

## **Factsheet about 'Prevent' – September 2015**

'Prevent' relates to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which came into force on 1 July 2015.

Since July 1 2015 there has been a duty on schools to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is called the *Prevent* duty.

*Prevent* is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy. Its aim is to stop more people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism in all its forms.

All staff will be trained using the '**Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent**' [WRAP] training materials in 2015/16. Until that training session occurs staff should be aware of the following:

### **What is radicalisation?**

"Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

### **What is extremism?**

'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'.

Please note that being drawn into terrorism includes not only violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. Extremism can take several forms, including Islamist extremism, far-right and animal rights extremism for example.

### **What are British Values?**

'Democracy, the rule of law, equality of opportunity, freedom of speech and the rights for all men and women to live free from persecution of any kind'.

Schools are expected to encourage pupils to respect other people with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation).

Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe place in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

## What action should staff take if they are worried that a child or young person might be drawn into extremism?

As with all forms of safeguarding, staff should use their professional judgement in identifying an individual who may be at risk of radicalisation.

The school has clear procedures in place to safeguard children that includes protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures will be set out in existing safeguarding policies. All staff should be aware of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures and follow these for any aspect of safeguarding, including extremist views/extremism.

As with any form of safeguarding if a member of staff has any concerns about a child in the first instance they should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead. **Concerns can be the 'generic' safeguarding triggers linked to the child protection training staff have received such as: changes in behaviour and mood, self-harm; or the specific extremist religious or political strand.**

## What is Channel?

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

## Who does Channel work with?

Channel is designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologues. The process is shaped around the circumstances of each person and can provide support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerabilities.

## How does Channel work?

Each Channel Panel is chaired by a local authority and brings together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk and can decide whether a support package is needed. The group may include statutory and non-statutory partners, as well as lead safeguarding professionals. If the group feels the person would be suitable for Channel, 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.

## What does Channel support look like?

Channel interventions are delivered through local partners and specialist agencies. The support may focus on a person's vulnerabilities around health, education, employment or housing, as well as specialist mentoring or faith guidance and broader diversionary activities such as sport. Each support package is tailored to the person and their particular circumstances.

## How will the person be involved in this process?

A person will always be informed first if it's felt that they would benefit from Channel support. The process is voluntary and their consent would be needed before taking part in the process. This process is managed carefully by the Channel Panel.

### Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral. Referrals come from a wide range of partners including education, health, youth offending teams, police and social services.

### What happens with the referral?

Referrals are first screened for suitability through a preliminary assessment by the Channel Coordinator and the local authority. If suitable, the case is then discussed at a Channel panel of relevant partners to decide if support is necessary.

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they should **follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead**, and where deemed necessary, with MASH.



#### For Early Help, Consultation and Enquiries please contact:

Telephone: **0345 155 1071**

E-mail: [mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk)

Fax: 01392 448951

Enquiry Form available at:

[www.devon.gov.uk/mash-enquiryform.doc](http://www.devon.gov.uk/mash-enquiryform.doc)

Post: **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, P.O. Box 723, Exeter EX1 9QS**

**Emergency Duty Team – out of hours**

**0845 6000 388**

**Police – non emergency – 101**

**For all LADO enquiries Exeter (01392) 384964**

Or

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/lado>