

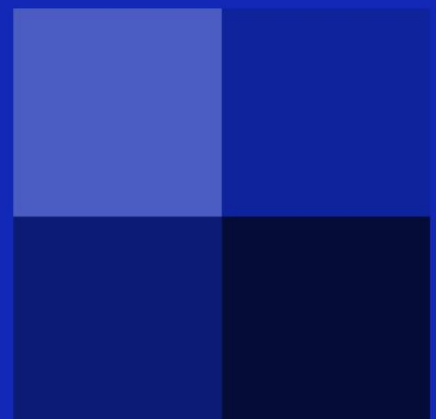


Operation PREVENT

A guide to implementing policy into practice

E-Sussex, E-Safe

**Safeguarding all children in East Sussex all
the time**



What is Operation Prevent.

The current threat from Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and substantial and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, to involve them in extremism activity.

PREVENT is a key part of the Government's County Terrorist Strategy. Its aim is to stop people being radicalised. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into extremist or radicalised activities.

But this is Sussex! It doesn't happen here, surely?

At the time of writing, there are 17 ongoing investigations in East Sussex, while in neighbouring Brighton and Hove, there are some 38 active cases involving youngsters of secondary school age.

Prevent is exactly what it says on the tin – it's about identifying young people who may be at risk, putting meaningful and effective measures in place before they become radicalised, and sending a clear message to those who would radicalise children and young adults that there is a pan-East Sussex, multi-agency awareness of this strategy.

The **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)** document identifies exposure to, or involvement with groups or individuals who condone violence as a means to a political end as a particular risk for some children.

The recent report from the Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism (December 2013) stated:-

All schools in England, whether in the state or independent sectors, including those with a faith ethos, must expect that they will be inspected and assessed on their measures to protect their pupils from extremist material.

It is not only children in schools who must be protected, neither is it solely in schools where children are targeted.

Channel is a key part of PREVENT.

Channel is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, and children's and youth services and offender management services) the police and the local community in the form of a multi-agency panel to:-

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into extremism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and

- Develop 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.

Experiences, Behaviours and Influences.

Identifying those at risk is the starting point. Practitioners are not expected to be investigators in any way, however their observance of the young person, their knowledge of their background and their professional judgment are key in ensuring the maximum level of protection is in place.

Some questions might include:-

Behavioural

- Has the young person encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection.
- Is there evidence of extremist ideological, political or religious influence on the young person?
- Have international events in areas of conflict or civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour?

Travel

- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK, with other evidence to suggest that this is for purposes other than lifestyle (eg travellers) or with mention of “training” etc.
- Has the young person travelled for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism?
- Has the young person employed any methods to disguise their true identity? (Has the young person used documents to cover or support this?)

Social Factors

- Does the young person have experience of poverty, disadvantage discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the young person experience a lack of meaningful employment relevant to their skills?
- Does the young person display a lack of affinity or understanding for others, or social isolation from peer groups.
- Does the young person demonstrate identity conflict and confusion normally associated with youth development?
- Does the young person have any learning difficulties/mental health support needs?
- Does the young person demonstrate a simplistic or flawed understanding of religion or politics?

- Does the young person have a history of crime, including episodes in prison?
- Is the young person a foreign national, refugee or awaiting a decision on their immigration/national status?
- Does the young person have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the young person 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 young person's life has extremist view or sympathies?

Clearly any one of these or even a number of them do not in themselves indicate radicalisation, however they may indicate a vulnerability or susceptibility to radicalisation.

So what next?

If you work for a school or a team with responsibility for the care of young people, you should already have an e-safeguarding policy.

Some staff training to raise awareness of this initiative is the first step. This can be obtained by contacting e.safety@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Following the awareness raising training, a discussion will be facilitated to write an addendum to your e-safeguarding policy. This should include a clear path for staff to follow if they have concerns.

The awareness training will highlight the things to look for as possible indicators that a young person may be at risk.

It is not expected that the school/team undertake any kind of further investigation – in fact it is essential that you do not do so as you may compromise ongoing existing inquiries. It is enough that you identify a concern. It should then be passed onto the Police through the “Channel referral process” for further consideration.

In East Sussex, the first point of contact is PC Dave Law (david.law@sussex.police.uk 07787685774)

If you have a concern and need to make a referral, contact Dave Law first. He will advise you on the suitability of your referral.

Then what happens?

- Depending on the outcome of the advice PC Law gives you, you may then need to complete a form and return it. This will be sent to the Channel co-ordinator at channel@eastsussex.pnn.police.uk

- The police Channel practitioner will complete the initial vulnerability assessment which is part of the Case Management Information System. It is then reviewed further by a panel.
- **Multi-agency panel- Channel Panel.** The panel, using their professional expertise, will develop a support package. This will be based on a review of the vulnerability assessment stage, the needs of the individual and any risks posed to potential support providers. It is essential that everyone at the meeting is sure that all actions can be effectively managed.
- If the individual is under the age of 18 the panel will be constituted at the end of the Multi-Agency Risk Panel (MARP)

OK – so spell it out – what do I do?

Educational Institution Prevent Assessment				
Objective: Adoption of Prevent into Mainstream Processes				
No		Owner	Evidence	RAG status
1	Does the Institution have a nominated Prevent Lead?			
2	Is Prevent included within the Institution's Safeguarding Policy?			
3	Is Prevent included the within the Institution's Safer Recruitment Policy?			
4	Is Prevent an agenda item of relevant meetings / planning processes?			
5	Is there a clear referral route for vulnerable individuals to receive support?			
6	Is Prevent included within Information sharing protocols / MOU?			
7	Does the institution regularly assess Prevent Training needs to raise their awareness of Prevent issues with staff?			
8	Does the institution regularly assess Prevent Training needs to raise their awareness of Prevent issues with the Governing body?			
9	Is Prevent included when children are taught about safeguarding as part of a broad & balanced curriculum (e.g. through PSHE)?			

Operation Prevent and the Channel process

10	Are staff members aware of Prevent issues and the referrals process into the Channel?			
11	Does the Institution have engagement with wider Prevent work through their local Prevent Partnership?			
12	Is the Institution included in an agreed Prevent Partnership Communication Policy?			
13	Does the Institution have annual policy and training review process in place?			

- Have the awareness-raising training.
- Have the discussion on how to word the policy addendum.
- Ensure you have a clear internal reporting procedure – including relevant documentation or other evidence.
- Ensure that a senior manager is designated to handle all concerns.
- Ensure that all staff, especially new staff, and staff who are onsite for a limited period of time, are aware that this forms part of your organisation/team's overall safeguarding strategy.
- Revisit the awareness regularly – it may well be that you never have a concern – in cases like this, it is hard to keep the level of awareness going. Use the news. A discussion around recent events helps to maintain awareness.

The Channel referral form can be found below – please note that when completed it will contain highly personal data.

Restricted when Complete

Sussex			
Prevent 'Channel' Referral Form			
Referral Details			
Name:			
Alternative name:			
Date of Birth:		Gender:	
Address:			
Nationality:		Ethnicity:	
Language (first):		Faith:	
School/college or Occupation/workplace:			
Family or Carer details:			

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Referring Agency Details	
Referral Author and Contact Details:	
Agency:	
Date of Referral:	

Vulnerability Factors		
Factor	Notes	Y/N
Faith/Ideology	e.g. Concerning comments relating to faith or ideology, or association with extremists	
Social Mobility	e.g. poverty, lack of education or employment, immigration issues	
Physical or mental health	e.g. Disability, learning difficulties, mental health concerns	
Risk or harm factor	e.g. threat posed by family member (DV issues), victim of hate crime or personal attack	
Criminal Activity or association	e.g. involved in criminal activity or associating with known criminals	

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Isolation or exclusion	e.g. lack of social activity, isolation, absent peer groups	
Other factor	Any other factors Please specify:	
Is the individual aware of the referral?	Although it is not necessary or always beneficial to notify an individual the fact they are aware is important.	

Restricted when Complete

Summary reason for referral
Outline main reasons for referral:
Existing agency involvement
Outline and existing agency involvement (that you are aware of) e.g. CAF, MAPPA, Safeguarding:

Any other relevant information
Notes: A Channel referral places an individual into a multi-agency assessment and support process which aims to reduce their vulnerability to extremist related activity. Each referral is screened for suitability. Further information will be sought from partner agencies before any support mechanisms are put in place. Your referral is important and does not mean an individual is a terrorist or will become a terrorist, only that vulnerabilities have been identified which require further investigation or help. Please provide as much detail as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to discuss with your head of safeguarding, your nominated point of contact or local Prevent engagement officer.

When completed please email to channel@sussex.pnn.police.uk

