

PREVENT



Working together to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism

Terrorism can occur anywhere in the world with atrocities carried out in support of various ideologies. There is no single definition of terrorism but it commonly refers to criminal acts intended to provoke a state of terror in the general public.

Terrorism can be motivated by a range of ideologies or other factors, including religion, politics and race. In the UK extreme right wing groups and single issue groups can pose a significant threat.

What is **PREVENT**?

Prevent is part of CONTEST which is the Government's counter-terrorism strategy that aims to stop people becoming terrorists. It is a multi-agency approach to safeguard people at risk of radicalisation. Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, which are:

- **Pursue:** the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks.
- **Prevent:** work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism.
- **Protect:** improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack.
- **Prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible.

PREVENT helps people at all ages and is another form of **safeguarding** which brings agencies and members of the community together to offer support to a person who is at risk of radicalisation. It does not aim to criminalise people for holding extreme views; instead, it seeks to stop individuals from encouraging or even committing violent activity.



Within Gloucestershire there sits a multi-agency steering group, Gloucestershire *PREVENT* Partnership Board. The aim of this board is to build resilience with regards to the Government's *PREVENT* Strategy within the various agencies with the Chief Fire Officer as Chair and representatives from:

- District and County Councils
- County Council Safeguarding Department
- Further and Higher Educational Establishments
- Prospects
- Police
- Fire & Rescue
- Probation Services
- NHS England
- Gloucestershire Care Services
- 2gether Trust
- GARAS
- Independent Advisory Group

The aim of this board is to receive, consider and develop key aspects of work associated with the implementation of the Prevent Strategy including:

- Training and developing relevant staff/officer groups.
- Educating/informing/developing client groups.
- Development of appropriate and effective referral systems.
- Receiving information on relevant incidents.
- To develop and share common good practice.
- To ensure that the work of the Board complements the CTLP.
- To engage with similar county groups within the UK.
- To act as an appropriate conduit for sensitive information to be filtered through to agencies.

To assist the community, early intervention via Prevent and Channel, as a safeguarding strategy, is most effective. In doing so this will support that individual fully from radicalisation and extremism.



How can you spot the signs?

Vulnerable people are often exploited in a similar way to a person being groomed. Promises are made to them of rewards either materially or by providing a sense of belonging to a group that has similar ideas, which can offer empowerment, glory and confidence.

Examples of some signs to look for:

- Low self esteem or changes in emotional behaviour.
- Changes in routines, isolating themselves from groups, spending time alone via social media.
- Expressing feelings that they have no purpose in life and don't belong.
- Fixated on an ideology, belief or subject.
- Change in language or use of words.
- Closed to new ideas/conversations.
- Scripted speech.

If partner agencies have any concerns regarding an individual then these should be referred to the Police Prevent Team - Special Branch, Gloucestershire Constabulary. The Police Prevent Team will assess the case according to the Channel Vulnerability Framework and if the individual referred is vulnerable to radicalisation then the case will be referred to Gloucestershire County Council's Channel Panel. Alternatively members of the public can call **101** to make a referral or in an emergency call **999**.

Channel Panel

Channel is a process developed to support people at risk of being drawn towards terrorism or violent extremism. Partners work together to support individuals vulnerable to radicalisation and provide tailored safeguarding measures to support their needs. Channel Partners include Local Authority, Healthcare providers, Probation, Police and members of the community. A range of options are available including mentoring, welfare support and access to key services.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me:

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