



BLSupdate.com

Prevent Training Module

Addressing common myths about Prevent

Myth: you need to be an expert in different faiths to understand the Prevent duty

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.

Myth: Prevent is about getting people into trouble

Prevent is not about getting people vulnerable to radicalisation into trouble, it's about supporting them. You are safeguarding people.

Myth: Prevent is not your responsibility

Prevent duty is your responsibility and is part of your role. This course will support you in fulfilling your duty.

How Prevent fits within CONTEST

The government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is designed to reduce the risk from terrorism, so people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence.

The 4 'P' work strands

CONTEST is organised around 4 work strands, each comprising a number of key objectives.

They are:

Prevent

To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Pursue

To stop terrorist attacks

Protect

To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

Prepare

To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

To recap what Prevent is

- **Prevent is simply part of your safeguarding duty**
It's the same as any safeguarding work that you do.
- **Prevent is about helping people make better choices and staying safe**
The aim is to support a person that is vulnerable to being radicalised so that they are not drawn into terrorism or terrorism-related activity.
- **Trust your instinct**
You should be confident that you know what to do if you spot a concern.

Why people are vulnerable to radicalisation

The emotions that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation, like anger, frustration, and confusion, are common to us all. It is important to understand why people may act in extreme ways for people or things in their lives they feel strongly about.

One of the unique features of extremist groups is that they can speak directly to vulnerabilities people may experience at times in their lives.

Recap on vulnerabilities

The Prevent process if you have a concern

1. Speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or an equivalent, for example, a line manager, if you are concerned about someone.
2. Your DSL or an equivalent will assess the concern and determine whether the person is appropriate to be referred to Prevent.
3. If referred, a police gateway assessment will determine if the referral needs to be discussed at a multi-agency meeting. The assessment determines the level of vulnerability and risk around the referred person.
4. A multi-agency meeting, called a Channel panel decides whether the person will be adopted as a case and how they will be supported, this is detailed in the action plan created at the meeting. In Scotland, the meeting is known as a Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP).
5. You may be called upon to provide information to the panel and provide support to the person as agreed in the action plan.

To recap why some people are vulnerable to radicalisation

- **Vulnerabilities are complex and unique to an individual's circumstances**
It could be down to anything from a traumatic experience in the past, to someone's current life situation.
- **Vulnerabilities can be closely connected to emotions**
Individuals may feel insignificant, marginalised or invisible.
- **The promise of an ideology**
Some people may find hope and a sense of belonging in being part of something.

What radicalisation is

Radicalisation is the name given to the process that moves a person to legitimise their support or use of violence. It's where terrorism begins.

What radicalisation can look like

Extremist material online

Radicalisers groom people using online platforms. There are also web pages which are not so noticeable, such as social media networking groups that draw people in. These groups look innocent on the outside but are actually extremist groups.

Public displays of hate and division

Radicalisation can draw on all forms of extremism. For example, extremism can lead to a public display such as racially antagonistic graffiti. This might represent the actions of someone who has taken on board an ideology.

The adoption of icons or symbolism

Icons and symbols are often a demonstration that someone is bonding to a group, cause or ideology. People can be drawn to imagery which they see as rebellious and socially challenging.

Face-to-face contact

Radicalisation can occur in a person and can appear quite benign. There may be scenarios that look normal on the outside, such as people meeting in a public park or at a local library, that seem safe and innocent, but where a person is actually at risk.

To recap on radicalisation

- **Terrorism begins with radicalisation**
It's the name given to the process that moves a person to legitimise their support of violence.
- **Radicalisation feeds on emotions**
The emotions involved when someone is at risk from radicalisation are common to all of us.
- **Context is key**
When spotting signs of radicalisation you need to understand the full context of the situation.

Promoting ideologies

Extremist groups use a range of means to promote their ideologies. For example, a protest or handing out material that promotes hatred and division.

Travelling to an area of conflict

Travelling to an area of conflict is often well-intentioned, however it can also be misguided and very dangerous to the person concerned.

Context is Key

It's important to remember that when it comes to spotting signs of radicalisation, context is key. To see if there is genuinely a cause for concern, you need to really understand the motivation and integrity in each instance. Anyone could be radicalised. There is no one social group or set of personal circumstances that lead there.

Recap on radicalisation

What extremism is

Extremism and terrorism are sometimes used interchangeably. Both pose a threat to people but they have very distinct definitions.

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

What terrorism is

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.

It's important to remember that not all extremist groups, whether Islamist, extreme right-wing or other, will commit terrorist or violent acts. However, some groups pose particular threats, both online and offline.

We define Islamist terrorism as acts of terrorism perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups or people who support and use violence as means to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society.

Terrorism is a violent action

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 (for example, erasing computer data or preventing a programme from running)

To recap on extremism and terrorism

- **Extremism is not the same as terrorism**
Not all extremist groups will commit terrorist or violent acts.
- **Terrorism is more than an attack**
Below the surface is hidden activity that builds up leading to violence.
- **Terrorism starts with attracting people**
The objective is to incite someone to support terrorism or become a terrorist themselves.

Notice. Check. Share procedure

The notice, check, share procedure is applied when there is a concern that someone might be at risk of radicalisation, and requires the correct, proportionate response to that.

This training is designed to make sure that when you share a concern that a person may be being radicalised:

- it's informed
- it's with good intention
- the response to that concern is considered, and proportionate

We will explore all of this in more detail.

! Warning You should call 999 where a person poses an immediate risk of harm to themselves or others.

Behaviours that cause concern

Those who work in front-line support roles will often be the first to notice if someone 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 changes in behaviour that may indicate radicalisation.

Online behaviours

For example someone:

- with more than one online identity
- who spends more time online and accessing extremist online content
- who downloads propaganda material

Increasingly agitated or violent behaviour

For example someone:

- who is becoming more argumentative in their viewpoints
- who is becoming abusive to others
- who justifies the use of violence to solve societal issues

Changing associations

For example someone:

- who changes friends
- alters their style of dress or appearance to accord with an extremist group
- who uses a new vocabulary
- who is isolated from friends and family

Increasingly anti-social behaviours

For example someone:

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

Checking concerns

Check is the second stage of the notice, check, share procedure.

If you notice a change in behaviour, and you think someone might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, you should check with a colleague or your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or an equivalent that they agree that it is a cause for concern. This is the person appointed to take lead responsibility for safeguarding. In some sectors, this could be your Prevent lead or a Prevent single point of contact. The DSL is the person appointed to take lead responsibility for safeguarding.

What checking means

Checking before sharing is a way of making sure you have gathered as much relevant information as possible before passing on the concern.

Examples of checking

Before you do anything, check your local procedural policy, as there may be some variations between organisations.

! Prevent takes a team approach to decide on who should intervene where, when and how. Therefore, you should not check your concern with the person themselves, though you may want to have a conversation with the person about their behaviours to help inform the context of your concern.

Check your initial judgement

Ask yourself:

- is there an alternative explanation?
- are there more areas to explore?
- do they need my help?

Check with a colleague or line manager

Ask a colleague discreetly:

- if they agree that this is a cause for concern
- if they have experienced anything like this before
- what they would do in the situation, but don't disclose the person's identity

Check with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or an equivalent

Ask your DSL or an equivalent discreetly:

- if they agree that this is a cause for concern
- if they think you need to find out more information
- if there is anything else you should do

Taking the time to check provides more context

Giving the DSL or equivalent more background knowledge ensures they can make a more informed decision on what the proportionate response should be.

Putting check into practice

Safeguarding issues are sensitive and need to be handled with duty and care. Your aim is to protect the person and not cause any more concern.

When checking you're trying to work out:

- who or what will help you see the bigger picture?
- who will be able to explain what you have noticed?
- who or what will be able to show you what you're missing?

Information sharing

Share is the final stage of the notice, check, share procedure. It is an intrinsic part of any frontline practitioner's job when working with people at risk of radicalisation.

Why information sharing is valuable

It is essential to share information between practitioners, organisations, and Designated Safeguarding Leads or an equivalent. This ensures we effectively identify, assess, and manage risk.

Each person must take responsibility for sharing the information they hold, and cannot assume that someone else will pass it on.

It's about making sure that people receive the right services at the right time.

Sharing information under the Prevent duty

Prevent safeguards people who are vulnerable to radicalisation in a similar way to safeguarding processes designed to protect people from gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse.

Some people have fears over sharing information as they don't want to compromise people's right to privacy. However, when it comes to Prevent, fear cannot stand in the way of the need to safeguard.

The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding of a person.

! You cannot get in trouble for sharing information with the right people under the Prevent duty.

Addressing concerns around information sharing

Here's how you might legally share information about a person vulnerable to radicalisation.

Sharing information under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) do not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information for the purposes of keeping children and vulnerable people safe.

Gaining consent when sharing information

Where possible, consent is encouraged. However, you do not need consent from the person to share their personal information if it puts that person's safety at risk.

When you do not need to get consent

There may be some circumstances where it is not appropriate to seek consent, either because the person cannot give consent, it is not reasonable to obtain consent, or because to gain consent would put the person's safety or well-being at risk.

Sharing personal information with another organisation

Under the Prevent duty you can share personal information with other practitioners.

Overview

One of the most important things to take away from this training is the notice, check, share procedure.

This ensures that when there is a concern that someone might be at risk of radicalisation that you feel confident in fulfilling your duty and that the response is proportionate.

Notice

Those who work in front-line support roles 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 vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation
- keep up-to-date with extremist signs and symbols

! You should call 999 where a person poses an immediate risk of harm to themselves or others.

Check

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

Remember to:

- handle safeguarding issues with duty and care
- try to understand the bigger picture by gaining more context
- check your concern discreetly with a colleague to see if they can offer any advice

Share

Everyone is responsible for sharing any information they hold that causes concern about a person.

Remember to:

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