



PREVENT

Practice Guidance and Channel Process

July 2019

Version Control

Title	PREVENT – Channel Procedures and Practice Guidance
Version	DSP 1 (July 2019 V 5)
Date	July 2019
Author	Practice, Development and Procedures Sub Group
Edited by:	Amanda Hugill

Update and Approval Process			
Version	Group/Person	Date	Comments
DSP1	Business Unit	July 2019	Rebranded under new Safeguarding arrangements to reflect Statutory Guidance.

Issue Date	January 2017
Review Date	July 2021
Reviewing Officer	

CONTENTS

Number	Section Title	Page(s)
1	Introduction	4
2	Purpose	5
3	Channel	6
4	What to do if you have a concern	7
5	Resources, References and key contacts	8
Appendix A	Process Map	10

Preventing Radicalisation and Involvement in Extremism

1. Introduction

1.1 The [Prevent Strategy](#) was revised by the Government in 2015 and is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from all forms of terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This can involve the exploitation of the vulnerable, including children, young people and adults.

1.2 The Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities who must have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The revised [Prevent Duty Guidance 2015: for England and Wales](#) provides details about specified authorities and the wider statutory expectations placed on them.

1.3 **Principles** Specified authorities must:

- Assess *risk* of radicalisation in their area or institution
- Develop an *action* plan to reduce this risk
- Train staff to *recognise* radicalisation and extremism
- Work in *partnership* with other partners
- Establish *referral* mechanisms and refer people to Channel
- Maintain records and reports to show *compliance*

1.4 This guidance is designed to provide a clear framework for professionals with which to respond to safeguarding concerns for those children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism in all its forms. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in respect of safeguarding children and adults and Channel process.

1.5 **Key Definitions:**

- **Radicalisation:** the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism.
- **Extremism:** 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 include in the definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

Keeping children / young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. Refer to Darlington multi-agency safeguarding children procedures. Similarly, adult at risk with care and support needs should follow the multi-agency safeguarding adult procedures.

1.6 What is Prevent?

The threat we face from terrorism is real. The Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent is supported by three objectives:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it (ideology);
- Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support (individuals); and
- Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address (institutions).

2. Purpose

- 2.1 Exposure to or involvement with groups or individuals who condone violence as a means to a political end is a particular risk for some children and adults at risk¹. Strategic partnerships in Darlington such as the Community Safety Partnership, Darlington Safeguarding Partnership have an agreed process in place for safeguarding vulnerable individuals in Darlington.
- 2.2 All children and young people's partnerships should have an agreed process in place for safeguarding vulnerable individuals including children, transition and adult's services.
- 2.3 All organisations should have an awareness of the Prevent agenda and the various forms radicalisation takes in being able to recognise signs and indicators of concern and respond appropriately.
- 2.4 The purpose of this guidance is to enable Darlington Borough Council (DBC), Durham Constabulary (DC) and wider partners to ensure that children, young people and adults are protected from the harm of being drawn into terrorism and to provide guidance on local arrangements and signposting practitioners to the most relevant national guidance and strategies. DBC and DC lead the local response to the Prevent Strategy and are part of a multi-agency group, known as the Silver CONTEST group which is chaired by a Senior Police Officer of Durham Constabulary.
- 2.5 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities in the exercise of their functions to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance provides details about specified authorities and the wider statutory expectations placed on them.
- 2.6 The multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the

¹ As defined by the Care Act 2014

education and health sectors, social services, children and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism;
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

2.7 Darlington Borough Council has a duty under Section 36 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to ensure that a Panel is in place to assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and developing an appropriate support plan. It is referred to as the Channel Panel. The “Channel” process is established in Darlington, and it consists of a referral process for responding to identified risk and need, and in providing appropriate support. It is dependent on the co-operation and co-ordinated activity of partners to ensure that those vulnerable to radicalisation receive support before they are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism or engage in criminal terrorist related activity.

2.8 Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into involvement in terrorism. It is about early intervention to address vulnerabilities and divert from any harm.

3. Channel

3.1 What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency approach, led by the local authority and the police. It provides support to individuals identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It forms a key part of the Government’s *Prevent* strategy which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting any form of terrorism. Channel seeks to:

- a. Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity;
- b. Ensure that individuals and communities have the ability to resist all forms of terrorism and violent extremist activity likely to lead to terrorism

3.2 How does Channel work?

The Channel process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation, and refers them, via the police, for assessment by a multi-agency panel. The panel considers how best to safeguard them by ensuring they have access to support from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

3.3 What factors can put people at risk?

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable in this way. Factors may include: peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet,

bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.

3.4 **Who is involved in Channel?**

People working in front-line services across the public sector, Ministry of Justice, educational institutions or those who are already supporting vulnerable people, may often be the first to see signs of concern. Partners include:

- a. Local authorities
- b. Further & Higher Education
- c. Health
- d. Probation, Youth Offending Teams and Prisons
- e. Police, Fire and Ambulance Services

3.5 **What are Channel Assessment and Support Panels?**

These are statutory Panels, Chaired and managed by DBC. Members of the Panel must include the Local Authority and Durham Constabulary who coordinate the process. An individual referred to the Panel will be subject to an assessment and partners, with knowledge of the individual, will join the Panel and share information leading to the most appropriate delivery of support. A support plan is put in place to help prevent the individual being drawn into terrorism.

3.6 **Who makes referrals to the Panel?**

Referrals are coordinated by the police and come from a wide range of sources, including (but not exclusively) members of the public, children and adult's services, youth offending teams, health and education practitioners.

4. What to do if you have a concern

4.1 One of the key requirements of the Prevent Duty is that staff know how to identify people at risk of radicalisation or extremism and the safeguarding pathways they should use. If you are concerned that an individual may be at risk of radicalisation, you should treat this as you would any other safeguarding issue and the relevant safeguarding procedures should be followed.

4.2 If you have a concern that a child or adult may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, you should speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within your organisation. The DSL/SPOC will be the lead within the setting for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

- For concerns about **children** the DSL/SPOC should inform the Children's Access Point on 01325 406222 or email: childrensaccesspoint@darlington.gov.uk on the standardised paperwork.

- For concerns about an **adult at risk**² the Designated Lead/SPOC should inform Adult Social Care on 01325 406111 or e-mail ssact@darlington.gov.uk.
- For concerns about any other adult you should contact the Police on 0191 3752905 or e-mail HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

If you are concerned a child or adult may be at immediate risk, you should contact the Police on 999.

- 4.3 If a referral is then made to the Prevent team, and it is determined that there are concerns around radicalisation and violent extremism in relation to the referred individual, they can be supported through either Channel or Prevent Case Management processes.

5. Resources, References, Training and key contacts

Resources and References

- HM Government - [Prevent Strategy](#)
- Department of Education Guidance – Protecting Children from Radicalisation; [The Prevent duty](#)
- HM Government – [Channel Duty Guidance](#)
- Prevent Tragedies – www.preventtragedies.co.uk
- Families Matter – www.families-matter.org
- Let's talk about it, working together to prevent terrorism – [What is Prevent? - Lets Talk About It](#)
- Darlington Safeguarding Partnership [Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures](#)
- Darlington Safeguarding Partnership [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Procedures](#)

Training

[PREVENT e-learning](#) -Short e-learning course designed to help front-line staff understand how people can become vulnerable to radicalization, how to recognise when this is happening and know what to do and who to contact.

Key Contacts and Further Support

Durham Constabulary (PREVENT Team)

Telephone 0191 3752234

E-mail: HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

² **Adult at Risk.** This is usually an adult who has care and support needs, and who is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect because of their care and support needs. In a small number of cases, it may include an adult with support needs, such as an unpaid carer of someone with care and support needs.

Children's Access Point

Telephone: 01325 406222

e-mail: childrensaccesspoint@darlington.gov.uk

(Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm; Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Adult Social Care

Telephone: 01325 406111

e-mail: ssact@darlington.gov.uk

(Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm; Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours)

Telephone: 08702 402994

In any case, contact the Police immediately; call 999 in an emergency

Channel Panel Chair

Jo Benson, Darlington Borough Council

Telephone: 01325 406791

E-mail: joanne.benson@darlington.gov.uk

To report unlawful information, pictures or videos found on the internet

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Anti - terrorist hotline: Call 999 of the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 to report an immediate threat to life or property.

Due Diligence and Counter Extreme Group (DDCEG) Helpline for education staff and governors, Telephone 020 7340 7264.

Process Map

