

**PREVENT – QUICK GUIDE**

**What is Prevent?**

Prevent is part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST and is designed to safeguard vulnerable people and communities from the threat of radicalisation and being drawn into terrorism. There are different types of terrorism and Prevent deals with all of them. The most common types of terrorism in the UK are Islamist terrorism and extreme right-wing terrorism. The Prevent team work together with partnership agencies to stop people becoming involved in or supporting terrorist activity. Under the Prevent Duty, all public sector agencies have a responsibility to ensure their staff and volunteers have a good understanding of Prevent and their responsibilities towards individuals, groups, or families they are working with.

**What is Radicalisation?**

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. Though no single factor is usually enough to cause someone to join a terrorist organisation, several factors together can create the environment where terrorism can occur. There is no singular profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive someone to become radicalised. Those involved in extremist activity can come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Radicalisation is a process, and the process is different for everyone - it can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.

**Factors contributing towards radicalisation**

It is vital to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Some of the causes that lead to an individual becoming radicalised are no different to other factors that can lead vulnerable individuals towards concerning activity such as drug misuse, child sexual exploitation, gangs, and alcohol abuse. Other factors may include:

* the need for identity or belonging
* spending too much time online
* mental Health
* isolation
* a sense of injustice or grievances
* access to extremist material online
* a desire for power, respect, or status
* bullying
* drug/alcohol misuse

Not all people susceptible to radicalisation will be vulnerable, and there are other circumstances, needs or other underlying factors that may make a person susceptible to radicalisation but do not constitute a vulnerability.

**What behaviours might be displayed by someone who is being radicalised?**

Radicalisation may be identified by an individual exhibiting drastic changes in behaviour or language. These may include some of the following, but remember there may be other underlying reasons for behaviour changes:

* changes in mood, patterns of behaviour or secretive behaviour
* possession of violent extremist literature or use of inappropriate language / speech
* the expression of extremist views or sympathy for their causes
* seeking to engage or recruit others to extremist ideologies, extreme groups, literature,
* online social media groups
* preaching or imposing their views on others
* isolating themselves from family and friends
* outbursts of anger
* change in language or use of words
* fixation on a new subject or person

The above should not be seen as an exhaustive list, rather an indication of worrying behaviours that could make someone vulnerable. Anyone making a referral should ensure there is concern that someone may be susceptible to becoming involved in terrorism or supporting it. There may be times when the precise ideological driver is not clear. Yet, like any safeguarding mechanism, it is far better to receive referrals which turn out not to be of concern than for someone who genuinely needs support to be missed.

**Contacts / Further Information:**

Doncaster MBC:

* Rachael Long, Crime and Community Safety Theme Manager, 07795800946
* Bill Hotchkiss, Head of Service, Community Safety, 07917212721

South Yorkshire Police Prevent Team:

Out of Hours - Emergency 999

Out of Hours - Non-emergency 101

Prevent Inbox for queries: PreventSouth@ctpne.police.uk

**Additional Resources / References:**

Report Extremist Material: <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Preventing Terrorism: [www.ltai.info](http://www.ltai.info/)

Act Early: <https://actearly.uk/>

North East Counter Terrorism Unit: [www.northeastctu.police.uk](http://www.northeastctu.police.uk/)

UK Anti-Terrorist Hotline Number: 0800 789 321