

LET'S  
**TALK**  
ABOUT IT

**PREVENT**

&

**CHANNEL**

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# WHAT IS

# PREVENT



Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

**THE PREVENT STRATEGY:**

- responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures they are given appropriate advice and support
- works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.

The strategy covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. However, we prioritise our work according to the risks we face.

The Home Office works with local authorities, a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent strategy. The police also play a significant role in Prevent, in much the same way as they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes.

**We use a range of measures to challenge extremism in the UK, including:**

- where necessary, we have prevented those who support terrorism and extremism from travelling to this country
- giving guidance to local authorities and institutions to understand the threat from extremism and the statutory powers available to them to challenge extremist speakers and ensure balanced debate
- funding a specialist police unit which works to remove online content that breaches terrorist legislation
- supporting community based campaigns and activity which can effectively rebut terrorist and extremist propaganda and offer alternative views to our most vulnerable target audiences - in this context we work with a range of civil society organisations
- supporting people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity through the Channel process, which involves several agencies working together to give individuals access to services such as health and education, specialist mentoring and diversionary activities.

We measure the outputs and impact of our work locally and nationally to make sure the Prevent programme provides value for money.

**IN SUMMARY**

**STOP**



The main aim of Prevent is to **stop people from becoming terrorists** or supporting **terrorism**.

**PROTECT**



At the heart of Prevent is **safeguarding children and adults** and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

**PREVENT**



**Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism**, but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated on the basis of threats to our national security.

# WHAT IS

# CHANNEL



Channel is a multi agency process, which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel uses existing collaboration between partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism. It is similar to the way we work, using partnership structures, to protect vulnerable people from harm – for example in drugs and gangs prevention work.

**WHO DELIVERS CHANNEL?**

The process is a multi-agency approach with a wide range of agencies and local partners working together to provide support for individuals. Coordinators are usually police officers with the multi-agency panel being chaired by the local authority.

**WHO IS CHANNEL AIMED AT?**

It is aimed at all individuals who may be most at risk of being drawn into terrorism – whatever section of society they may be from. Supporting those most at risk is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

**HOW DOES CHANNEL WORK?**

Channel works by partners collaboratively assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs. The three key stages of Channel are:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk and where necessary refer the case to a multi-agency panel
- the panel then develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

**HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY THOSE AT RISK?**

Referrals come from those who have concerns about individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

**WHO MAKES THE REFERRALS?**

Referrals can come from anyone. This includes members of the public and a wide range of partners from youth offending teams, social services, health, police and the education sector to local communities and independent groups.

**WHO SITS ON THE MULTI-AGENCY PANEL?**

The panel is designed to work in the same way as other multi-agency structures that are used to safeguard individuals at risk – from drugs, knife and gun crime, gangs etc. The panel should be chaired by the local authority and consist of statutory partners and the Channel coordinator.

**WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS PROVIDED THROUGH CHANNEL?**

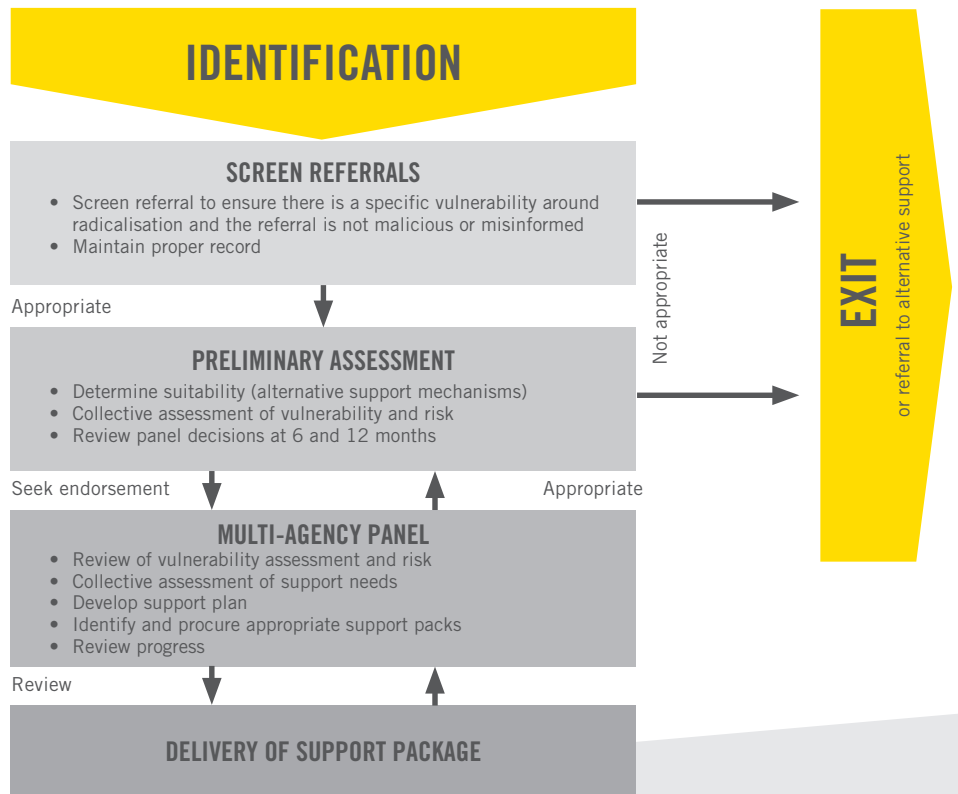
Examples of support provided could include mentoring, activities such as sport or signposting to mainstream services such as education, employment or housing. Support is always tailored to specific needs of the individual following assessment by the multi-agency panel.

Who is Channel aimed at?

It is aimed at all individuals who may be most at risk of being drawn into terrorism – whatever section of society they may be from.

## THE CHANNEL PROCESS

This diagram shows the different stages within the Channel process:



### A GUIDE TO THE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

It should not be assumed that the characteristics set out below necessarily indicate that a person is either committed to terrorism or may become a terrorist. The assessment framework involves three dimensions: engagement, intent and capability, which are considered separately.

#### 1. ENGAGEMENT WITH A GROUP, CAUSE OR IDEOLOGY

Engagement factors are sometimes referred to as “psychological hooks”. They include needs, susceptibilities, motivations and contextual influences and together map the individual pathway into terrorism.

They can include:

- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- Feeling under threat
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- A desire for status
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- A need to dominate and control others
- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- A desire for political or moral change
- Opportunistic involvement
- Family or friends involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Being influenced or controlled by a group
- Relevant mental health issues.

#### 2. INTENT TO CAUSE HARM

Not all those who become engaged by a group, cause or ideology go on to develop an intention to cause harm, so this dimension is considered separately. Intent factors describe the mindset that is associated with a readiness to use violence and address what the individual would do and to what end.

They can include:

- Over-identification with a group or ideology
- ‘Them and Us’ thinking
- Dehumanisation of the enemy
- Attitudes that justify offending
- Harmful means to an end
- Harmful objectives.

#### 3. CAPABILITY TO CAUSE HARM

Not all those who have a wish to cause harm on behalf of a group, cause or ideology are capable of doing so, and plots to cause widespread damage take a high level of personal capability, resources and networking to be successful. What the individual is capable of is therefore a key consideration when assessing risk of harm to the public.

Factors can include:

- Individual knowledge, skills and competencies
- Access to networks, funding or equipment
- Criminal capability.

## SUPPORT PACKAGE COULD INCLUDE:

### LIFE SKILLS

work on life skills or social skills generally, such as dealing with peer pressure;

### MENTORING SUPPORT CONTACT

work with a suitable adult as a role model or providing personal guidance, including guidance addressing extremist ideologies;

### ANGER MANAGEMENT SESSION

formal or informal work dealing with anger;

### COGNITIVE/BEHAVIOURAL CONTACT

cognitive behavioural therapies and general work on attitudes and behaviours;

### CONSTRUCTIVE PURSUITS

supervised or managed constructive leisure activities;

### EDUCATION SKILLS CONTACT

activities focused on education or training;

### CAREERS CONTACT

activities focused on employment;

### FAMILY SUPPORT CONTACT

activities aimed at supporting family and personal relationships, including formal parenting programmes;

### HEALTH AWARENESS CONTACT

work aimed at assessing or addressing any physical or mental health issues;

### HOUSING SUPPORT CONTACT

activities addressing living arrangements, accommodation provision or neighbourhood;

### DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS

substance misuse interventions.

Support is always tailored to specific needs of the individual following assessment by the multi-agency panel.



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**TO FIND YOUR LOCAL CONTACT VISIT:**

[www.ltai.info/contact](http://www.ltai.info/contact)

Non-emergency: Call 101

**Emergency: Call 999**

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