

# **PREVENT Policy Supporting the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation**

## **1. Policy Statement**

QATSL is committed to adopting the highest standards and taking all reasonable steps in relation to the safety and welfare of children, young people, and adults in respect of its learning services. We will meet our social and moral responsibilities to protect such individuals fully in accordance with the law and where appropriate, with the support of relevant external agencies.

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe, and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people.

This policy is designed as part of an overarching QATSL Safeguarding approach and should be considered as a companion piece to the following related policies & documents:

- Safeguarding Policy
- British Values Policy
- Prevent Risk Register
- Safeguarding and Prevent Reporting Procedure

This Prevent policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns for those people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the threshold of need and intervention model and the Channel process.

## **2. Scope and Purpose**

This policy is non-contractual and may be amended from time to time to reflect best practice and any changes in legislation.

The Policy applies to all employees and third parties including (this list is not exhaustive):

- learners and participants
- QATSL colleagues
- All employers with whom we partner for the provision of work placements and / or training.
- All persons coming onto our premises.
- Business partners and suppliers who provide services on behalf of QATSL.

It is the responsibility of all to comply with this Policy. Any learner or colleague who has any concerns regarding the issues identified within this policy should report those concerns immediately.

### 3. Definition

**Radicalisation** is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas (HM Government Prevent Strategy, 2011).

### 4. National Guidance and Strategies

Prevent is a key part of the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of Prevent in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Prevent is relevant before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting, and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The Prevent strategy objectives are:

- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
- Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

QATSL is committed to supporting the Prevent duty and expect all colleagues to understand and comply with it. It is imperative that employees understand the various forms of radicalisation, being able to recognise signs and indicators and respond appropriately. Furthermore, it is vital that this understanding is shared with learners and that they are supported in their understanding of how to keep themselves safe in society with regard to terrorism and extremism.

### 5. Procedure

Any identified concerns as the result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations to suggest that an individual maybe vulnerable to or supports terrorism and/or extremism, must be addressed, reported and where appropriate escalated following the QATSL Safeguarding and Prevent Reporting Procedure. Escalating concerns to [safeguarding@qatsl.org](mailto:safeguarding@qatsl.org) will ensure that these are addressed timely by a safeguarding professional, responsible for determining an appropriate resolution and contacting outside agencies where appropriate.

### 6. Vulnerability/Risk Indicators

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable young people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism. The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism.

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The following indicators may help to identify factors that suggest an individual or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism:

### **Vulnerability**

- Identity crisis: Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- Personal crisis: Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal circumstances: Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- Unmet aspirations: Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- Criminality: Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

### **Access to extremist influences**

- Reason to believe that the young person associates with those known to be involved in extremism.
- Possession or distribution of extremist literature/other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence.
- Use of closed network groups via electronic media for the purpose of extremist activity.

### **Experiences, behaviours, and influences**

- Experience of peer, social, family or faith group rejection
- International events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour.
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism.
- Evidence of fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this.
- Experience of disadvantage, discrimination, or social exclusion
- History of criminal activity
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

### **More critical risk factors include:**

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing extremist literature
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.

- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance/behaviour

## **7. Channel Referral Process**

### **What is Channel?**

Channel is a key part of the Prevent strategy that may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. It is about ensuring that individuals of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme available in every local authority in England and Wales. It provides a range of support including mentoring; counselling; and assistance with training or employment.

Channel is a voluntary programme. It is up to an individual, (or their parents/carer if the individual is under 18 and where it is appropriate), to decide whether to take advantage of the support it offers. It is not any form of criminal or civil sanction.

Channel is confidential. Participation will not show up on any checks or negatively affect an individual's future in any way. No one will get a criminal record and all channel information is held separately to all other police business so it cannot be searched for other purposes such as DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. Channel works best when the individuals and their families fully engage with the programme and are supported in a consistent manner. The vast majority of those who choose to receive support go on to leave the programme with no further terrorism-related concerns.

### **Concern identified – raise concerns**

- If someone identifies a possible risk of radicalisation or a concern that an individual may be vulnerable, the concern should be raised to a Safeguarding officer.

### **QATSL review - potential to refer to Prevent officer**

- QATSL will gather the information and review it. If there is an immediate risk, then we will contact the emergency services. If there are concerns that the individual may be vulnerable to terrorist ideologies, then we will seek advice from Prevent, police or the local authority officer. If there is no evidence of vulnerability to radicalisation then an individual may be referred to other relevant services such as mental health or social services.

### **Police screening and routes to support, including Channel referrals**

- Whether the initial referral went to Prevent police or to a local authority officer, the referral will be passed to the local Prevent police team, who will open it as a case on their Prevent Case Management (PCM) systems. This team operates from within the police, but Prevent systems are separated from other police business and cannot be used in the same way, for example they cannot be searched for DBS checks.

- All referrals are screened by the police to ensure taking any further action on the referral will not interfere with any live investigations.
- The police then make a further assessment of the referral to check that it is not Malicious, Misinformed or Misguided (the '3M' check). Many referrals are screened out at this stage. The police ask other safeguarding agencies (panel partners) to provide information.
- The police will complete a Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF). If there is a genuine vulnerability to radicalisation the police will refer the individual to Channel.
- There are some cases where Channel is not appropriate, for example if the individual is linked to an ongoing investigation. The police may offer support to the individual in a way that does not interfere with other interests. These are handled separately to Channel.

### **Review by multi-agency Channel Panel**

- The Channel referrals are reviewed by a local multi-agency Channel Panel, which is made up of local safeguarding partners, such as health, mental health, youth services, housing, and education, and is chaired by the local authority Channel Panel Chair (CPC). These panels meet approximately every 4 weeks. The referrals are reviewed using the VAF and each case is discussed to assess the risks and identify the necessary support.

### **Delivery of support package**

- If the Channel Panel concludes that support is necessary, a support plan will be put in place. All support plans are tailored to the individual and can include: life skills; careers/educational support; mental health support; and theological mentoring from Home Office approved Channel intervention providers. The Panel monitors the progress with the provider and other safeguarding professionals. All cases are reviewed at 6 and 12 months.
- Some cases may not be suitable for the Channel programme, or they may reject support. Refusal of support does not affect the way the individual is dealt with. Those that refuse support may be referred back to wider Prevent case management who will look for alternative options to support and safeguard the individual.
- In some cases, the Channel Panel may decide that the person in question does have vulnerabilities, but that these are not related to radicalisation. In these circumstances the panel will pass the case to other services - such as mental health - for support. Each case will be reviewed at 6 and 12 months after exiting the Channel programme to ensure no further concerns have been raised.

## **8. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored annually to review its effectiveness and will be updated in accordance with necessary changes/guidelines and in consultation with DfE HE/FE Prevent Coordinator.