



March 2025

# Bury Prevent Newsletter

Welcome to March's newsletter providing information and guidance in relation to Prevent in Bury.

The focus on Prevent is to safeguard against hateful extremism.

Prevent is one part of the government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of Prevent is to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
- enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and support behaviour change.

## Hello from Roy Thickett and Bury Council

Welcome to March's Prevent Newsletter, your trusted source for updates, insights, and resources around Prevent.

This space is dedicated to bringing together community groups and professionals committed to safeguarding and building resilient communities. Each month, we'll share key developments, practical tools, and inspiring stories to support your work in creating safer spaces for all. Thank you for being part of this vital conversation—let's make an impact together!

**"March is proof that change is beautiful. Embrace the winds of transformation and step boldly into new beginnings."**

Unknown

In this month's newsletter, we are looking at how to keep young people safe in the digital world!

As we step into March, it's a great time to reflect on the growing importance of online safety for young people. The internet is a great tool for learning, connecting, and sharing. But it can also be a space where harmful content spreads, including radical and extremist messaging. It's important to stay informed and take steps to protect yourself and others.

You can contact Roy by email to [prevent@bury.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@bury.gov.uk) or call 07581020228

Or for further information go to:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/privacy/service-privacy-notices/prevent-and-channel-panel-privacy-notice>



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## Keeping our young people safe

### How radicalisation happens online

- Extremist groups use social media, gaming platforms, and private messaging apps to target individuals.
- They often exploit emotions like anger, frustration, or loneliness to manipulate people.
- Misinformation and conspiracy theories are used to recruit and radicalise.

### How to Stay Safe

- ✓ Think Before You Click – Be cautious of content that promotes hate, division, or violence.
- ✓ Check the Facts – Verify information with trusted sources before believing or sharing it.
- ✓ Protect Your Privacy – Adjust your social media settings to limit who can contact you.
- ✓ Know the Signs – If someone is becoming withdrawn, expressing extreme views, or suddenly changing their online behaviour, they may need support.

Keeping children safe online from radicalisation and hateful extremism requires a combination of education, open communication, and proactive digital parenting.

Here are some practical tips for parents:

#### 1. Open communication and critical thinking

- Encourage open discussions about world events, beliefs, and different viewpoints. Make it clear they can talk to you about anything they see online.
- Teach critical thinking skills—help children question and analyse information rather than accepting it at face value.
- Discuss manipulation tactics used by extremist groups, such as emotional appeals, misinformation, fake news, or peer pressure.

#### 2. Monitor online activity without spying

- Know which platforms your child uses (social media, gaming forums, chat rooms) and how they interact there.
- Set parental controls and privacy settings on devices, but don't rely on them entirely—education is key.
- Encourage transparency—ask your child to show you their favourite websites, influencers, and online communities.

#### 3. Recognise warning signs

While radicalisation is rare, be aware of potential red flags, such as:

- Sudden changes in behaviour, isolation, or secrecy about online activity.
- Expressing extreme views, intolerance, or a 'them vs. us' mindset.
- Rejecting family and friends in favour of new, unknown online contacts.

#### 4. Teach digital resilience and media literacy

- Show them how to fact-check sources and spot misinformation.

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## Keeping our young people safe continued

- Explain how algorithms can create echo chambers, reinforcing extreme views.
- Encourage a diverse media diet—reading from multiple perspectives to avoid bias.

### 5. Be aware of online grooming for extremism

- Extremist recruiters often befriend and slowly influence young people, much like other forms of online grooming.
- Warn children about strangers offering a sense of belonging or exclusive "truths."
- If they are approached, encourage them to talk to you or a trusted adult.

### 6. Encourage positive online communities

- Get involved in youth groups, sports, music, uniformed services hobbies, and extracurricular activities that promote inclusivity.
- Introduce them to positive role models and mentors who support open-minded discussions.
- Encourage participation in critical-thinking discussions at school or with peers.

### 7. Report and seek help when necessary

- If you suspect extremist grooming, report it to the platform and relevant authorities (e.g., school, police, online safety organisations).

### 8. Parental control and monitoring tools

These tools help manage screen time, filter harmful content, and track online activity:

- Qustodio – allows content filtering, screen time control, and social media monitoring.

- Net Nanny – Blocks harmful websites and monitors online conversations.

- Bark – Uses AI to detect signs of cyberbullying, extremism, and harmful content.

- Google Family Link – Helps manage children's digital habits and restrict certain content.

### 9. Online safety and digital literacy resources

These organisations provide educational materials and guides for parents and children:

- Thinkuknow (CEOP – UK) ([thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)) – Resources on online grooming and extremism.
- Educate Against Hate ([educateagainsthate.com](http://educateagainsthate.com)) – UK government-backed advice on radicalisation.
- Common Sense Media ([commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)) – Reviews apps, games, and sites for age-appropriate content.
- Childnet ([childnet.com](http://childnet.com)) – Offers guidance on online safety and extremism.

### 10. Reporting radical content and suspicious activity

If you suspect online extremism or grooming, report it here:

- UK Counter-Terrorism Hotline – 0800 789 321
- Report online terrorism (UK GOV) – [gov.uk/report-terrorism](http://gov.uk/report-terrorism)
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) – [iwf.org.uk](http://iwf.org.uk)

Remember allowing children unmonitored use on the internet is like allowing a stranger into your home!



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## National Picture

### Threat level

The threat to the UK from terrorism is currently **substantial**.

This indicates that an attack is likely. It is the middle of the 5 levels of threat which terrorism is assessed against, with the level set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and the Security Service.

### New Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities:

Under section 29 of the counter terrorism and security act of 2015, Local Authorities (LAs) are required to have due regard to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. A new toolkit supports the delivery of Prevent by LAs, providing examples of good and best practice. It does not supersede statutory guidance but does highlight benchmarks for typical expectations of local authorities delivering Prevent.

It can be found here:

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1182802/Prevent\\_duty\\_guidance\\_toolkkit\\_for\\_local\\_authorities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182802/Prevent_duty_guidance_toolkkit_for_local_authorities.pdf))

A new section has been added to the Prevent guidance on using the National Referral Form and the 'Notice, Check, Share' process. Professionals may wish to adopt this process if they have concerns about radicalisation.

**Notice** - any concerning behaviour, including signs of radicalisation as included in the guidance

**Check** - the organisational response and speak to the safeguarding lead of your concerns. This means that you will have all the relevant information before sharing.

**Share** - the concern and make a referral to the police using the national referral form.

### Implications for Bury:

Bury Council should review all of the above recommendations and consider implementation of those which are not already in place. Contact [prevent@bury.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@bury.gov.uk) or more in-depth of information on any of the recommendations, including best practice.





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## Guidance: get help for radicalisation

Since 2017, there has been 14 terror attacks in the UK. The government's CONTEST policy paper sets out a strategy to not only stop attacks, but also to prevent radicalisation and extremism happening in the first place.

The government's main priority is to make use of the full potential of their Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre (CTOC) to bring together the right teams and technology to disrupt and prevent terrorists, also bringing in expertise from other, non-law enforcement sectors such as education and social services, as well as international partners and allies.

The strategy is divided into 4 sections covering the areas of our world-leading counter-terrorism programme. These are:

**Prevent** – to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

**Pursue** – to stop terrorist attacks in this country or UK interests overseas.

**Protect** – to strengthen our position against a terrorist attack.

**Prepare** – to minimise the impact of an attack and reduce the likelihood of further attacks.

There are also efforts that go beyond CONTEST to make transformational improvements to response.

For example, the government supports the public and private sector to become partners in prevention by increasing public messaging to ensure that they are informed about the routes to report, keeping safe, and responding to incidents.

They will strengthen our border lines against terrorism and invest in relationships with the technology sector to explore opportunities and threats arising from technology, suppressing criminal exploitation of the internet.

## What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is defined in Section 1 Terrorism Act 2000

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/section/1>) as the use or threat of action designed to:

- influence the government or an international governmental organisation or
- intimidate the public, or a section of the public.

made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes:

- serious violence against a person.
- serious damage to a property.
- a threat to a person's life.
- a serious risk to the health and safety of the public or
- serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system.





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## Upcoming training

### Prevent duty training:

[Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training \(www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk)

### Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) Training

WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness around Prevent) is a Level 3 advanced Home Office training package designed for front-line staff in the private and public sector including professionals, social services, housing, the health sector, probation service, offender management units, family protection units & employment services..

The training is designed to raise awareness of PREVENT and CHANNEL as a strategy to reduce the number of people becoming or supporting violent extremism through recognising, supporting, and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation through multi-agency support. This session is open to all and covers:

- Know what Prevent is.
  - Understand why Prevent is important
  - Understand how Prevent applies to their role
  - Identify the emotions and behaviours that might make someone susceptible to radicalisation
  - Understand how to apply the notice, check, share procedure
  - Understand risk in their local area
  - Know what to do when they have a concern
  - Understand their local referral pathway.
- To book a place, please contact [prevent@bury.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@bury.gov.uk)



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## Upcoming webinars by SAFE (Safety Advice for Everybody) through the Community Security Trust

For further information and to book onto sessions: [SAFE Events Hub \(zoom.us\)](https://www.safeevents.org.uk/)

<https://events.zoom.us/j/9J2FJjr6sdw~AggLXsr32QYFjq8BIYLZ5106Dg>

- 3 Apr 7pm, **Hate Crime** (the complexity of hate crime)
- 9 Apr 2pm, **Online Security** (protecting yourself and your community from online threats)
- 17 Apr 1pm **Exploring the Far Right** (the state of the far right in the UK)
- 24 Apr 7pm, **Conflict Management** (communication, spotting escalation and de-escalation techniques)

Some useful links and documents can be found by scanning our Linktree.

Scan this QR code to find out more







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## GMP Triage for referrals to Channel

For a pre-discussion and information and guidance around the suitability of submitting a referral for Channel you can contact CTPNW (Counter Terrorism Policing Northwest). (CTPNW) is a five-force collaboration delivering Counter Terrorism (CT) services to our regional forces as well as forming part of the national CT Network.

Staff at CTPNW can advise and support on whether the referral will be appropriate.

Tel: 0161 856 6362 Email: [channel.project@gmp.police.uk](mailto:channel.project@gmp.police.uk)

For further information please visit [www.bury.gov.uk/prevent](http://www.bury.gov.uk/prevent) or email [prevent@bury.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@bury.gov.uk)

## Useful Resources

- [www.protectuk.police.uk/](http://www.protectuk.police.uk/) - counter terrorism support & guidance to effectively protect & prepare.
- Prevent and Channel factsheet - 2023 - Home Office in the media (blog.gov.uk) – Overview of the Prevent agenda and Channel process <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/08/prevent-and-channel-factsheet-2023/>
- What are the signs of radicalisation? ACT Early - find out more about the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. <https://actearly.uk/spot-the-signs-of-radicalisation/what-to-look-for/>
- Protecting charities from abuse for extremist purposes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – guide on how trustees, staff and volunteers can protect their charity from abuse by those encouraging extremism. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-charities-from-abuse-for-extremist-purposes>
- Radicalisation and child protection NSPCC Learning – online resource from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/radicalisation>

Education colleagues – your Designated Safeguarding Leads have received a Prevent Education Handbook

For further information please visit [www.bury.gov.uk/prevent](http://www.bury.gov.uk/prevent) or email [prevent@bury.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@bury.gov.uk)