

What is Channel?

Channel is a confidential, voluntary, multi-agency programme to safeguard people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

It provides early intervention to protect vulnerable children and adults who might be susceptible to being radicalised which, if left unsupported, could lead to involvement in terrorist-related activity. Channel is run in every local authority in England and Wales.

Anyone can make a referral via usual safeguarding pathways or by contacting the local police. It is not a criminal sanction and a referral will not affect a person's criminal record.

The Channel panel is made up of representatives from different safeguarding areas including health, social care and the police.

All referrals are carefully assessed. The panel will offer the individual support, tailored to their needs.

Support could include social care services, early help and family support, assistance with education or employment, health or mental health support and mentoring to provide vulnerable individuals with the skills to protect themselves from being radicalised or drawn into terrorism.

Examples of real stories of individuals who have received Channel support are published at

www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-channel-programme

Useful websites

www.ltai.info

Provides practical guidance to prevent terrorism and to encourage all sectors of the community to enter into open dialogue

www.educateagainsthate.com

Practical advice for parents, teachers and school leaders

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism

www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

HM Government Prevent Duty guidance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance

HM Government Channel guidance.

For more information contact Rotherham Council Community Safety team at:

community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk

or telephone 01709 334562

www.rotherham.gov.uk

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GUIDE TO PREVENT

For service providers

Safeguarding and supporting vulnerable people, to stop them from being drawn into terrorism.



What is PREVENT?

PREVENT is about safeguarding and supporting children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism. It deals with all kinds of terrorism or groups that encourage violence to influence governments, intimidate the public and advance their cause.

The process by which people are groomed or influenced into supporting extremist views is called radicalisation.

The internet is a powerful tool that radicalisers use to influence or recruit vulnerable individuals. They make extensive use of different online platforms, spreading hate, extremist ideology and propaganda. Just like other forms of grooming, radicalisers may pretend to be a person's friend to build their trust before they exploit them.

Sometimes, an individual's motivation for being drawn towards an interest in terrorist ideologies, actions or massacre is unclear, or may switch over time. Our responsibility is to offer interventions and support to all individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism, irrespective of whether the risk is driven by a true belief in an ideology or whether it is driven by other vulnerabilities and complex needs.

What does this mean for you?

People who deliver services are well placed to recognise children and adults who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. By identifying those at risk and seeking support at an early stage, you can help make sure they don't go on to harm themselves or others.

Workers are never asked to take on surveillance or enforcement roles as a result of Prevent referrals. It is about working with colleagues and partners to make sure vulnerable people are safeguarded.

Spot the signs

Signs of vulnerability may include when a person:

- *Is experiencing life changes or crisis*
- *Has feelings of grievance and injustice*
- *Becomes fixated on extremist ideas and is not listening to other points of view*
- *Says inappropriate things, including calls for violence or is abusive towards people who are different*
- *Has friends involved in extremism, including on-line friends*
- *Distances themselves from long-standing friends or family*
- *Has symbols associated with extreme groups on tattoos or badges, or on flags or books at home*

All of us may share some of these feelings or influences at times. The likelihood of someone becoming drawn into terrorism is small, but we need to accept this is a possibility.

What the law says

The Prevent duty was introduced by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. It requires local authorities, schools, colleges, universities, health bodies, prisons, probation and the police to safeguard people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Duty sits alongside long-established duties to safeguard vulnerable people from a range of other harms such as drugs, gangs, abuse and sexual exploitation.

What should you do?

Notice that a person is vulnerable to being radicalised or exploited by extremists.

Check out your concerns with your line manager or other colleagues who may be working with the person or their family.

Share your concerns with the safeguarding or Prevent lead for your organisation. They will advise you about the next steps. This may include referral into safeguarding interventions such as the Channel programme.

Key contacts if you are worried about a child or adult

If the child or adult is in **immediate danger**, call **999**

To report a concern in confidence to the Police Prevent team, or if you are not sure whether to report a concern and you need **advice**, phone **0114 2523217** (8am – 4pm). **Out of hours: call 101** and ask for the prevent team, or in **emergency** call **999**.
Email: **Prevent@southyorks.pnn.police.uk**

Alternatively, if a child is not in immediate danger, you can contact **Rotherham Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** on **01709 336080**.

If an adult is not in immediate danger, contact Rotherham adult social care service by calling **Single Point of Access on 01709 822330** - tell them this is a Prevent concern for the attention of adult safeguarding.

If you believe a crime may have been committed, call the **Police** on **101**.

If you see or hear anything that could be terrorist related you can report it to the confidential **Anti -Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**.