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One Minute Guide: Prevent

What is 'Prevent'?

'Prevent' forms part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy known as [CONTEST](#). It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The [Prevent Strategy](#), (Home Office, 2011) has three main objectives:

- challenging the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it;
- protecting vulnerable people; and
- supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

The predominant threat to national security, *at this time*, is ISIL/ISIS inspired terrorism. Specific concerns include:

- Redbridge residents travelling to Syria or Iraq; and
- people being radicalised by ISIS to commit terrorist attacks in GB.

Redbridge has historic links to terrorism. It is one of 46 priority Prevent local authorities nationally, and neighbours other East London boroughs where the threat of terrorism is also high. Similar to other crimes, those associated with terrorism do not recognise borough boundaries.

Terrorism is a low volume high impact crime. It requires recruitment to the cause, radicalisation of those to commit the criminal acts and fundraising for the monies required. Recruitment, radicalisation and fundraising are all known to be taking place in Redbridge.

How can Children's Services assist in Prevent?

Prevent is a pre-criminal supportive intervention. Radicalisation is another safeguarding issue that professionals need to be aware of. The Home Office believes that preventing a person becoming radicalised into violent extremism/terrorism is equivalent to preventing a person being sexually exploited or becoming involved in drugs/gangs for example.

The new [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) and [associated Prevent duty guidance](#) requires local authorities "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". In summary, the implications for local authorities are:

- Establish appropriate strategic and operational links.
- Facilitate the assessment of risk, including providing advice and sharing threat assessments.

- Provide a range of training products (including but not limited to WRAP) to all specified authorities.
- Understand the full range of bodies affected by the new duties, and ensure that they understand their responsibilities.
- Embed Prevent into commissioning, procurement and grant funding processes.
- Embed Prevent into Safeguarding policies and ensure all providers who work with children are signed up to local Safeguarding arrangements.

Further information on the new Prevent duties can be found via [London Councils](#).

What is Channel?

[Channel](#) is a local multi agency panel responsible for developing an appropriate support package, to those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, based on an assessment of their vulnerability. The Channel Panel is responsible for managing the safeguarding risk similar to other multi-agency panels, such as children and adult safeguarding boards and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

When an individual of concern is referred to Channel, whether from a statutory partner or the community, an initial screening is undertaken by the police to ensure that there is a specific vulnerability around radicalisation and the referral is not malicious or misinformed. A preliminary risk assessment is undertaken, again by police, for review by the panel. A support plan is then developed by the panel. The support plan may include diversionary activity such as a sporting opportunity, assistance with housing or finances. Very rarely is a theological intervention required.

It is important to note that:

- Channel is not a criminal process;
- the subject does not merit a criminal record;
- intervention participation is voluntary;
- it is an OVERT not covert process; and
- details of the referee remain confidential.

Training on Prevent and Channel

Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) is the nationwide training package to raise awareness of Prevent as a safeguarding concern.

Following the one hour session staff will be able to:

- Understand Prevent's aims.
- Think about who may be vulnerable to terrorism.
- See why some people are able to influence and manipulate others to commit crimes (including terrorism).
- Recognise when a vulnerable individual may be in need of support.
- Be clear on what help and support looks like in this area and where to seek advice when there are concerns.

Training can be delivered to groups of any size and can be incorporated into team meetings or other training sessions. The Workshop is also delivered as part of the [LSCB Training Programme](#).

How can I find out more?

If you require further information about training, or, have a query about - or potential referral to - the Channel process please contact either of the following:

[Prevent Institutions Officer](#)

Community Safety service
London Borough of Redbridge

Tel: 020 8708 5244

[Prevent Co-ordinator](#)

Community Safety Service
London Borough of Redbridge

Tel: 020 8708 5230