



Prevent Policy For Children, Young People and Adults

2025 - 2026

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Introduction

Within County Durham, **the Safe Durham Partnership prioritises work to prevent people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism**. It has a strong link to safeguarding because vulnerable adults and children can be susceptible to radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist organisations.

PREVENT caters for vulnerabilities connected to any form of extremism including messages espoused by recognised groups such as DAESH (ISIL), Al-Qaeda, Far Right Groups who target ethnic communities as well as Far Left and Animal Rights activists. This policy 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 addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in respect of safeguarding children and adults as well as the Channel process.

Signed 

Date **01.12.25**

Review Date **01.11.26**

Scope

Employees need to know the appropriate actions to take in order to protect individuals whether staff, parents or service users from being radicalised by extremist groups/individuals. This policy has been developed to describe the responsibilities of this organisation for the recognition and prevention of possible radicalisation of individuals and clarify the actions to take when this is suspected or identified.

Every member of staff has an individual responsibility for the protection and safeguarding of adults and children. All levels of management must understand and implement the PREVENT Policy. This policy applies to all employees of Integrating, including volunteers and tutors. For ease of reference, all employees and workers who fall under these groups will be uniformly referred to as “staff” in this document.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for implementation of the Government PREVENT Strategy, and the required action by staff in the event of any concerns about the potential risk to staff, members and their families being drawn into extremist activities. This policy will ensure that all staff are aware of how to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals, whether staff or members, who they feel may be at risk of being radicalised by extremists. Integrating will ensure that appropriate systems are in place within the organisation for staff to raise concerns if they think this form of exploitation is taking place and will promote and operate safe environments where extremists are unable to operate.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trustees

Trustees have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that this policy and associated procedures are in place and complied with to protect members and their families. Trustees have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that an effective system for managing any risks associated with safeguarding exists within Integrating and that all staff are aware of and operate within the policy.

Managers will:

- Develop and promote training needs and priorities
- Provide/ensure provision of effective safeguarding appraisal, support, peer review and supervision for staff
- Ensure all staff are aware of this policy and the process to be followed in the event of suspected abuse of a child or young person
- Ensure all staff have access to the appropriate level of training
- Provide routine management supervision assuring competencies in safeguarding practice

- Manage any immediate safeguarding and protection issues with advice and support from the Trustees
- Co-ordinate referral and safe transfer of responsibilities with The Chair of Trustees
- Co-ordinate any alternative action plans
- Ensure staff in their areas meet mandatory training requirements in safeguarding and provide support to those making safeguarding referral

Staff

All members of staff have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults, by:

- Adherence to this policy and associated procedures
- Recognising and responding to allegations of abuse by ensuring that they refer their concerns or assist in the referral
- Contributing to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child, young person or adult against specific plans and outcomes
- Being alert to the possibility of child/adult abuse and neglect through their observation of abuse, or by professional judgement made because of information gathered about the child/adult
- Knowing how to deal with a disclosure or allegation of child/adult abuse
- Undertaking training as appropriate for their role and keeping themselves updated
- Being aware of and following the local policies and procedures they need to follow if they have a child/adult concern
- Ensuring appropriate advice and support is accessed either from managers, Trustees or the LA
- Participating in multi-agency working to safeguard the child or adult (if appropriate to role)
- Ensuring contemporaneous records are kept at all times and record keeping is in strict adherence to Integrating policy and procedures and professional guidelines
- Ensuring that all staff and their managers discuss and record any safeguarding issues that arise at supervision

Definition

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. 'Extremism

is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas' (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011)

Legal Framework

Responsibilities for safeguarding are enshrined in legislation. This policy has been informed by all relevant guidance (statutory and non-statutory) including:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Contest (UK Counter Terrorism Strategy)
- National Prevent Strategy
- Prevent Duty for Specified Authorities
- Channel Duty Guidance 2015

This policy operates in conjunction with Integrating's Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed and updated annually.

Contest

CONTEST is the Government's counter terrorist strategy, its aim to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism. The PREVENT duty guidance outlines the duties on authorities to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

PREVENT is a key part of the overall counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Prevent happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The Prevent Strategy objectives focus on the following core areas:

- Ideology – responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Individuals - preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Institutions - working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

Channel Duty Guidance outlines the responsibility on agencies to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of radicalisation. The duty guidance also outlines the channel programme which uses a multi-agency approach to protect people by:

- identifying individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
 - assessing the nature and extent of that risk
 - developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned
- Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist- related activity.

It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

County Durham Channel Guidance

Channel is a multi-agency approach, led by local authorities and the police. It provides support to individuals identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. Channel seeks to:

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

The Safe Durham Partnership follows the recommendations within the National Channel Duty Guidance to enable partners to ensure that children, young people and adults are protected from the harm of being drawn into terrorism.

Channel Panel Terms of Reference (PDF)

The Channel Panel Privacy Notice can be found on the council's privacy notices webpage under 'other council services'.

Protection against the possibility of attacks and mitigation of impacts

It is essential everybody works together to identify the threat and vulnerability from terrorism and extremism relating to terrorism in County Durham, making sure people know how to report suspicious incidents and how we help protect crowded places from, and respond to, a terrorist attack.

Understanding and recognising risks and vulnerabilities of radicalisation

Children, young people and adults can be drawn into violence, or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. These can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with

extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet. This can put a child, young people or adult at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm. Children, young people and adults are vulnerable to exposure to, or involvement with, groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end. Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include animal rights, the far right, internal terrorist and international terrorist organisations.

Most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in extremism. Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as extremism. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop an understanding of the issue. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in extremist activity.

Safeguarding children, young people and adults from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm.

Indicators for vulnerability to radicalisation are the same as those you are already familiar with:

- family tensions
- sense of isolation
- migration
- distance from cultural heritage
- experience of racism or discrimination
- feeling of failure etc.
- being excluded from social and peer networks

Those in the process of being radicalised may:

- become involved with a new group of friends
- be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- possess extremist literature or advocate violence actions
- change their behaviour and language
- seek to recruit others to an extremist ideology

It is important to note that children, young people and adults experiencing these situations or displaying these behaviours are not necessarily showing signs of being radicalised. There could be many other reasons for the behaviour including those you are already familiar with alcohol or drug abuse, family break down, domestic abuse, bullying etc or even something more minor.

Caution should be exercised in assessing these factors to avoid inappropriately labelling or stigmatising individuals because they possess a characteristic or fit a

specific profile. It is vital that all professionals who have contact with vulnerable individuals are able to recognise those vulnerabilities and help to increase safe choices.

The risk of radicalisation is the product of several factors and identifying this risk requires that practitioners exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified.

Some children, young people and adults may be at risk due to living with or being in direct contact with known extremists. Such children, young people and adults may be identified by the police or through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) process.

Vulnerability and risk indicators

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none of indicators may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable children, young people and adults experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism. The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism.

Over-simplified assessments based upon demographics and poverty indicators have consistently demonstrated to increase victimisation, fail to identify vulnerabilities and, in some cases, increase the ability of extremists to exploit, operate and recruit.

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The following indicators have been provided to support professionals to understand and identify factors that may suggest a child, young person, adult or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism.

Vulnerability

- Identity Crisis Distance from cultural/ religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them
- Personal Crisis Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- Personal Circumstances Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy
- Unmet Aspirations Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life

- **Criminality** Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/ reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups
- **Access to extremism / extremist influences**
 - Is there reason to believe that the child/young person/adult associates with those known to be involved in extremism - either because they associate directly with known individuals or because they frequent key locations where these individuals are known to operate? (e.g., the child/young person/adult is the partner, spouse, friend or family member of someone believed to be linked with extremist activity)
 - Is there evidence to suggest that the child/young person/adult are accessing the internet for the purpose of extremist activity? (e.g., use of closed network groups, access to or distribution of extremist material, contact associates covertly via Skype/email etc.)
 - Is there reason to believe that the child/young person/adult has been or is likely to be involved with extremist/ military training camps/ locations?
 - Is the child/young person/adult known to have possessed or is actively seeking to possess and/ or distribute extremist literature/ other media material likely to incite racial/ religious hatred or acts of violence?
 - Does the child/young person/adult sympathise with, or support illegal/illicit groups e.g., propaganda distribution, fundraising and attendance at meetings?
 - Does the child/young person/adult have connections with support groups with links to extremist activity but not illegal/illicit e.g., propaganda distribution, fundraising and attendance at meetings?

Experiences, Behaviours and Influences

- Has the child/young person/adult encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection?
- Is there evidence of extremist ideological, political or religious influence on the child/young person/adult from within or outside UK?
- Have international events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the child/young person/adult resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour? It is important to recognise that many people may be emotionally affected by the plight of what is happening in areas of conflict (i.e., images of children dying) it is important to differentiate them from those that sympathise with or support extremist activity.
- Has there been a significant shift in the child/ young person/adult's behaviour or outward appearance that suggests a new social/political or religious influence?
- Has the child/young person/adult come into conflict with family over religious beliefs/lifestyle/ dress choices?
- Does the child/young person/adult vocally support terrorist attacks, either verbally or in their written work?

- Has the child/ young person/adult witnessed or been the perpetrator/ victim of racial or religious hate crime or sectarianism?

Travel

- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK, with other evidence to suggest this is for purposes of extremist training or activity?
- Has the child/young person/adult travelled for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism?
- Has the child/young person/adult employed any methods to disguise their true identity? Has the child/ young person/adult used documents or cover to support this?

Social Factors

- Does the child/young person/adult have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the child/young person/adult experience a lack of meaningful employment appropriate to their skills?
- Does the child/young person/adult display a lack of affinity or understanding for others, or social isolation from peer groups?
- Does the child/young person/adult demonstrate identity conflict and confusion normally associated with youth development?
- Does the child/young person/adult have any learning difficulties/ mental health support needs?
- Does the child/young person/adult demonstrate a simplistic or flawed understanding of religion or politics?
- Does the child/young person/adult have a history of crime, including episodes in prison?
- Is the child/young person/adult a foreign national, refugee or awaiting a decision on their immigration/ national status?
- Does the child/young person/adult have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the child/young person/adult experienced any trauma in their lives, particularly any trauma associated with war or sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence that a significant adult or other in the child/young person's life has extremist view or sympathies?

Other Critical Risk Factors

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing extremist literature
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues

- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour

What you should do if you are concerned about someone

Access the Safe Durham Partnership website, which follows the recommendations within the [Gov.uk: National Channel Duty Guidance](#) to enable partners to ensure that children, young people and adults are protected from the harm of being drawn into terrorism.

If you have a concern about anyone that may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or extremism, you can refer them for support and intervention by accessing this link: [Durham Police: Prevent referral form](#)

Training

There is a 30-minute [Prevent eLearning package](#) that has been developed for organisations and individuals by the Home Office. The course provides information about the process of radicalisation, how someone might be vulnerable to radicalisation and how staff might discuss or report any concerns.

Equality and Diversity

Integrating is committed to promoting positive measures that eliminate all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, marriage and civil partnership, disability, race, gender, religion/belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity or any other basis not justified by law or relevant to the requirements of the post. Integrating will therefore take every possible step to ensure that this procedure is applied fairly to all employees.

This organisation values differences between members of the communities we serve and within its existing workforce, and actively seeks to benefit from their differing skills, knowledge, and experiences to ensure equality of opportunity and diversity and remove any barriers that could potentially discriminate. Employees exercising their rights and entitlements under these regulations will suffer no detriment as a result. Integrating is committed to promoting equality and diversity best practice both within the workforce and in any other area where it has influence.

Useful links

- Counter Terrorism Policing ([Counter Terrorism Policing | Home](#))
- Counter Terrorism – MI5 – The Security Service ([Counter-Terrorism | MI5 - The Security Service](#))
- Act Early – Prevent radicalisation ([ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#))
- Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised ([Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#))

- County Durham Partnership [Prevent Strategy: Countering Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism](#)