

Prevent and Channel

Information for residents of Bristol on
extremism, radicalisation and terrorism,
and the Prevent programme



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Who is this information for?

This information is for all residents of Bristol, and for visitors to our city. It aims to give some explanation of extremism, radicalisation and terrorism, and of the Prevent programme, so that you can feel more informed and able to take steps to get support if you are worried about someone.

So, what are terrorism and extremism?

Terrorism is defined as ‘the use or threat of violence to influence the government or an international governmental organisation, or to intimidate the public. The violence or threat is made in pursuit of a political, religious, racial or ideological cause’.

The definition of **extremism** was amended in 2024, to strengthen our ability to tackle this threat, in line with the first duty of government—to keep our citizens safe and our country secure.

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, or,

Undermine, overturn, or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or,

Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation can be described as the process by which a person comes to defend, support, or take part in violent extremism, or indeed any offences under UK terrorism legislation.

There is no single pathway to radicalisation, the process is unique to everyone; radicalisation is a journey, not a single moment in time. It is a series of influences and life events that leads to a belief in an extreme ideology associated with terrorist groups. Every radicalised person's journey will take an unspecified amount of time; this could be days, weeks, months or even years.

It is important to note that someone who becomes radicalised may never meet the radicalising influence(s) in person. Individuals can become radicalised through contact with extremist groups or individuals, often via the internet. Young people can be at greater risk because they are more independent, exploring new things and pushing boundaries as they grow and discover more about their identity and sense of belonging.

Extremist groups often target young people via the internet and social media. The threat from online extremists is now seen as so great that the head of Counter Terrorism Policing in the UK has said:

“For all the benefits it brings, the internet has also globalised extremism, accelerated the spread of hateful ideologies internationally, and made it possible for anyone with an internet connection to reach into the lives of children halfway around the world.”

What is Prevent?

The core mission of Prevent is stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. The early intervention support provided by Prevent addresses the personal, ideological, and social factors which make people more susceptible to radicalisation.

The Prevent programme nationally:

Works in partnership with front-line professionals such as teachers, healthcare practitioners, social workers, the police, charities and civil society, psychologists, community leaders and others;

Is delivered by local authority teams, local policing teams, community organisations and charities that have the best expertise in their area;

Does not target any one community and deals with all forms of terrorism, including International or anti-western, extreme right-wing and a range of emerging threats;

Is not limited to any age group;

Is not a tool for spying or surveillance, and the Prevent duty does not place any restrictions on free speech. It is part of the wider safeguarding obligations we have towards protecting people from harm.

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 activity.

We are a city of many communities, so it is important that we work hard to understand community concerns, grievances and potential drivers that might lead to people engaging in extremist activities. We want to strengthen our relationships with communities so that we can work with you to collectively deliver activities to support individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism.

Notice – Check – Share

If you know someone who you suspect may be susceptible to radicalisation, there is a 3-step safeguarding procedure for assessing and handling concerns— it's called 'Notice – Check – Share':

1. NOTICE the change in behaviour, use of language or other Prevent related concerns.

2. CHECK your concern with the individual (if safe to do so) or if appropriate, a responsible person that knows the individual, to gather more context. If in a work situation, it may also be appropriate to speak to your line manager.

3. SHARE your concerns, by either:

Following your organisation's Prevent referral process, if this is in a work situation

or

Visiting the Act Early website at [**www.actearly.uk**](http://www.actearly.uk) or calling **0800 011 3764** for confidential advice

In an emergency, make sure you're safe and dial 999

If you're deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, a police non-emergency number is available as a text phone service on 18001 101.

To report illegal or harmful information, pictures or videos you've found on the internet, go to **www.gov.uk/report-terrorism**

Remember, referring someone to Prevent will not get them into trouble if they have not committed a crime. Prevent does not try to punish people and they will not receive a criminal record by engaging in the programme. Prevent connects people to the support they need to protect themselves and others from the dangers of radicalisation.

Where can I find out more?

- Visit Bristol Council's website [**www.bristol.gov.uk**](http://www.bristol.gov.uk) and type 'Prevent' into the search bar
- Visit [**actearly.uk**](http://actearly.uk)
- Visit [**www.gov.uk/prevent**](http://www.gov.uk/prevent) for guidance on the Prevent programme
- You can read the report into the dangers of online extremism by typing 'five eyes report into online extremism' into your computer's search bar

This leaflet was produced by Bristol City Council on behalf of the Prevent team, for residents of and visitors to Bristol.
