



# Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation

## The 'Prevent' duty:

From 1 July 2015 all schools, FE & HE Institutions must have "due regard" to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism & extremism.

This means placing an appropriate amount of weight on this need when considering other factors that are relevant to carrying out your usual functions.

Extremism is defined as:

- Far right views, animal rights activism, & various forms of religious fundamentalism
- Opposition to fundamental values, e.g. democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect & tolerance of different faiths & beliefs.

Protecting students from these risks is similar to protecting them from harm and abuse.

However the Prevent programme **must not** involve any covert activity against people or communities, but specified authorities may need to share personal information to ensure, for example, that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support.

## Factors that make a student vulnerable include:

- Pressure from peers, other people or the internet
- Crime against them or their involvement in crime
- Anti-social behaviour and bullying
- Family tensions
- Race or hate crime
- Lack of self-esteem or identity
- Personal or political grievances

## Education settings should ensure that:

- They are alert to changes in behaviour which could indicate that a student needs help or protection
- They discuss & challenge ideas through the curriculum, student debates, outside speakers, etc.
- They understand & use the policies & procedures of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) to protect & assess students at risk
- Designated Safeguarding Leads & Deputies:
  - undertake mandatory 'Workshop for Raising Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) training
  - provide briefings, awareness, advice and support to staff & volunteers
- Students are safe from terrorist & extremist material when accessing the internet
- They give a proportionate response to this risk
- They work with all services, e.g. Youth Justice, Social Care, & Community Youth Teams, to ensure the welfare of learners, staff and visitors.

## If you think a student might be at risk:

- You should inform your DSL/D immediately
- The DSL/D can assess the needs of the student & their family with their consent through a Family Common Assessment (FCAF), and
- The FCAF can be used to request support through the Multi-Agency Support Teams (MAST) e.g. **Channel** programme (voluntary)
- If the concern is serious and/or immediate, the DSL/D will refer this straight away via the:
  - Safeguarding Children Advisory Service (contact details below), or
  - Jo Batty & Brendan Pakenham, SY Police 'Prevent' team, via 101 or local Police contact
- If necessary, a 'Strategy Meeting' will be held between agencies such as Social Care and the Police to discuss the concerns & involve other services as required

The voluntary **Channel** programme assesses vulnerability using a framework built around:

- Engagement with a group, cause or ideology
- Intent to cause harm
- Capability to cause harm.

MAST or Children's Social Care can assess and refer students to this programme.

## 'Prevent' does not:

- Stop students from debating 'risky' issues
- Require staff to intrude unnecessarily into family life
- Override your legal duties of ensuring freedom of speech within legal boundaries

**Be careful that you do not stereotype – any group or community can be drawn to these ideas and put a child or young person at risk.**

## Practitioners in need of advice can contact:

**Safeguarding Children Advisory Service**  
**Mon–Fri, 9am - 5pm, tel. 2053535**  
[safeguardingchildrenadvice@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingchildrenadvice@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Useful resources:

- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance, DFE July 15
- Keeping Children Safe in Education, DFE 15
- Terrorism Act 2000
- Channel Guidance, HO 2015
- Prevent duty guidance for FE institutions, DFE 15
- SSCB Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures