

# **Working Together to Safeguard Against Extremism**

## **Preventing Extremism in Oxfordshire - FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

### **1. What is Prevent?**

Prevent is one of the four core elements of the Government's strategy for countering terrorism (CONTEST) with the three other elements being Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The Government's Prevent Strategy 2011 aims to stop people supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists. It has three objectives:

- to provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into extremism or terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate support
- to work in partnership across a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed
- to tackle the ideological challenge from terrorism and extremism

Preventing extremism is about early intervention before any illegal activity takes place.

### **2. Why is Prevent important to local authorities?**

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act (February, 2015) placed a duty on local authorities and other 'specified authorities' to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Local authorities are vital to protecting the public and safeguarding vulnerable people, as well as preventing crime and promoting strong, integrated communities. They are therefore well-placed to work in partnership to manage risk and co-ordinate activity to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism.

To meet the new duty, local authorities are:

- training frontline staff to spot the signs of radicalisation and make a referral
- ensuring preventing extremism is included in existing policies and procedures, especially those related to safeguarding and to prevent public resources being used to support terrorism
- managing the Channel Panel which offers support to vulnerable people being exploited by extremists
- providing information and support to schools and engaging with communities

### **3. What are the signs that someone may be being drawn into extremism?**

Protecting those vulnerable to extremism is a safeguarding issue similar to protecting children or vulnerable adults from other harms such as substance misuse, being drawn into a gang, or sexual exploitation. It is important to be alert to any changes in behaviour such as: withdrawal from usual activities; expressing feelings of anger, grievance or injustice; truanting/ going missing from school or care; expressing 'them and us' thinking; using inappropriate language and/ or advocating violent actions and

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means' possessing extremist literature and/or expressing extremist views; associating with known extremists; seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

This list is indicative of the types of behaviour that might be exhibited when someone is being exploited, however, they could also be due to other forms of exploitation. Establishing a trusting relationship with a vulnerable person not only helps to encourage more open discussions about concerns but also makes it easier to spot when there is a change in behaviour.

### 4. What is the Channel Panel?

The Channel Panel in Oxfordshire supports children and young people vulnerable to extremism. It is a multi-agency panel that draws on a range of services to put a support plan in place for the individual at risk of being radicalised. The Oxfordshire Channel Panel is chaired by the Chief or Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Oxfordshire County Council and is supported by the police, social services and a range of other support services including probation and health. Initial checks are made to ensure that referrals are suitable for Channel Panel support and anyone who is referred must give their consent to being supported by the Panel.

Access the on-line Channel Panel awareness raising training package here:  
[http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness)

### 5. How do I make a referral?

If you are concerned about an individual being drawn into extremism call **0845 050 7666** and ask for the Oxfordshire MASH (child/ young person) or Social and Health Care Team (adult).

If you want to discuss a potential referral with the Police Prevent Officer:  
[preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

If you have any general concerns about Prevent:  
[prevent@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

### 6. Where can I find further information/ training?

Further information including national guidance on Prevent and Channel can be found on our website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/preventingextremism](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/preventingextremism)

If you are interested in attending further training on Prevent – please email [fire.safeguarding@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fire.safeguarding@oxfordshire.gov.uk)