

# The Prevent Strategy and the Channel Programme

## **What is the Prevent Strategy?**

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, in all its forms. Prevent works at the pre-criminal stage by using early intervention to encourage individuals and communities to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

## **What is Channel?**

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing multi-agency partnerships for vulnerable individuals. It is a voluntary process allowing the individual to withdraw from the programme at any time.

## **Who is Channel aimed at?**

Channel is for individuals of any age who are at risk of exploitation by extremist or terrorist ideologues. Early intervention can prevent individuals being drawn into terrorist-related activity in a similar way to criminal activity such as drugs, knife or gang crime.

## **How does Channel work?**

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether

an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate individualised support package. Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support. The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel Panel.

## **Who can make a referral?**

Anyone can make a referral. Referrals have come from a wide range of partners: social services, children and adult services, health, police, education and youth offending teams.

## **What happens with the referral?**

Each referral is screened for suitability via a preliminary assessment undertaken by the Police Channel Coordinator and the local authority. If suitable, the case is discussed with all relevant partners to decide if an intervention is necessary.

## **Will the individual be informed about the Channel referral?**

If an individual is deemed to require a Channel intervention, then they must be told prior to receiving an intervention. The process will be carefully managed with the referring agency.

## **Who sits on the Channel Panel?**

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and includes

Police, statutory partners and non-statutory partners, where appropriate. Lead safeguarding professionals will be invited on a case by case basis.

## **Who delivers Channel?**

Channel interventions are delivered through local partners and specialist agencies. Support could include mainstream health, education, employment or housing services through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities such as sporting activities.

## **Escalating concerns**

If you believe that someone is vulnerable to being exploited or radicalised, please follow the established safeguarding procedures in your organisation to escalate concerns to the appropriate people who can refer concerns to Channel if appropriate.

For Channel referrals or for more information please contact:

### **Head of Prevent (RBKC & LBHF)**

pinakin.patel@lbhf.gov.uk  
020 8753 5727

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Identification and referral of concern by school or college safeguarding lead

## Screening Process

Police Channel Lead conducts discreet enquiry to establish whether the referral is indeed legitimate.

## Checking Process

Police check to ensure referral is not subject to live investigation

Communicate the decision to referrer and forward the referral to existing safeguarding panels

For example:

- MAPPA
- MARAC
- Serious Case Review Panel
- Risk of Serious Harm Panel
- Locality Services Panel Meetings
- Looked After Children Services
- Gangs Unit Triage

Refer back to Channel Panel if necessary

NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHANNEL

## Preliminary assessment

The Local Authority Prevent Team will then consult relevant LA safeguarding leads to assess if the referral meets the Channel threshold.

CHANNEL INTERVENTION NOT REQUIRED

## Channel Panel

The Channel Panel collectively discusses and assesses the various support needs of the individual, deciding whether a Channel intervention is required.

## Channel Intervention

Channel intervention commissioned from approved Channel Intervention provider.

## Monitoring

Channel Panel regularly monitors progress from Channel intervention provider and safeguarding professionals