

Radicalisation Policy

LEGACY SKILLS GROUP LIMITED

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Policy Statement

'The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 became law in February 2015. It introduced a raft of measures, some of which are still being debated in Parliament. The terrorism threat to the UK is considerable, and the government has acted to ensure that the intelligence agencies have the powers they need to keep us safe; it has issued statutory guidance to all relevant specified authorities.

Schedule 6 List

This list, which is regularly reviewed, includes all local authorities; anyone on the list is known as a 'specified authority'. It also includes prison, health- and social care, education, and police personnel at an identified level, for instance a chief officer of police. The Act creates a general duty of 'due regard' on all 'specified authorities'.

Local authorities must have 'due regard' to local circumstances; give appropriate weight on the need to 'prevent' people being drawn into terrorism (see below); and consider all other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

The Prevent Strategy

This includes clarification of the Prevent strategy first identified in 2011, which is a part of CONTEST: the government's counter-terrorism strategy.

The CONTEST strategy is made up of four 'workstreams', each comprising a set of objectives:

- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of terrorist attack.

This policy is intended to make staff aware of their role and responsibilities in regard to the Prevent area of work, as required by the new legislation.

Prevent Strategy Objectives

The Prevent strategy aims to perform the following:

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- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat posed by those who promote it.
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given the appropriate advice and support.
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.
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Since the 2011 Prevent strategy, the government has defined extremism as “a 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”; also included in their definition are “any calls for the death of members of the armed forces”.

The Prevent strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to counter all forms of terrorism, including non-violent extremism, that create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism or that popularise views which can then be exploited by terrorists. The changes also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenging extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. The strategy also means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity.

Prevent work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. Currently, the most significant threats are from terrorists’ functions in Syria and Iraq, including Al Qaeda associated groups, ISIS (also Daesh), and so forth; however, right-wing extremists also pose a threat to our safety and security. In fulfilling the Prevent duty, all specified authorities are expected to participate fully in work to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Specified authorities in Schedule 6 of the Act are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national interest and security.

The Policy

The Statutory Guidance

Three themes run through the ‘risk-based approach’ to the Prevent duty (i.e., an awareness of the risk of radicalisation; see below):

Effective Leadership

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For all specified authorities, the expectation is that those in leadership positions will:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risks of radicalisation
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

Working in Partnership

Prevent work depends on effective partnership. To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, the specified authorities must demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local Prevent coordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships regime.

Capabilities

Frontline staff who engage with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it. They need to be aware of what we mean by the term 'extremism' and the relationship between extremism and terrorism.

Staff need to know what measures are available to stop people becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that can be associated with it. They need to understand how to obtain support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences.

All specified authorities subject to the duty will need to ensure they provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty; such training is now widely available.

Risk-Based Approach

This means, as a starting point, an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their local area, institution, or body. This risk will vary greatly and can change rapidly, but no local area, institution, or body will be risk-free; the type and scale of activity that will address the risk will vary but all of the specified authorities will need to give "due regard" to it. Local authorities are expected to provide appropriate training to frontline staff, including those whom it contracts for services.

As outlined above, three themes run throughout the sector-specific guidance: leadership, working in partnership, and capabilities.

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Sharing Information

In addition to those overarching themes, sharing information is paramount. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, it is important that agreements exist at a local level (usually via the local authority). When sharing information in this context, consideration of the following is important:

- Necessity and proportionality
- Consent
- Power to share
- Legislative requirements e.g. Data Protection Act, common law, duty of confidentiality.

Monitoring and Enforcement

All specified authorities must comply with this duty; they must maintain appropriate records, in order to show compliance with their responsibilities, and provide reports when requested.

Central Support and Monitoring

The Home Office (HO) oversees Prevent activity in local areas which have been identified as priorities for this programme; they will provide central monitoring for the new duty. The HO shares the management of local Prevent co-ordinator teams with local authorities. The HO will draw together data about implementation of Prevent from local and regional Prevent coordinators from all specified authorities; monitor and assess the delivery of Prevent; maintain contact with relevant departments (escalating issues where appropriate); and support the Prevent Oversight Team, chaired by the Minister for Immigration and Security, which may agree on further steps to support implementation of the duty. Where non-compliance of the duty is identified, the Board can make recommendations to the Secretary of State to use their powers of direction.

Inspection Regime in Individual Sectors

Central support and monitoring will be supported by existing inspection regimes in specific sectors. Not every specified authority has a suitable inspection, and in some areas it may be necessary to create or enhance existing regimes. Specific arrangements are in place to work with the Welsh government to provide support to Welsh inspection regimes. This will mean, for instance, that for specified authorities within health- and social care the inspection regime which will support the Prevent strategy will be the CQC, NHS England, and Monitor, to name but a few.

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Sector-Specific Guidance

All of the above information relates to all of the sectors identified below. In addition, each of those sectors has its own sector-specific guidance. Those sectors are:

- Local authorities
- The health sectors
- Prisons and probation
- The police.

As providers of services to local authorities and/or the health sector, it is vital to understand Prevent and any role we may play within it via our contractual arrangements. Staff are at the frontline of contact with the local community and need to be aware of Prevent and understand their role in relation to the strategy.

Remember, not all local authorities will have a Prevent coordinator; it depends on the risk level of your locality. Prevent coordinators are located within the local police authority and accessed via the 101 number.

Channel

What is it?

A multi-agency early intervention process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour; it works in a similar way to SABs.

Who does it work with?

Individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremists or terrorist ideologues. It provides support for tackling any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerabilities.

The Channel Panel

Each panel is chaired by a local authority and brings together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk; they can decide whether a support package is needed.

Raising a Concern

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If staff believe that someone vulnerable is being exploited or radicalised then the established safeguarding procedures within the company should be used to escalate concerns; this can then raise concerns with Channel, if appropriate.

There is separate guidance for further education colleges and children's services.

Related Guidance

Safeguarding and Radicalisation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-and-radicalisation>

NHS England

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/safeguarding/our-work/prevent/>

Training Statement

Local authorities are expected to provide appropriate training to frontline staff, including those whom it contracts for its services.

Person responsible for updating this policy: Carol Pritchard

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