



## Understanding Prevent and the Channel referral process

**Radicalisation** is defined in the Prevent Strategy as “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism”.

Preventing Violent Extremism

### What is Prevent?

The government's Prevent Strategy forms one element of the [Counter-terrorism Strategy \(CONTEST\)](#) and aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by preventing people from becoming influenced through extreme and radical ideology.

The aim of the [Prevent Strategy](#) is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by focusing on the following three objectives;

- respond to the **ideological challenge** of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- **prevent people from being drawn into terrorism** and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support and
- work with **sectors and institutions** where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

[The Counter Extremism Strategy 2015](#) defines **extremism** as; “the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of our armed forces as extremist.”

### What is Channel?

A key part of Prevent is “Channel”. Police work with public bodies, including local councils, social workers, NHS staff, schools and the justice system to identify those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess what the risk might be and then develop tailored support for those referred to them. This could range from mentoring to things like anger management or drug and alcohol programmes. The process is about supporting individuals identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism at an early stage.

The Sefton Channel Panel is fundamental to this and is a voluntary safeguarding programme aimed at supporting those individuals identified as being vulnerable. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, police, statutory partners and the local community. The individual will be discussed at a multi-agency meeting to review the referral, gain consent for engagement and plan any appropriate bespoke support packages to reduce or mitigate vulnerabilities to radicalisation.

## Your responsibility:

**If you suspect an individual is being radicalised, you must report it.**

Anyone can make a Prevent referral if they have concerns.

### Local Authority

If officers from the local authority receive concerns directly from an individual they are working with, or from a telephone call from the public, or from information received from a partner agency, they should follow the **Notice Check Share** process.

#### 1. What have you **noticed**?

Who was involved?

Can the concern be dealt with in house or does it need wider checking?

Does the incident relate to recent local, national or international events?

Does the incident relate to local or national news stories?

Has the individual been involved in similar incidents?

Why do you feel the individual is vulnerable to radicalisation?

Was it a one-off comment or statement and out of context for the individual?

Are there any other apparent vulnerabilities or concerns that make the individual at risk of radicalisation?

#### 2. Have you **checked** your concern with your Safeguarding Lead?

From your checks has any other information come to light?

Has the individual of concern been spoken to for clarity? If not, what are the reasons for this (inappropriate, safeguarding risk?)

Do they offer a reasonable explanation and/or account?

If under 18, have their parents been spoken to for clarity? Have they noticed a change in behaviour?

Are any other agencies currently or historically working with the individual or family? Have they been consulted? Is the concern Prevent related? Or is it more suitable under general safeguarding?

Have there been any historical concerns? I.e., concerns at previous school?

Could the concern be addressed in house? Is there a genuine radicalisation risk?

Do you and or the individual need additional support?

**3.** Having **noticed** the initial concern and carrying out the appropriate **checks** do you feel **sharing** the information as a referral is necessary?

We encourage all referrers to discuss their concerns with the individual and parents if applicable and make them aware of the referral to Prevent (with reasons) unless sharing this information places the individual or another person at serious risk of harm.

Who have you consulted?

What intervention, if any, have you put in place? Have you made any other referrals or discussed the case with other agencies?

Once you have completed the Notice Check Share process you will then complete and send the referral form to the Prevent email address [prevent@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)

Immediate Safeguarding issues should be highlighted to and dealt with by the appropriate professional, following the usual Sefton Council Local Authority process.

## **Partner agencies**

Health, Education, further education etc. Use the **Notice Check Share** process outlined above, checking with their own safeguarding team, or by contacting the CHAT team for concerns about young people or Adult Social care. Following your check send a completed national referral form to [prevent@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)

All referrals are assessed by Northwest Counter Terrorism Police officers. They decide if the referral is adopted as a multi-agency led case or signposted out to other services or agencies if it does not meet threshold criteria.