**Prevent referrals – advice to support settings in making a referral**

***CONCERNS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE ESSEX POLICE PREVENT TEAM, PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A REFERRAL***

Telephone: 01245 452 196

Email: [prevent@essex.police.uk](mailto:prevent@essex.police.uk)

**1. What is Prevent?**

**Prevent** is a counter terrorism safeguarding process designed to support those **susceptible** to **radicalisation**.

**Susceptibility** **–** the fact that a person may be likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by terrorist and extremist ideologies that support or radicalise people into terrorism. A person’s susceptibility may be linked to their **vulnerability** (see vulnerability below), but not all people susceptible to radicalisation will be vulnerable. There may be other circumstances, needs or other underlying factors that may make a person susceptible to radicalisation but do not constitute a vulnerability.

**Radicalisation** **–** the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. This could be through the influence of another or self-initiated through exposure to extremist content.

**Vulnerability** **–** describes the condition of needing special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, risk of abuse or neglect.

**Terrorism** **–** defined in the Terrorism Act 2000. It can be summarised as: the use of threat of serious violence against a person or serious damage to property where that action is designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation, or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, and for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial, or ideological cause.

**2.** **Notice / Check / Share**

The Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 promotes use of the Notice / Check / Share principles when assessing the need to submit a Prevent referral:

**Notice –** those who work in frontline support roles will often be the first to notice if someone displays concerning behaviour, such as the signs of radicalisation. There could be many different reasons for behaviours, not just radicalisation. It is important to understand the context, and why these changes are happening, before making conclusions.

**Check –** check the information at hand. Ask questions. Use professional curiosity. It is important to add context to the information as things are not always as they might first seem.Staff should discuss concerns with their Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). It is important to gather as much relevant information as possible to help decide what action to take.

**Share –** once you have gathered the relevant information, it is essential to share a concern and make a referral to the police using the Prevent national referral form. In some cases, you may do this directly or DSL or equivalent may do this.

**Please contact Essex Police to discuss the concerns before submitting a referral:**

**Telephone: 01245 452 196 / Email:** [**prevent@essex.police.uk**](mailto:prevent@essex.police.uk)

**3. What happens to a referral?**

Following referral into the Prevent Policing Team, Counter Terrorism Case Officers (CTCOs) will complete a gateway assessment by reviewing the information supplied by the setting, alongside that already held on police systems. At this initial stage, CTCOs are restricted from making direct contact with the child / young person and/or their family and are therefore reliant on settings obtaining and providing all the information they hold to inform an initial assessment. CTCOs may decide to gather further information from agencies to inform their decision-making.

Consideration will be given to whether a referral should progress to Channel Panel. To progress to Channel Panel, CTCOs must be able to evidence a *'reasonable belief that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn into any terrorism related activity*'. It is therefore important for settings to include relevant information under each heading on the referral form to enable CTCOs to undertake a full and accurate assessment.

**4. Channel Panel**

TheChannel Panelis a multi-agency meeting which takes places in Essex monthly. Channel members discuss referrals, establish whether there is an ideology, assess the risk, and decide collectively whether the person should be accepted into Channel. If the person is accepted into Channel, members will identify what support is needed to address the concerns and create a support plan.

Channel is a voluntary process, and people must give their consent before they receive support. In cases where the person is under 18 years of age, consent is provided by a parent, guardian or the agency that has responsibility for their care. Where risks cannot be managed in Channel, they will be kept under review by the police, and / or there may be a referral into another more appropriate agency.

**5. Useful information**

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)

Overarching guidance – applies to education, health, local authorities, police, and criminal justice agencies

[Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting (2023) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation/managing-risk-of-radicalisation-in-your-education-setting#how-to-speak)

Guidance to help education settings consider the indicators of risk and to decide what response is appropriate and proportionate

[Making a referral to Prevent (2023) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-referral-to-prevent)

Guidance for education settings on how to report any concerns about a learner whom it is thought may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism

[Prevent guidance and support: Respond to concerns | Essex Early Years and Childcare website](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/safeguarding/)

See this page for the Prevent referral form

**Appendix A – points for consideration / details to include (**[**Making a referral to Prevent - GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-referral-to-prevent)**)**

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| ***A referral should include the following information and be submitted only where there is concern that a child / young person is at risk of becoming involved in terrorism or supporting it.***  *(Consideration should also be given to whether an alternative referral route / form of support may be more appropriate to support the child / young person)* | **Included in the referral**  **Yes / No** |
| 1. Why the referral is relevant to Prevent - for example, is there a presence or possible presence, of any terrorist or terrorism-linked ideology |  |
| 1. How or why your organisation came to be concerned – what happened |  |
| 1. Any sympathetic interest in hate crimes, extremism, or terrorism - including any extremist ideology, group or cause, support for ‘school shooters’ or public massacres, or murders of public figures |  |
| 1. Any contact with groups or individuals that cause concern, including who and how often, and the reason for the concern |  |
| 1. Any concerning use of mobile phone, internet, or social media and how this was discovered |  |
| 1. Any concern about the child / young person wanting to cause physical harm and / or threatening violence, include detail of to whom, when and what was said or expressed |  |
| 1. Any additional needs, disability, or special educational needs, clarifying whether there is a formal diagnosis |  |
| 1. Any other safeguarding concerns about the family, peer group or environment – include detail of any other agency involved with the individual or wider family   *Where relevant, please provide contact details for other professionals involved* |  |
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| 1. Any discussions already held with the child / young person, parent / carer   ***The DSL should tell the child / young person that they are going to speak with their parents or carers (if under 18) and make a referral. The reason for a referral is to:***   * ***make a multi-agency safeguarding assessment*** * ***support vulnerable people to move away from harmful activity***   ***The DSL should tell the parents or carers that making a referral does not mean they are accusing the child or young person of a crime.***  ***Settings should not discuss concerns with the child / young person, parent / carer where it is felt that that to do so could place them at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. Before sharing any information elsewhere, settings should try to obtain consent from the parents or carers (if under 18), unless to do this would place the child or young person at more risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent where there is a sound reason to do so and if it will help to safeguard a child or young / person.*** |  |