

# Prevent and Channel information for professionals in Bristol



**Building the Bridge**  
promoting cohesion • building resilience



## Who is this information for?

This information is for professionals who deal with members of the public. Violent extremism is a real threat to all our communities. Violent extremists actively aim to damage community relations and create division. This is why it is vital that we all work together to support those that are vulnerable to being drawn into acts of terrorism/violent extremism.

The aim of this leaflet is to inform you of what help and information is available.

## What is radicalisation?

Groups who pose a threat to our safety in the UK seek to recruit people to support terrorism (this process is called radicalisation) Radicalisation is driven by a belief which supports the use of violence. We do not need to understand the ideologies or ideas that are promoted, more the way they hook into the most vulnerable in our community.

Extremists with a cause will attempt to motivate those who might be sympathetic to their cause, intimidate those who do not, or seek the vulnerable in our community and coach them into supporting their way of thinking.

Holding extreme views is not the issue, it is when those views become so extreme they turn into violence.



## What can you do if you have any concerns about someone you know?

- 1 Notice the concern (trust your instincts)
- 2 Check your concern (perhaps look at one of the Useful Links included in this leaflet)
- 3 Share your concern with a colleague. This will validate your concerns.
- 4 Ring the Police Prevent Team for advice.

Prevent at its roots is a safeguarding issue, which brings together people from all agencies and members of the community to offer support to an individual or family who is at risk of radicalisation.

As with other safeguarding issues you can contact:

### For children and young people

First Response

Telephone 0117 903 6444

[bristol.gov.uk/firstresponse](http://bristol.gov.uk/firstresponse)

### For adults

Bristol Care Direct

Telephone 0117 922 2700

Mon – Fri 8.30am – 5pm

Out of hours Emergency Duty Team

Phone 01454 615 165

[bristol.gov.uk/caredirect](http://bristol.gov.uk/caredirect)

### The Police Prevent Team

#### Who are the Police Prevent Team?

They are a team of specially trained police officers, and non-police officers, (male and female) who are happy to give advice or direct people to other support.

They can also put people in touch with a representative from their community if you wish.

The Police's Prevent Team can be contacted:

- Telephone **0117 945 5539**, or dial **101** (and ask for the 'Prevent Team' and explain you are calling about extremism or radicalisation)
- Email [channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)
- Always dial **999 in an emergency**

## Frequently asked questions about Prevent

**Q** If someone is referred to the Prevent Team, does this mean they will have a criminal record?

**A** No, always remember, the Prevent Team remit is about safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

As a statutory body the Police have to keep records of enquires they make into persons who are brought to their attention, for a wide variety of reasons. These can include those who are involved in criminality, as well as the enquires that are made into the safety of persons of concern, missing persons and those who may be vulnerable to abuse as well as those who may be at risk of radicalisation. Records are kept of actions taken to assess the level of risk and what actions are taken to deal with the risk.

**Q** How are malicious complaints handled by the Police's Prevent Team?

**A** To date, there has not been one of these but if they arose we would ask the person to follow the referring agency's complaint procedure. For example, for a school, the head teacher should be contacted. Ofsted could be involved if several inappropriate reports were made. The

Police's Prevent Team are working with schools and others, to improve their understanding of when and when not to make a referral.

**Q** Are reports to the Police's Prevent Team increasing or decreasing?

**A** The Police's Prevent Team have seen an increase in referrals, from schools in particular, since July 2015. This is because the schools now have a Prevent legal duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Reporting figures for both Extreme Right Wing and Islamist extremism type reports are low.

Around 80 referrals were made to the Prevent Team in 2015–16 of which about a half had no specific ideology attached. The other half were shared fairly equally between Extreme Right Wing and Islamist extremism types.

## Frequently asked questions about Channel

**Q** What is Channel?

**A** Channel is when a reported individual is reported to the Prevent Team and are assessed to need more intensive assistance. Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into violent radicalisation or becoming

involved into terrorist related activity. It uses a multi-agency approach including local authorities, statutory partners, the police and members of the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

**Q** Who does Channel work with?

**A** Channel is designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologues, who may have been radicalised or may be at risk of doing so, or who might be at risk of travel to a conflict zone.

The Channel process is shaped around the circumstances of each person and can provide support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerabilities.

**Q** Who are the Channel Panel?

**A** The Bristol Channel panel is a group of professionals who collectively assess the risk an individual is under and can decide whether a support package is needed. The panel may include health practitioners, teachers, as well as lead safeguarding professionals. If the panel feels the person would be

suitable for the Channel process, it will look to develop a package of support that is bespoke to the person. The partnership approach ensures those with specific knowledge and expertise around the vulnerabilities of those at risk are able to work together to provide the best support.

Often following a Channel Panel meeting, an independent accredited person (not employed by Police or Government) will speak with the vulnerable person about their ideology. That independent person will be chosen for their specialist knowledge of that ideology. It is important to note that the Channel team will only engage with an individual with their consent.

**Q** What happens if someone is wrongly reported to Channel, will it affect their ability to apply for jobs in the future?

**A** No, in the same way that if an allegation of inappropriateness with a child was investigated and found to be without foundation, there would be no disclosure made to the Vetting & Barring scheme.

## Useful links

- **Families Matter** – Provides vital information for parents looking to understand the risks involved if children travel to Syria **familiesmatter.org.uk**
- **Prevent Tragedies** – For those concerns about the worrying numbers of young people who are putting themselves at risk by travelling to Syria and other conflict zones **preventtragedies.co.uk**
- **Parent Information** – A collection of articles, tips, expert advice and resources designed to help parents keep up with what their children are doing online. **parentinfo.org**
- **Childnet International** – information to help keep children safe on the internet **childnet.com**
- **preventtragedies.co.uk** website for family members to share their concerns so they can access the help and support they need to protect their loved ones
- **victvs.co.uk/resources** Parents guide to extremism and radicalisation.
- **avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/features/preventing-terrorism-and-extremism/**  
Avon and Somerset Police website offers help and information.
- **educateagainsthate.co.uk**  
This website gives parents, teachers and school leaders practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.
- **Itai.info** Let's Talk About It has been created to provide a greater understanding of the support Prevent can offer and to challenge division and negativity in our communities through positive and effective attitude changes. By highlighting the issues and initiating discussions around the potential threats we face as a community, we can create greater understanding and wider awareness.
- **internetmatters.org** Website has lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children stay safe online.

- **ceop.gov.uk** CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account, protecting children from harm online and offline.

- **childline.org.uk** Childline is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19 to report any issues that concern them.

If you have any concerns about your child, you can talk to their teacher, college tutor or anyone at the school who will be able to support you.

### If you have concerns about a child travelling abroad

If you feel there is a risk of a child leaving the country, consider what safeguards you could take to avert travel. Anyone with parental responsibility for a child under 18 can contact the police or HM Passport Office to surrender their son or daughter's passport.

**Passport Adviceline: 0300 222 0000**

