

The Channel process, including the Channel panel is part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process is a multi-agency safeguarding approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.

Channel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs.

The three key stages of Channel are:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel addresses all forms of violent extremism. Referrals can come from a wide range of individuals and partners and could include youth offending teams, social services, health, police, education and local communities. If appropriate, a multi-agency panel is convened to provide appropriate support and intervention.

Why is it important?

The threat from terrorism is very real. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. To reduce the risk from terrorism we need not only to stop terrorist attacks but also to prevent young people and adults from being drawn or groomed into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, including extreme right wing, Islamist inspired extremism and animal rights among others.

Channel is available in every local authority in England and Wales. The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and provides a range of support, including mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment, training etc.

Channel is a confidential and voluntary programme. It is up to an individual, or their parents where appropriate, to decide whether to take advantage of the support it offers. It is not any form of criminal or civil sanction.

Whilst consent is required for intervention to be provided through the Channel process, lack of consent should not prohibit the sharing of concerns regarding radicalisation due to the risk of involvement in criminal behaviour or serious harm.

How do we do it?

Concerns about radicalisation and extremism are treated in the same way as other safeguarding issues, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The first step is to submit the Prevent National Referral Form (NRF) to preventreferralsportsmouth@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. The form will be forwarded to the local authority safeguarding team and the Prevent policing team for a joint assessment. A link to the NRF can be found here: <https://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/radicalisation/>

The MASH may determine that a referral for intervention under early help, S.17 or S.47 of the 1989 Children Act OR S.42 of the Care Act 2014 is necessary whilst the police are gathering further information.

The channel process representative in the MASH will be contacted by the police with all known information to jointly determine whether a channel panel should be convened to consider the case.



One Minute Guide Channel Panel



This process can be facilitated in addition to on-going support by early help services, children's social care or adult's social care.

If a channel panel is considered necessary, there may be an initial multiagency discussion in advance of consent being obtained. A joint visit will then be made by the lead professional (e.g. a social worker) and the prevent officer. At this point consent to facilitate the channel panel and to share information through this process will be obtained.

Where the case meets the Channel threshold and the parents or the adult give consent for discussion, the case will be discussed at panel and intervention/ services agreed.

Where the case meets threshold for channel but consent is refused, consideration will be given to the need for a child protection enquiry OR support may be offered through mainstream services.

Community Partnership Information:

Whilst not all information will be suitable for assessment through the Channel Process, if you notice non-urgent suspicious activity then it can be reported to Hampshire police using a Community Partnership Information (CPI) form.

This can include information on organised crime, drugs, modern slavery, community tensions, political unrest, missing, exploited and trafficked individuals. A link to the form and guidance to complete it can be found here: <https://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/community-partnership-information-forms/>

For more information:

Channel Chair - Rachael Roberts - Adult Social Care

Channel Vice-Chair - David Richards - Children and Families Services

Prevent Officer - Steve Hawkins - Hampshire Constabulary - 101

Hidden Harm Coordinator - Charlie Pericleous - Children and Families Service

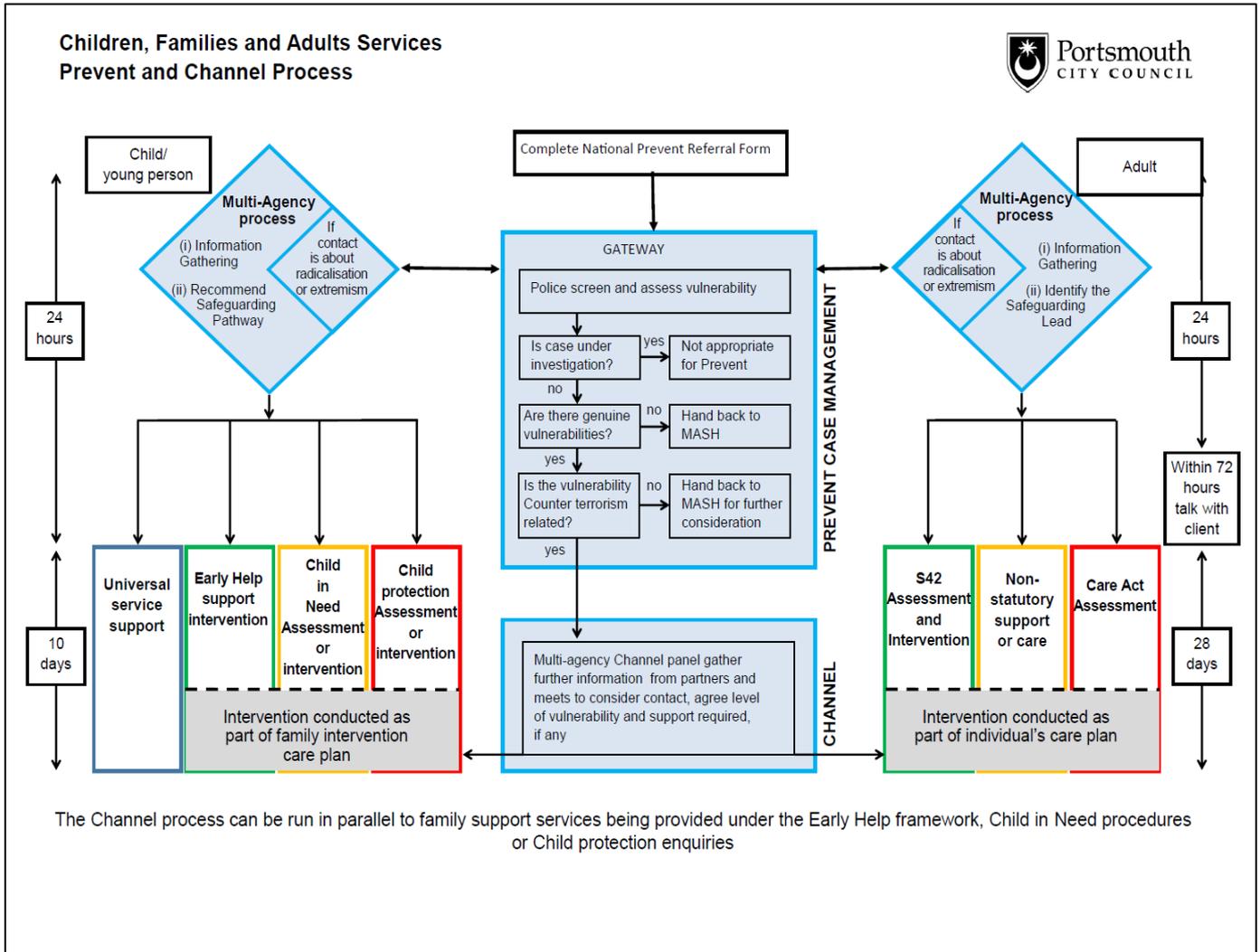
Hidden Harm Education Officer - John Webster - Children and Families Service

Portsmouth MASH

Children 0845 671 0271 pccraduty@portsmouthcc.gcsx.gov.uk

Adults 023 9268 8613 PortsmouthAdultMASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Children and Families Services Prevent and Channel Process



The Channel process can be run in parallel to family support services being provided under the Early Help Framework, Child in Need procedures or Child Protection enquiries

For Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) - if there is a concern about extremism or terrorism, the lead professional **MUST** make contact with the MASH, who will pass the concern through the Channel process. The Channel Chair will let the young person's worker know the outcome of the intelligence gathering and whether a channel panel is necessary.

This process should be followed irrespective of where the child is placed.