

The Prevent duty



Department for Education

Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group

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Objectives of the counter extremism programme in DfE

OUR OBJECTIVES

Improve the **resilience of the system** to extremist and radicalising influences, giving people the knowledge, skills and confidence to act.

Enable **safeguarding** to operate effectively in protecting vulnerable children and young people from extremist influences.

Strengthen our **intelligence** on extremism, financial and reputational risk in the education sector.

Continue to pursue action in **Birmingham** in response to the Clarke report.

Undertake **casework**, on individuals, institutions and areas where extremism concerns arise, increasingly seeking to stay ahead of risks, rather than reacting to events.



The Prevent duty in DfE's sectors

- **Education and childcare specified authorities:**
 - proprietors of maintained schools non-maintained special schools, maintained nursery schools, independent schools (including academies and free schools) and alternative provision academies
 - pupil referral units
 - registered early years childcare providers
 - registered later years childcare providers
 - providers of holiday schemes for disabled children



Risk assessment



Risk assessment: CTLP

What is a CTLP?

- a product that identifies threat & vulnerability from terrorism and extremism at a local level
- assists police and partners to prioritise threat and vulnerability
- suggests recommendations to address risk
- a key tool for driving a two-way sharing of information



Risk assessment: purpose of CTLP

- Joint understanding with local partners of terrorism related threats, risks & vulnerabilities
- Provide information to base local Prevent programmes & drive Action Plans
- Promote 2-way flow of community information
- Mainstreaming of Prevent activity into daily delivery across all sectors
- Strengthen local partnerships
- Targeted and proportionate use of shared



Risk assessment: CTLP format

- CT picture for specific locality
- Information on Community Tensions
- The context of threats from other forms of extremism
- An international perspective
- Cross boundary issues



Risk assessment: key partners

- CT Regional Prevent Co-ordinators
- Local Authority
- National Offender Management Service
- Dept. of Education
- NHS Trusts
- Business Innovation & Skills (BIS)
- OSCT
- Regional CT Analyst advisors



Sector risks

- Children and young people are vulnerable to a wide range of **safeguarding** risks, and vulnerability to radicalisation needs to be seen in that context.
- The **online threat** is particularly acute among under-18 year olds.
- A small but growing number of children and young people are being drawn into terrorism – **both in the UK and abroad**.
- Families.
- “Terror tots”.



British Muslim father feared to be travelling to Syria with family is a 'champion for shariah' law radi brides were following 70 extremists on twitter accounts the internet giant had refused to axe

Schoolgirls 'have already crossed Syrian border'

Turkish intelligence sources fear east London trio have been smuggled into Isil territory despite desperate search

GROOMED FOR TERROR



BRAINWASHED IN THEIR BEDROOMS

School took steps to stop extremism

PM: airlines must do more to stop teens going to Syria

PARENTS MUST CONFISCATE THEIR CHILDREN'S PASSPORTS IF NECESSARY. KEEP THEM UNDER LOCK AND KEY

3 GIRLS ON HALF-TERM FLEE UK TO JOIN ISIS

Extremist scandal in schools is 'not over'

Family Heading To Syria Arrested In Turkey

Asif Malik, his p... days after they

Police hunt young British family of six who left country and believed to be heading to Syria

Syria review

- **Evolving threat of school-age children travelling.**
- **Purpose:**
 - learn lessons from schools' experience;
 - interaction between experiences at school and vulnerability to extremism; and
 - identify what helps schools deal with such events.



Safeguarding



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Safeguarding - general

- *“Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol. Schools’ work on Prevent needs to be seen in this context.”*

Prevent Strategy, 2011

- The department’s statutory guidance for schools on safeguarding, ***Keeping Children Safe in Education***, is clear that radicalisation is one of a number of safeguarding concerns.



Safeguarding – when to refer

- ***“Knowing what to look for is vital to the early identification of abuse and neglect. If staff members are unsure they should always speak to the designated safeguarding lead.”***

Keeping children safe in education

- WRAP training
- Channel guidance
- LSCB thresholds



Channel – what is it?

- Programme to provide support for individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism
- It is entirely voluntary for the person being offered support, and is not a criminal sanction in any way
- Programme has existed in every local area in England and Wales since April 2012 Administered through multi-agency panels at local level
- Panels are chaired by local authorities and supported by police
- Panels will have representatives from a number of agencies, including health, education, housing, social work
- As well as providing an opportunity for individuals to receive statutory support they may be entitled to, Channel also can (uniquely) provide theological or ideological mentoring



Channel – the process

1. Identification: normally by frontline public sector workers, who recognise the signs of radicalisation
2. Assessment: initially by the police
 - information gathering stage: malicious or misguided referral? Already under investigation? First use of the standard Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF):
 - **engagement** with a group, cause or ideology;
 - **intent** to cause harm; and
 - **capability** to cause harm
 - A person is then judged to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and therefore suitable for Channel; vulnerable in some other way, and therefore signposted to other support; or not vulnerable.
3. Panel meeting: panel will confirm the assessment and consider kinds of support to be offered
4. Support provided.
5. Appraisal and monitoring: police practitioner regularly liaises with support providers and updates the VAF. All cases reviewed after 6 and 12 months of exiting the programme.



Why are people referred to Channel

■ Example cases:

- “Concerns have been raised by the subject’s mother, to his social worker. He has reportedly continuously expressed that he wanted to go to Syria and also he wants to join Jihad. He is also reported to be watching extremist material from you tube at home.”
- “The subject has produced an essay at school which details his support for ISIS in which he also made anti-western comments. His essay talks about a Muslim’s calling to be a Jihadi. “Syria is yearning for help!” “Fight in the cause of Islam.” “Go forth in Jihad and defend your Ummah”.”
- “Subject is a friend of a missing girl who is believed to have travelled to Syria in support of ISIL. Information suggests that subject has relations who may also be fighting in support of ISIL and other similar groups. Subject was believed to be planning to travel, but decided against it at the last minute. She is a vulnerable individual; isolated in terms of friendship networks and suffering from depression.”
- “Subject was flagged as vulnerable because of considerable welfare and social issues. He is a recent convert to Islam following a period of detention in youth custody and having been released has said to his mother that he would be willing to go over to Syria to fight. He is known to associate with individuals who have allegedly used Quranic verses to justify domestic violence.”



What does Channel involve?

- A typical Channel case receives three different types of support, over the course of 18 months. Support can include:
 - life skills;
 - anger management sessions;
 - cognitive/behavioural;
 - constructive pursuits;
 - education skills;
 - careers;
 - family support;
 - health awareness;
 - complex psychological needs;
 - theological / ideological.



Channel – the facts

- Anyone can make a referral into the Channel programme. But the police bring cases to panels.
- Local authorities remain able to run joint panels with other LAs.
- The Channel duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act is separate from the wider Prevent duty.
- The programme remains entirely **voluntary** for those offered support.
- There is no legal obligation to refer people to Channel, although ensuring awareness of Channel is an important part of complying with the Prevent duty.



Child protection powers

- **Child assessment order**
- **Emergency protection order**
- **Police protective custody**
- **Care and supervision orders**
- **Wardship**

Re M (Children): https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/re_m_20_5_152.pdf





Case study – Girls travel to Syria Feb 2015

- Sharmeena Begum from Bethnal Green Academy (BGA) travelled to Syria in December; her friend (home educated) was removed from a plane at the airport. They were part of a group of 9 friends (8 pupils) linked to BGA
- Police gave the girls letters to take home to their parents to request permission for formal interviews. Not all those letters were delivered.
- On 17 February, Shamima Begum and Amira Abase, both 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, went to Gatwick airport during half term and took a flight to Istanbul
- Five girls from the group have since been made wards of court to prevent them from travelling and have been referred to Channel
- In April, the media reported that Amira Abase's father had attended rallies organised by Al Mahajiroun and taken his daughter (then 13) to one.

"It emerged that no action had been taken after Shamima contacted Asqa Mahmood, 20, from Glasgow, who has encouraged other young Britons to join her in Syria"

The Daily Telegraph, 23/02/15

Opportunities for intervention?

The Channel programme seeks to support individuals at risk from in gangs, drugs and other social issues such as radicalisation.

A teacher or social worker can refer a young person to Channel through their Channel Police Practitioner.

A multi-agency, assessment takes place involving local authority, police, and social workers to determine a support package that helps to provide a secure home life and challenges the ideology the child has been exposed to.



Monitoring



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Monitoring: what does good practice look like?

The Six Strands:

- **Leadership and governance**
- **Training**
- **Engagement with external partners**
- **Policies and practices**
- **Curriculum – formal and informal**
- **Referral pathways**



Advice and support



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DfE advice

- Advice for schools and childcare providers to complement the statutory guidance.
- Sent to schools on 30 June, published on GOV.UK on 1 July



The Prevent duty

Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers

June 2015



DfE helpline

- **Intended to enable people to raise concerns about extremism** – not to be used instead of following normal safeguarding procedures, or in an emergency.

By phone: 020 7340 7264

By email: **Counter.EXTREMISM@education.gsi.gov.uk**



DfE/Home Office briefing note

- Includes a short summary of some of the main ISIL propaganda claims
- Identifies social media sites which ISIL is using
- Advises what actions schools and teachers should take to protect pupils

For further background information on the roles of schools and teachers in safeguarding children, and preventing pupils from the risks of terrorism and extremism the following documents will be of use:

- **Keeping children safe in education:** statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- **Prevent Duty Guidance:** for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

PROPAGANDA THEMES

ISIL, also sometimes referred to as ISIS, is a violent terrorist group which has caused huge suffering to people in both Syria and Iraq in the name of an Islamist extremist ideology. They are a brutal group that wants to impose rule on people and has used violence and extortion. ISIL's claim to have established an 'Islamic State' or 'caliphate' in the region has no theological credibility.



ISIL propaganda includes images and videos that present the group as an exciting alternative to life in the West. This media presents ISIL as the powerful creators of a new state, to which all Muslims (male and female) have a duty to travel. The propaganda continuously ignores the fact that ISIL is a terrorist organisation engaged in killing innocent men, women and children. When ISIL's official media groups release material online the group encourages supporters on social media to share the material – this is what gives ISIL its large reach, particularly to young people.

ISIL propaganda uses **four main themes** to encourage young people to travel to Syria and Iraq. These themes are used to recruit both men and women, and are also widely used in discussions on social media around ISIL.



ISIL celebrates and promotes an **image of success** online in order to attract young people – it tells them that ISIL are the winning side and can offer them an exciting life. The ISIL slogan 'Baqiyah wa-Tatamaddad' (remaining and expanding) presents the group as one that consistently achieves success. ISIL propaganda ignores the reality that ISIL are not winning and are opposed by the majority of people in Syria and Iraq.



ISIL portray their 'Caliphate' as an ideal, utopian state where Muslims will find **status and belonging**. ISIL propaganda claims that it is the duty of Muslim men and women in the West to travel there and regularly states that all foreigners are welcome in its ranks, so long as they are Sunni Muslims. In reality the claimed Caliphate has been rejected by the overwhelming majority of Islamic scholars around the world. ISIL abuse of women and children and killing of innocent civilians has been well documented.



WRAP training

- ***“Local authorities will be expected to ensure appropriate frontline staff...have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.”*** (Prevent Duty Guidance)
- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent is an hour long DVD-led interactive workshop
- Aimed at front line staff (police, social services, education and health)
- Attendees leave WRAP sessions able to understand what makes individuals susceptible to radicalisation and how to raise a concern



Other advice and support

- **Training for staff and governors**
- **Products/classroom resources**
- **Targeted advice/briefing notes**

