

Radicalisation and Extremism

Information for Practitioners on the Prevent & Channel Panel duties

Background

The Prevent programme is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to prevent people from becoming terrorists, or supporting terrorism. It is designed to ensure that individuals who are identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism are given appropriate advice and support so that they may turn away from radicalisation.

The CounterTerrorism and Security Act (CTSA) 2015 sets out the duty on local authorities and other organisations to pay due regard to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism, and to raise concerns about an individual they believe is at risk of radicalisation.

Guidance

Guidance for members of a Channel Panel and partners of local panels in England and Wales on the duty in the CTSA 2015 is to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Although there is a statutory duty on some organisations, anyone can raise a concern if they believe an individual is at risk of, or is being, radicalised.

What is Channel Panel?

Channel Panel is an early intervention scheme that supports people who are at risk of radicalisation and provides practical support tailored to individual needs.

It can help people to make positive choices about their lives. It is about safeguarding individuals vulnerable to radicalisation through multi-agency working to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned in a timely manner

A clear process is in place for making a referral to the panel. If a referral is made, an initial risk assessment is carried out to ensure that it is an appropriate referral and, if it is, Channel Panel agrees an appropriate support plan. The assessment and plan are reviewed at regular monthly meetings and when the panel agrees the risk has been suitably reduced or removed, further reviews are undertaken at 6 and 12 months. Taking part in Channel is voluntary.

One Minute Guide

Which agencies are involved in Channel Panel?

Under the 2015 Prevent duty, a wide range of agencies who must consider the risk of radicalisation as part of their day-to-day safeguarding work are involved in Channel, including the Local Authority, Police, Health, Education and others who are invited to provide specific support to an individual.

Do Prevent and Channel target particular groups?

No, Prevent and Channel are intended to tackle radicalisation in all communities, regardless of the ideology behind the radicalisation.

The recent pattern of radicalisation has shown that individuals can quickly progress from low level terrorism offences to carrying out an attack, and it is therefore imperative that individuals who are identified at risk of being radicalised are identified promptly with intervention and prevention opportunities explored by the agencies involved in the Channel Panel process.

Do the measures apply across the United Kingdom?

The measure applies to Prevent in England and Wales, and to Prevent Professional Concerns in Scotland. There is no equivalent programme in Northern Ireland.

ACT EARLY

The Home Office have produced a website (*link below*) providing details on how to Act Early if you are aware of someone who may be being drawn into terrorism along with other helpful advice and information.

<https://actearly.uk/>

For more information in relation to the Cheshire East Channel Panel please contact Sandra.murphy@cheshireeast.gov.uk or Richard.christopherson@cheshireeast.gov.uk