schools are best placed to assess their training needs in the light of their assessment of the risk. However, as a minimum, schools should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. It is not about the number of staff being trained, but about the impact of the training.

3. Engagement with external partners

- As with other safeguarding, Prevent work often involves a range of people with breadth of experience working together. Sharing of information between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision. Schools should have arrangements in place which set out clearly the processes and the principles for sharing information internally and externally.
- Schools need to have effective relations with local Prevent partners and the police.

4. Curriculum - formal and informal

- Schools can also help build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting positive values – in particular, the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The formal curriculum can be used to support positive messaging and counter-narratives, for example in PSHE, history, citizenship and RE.
- The informal curriculum can also be explored, such as debating societies and other opportunities for pupils to explore issues in a safe environment.
- Staff need to be confident in managing discussions about controversial subjects and in encouraging the development of pupils' critical thinking skills.

5. Policies and practices

- There is no need to have a dedicated policy for preventing extremism and radicalisation. Schools already have relevant policies and procedures in place which can be adapted to reflect the Prevent duty, e.g. on safeguarding and child protection, visitors/speakers, external visits, IT, bookings & lettings and so on.

6. Referral pathways

- It is important that the school responds effectively to the identification of a concern and the subsequent actions taken. For this, all staff – including support staff - should know who they should talk to if they identify a concern. Senior leadership should also know how to refer and share information, using the usual safeguarding procedures and involving the relevant stakeholders such as the Local Authority and Police as appropriate.

7. Venue Hire

- All schools wishing to hire out school premises will need to have a venue hire/school lettings policy in place. These policies will differ, depending on the school and areas to be hired. Schools must ensure that their venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. They should ensure that venues are not used by those whose views would draw people into terrorism, by ensuring that rigorous booking systems are in place and staff responsible for them are trained to know what to do if they have suspicions. A draft copy of any information to be distributed to participants or through the school should be sanctioned by the Head Teacher at least a week prior to distribution by the hirer.

8. Useful resources for schools

Government advice and trusted resources for schools to safeguard students from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values:
Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism
How to spot signs of radicalisation and get help:
Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.
Resources and lesson plans:
Hammersmith and Fulham Prevent and Schools - resources and lesson plans.

For any further information you can contact:
Steve Rowell - Prevent Lead Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
Email: steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk
Tel: **07980 895 104**