



February 2024

Bury Prevent Newsletter

Welcome to February 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

Hello and welcome from Roy Thickett and Bury Council. We hope you are having a great week!

In this February edition of the Bury Prevent Newsletter we look into further detail about the Prevent guidelines and the duty to keep people safe when using venues and meeting rooms open to the public.

The Prevent guidelines about venue hire and reducing permissive environments

Bury Council reserves the right in its discretion not to hire meeting rooms to organisations or individuals that do not confirm to Prevent guidelines around responsible booking guidance or where it is not satisfied that the safety of the buildings and public can be ensured.

The Prevent duty makes a mandatory requirement that Bury Council ensures that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate

extremist views.

'Prevent' is part of the government counter-terrorism strategy, it's designed to tackle the problem of terrorism at its roots, preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming involved in terrorism themselves.

There are individuals and groups that advocate or promote extreme views including: hatred, divisions, and the use of violence.

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You can contact Roy by email to 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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The Prevent guidelines about venue hire and reducing permissive environments

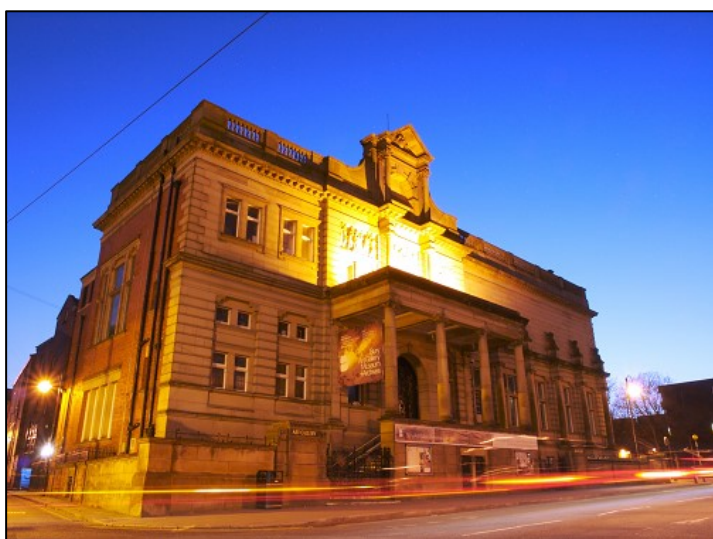
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These speakers may also have the potential to create community tension, media attention, and damage the reputation of the council.

There are many varied ideologies that motivate people and groups, and Bury Council has to take care to find a balance that takes account of the right to free speech, human rights and equality for example the Human Rights Act 1998

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/II/chapter/9>

To ensure Prevent standards are met, Bury Council and all local authorities are expected to ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate hatred or extremist views.



Bury Council makes sure its venues are not used by those whose views would draw people into terrorism, by ensuring that rigorous booking systems are in place and staff responsible for them are trained to know what to do if they have suspicions.

This includes making sure venues or IT equipment are not used by speakers and groups who spread extremist narratives which could reasonably be linked to terrorism.

Multi-agency partners in Bury work together to reduce permissive environments and the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The following information will provide you with advice and guidance about allowing your premises to be used for external purposes or speakers.

It sets out how we can effectively apply additional rules and conditions to mitigate or minimise risks.

Prevent also tackles other ideologies and concerns that may pose a terrorist threat.

Further information about Bury Council's Prevent Policy can be found online:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/my-neighbourhood/safety-in-the-community/prevent>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnLOAVF5Nm8>



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Responding to threats

To tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, Prevent focuses on reducing the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences, as well as reducing the availability of, and access to, terrorist content.

- In the UK, the primary domestic terrorist threat comes from Islamist terrorism. Islamist terrorism is the threat or use of violence as a means to establish a strict interpretation of an Islamic society.
- Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism describes those involved in extreme right-wing activity who use terrorist violence to further their ideology. These ideologies can be broadly characterised as Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism.

Individuals and groups may subscribe to ideological trends and ideas from more than one category.

- Established terrorist narratives exhibit common themes such as antisemitism, misogyny (Incels), anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority. Left-Wing, Anarchist currently represents a significantly smaller terrorist threat to the UK than Islamist terrorism or Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism.

Further information can be found on The Prevent Toolkit along with Protect UK who provide business and public with counter terrorism support and guidance to effectively protect and prepare.

[Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[ProtectUK | Home](#)

Responsible event booking guidance

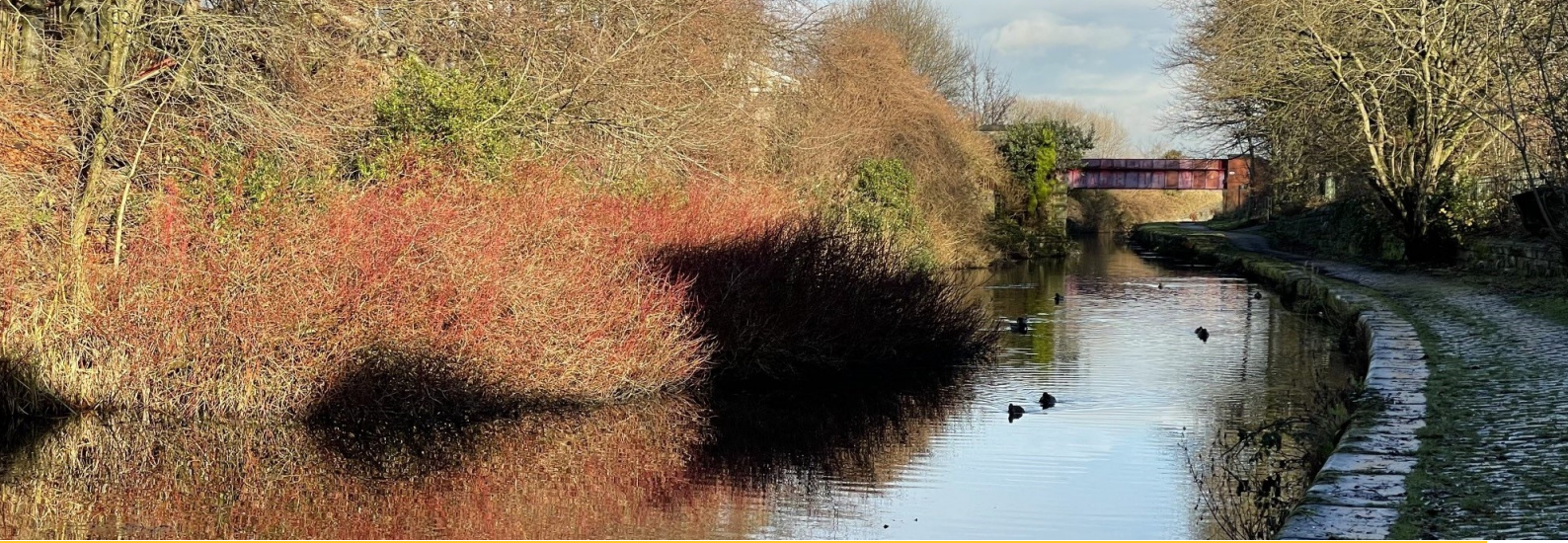
There is a public and private sector venue hire policy in place that ensures that measures are taken to prevent local authority and voluntary sector venues being used by radicalisers to spread or promote terrorist ideologies and extremist narratives used to support them.

It is good practice for local authorities to make sure that a rigorous system is in place for new bookings and that staff responsible for them are trained to know what to do if they suspect that a booking gives rise to a risk of supporting a terrorist organisation or radicalisation.

This could involve consideration of the information known about the individual or group for whom the booking is being made – which may include that obtained through an ‘open source’ search – and, in processing any personal data, the data protection legislation must be complied with.

Did You Know ?

Of the 234 persons in custody for terrorism-connected offences in Great Britain 65% were categorised as holding Islamist-extremist views, 27% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and the remaining 8% were categorised as holding beliefs related to other ideologies.



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Roles and Responsibilities

This policy will help you to assess the potential for any risks that need to be managed when taking venue bookings for events or working with organisations using council resources.

It will not apply to all situations or events but provides a starting point to identify and address concerns where you're unsure about an organisation, group or individuals. Your judgement is important!

Use the responsible booking form in this guide to help you to assess the risk and consider the options. The decision to accept a room booking or support an activity and whether to take further action is your team's or organisation's responsibility.

Make sure that you store any information in line with the records management policy and data protection arrangements. Where an event/ activity is to go ahead, consider making additional conditions to make sure that it's managed properly and make it clear that breaching these conditions could lead to cancellation. For example:

Due Diligence Checklist

- Making an event or activity open to the public.
- Mandatory attendance of persons who can provide an alternative voice to ensure fair debate.
- Giving guidelines regarding language or topics that will not be tolerated.
- Insisting on an independent chairperson or observer.
- Restricting the sale of alcohol or other products.
- Asking speakers to provide copies of presentations in advance and agree not to deviate from this.
- Restricting what banners, placards, leaflets, electronic materials and so on are allowed at the event or activity.
- Insisting that an event is recorded in case of future complaint.

Non-local authority owned premises

In relation to non-local authority owned premises there are several issues to consider:

Health and safety considerations: some events can attract significant attendance with the potential for disorder outside their premises and health and safety implications for their staff.

Bury Council can help your organisation to assess the risk and advise private venues accordingly.

Regulations: A range of regulations are relevant to events (for example licensing, environmental health, noise pollution) and discussion should be had to look at whether an event conforms to the relevant regulations.

Reputation

Venue owners may want to be made aware if there are concerns about a radicalising influencer using a private venue for an event in view of the potential reputational impact on the venue. Charities: Trustees have specific duties under charity law which are relevant to the protection of their institutions. The Charity Commission has a variety of guidance available for trustees, including Chapter 5 of the Compliance Toolkit 'Protecting Charities from abuse for extremist purposes.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/protecting-charities-from-harm-compliance-toolkit>

Please contact Bury VCFA for further advice.

Considering this, and your role of providing a venue for meetings and events, it is always prudent to consider the purpose of events/meetings and whether they could lead to issues around radicalisation and terrorism. In following the guidance and method shown below it is hoped that not only can we safeguard the reputation of your organisation, but we can prevent vulnerable people being exploited and prevent possible terror attacks.



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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.

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 hilja.jeffery@bury.gov.uk for more in-depth of information on any of the recommendations, including best practice.

Addressing common myths about Prevent

Common myth that Prevent doesn't work. You may have read something like this in the papers or online. Many people have been helped as part of the Prevent programme and that can be a very positive outcome. If less lives are lost to violence and extremism because of a persons' participation in the Prevent programme that is a measure that cannot be quantified.



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Guidance: get help for radicalisation



Since 2017, we have seen an average of 9 attempted terror attacks per year.

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 to 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.



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Upcoming Training

Prevent duty training

Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training at: www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) Training

This training is 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 includes:

- How young people and adults are radicalised.
- The signs of radicalisation.
- Local and national tensions
- How Prevent supports safeguarding vulnerable individuals against extremism and radicalisation
- What to do if you think a person is being radicalised.

Upcoming Online WRAP sessions are:

- 11 April - 6-7pm
- 18 July - 6-7pm
- 17 October - 6-7pm

Face to face workshops are encouraged by The Home Office and these can be booked to suit via the address below.

To book a place, please contact prevent@bury.gov.uk

Upcoming webinars by SAFE

(Safety Advice For Everybody) through Community Security Trust

For further information and to book onto sessions go to [SAFE Events Hub \(zoom.us\)](https://events.zoom.us/j/7592520270) (<https://events.zoom.us/j/7592520270>)

- 20 February 6pm - **Basic Security for your Community** with the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
- 22 February 2pm - **Exploring the Far Right** (the state of the far right in the UK)
- 26 February 2pm - **Online Safety for Beginners NEW** (a gentle introduction, with hints and tips)
- 7 March 12pm - **Conflict Management** (communication, spotting escalation and de-escalation techniques)
- 13 March 2pm - **Incels** (asking the question - are they villains or victims?)
- 21 March 7pm, **Hostile Reconnaissance** (the information gathering phase of attack planning)
- 3 April noon - **Safeguarding Awareness NEW** (introduction to safeguards and how you can play your part)
- 11 April 6pm - **School Security NEW** (we share our experience of keeping schools, and children, secure)
- 18 April 6pm - **Past terror attacks – Lesson learned *Updated version*** with MOPAC London

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





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Useful Resources

- www.protectuk.police.uk - Counter terrorism support & guidance to effectively protect and prepare.
- A consultation has opened on new laws to make sure we are better prepared for, and protected from, terrorist attacks. Read more here: <https://matomo.protectuk.police.uk/a9e085>
- [Prevent and Channel factsheet - 2023 - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk) - Overview of the Prevent agenda and Channel process
- [What are the signs of radicalisation? | ACT Early](#) - find out more about the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.
- [Protecting charities from abuse for extremist purposes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) – guide on how trustees, staff and volunteers can protect their charity from abuse by those encouraging extremism.
- [Radicalisation and child protection | NSPCC Learning](#) – online resource from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Education Colleagues – your Designated Safeguarding Leads have received a Prevent Education Handbook

GMP Triage.

For a pre discussion and information and guidance around the suitability of submitting a referral for Channel you can contact CTPNW (Counter Terrorism Policing North West). (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. Our staff work to the Government's CONTEST strategy under the four pillars of Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue. They can advise and support on whether the referral will be appropriate.

Tel : 0161 856 6362 Email: channel.project@gmp.police.uk

For further information please visit www.bury.gov.uk/prevent or email prevent@bury.gov.uk

You can contact Roy by email to prevent@bury.gov.uk or call 07581020228

Or for further information go to:
<https://www.bury.gov.uk/privacy/service-privacy-notice/prevent-and-channel-panel-privacy-notice>

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