

Schools' Prevent Duty

Introduction:

Prevent Duty Guidance was published by the government under Section 26 of the 2015 Counter Terrorism and Security Act. It places a duty on "specified authorities" to have "**due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism**". These authorities include schools, registered childcare providers and further education colleges.

Prevent is about safeguarding. It is about the need to provide a counter narrative against radicalisation in order to identify vulnerable young people who might be at risk. Social media has meant that the messages young people receive are much closer to home, whether they are from ISIL, white supremacists or anti-vivisectionists.

Prevent operates in a "pre-criminal" space by offering help and support to individuals at risk. It aims to help those who work with young people to spot those at risk and then have them referred to the Channel panel. This is made up of police, council, education and college representatives and it will draw up a discrete and tailored plan to help challenge that young person's extremist views.

It is not about them and us or scape-goating a particular community.

What is expected of schools and registered childcare providers

Below is a summary of the Prevent duty guidance that has recently been issued by the Home Office as it relates to schools. The full guidance is available at the following internet address:

www.gov.uk/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

All publicly-funded schools in England are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. They must also promote community cohesion.

Working in partnership

Governing bodies and proprietors of all schools and registered childcare providers should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

Risk assessment

Specified authorities are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

Specified authorities will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate.

Staff training

Specified authorities should make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups.

They should know where and how to refer children and young people for further help. Prevent awareness training will be a key part of this.

IT policies

Specified authorities will be expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.

Monitoring and enforcement

Ofsted inspects the specified authorities in England

When assessing the effectiveness of schools, Ofsted inspectors already have regard to the school's approach to keeping pupils safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism, and what is done when it is suspected that pupils are vulnerable to these

They will look at good practice in the following areas:

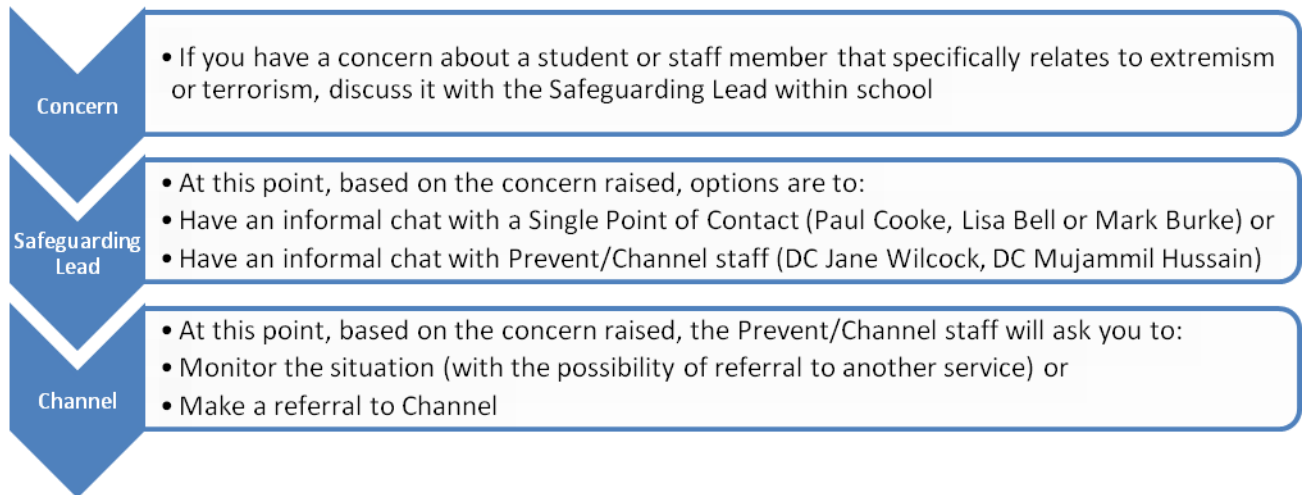
- Leadership and governance – Who, how, direction of travel, strategic governance links (BASH, Community Safety Partnership)
- Training - Prevent packages, Prevent Cloud, Prevent Briefings, NCALT (Channel online module)
- Engagement with external partners
- Policies and practices – action planning to mitigate risk, inter-borough collaboration, cross border working
- Curriculum – formal and informal
- Referral pathways – In-school activities, LSCB, Channel.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN THE WORKPLACE

If you have a concern

As in any situation, if you judge that there is an imminent danger - call 999

In other circumstances, the process below should be followed:



Bury Contacts

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Lisa Bell – Team Manager Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 0161 253 5362

Mark Burke – Community Cohesion Officer – 0161 253 5588

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DC Mujammil Hussain – Prevent Officer – 0161 856 2476/6345, 07876 879 757

For decision:

Governors are asked to ensure that the school is in a position to meet its Prevent duty to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.