

## One Minute Guides - Prevent - *supporting people at risk of radicalisation*

August 2023

### What is Prevent?

The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat of the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Delivery of Prevent is grounded in early intervention and safeguarding. Prevent tackles all forms of terrorism and extremism.

### What is Channel?

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 is available in every local authority in England and Wales. The Channel panel is a statutory function of the local authority (Section 36 of the CTSA) and is included within the local authority's constitution.

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.

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and meets monthly to oversee all Channel cases in their area where there are live cases for discussion, referrals for decision or case reviews to be undertaken. Support may be undertaken through the Channel process or an individual may be signposted to another agency for support.

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.

### **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 to:

- stop terrorist attacks AND
- prevent young people and adults from being drawn or groomed into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, including extreme right wing/left wing, Islamist inspired extremism and single issue extremism among others.

## 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 and should always be shared with the MASH, this includes those cases open to Adult Social Care, Children and Families Services and the Youth Offending Team.

For advice on referrals, you can contact the nominated representatives in either the Adults or Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and provide as much information as you can. Consent to share information is not necessary at this point.

To make a Prevent referral, please complete the Prevent National Referral Form. This can be downloaded from <https://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/extremism/>. Once the form has been received, the information will be sent jointly to the MASH and police for further assessment and information gathering.

Both the Children's and Adult MASH alongside partner agencies may determine support could be offered whilst Police colleagues undertake assessment. This could be under Early Help, Child in Need or for Adults this could be a Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry or a Care Act assessment.

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

After consideration at the Channel Panel, if support is deemed necessary, a joint visit will be made by the lead professional (e.g. a social worker) and the Prevent officer. At this point consent to facilitate the channel support 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 adopted and discussed at panel. Intervention and support will be agreed where necessary. The panel provides a range of support, including mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment and training.

Where a case meets threshold for a Channel offer, but consent is refused, consideration will be given to other types of interventions which may be offered, or initiated, based upon the perceived safeguarding concerns

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. For more information [Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance)

### For more information:

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