PREVENT – 7 minute briefing for leaders, managers & frontline staff for statutory and voluntary agencies

Risk and threat in the UK

The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from all forms of terrorism is SEVERE.

Threat Levels | MI5 - The Security Service

Self-Initiated Terrorists pose the most significant terrorist threat to the United Kingdom. They will highly likely employ a low-sophistication methodology in an attack and they can emerge from any ideology. Self-Initiated Terrorists (S-ITs) | ProtectUK

Key Principles of Prevent

Prevent aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

A referral should be made if there is concern that a person may be on a pathway that could lead to terrorism.

Working with other organisations, the police protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists through a Home Office programme called Prevent.

The role of Prevent Officers is to help people vulnerable to radicalisation move away from extremism. It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. We're here to listen and offer help and advice.

Working with partners, our Prevent officers have helped many people to move away from extremism and find a new direction by putting the right package of support in place, which could be from a doctor, through a school, or with a local community group or mentor.

We work with a range of partners including:

- local authorities

- schools and colleges
- faith leaders
- community groups, including women’s groups and youth groups
- voluntary services
- health practitioners

Spotting the signs

The journey to becoming radicalised is different for everyone and there are many reasons why someone becomes vulnerable. Radicalisation can take place very quickly, or over a long period of time.

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 seem to be increasing in intensity.

However, there are certain behaviours you can watch out for that we often see when someone is being led down the path of extremism.

Visit ACT Early to find out more about the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Share a concern

You’re best placed to spot when something’s not right with someone close. So trust your instincts and tell us your concerns in confidence.

The earlier you tell us your worries, the quicker we can get the person you care about the help they need to protect them from being groomed and radicalised. We’re here to help. You won’t be wasting our time.

Often there’s no need for ongoing police involvement and the right support could be provided by teachers, health or social workers, or specialist mentors.

You can call the national police Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764, in confidence, to share your concerns with our specially trained officers.

If you have concerns about any of your friends, neighbours or relatives, you can tell us about them by clicking 'Make a referral' below to complete our quick and simple online form.

If it's an emergency, please call 999.

If you see online material promoting terrorism or extremism, you can report it online.

What support is available

Anyone who is referred to Prevent is assessed by the local authority and other partners, including the police, to see if they're suitable for Channel, Prevent's specialist support scheme.

Channel is a voluntary, confidential, early intervention programme that supports people who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

To help determine if someone is suitable for support through Channel, a Channel panel is chaired by the local authority, who meet with police, health professionals and other partners to discuss the person you are worried about, and decide on what tailored package of support can be offered to them.

If Channel support isn't deemed appropriate – for example, if the person is at risk of harm but they aren't being radicalised – they may be signposted to other safeguarding services for help.

Channel support includes things like theological or ideological mentoring, help with mental health, drug or alcohol abuse issues, as well as education and career advice. Taking part in Channel doesn't go on someone's criminal record, and won't negatively impact their future education or career prospects. It means getting the right kind of help for the person who needs support to move away from extremism

How to get help for radicalisation concerns

You can make a Prevent Referral here:

https://www.cumbria.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/prevent/prevent/beta/prevent-team-referral/

PLEASE NOTE: Ancillary Safeguarding procedures should also be followed and **AI SHOULD NOT** be used to refer. You should consult with your organisations Safeguarding & Prevent Lead

Ideologies/narratives

A broad range of ideologies and narratives draw people into supporting or committing acts of terrorism. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than a decade ago, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from which individuals or small groups may draw.

While ideology is an important consideration, a clear identifiable ideology is not mandatory to make or adopt a Prevent referral. As the Independent Prevent Commissioner noted, 'adherence to an extreme ideology is in law neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for entry into Prevent or Channel'. Key principles of Prevent - GOV.UK

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Islamist terrorism is the threat or use of violence as a means to establish a strict interpretation of an Islamic society. Many adherents believe that violence (or jihad as they conceive it) is not only a necessary strategic tool to achieve their aims, but an individual's religious duty. In the UK the Islamist terrorist threat comes overwhelmingly from those inspired by, but not necessarily affiliated with, Daesh and/or al-Qa'ida.

Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT) describes those involved in Extreme Right Wing activity who use violence in furtherance of their ideology. These ideologies can be broadly characterised as Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism. Individuals and groups may subscribe to ideological tenets and ideas from more than one category.

Left Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT) encompasses a wide range of ideologies. It includes those from the extreme political left-wing as well as anarchists who seek to use violence to advance their cause in seeking to overthrow the State in all its forms.

Fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks (where no other ideology). This category reflects where an individual does not appear to have an ideology, but seems to have an interest in committing extreme or mass violence, which makes them a concern for Prevent. This could include those interested in school massacres but also where violence is targeted at other settings or individuals and is not based on a specific ideological motivation.

Prevent training

Cumberland Council Employees can access the Prevent e-learning via https://cumbria.sharepoint.com/sites/iLearn Prevent Training is **Mandatory** for all employees and should be refreshed every **36 months**

Cumberland Community Safety Partnership deliver rolling Prevent Training and can offer bespoke training to partner organisations. Dates are shared regularly

Contacts for additional support:

National police Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764

Prevent Lead- Cumberland Council/ Cumberland Community Safety Partnership Mary-Claire.Telford@cumberland.gov.uk

Channel Panel Chair- Adults Kirsty.Mills@cumberland.gov.uk

Channel Panel Chair- Young People Michael.Routledge@cumberland.gov.uk

Additional resources/ information:

Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023 - GOV.UK

Prevent Programme Factsheet – August 2026 – Home Office in the media

Managing Risk in Education' guidance has been updated. You can find it here: The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners susceptible to radicalisation - GOV.UK