

# 'Diverting vulnerable people away from harm'



## The Channel process



7 Minute Briefing

NHS



### IT'S ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

- Channel is an early intervention process similar to other safeguarding initiatives designed to divert people away from drugs, gangs or knife crime.
- It is aimed at those most at risk of being attracted towards support for or involvement in terrorist related activity.
- It is about diverting vulnerable people away from any potential threat at an early stage, before any crime has been committed.

### IT WORKS WITHIN A LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Channel requires proportionate & appropriate information sharing to be undertaken to build an accurate picture of each individual's support needs.

All personal data collected is stored on a bespoke case management system which is subject to the same rigour as other patient data & is fully compliant with the Data Protection / Human Rights law.

### IT'S TRULY MULTI-AGENCY



- ✓ All referrals are carefully assessed by a local authority led Channel panel, made up of reps from different safeguarding areas i.e. health, education, social services, & the police.
- ✓ The Channel Duty places a duty on all partners to co-operate with panels—for health this means attending panel meetings as required & identifying any interventions including for those with a mental health treatment need.
- ✓ Support will vary according to an individual's vulnerability/needs & may include mentoring, counselling, access to specific services such as health, employment & education, training or housing.
- ✓ A bespoke plan will be put in place and regularly reviewed by the panel until it is agreed that the person's vulnerability has been sufficiently reduced.

[Link to Channel Duty Guidance](#)

### SOME FACTS & FIGURES

Channel explicitly addresses the threat posed by all forms of extremism including the rising Right Wing Extremism (RWE) threat.

- In **2018/19**, 10% of referrals (561) were adopted by a local Channel panel, an increase of 48% on 2017/19
- For the first time; there were more Channel cases for concerns related to RWE concerns (45%) compared with Islamist concerns (37%).
- Of individuals adopted by a local Channel panel in 2018/19, 66% were aged 20 years or under and 88% were male.

[Link to Home Office Prevent Data 2018-19](#)



MYTH BUSTERS

### CHANNEL IS NOT...

**A criminal sanction:** Participation does not lead to a criminal record and will not appear in any future employment checks.

**Targeted at a specific faith or ethnic group:**

Channel addresses all forms of radicalisation including an increasing number of people being supported because of RWE concerns.

**Compulsory:** Channel is a voluntary programme and engagement requires consent to be given by the individual (or their parent/guardian). No one can be forced to participate in Channel.

**About terrorism:** Channel is a [safeguarding option](#) for those referred to Prevent, & is available in every area. Those who need & want support will be offered help through a multi agency plan.



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