

Family & Friends Factsheet:

Supporting people vulnerable
to radicalisation



Why have I been given this factsheet?

You have been given this Factsheet because a family member or someone you care for has been referred to the Prevent team. You may be wondering what the Prevent Programme is and what will happen next. This factsheet is designed to provide you with information on how Prevent can help and support you, your friend or family member.

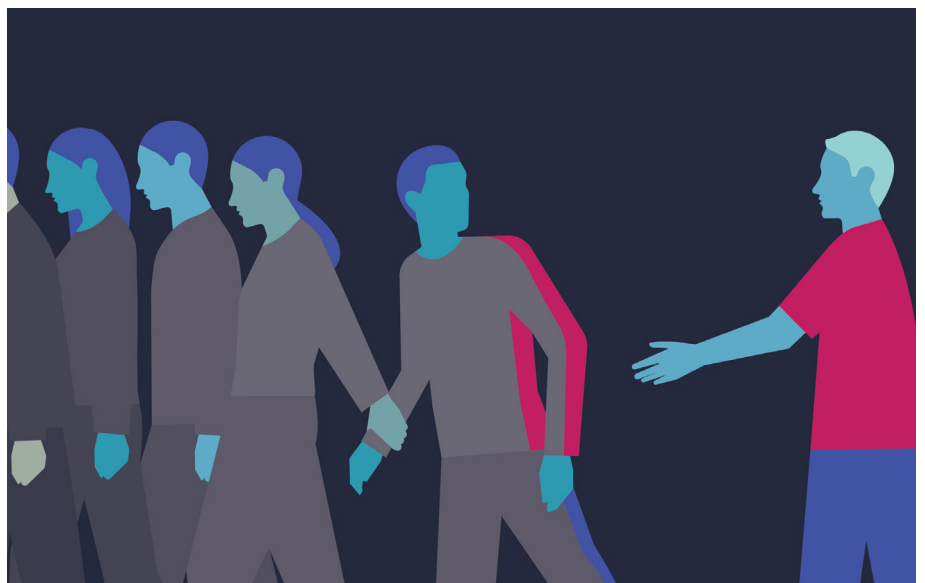
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When I was told about the referral, I was angry, I felt it was all being blown out of proportion. I later realised he was at much more of a risk than I first thought

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You have a key role within the Prevent programme. It's by working together that we can help protect people that are at risk of being radicalised.

We understand you might be feeling worried, but every year we help and support thousands of people just like you, who are concerned about a friend or loved one and want them to receive the help they need to turn things around before the problem gets worse.

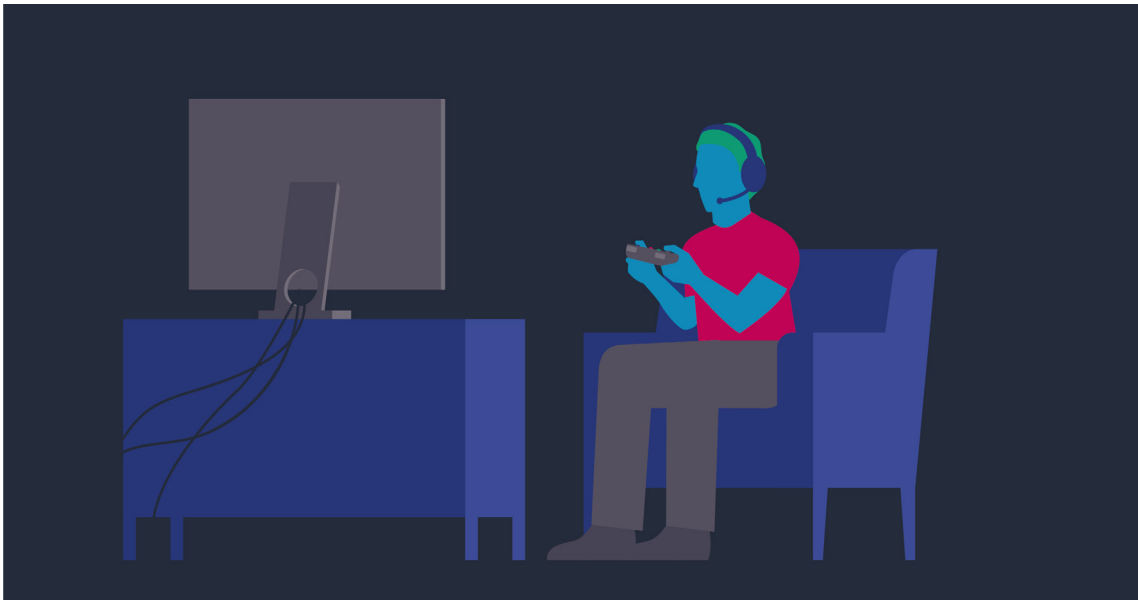


Is someone close becoming a stranger?

Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support any terrorism offending, or the extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

There are many reasons why someone might become vulnerable to radicalisation. It could be that the person concerned has fallen under the influence of an extremist groomer or 'radicaliser,' who's intention is to draw or coerce their targets towards activities and situations that can cause serious harm, and at the very least fall foul of the law.



This can happen face-to-face, or, even more likely in these times, it can happen across the Internet, be it through social media, chatrooms or even online gaming platforms.

Radicalisation is a process, but just how long this process takes varies from person to person, and depends largely upon their personal circumstances, any complex needs they may have and wider vulnerabilities.

If we identify a potential problem early enough, we can intervene at that stage and support the people concerned away from the dangerous and hurtful path they are on.



Extremism

Although there is no singular definition of extremism within UK law, when people have strong opinions, these could become extreme. People who have certain beliefs about politics or religions which are hateful, dangerous or against the law are often known as extremists. This harmful behaviour is called extremism.

What is the Prevent programme?

Prevent is a Government-led programme which brings agencies that jointly work together to protect, safeguard and support people at risk of radicalisation. Partners involved in delivering Prevent range from local authorities, education professionals, health professionals, the police, through to charities, community groups and other organisations.

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Out of nowhere things changed, he became distant, I noticed he changed his circle of friends, he didn't really talk to me.

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Specially trained Prevent practitioners take a wide-ranging approach when assessing the individual's needs and working with other organisations. Our aim is to prevent them from being drawn down a dangerous path that could lead them to being groomed into radicalisation, extremist behaviour or terrorism

Anyone who is concerned about a person they know, who may be at risk of radicalisation, can make a referral to Prevent.

Making the assessment :

Once a person has been referred, the facts and circumstances of the referral will be assessed with care and sensitivity in order to ascertain whether the person concerned really does require support through the Channel programme, or whether they need support outside of Channel and Prevent altogether (such as mental health support).



What is Channel?

Channel is part of the Prevent Programme. The overall aim of the programme is early intervention and diverting people away from the risks they may face. Channel is a voluntary programme which safeguards people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multi-agency process, involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers and other organisations. Participating in Channel doesn't give that person a criminal record, and won't be shared as part of any criminal record check. Information about referrals is only shared with the partners involved in providing support.

How does Channel work?

When a case is assessed as being suitable for Channel, a multi-agency meeting will be called. This is called a Channel Panel. If Channel make a decision that they can help safeguard or support the referred individual, they will then inform the person and gain their consent before any intervention can take place.

Support provided through Channel is totally voluntary on the part of the recipient. Panels will seek consent from adults referred to Channel or from the parent/carer when it is a child (under 18) who has been referred. It is important to understand that consent can be given or withdrawn at any stage.

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Do engage with the Channel process, they are there to help and keep your children safe.

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Panels will seek consent from adults to receive Channel support or from the parent/carer when it is a child (under 18). It is important to understand that consent can be given or withdrawn at any stage.

The Channel Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate tailored support package. The type of support available is wide-ranging. This can include help with education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug or alcohol abuse, and theological or ideological mentoring from a Channel Intervention Provider (a specialist mentor). The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel Panel on a monthly basis.

Support Plan

Sometimes people need help with areas of their life that can make them more vulnerable to radicalisation. This could include help with drink or drug abuse or more practical things like applying for educational courses or helping with housing issues.

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The support he got from the Intervention Provider and Prevent Case officer really helped him to turnaround and I am so proud of what he has achieved.

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Families and other people affected by the plan will be involved and encouraged to provide support to the adult/child where appropriate.

The support will be continually monitored to ensure its effectiveness and that the person is benefitting from the help provided to best meet their needs.

What is an Intervention Provider?

Intervention Providers are ideological and theological specialists approved and trained by the Home Office. They possess a high level of understanding of extremist narratives and provide one-to-one mentoring. They play an important role in the interventions process by supporting and engaging directly with individuals. Intervention Providers will challenge theological or ideological concerns that are raised, working to reduce the vulnerabilities and risk posed through professional engagement.

What happens next?

A Channel Panel member will be there to support you through the process as we recognise the impact that this may have on you as well as the person referred to Prevent. The Channel Panel member could be from one of the many agencies that work together to provide support.

As each case is formed to meet the needs of the individual concerned, the nature and duration of the support offered by Channel is not fixed and entirely dependent on the wellbeing and progress of the individual. However, Channel is a voluntary process, and although we encourage anyone within the programme to stick with it, they may always withdraw if they wish.



Is a good friend coming under a bad influence?

We will keep you updated throughout and encourage you to share your views or any concerns you may have. At the end of the programme you will be given a final update together with details about how you can seek further support if you would like it. We have attached a list of organisations, websites and support groups that can assist you.

Where can I get further help and support?

There's lots of information and advice on this site for members of the public that can help you keep your friends and family safe from radicalisation and access support.

www.actearly.uk

You can also call the national police in confidence to share your concerns with our specially trained officers.

Prevent advice line: 0800 011 3764

Let's Talk About It is an initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance for public sector professionals working with vulnerable people in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

www.ltai.info/about

Contact number: 0800 789 321

Get expert tips to support children and young adults online and build their digital resilience.

www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation

Contact number: 0808 800 2222

Independent and confidential counselling and support for families or friends affected by radicalisation.

www.familiesforlife.org.uk

Contact number: 07505 974 030

An education programme that helps to protect children, parents and carers.

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

If you or someone you know needs help with day-to-day living because of illness or disability, this website explains your options and where you can get support.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/

Channel Duty Guidance provides information about how Channel Panels work.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance

Groundswell Project finds community organisations, connects people and amplifies positive voices to build stronger communities against hate.

www.groundswellproject.org

Direct counselling and advice for children on a wide range of issues.

www.childline.org.uk

Contact number: 0800 11111

Information, support and advice for anyone who is worried about a child.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Contact number: 0808 800 5000