

Dudley Prevent

A handbook for anyone working and supporting people in our community that may be susceptible to radicalisation.

safe & sound

Dudley's Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

As someone who works with communities in the Dudley borough you are in a key position to protect them from the dangers of extremist narratives.

You may already be safeguarding them away from drugs, gangs, county lines and other forms of harm. We know that radicalisation can have a devastating impact on families and communities.

Helping to protect them from extremists and radicalising influences is an important part of your overall safeguarding role.

Contents

What is Prevent?	5
Terms and definitions	5
Myths and facts	6
Types of ideology	8
Prevent is safeguarding	11
What does good practice look like in the community? .	12
Who is vulnerable to radicalisation?	14
How might I spot someone who is being radicalised? .	16
How to make a referral	18
Glossary of terms	19





What is Prevent?

Prevent works to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are offered appropriate interventions, and that communities are protected against radicalisation influences.

Prevent is about safeguarding and supporting those who are vulnerable to radicalisation. It is one of the four elements of CONTEST – the government’s counter terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

What does Prevent do?

Prevent responds to the ideological challenge that we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threats that we face from those who promote these views. It provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures that they are given appropriate advice and support. Prevent works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

Who delivers Prevent?

The Home Office works with local authorities, government departments and community organisations to deliver the Prevent duty in Dudley. The police also play a significant role in Prevent, the same way they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes.

Prevent uses a range of measures to challenge extremism including:

- Supporting those who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist or extremist activity through the Channel process.
- Working with and supporting community groups that provide services to vulnerable people.
- Supporting schools, early years, local industries and other agencies through engagement, advice and training.
- Working with faith groups and institutions to assist them in providing support for people who may be susceptible.
- At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activities.

Mythbusting Prevent!

Myth 1

Prevent is about spying on people and their families, with many officials getting involved in your private life.

Myth busted: If a referral is made about you or someone you know, you will be contacted by supportive and specially trained staff. Each council has channel panel case officers whose job it is to follow up on referrals and make appointments to see you.

Professionals are given regular training so that they are skilled and knowledgeable about safeguarding and assessing appropriate referrals.

Myth 2

Prevent targets specific communities.

Myth busted: Prevent does not blame the actions of a violent minority on any particular community, It is not about targeting different faiths. It's about Prevent focused activity proportionate to the threat levels and risk present in a local area.

Myth 3

Prevent doesn't work.

Myth busted: You may have read something like this in the papers or online. However, if being part of the Prevent programme helps people to use the support that is available, then that is a very positive outcome. The value of keeping people safe from violence and extremism due to someone's participation in Prevent cannot be quantified.

Myth 4

Grooming, recruitment, and radicalisation isn't a significant problem where I live.

Myth busted: Dudley is a large borough which aims to provide information, training, advice, and guidance around lots of issues that can damage our communities. Since Covid we have seen more people becoming radicalised online, we also know that similar tactics can be used for organised crime, county lines, and other forms of exploitation that involve young people. By facilitating community understanding of these processes, we can empower our communities to build resilience, fostering stronger and safer neighbourhoods.

Myth 5

Once you are referred to Prevent, everyone is treated in the same way whether they need it or not.

Myth busted: It can do more harm than good. There are a wide range of professionals who can be involved in the Prevent process. The people that are included will depend upon the individual's needs.

It is a needs-led service that will bring the relevant people together to maximise the support that can be given. In this way any provision that is offered is done with that one person in mind.

Myth 6

There is a stigma attached to Prevent which will follow you wherever you go.

Myth busted: If you are referred to Prevent it will not show up on your DBS checks and it will not be disclosed to future education establishments or employers.

Prevent does not criminalise anyone, it is an intervention that can be made to help to safeguard individuals. It will not create any barriers for your future.

Myth 7

Everything that you read about Prevent online or in the papers is true.

Myth busted: Some people will say that negative perceptions about Prevent are due to media coverage or political events and how they are reported upon. People in the public eye often share their personal and professional views about Prevent online and through the media.

This does not mean that such accounts are factually correct and sometimes information can be misleading and lead to distrust. The people who have experience of Prevent know first-hand the levels of support and the high standards of care that are taken with each and every person.

Myth 8

You need to be an expert in different faiths to understand the Prevent duty.

Myth busted: You do not need to be an expert to understand the Prevent duty and your role in complying with it. The important thing is that you feel comfortable to speak up any time you feel concerned.

Types of Ideology

Prevent's first objective is to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism. The ideological component of terrorism is what sets it apart from other acts of serious violence.

Islamist Ideology

Islamist terrorist ideology is inspired by politically and religiously motivated groups or individuals who support and use violence to establish their version of an Islamic society.

Many followers of Islamist terrorist ideology believe that violence, or what they conceive as jihad, is not only a necessary strategic tool to achieve their aims, but an individual religious duty.

In the UK context, the Islamist terrorist threat comes overwhelmingly from those inspired by Daesh and/or al-Qa'ida.

Al-Qa'ida and Daesh both envisage the creation of a global Islamic government, called a caliphate, which is based on strict implementation of shari'ah law. They draw on political and religious ideas developed in the 20th century by Sayyid Qutb and Abdallah Azzam.

They both view certain regimes in the Islamic world as deviating from true or orthodox beliefs, considering them as apostates.

- Al-Qa'ida takes a gradual approach, believing that removing Western influence and what they view as apostate regimes from the Islamic world are necessary conditions for establishing a caliphate.
- Daesh aimed to achieve its goal more quickly than al-Qa'ida by declaring a caliphate as soon as it held significant territory in Syria and Iraq. However, it has been unable to maintain control over it.

The overwhelming majority of Muslims in the UK reject the violent ideologies of Islamist terrorism and Prevent acknowledges the fundamental role of communities in efforts to counter radicalisation.

Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism

Extreme right-wing terrorist ideology involves beliefs that support the use of violence to protect or preserve a race, identity, culture or country from what is perceived as a serious and immediate threat to their existence.

The 3 most common subcategories of extreme right-wing terrorist ideologies and their narratives are:

Cultural nationalism

- 'Western culture' is under threat from mass migration and a lack of integration by certain ethnic and cultural groups.

White/ethno-nationalism

- Mass migration from the 'non-white world' and demographic change poses an existential threat to the 'white race' and 'Western culture'.

White supremacism

- The 'white race' is biologically, culturally and spiritually superior to all other races, often calling for the replacement of Western parliamentary democracy with an alternative form of government, ranging from fascist regimes to ethno-tribalism.

There are banned extreme right-wing terrorist groups in the UK. These include National Action, Sonnenkrieg Division and Feuerkrieg Division.

In some areas, there is a significant risk from extreme right-wing terrorist ideologies. It is expected that Prevent focuses its activities in these hotspots.

Incels

Incels are an online community of misogynistic boys and men who consider themselves unable to attract women sexually.

They are typically associated with views that are hostile towards women and men who are sexually active. This can often lead to the verbal shaming of women, promotion of physical punishment of women, and in extreme cases can lead to sexual assault. Incels tend to be between the ages of 13 and 30, and in the most popular online communities around 50 per cent come from Europe, 38 per cent from the USA and 12 per cent from elsewhere around the world.

Incel groups often blame women for their celibacy and come to resent the upward mobility of females in society, harbouring violently misogynistic views.

Several high-profile attacks and mass shootings have been attributed to Incels. There is also some cross over in parts of the subculture with right wing extremism. Merely identifying with these groups does not in itself make a person an extremist - some elements of the Incel community are rooted in a relatively harmless, satirical meme culture.

Northern Ireland-related terrorism

Northern Ireland-related terrorism continues to pose a threat to the rest of the UK.

Although the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) has ceased its terrorist campaign and is now committed to the political process, some dissident republican groups continue to mount terrorist attacks, primarily against security and police forces.

Other types of ideologies

Left-wing, anarchist and single-issue ideologies are categorised as:

Left-wing

- Two broad ideologies: socialism and communism. Each are united by a set of grievance narratives which underline their cause.

Anarchism

- Seeks the abolition of the state, rejecting all forms of hierarchal structures and authority. Anarchism is often considered to be one of the more radical political left-wing ideologies, however some anarchist schools of thought fall outside the left-wing spectrum, for example anarcho-capitalism and nihilism. This is why it has been separated out as a distinct strand.

Single issue

- Narratives are likely to come from those who seek to change a specific policy or practice, as opposed to replacing the whole economic, political or social system. Examples include, animal rights or anti-fascism. Single-issue narratives can be politically agnostic, meaning they may be neither right nor left aligned.

What are the common themes of Extremism?

Established terrorist narratives exhibit common themes such as:

- antisemitism
- misogyny
- anti-establishment
- anti-LGBTQ+ grievances
- religious or ethnic superiority

Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence. In some cases, a blurring of ideologies with personal narratives makes it harder to assess the risk that people may pose.

Less well recognised motivations, such as:

- involuntary celibates (incels)
- left-wing
- eco-terrorism

Could also meet the threshold of terrorist intent or action.

Commitment to and knowledge of ideology can also vary significantly.

Prevent is safeguarding

It's simple. Prevent is about safeguarding individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring vulnerable people are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.

Often vulnerable people simply need some help and support and if we can give them that at the right time then they may not become radicalised in the first place.

Remember that radicalisation and grooming can take many forms and it is sometimes hard to know what to look out for but trust your instinct and always pass on your concerns to the designated safeguarding lead. They will decide whether further action is needed, or a referral should be made and can contact the community safety team if they need support.



What does Prevent look like in our communities?

Leadership and governance

- Protecting individuals from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of a community's wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting individuals from other types of harm
- Prevent can sometimes entail the sharing of sensitive information and leaders should be ready to engage with other agencies when required
- Organisations should be aware of their roles and responsibilities and the importance of reporting concerns
- Individual organisations, community groups, charities and service providers are best placed to assess their training needs in the light of their assessment of the risk. However, as a minimum, all organisations should ensure that the designated safeguarding lead undertakes Prevent training and can provide advice and support to managers and other members of staff on protecting vulnerable people from the risk of radicalisation.

Engagement with external partners

- As with other safeguarding, Prevent work often involves a range of people with breadth of experience working together. Sharing information between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision. Community organisations and those who serve the community need to have effective relations with local Prevent partners and the police
- Community groups and service providers can also help to build resilience to radicalisation in vulnerable individuals or groups by promoting positive values – in particular, the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Your organisational values based on equality and inclusion can be used to support positive messages and practices. It is not about the number of staff being trained, but about the impact of the training and how that is embedded into practice.

Engagement with external partners and service provision.

- Safeguarding leads, managers and board members, should have arrangements in place which set out clearly the processes and the principles for sharing information internally and externally.
- More information about safeguarding can be found on the Dudley safeguarding People Partnership website – Dudleysafeguarding.org.uk

What does best practice look like?

- Best practice would be to include and embed the Prevent duty into your safeguarding measures and processes and assistance can be provided to support this development.
- All organisations and groups that serve the public have a duty of responsibility for preventing radicalisation and extremism. Every organisation should know:
 - About The Prevent duty
 - How to access training and resources
 - How to make a referral to safeguarding
 - How to safely hire out meeting spaces/rooms/sports facilities or venues (adhering to Prevent guidance)
- Have a robust IT policy to ensure the safety of users in terms of the content that they can access
- Have a robust speaker policy in place
- When to call 999 in the event of counter terrorism related emergencies.



Who is vulnerable to radicalisation?

Those who work in front-line support roles in our communities will often be the first to notice if someone they are working with displays changes in their behaviour.

There could be many different drivers behind these types of changes in behaviour, not just radicalisation. So, it's important to understand why these changes are happening, before jumping to any conclusions.

Here are some examples of changes in behaviour that may indicate radicalisation in a person:

Online behaviour

- more than one online identity
- spending more time online and accessing extremist online content
- downloading propaganda material

Increasingly agitated or violent behaviour

- more argumentative in their viewpoints
- being abusive to others
- justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues

Changing associations

- changed friends
- altered their style of dress or appearance to accord with an extremist group
- using a new vocabulary
- isolated from friends and family

Increasingly anti-social behaviours

- unwilling to engage with people who are different
- secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- adopted the use of certain symbols associated with terrorist organisations

There really isn't a type, race or faith, so instead think of which groups of people are likely to be radicalised and think about what radicalisers (those who target and choose individuals to groom) are looking for.

Online exploitation is often hard to recognise. Sometimes there are clear warning signs; in other cases, the changes are less obvious. Although some of these traits may be quite common, taken together they could indicate that a person may need help.

**Lonely or
isolated**

**Under
pressure or
being bullied**

**Victim of
abuse**

**No sense of
belonging**

**Problems
at home**

**Influenced by
people you
know**

**Not able
to form
relationships
or low self
esteem**

**Has a
disability or
mental health
need**

**No sense of
purpose**

Spotting the signs...

Radicalisation can be difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a young person or adult is being radicalised include:

- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- Unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, which is often around excessive internet use.

People who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later persuading them to cut themselves off from their friends and family.

However, these signs don't necessarily mean an individual is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong. Like all forms of safeguarding, it is often about using your gut instinct and acting on your concerns if you are worried.



Remember to Notice, Check, Share

Notice: Those who work in our communities will often be the first to notice if someone is experiencing difficulties.

Remember to:

- look out for changes in behaviour that cause you concern
- ask yourself whether this person might be susceptible to radicalisation
- keep up-to-date with extremist signs and symbols - your local Prevent lead will have the latest information

Check: It's important to understand why changes are happening before drawing conclusions.

Remember:

- the issues that make a person susceptible to radicalisation are sensitive and need to be handled with duty and care
- try to understand the bigger picture by gaining more context
- check your concern discreetly with a colleague or your line manager to see if they can offer any advice

Share: Everyone is responsible for sharing any information they hold that causes concern about a person with the police.

Remember to:

- work with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or an equivalent, if you have one
- only share information that is relevant to the purpose
- share information early to reduce risk



Making a referral in Dudley

Remember that it is important to follow your own organisation's safeguarding policy and report any concerns you have to the correct people.

If you are unsure about making a Prevent referral you can speak to the Dudley community safety team who will be more than happy to talk things through with you:

Please email community.safety@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.dudleysafeandsound.org for up to date contact details.

If you decide to make a referral then please visit the safe and sound HELP hub, which can be found at dudleysafeandsound.org/prevent

Remember!

You can make a referral without the parent's consent e.g. where you believe the child/young person or others are at serious risk of harm or in order to prevent serious crime where sharing information may be counter-productive to managing a situation.

However, if you can, it is always best to talk to people first about your concerns.

The next step of the referral process is that the Channel panel team will carry out assessment and multi-agency info gathering. It is really important that you put as much information into the referral as possible.

Glossary of terms

What is Prevent?

Prevent is a national initiative aimed at reducing the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The delivery of Prevent is grounded in early intervention and safeguarding.

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. The allocation of resources is proportionate to the threats we face.

What is Channel?

Channel is part of the Prevent programme.

It's a voluntary, confidential, early intervention programme that supports people who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Many types of support are available as part of Channel. These include support at school, in the workplace, for substance abuse and with specialist mentors, mental health key workers and doctors.

We work with all kinds of groups and organisations, in much the same way that partners come together to help people who've been groomed by gangs or involved in sexual exploitation.

Taking part in Channel doesn't go on someone's criminal record. It means getting the right kind of help for the person who needs support.

Domestic Extremism

Domestic extremism refers to the activity of individuals or groups conducting criminal acts of direct action to further their protest campaign. This term covers the conduct of groups involved including the extreme right wing and animal rights extremists.

Violent Extremism

Violent extremism refers to the activity of individuals or groups conducting acts by any means to express views which justify or glorify terrorist violence. This includes those that encourage others to commit terrorist acts or provoke others into terrorist related activity. It also includes those whom foster hatred which may lead to inter community tensions and violence within the United Kingdom.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the process where a vulnerable young person or adult changes their perception and beliefs due to exposure of an extremist influence (which may be online, publication or one to one direct contact,) to become more extremist in nature which may result in extremist actions.

Find out more and to get help if you are worried about some being radicalised on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Terrorism

Terrorism is an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause. The current UK definition of terrorism is given in the Terrorism Act 2006.

In the UK we define terrorism as a violent action that:

- Endangers a person's life, other than that of the person committing the action
- Involves serious violence against a person
- Causes serious damage to property
- Creates a serious risk to the public's health and safety
- Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system

Learn more about Radicalisation and Extremism by visiting the Prevent Help Hub page on safe and sound website www.dudleysafeandsound.org/prevent

You will find links to free resources and training from the UK Government.

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