



Prevent Strategy Policy

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

This guidance is designed to provide a clear framework for professionals with which to respond to safeguarding concerns for those children and young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the child concern model/ threshold of need and intervention model and the Channel process.

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

DEFINITION

Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue To stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Choose2 Youth will work with our staff and volunteers to spot signs of radicalisation and work within the CONTEST strategy. We will challenge our young people around their views and opinions to limit any extremism.

AIMS

Choose2 Youth will seek to:

- Raise awareness of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.



- Help staff & volunteers understand the positive contribution they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and protecting the wellbeing of particular young people or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the Choose2 Youth community.

We will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion.
- Building the resilience of Choose2 Youth
- Working with partners, to prevent young people becoming the victims or causes of harm.
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for Choose2 Youth.

Our Role

As staff at Choose2 Youth we are working with the community on a regular basis. We are the eyes and ears in the community. If we have any concerns about grievances or tensions in your community we should make sure we report them appropriately within Choose2 Youth. Concerns could include hate crime, anti social behaviour, graffiti, or a change in the behaviour of individuals that causes you concern, as well as concerns about individuals or groups that are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

What do you need to do?

Follow the:

CITY OF YORK PREVENT STRATEGY: CHANNEL REFERRAL PROCESS

What is Channel? Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a government Home Office publication¹ designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Channel is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation using existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and local community to

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



- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned

It is about early intervention diverting people away from the risk they face. In order to do this, information sharing is crucial. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 allows partners to share personalised and depersonalised information for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder and therefore covers us in relation to the needs of Prevent.

When should I refer?

If you have information that suggests an individual is exhibiting behaviour or making comments that suggest he/she may be involved in activity which could be linked to terrorism. For example:

- Accessing information on the internet with links to terrorist activity
- Use of extreme right wing symbols
- Significant changes in behaviour
- Spending significant periods of time alone, withdrawal from social interaction
- Sudden and obsessive interest in topical terrorist related news stories
- Use of terminology or words associated with terrorism

NOTICE, CHECK, SHARE

Once a concern is raised (NOTICE) it is important to check whether any further action should be taken. T

The Prevent Lead within City of York Council is: Jane Mowat, Head of Community Safety 01904 555742, 07984496352 or email jane.mowat@york.gov.uk

If you feel that there is threat to life for the individual or others, you must report the matter to the police on 999. Police Channel Officers are DC Carolyn Hardman & DC Julie Whitehouse. They can be contacted by dialling 101 and following the instructions or by email on:

Carolyn.hardman@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk Julie.whitehouse@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Please see the Channel flow chart

Choose Youth