

Working Together Against extremism

How Middlesbrough Council and its partners work with local communities to counter extremism and the risk of radicalisation to safeguard those at risk



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What is Terrorism, Domestic Extremism, Violent Extremism and Radicalisation?

Terrorism

Terrorism is commonly referred to as criminal acts intended to provoke feelings of terror in the general public. This covers all forms of terrorism which include causes relating to race, politics, religion amongst other forms

Domestic Extremism

Domestic extremism refers to the activity of individuals or groups conducting criminal acts of direct action to further their protest campaign .This term covers the conduct of groups involved including the extreme right wing and animal rights extremists.

Violent Extremism

Violent extremism refers to the activity of individuals or groups conducting acts by any means to express views which justify or glorify terrorist violence. This includes those that encourage others to commit terrorist acts or provoke others into terrorist related activity. It also includes those whom foster hatred which may lead to inter community tensions and violence within the United Kingdom.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the process where a vulnerable young person or adult changes their perception and beliefs due to exposure of an extremist influence (which may be online, publication or one to one direct contact,) to become more extremist in nature which may result in extremist actions.

Middlesbrough Council's Responsibilities

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) states local authorities have “***due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism***”. The purpose of the PREVENT Operational Group is to satisfy the statutory functions of the Local Authority under the CTSA (2015) to ensure the safeguarding of those at risk of extremism and radicalisation in our local community, and to ensure coordinated partnership work around Prevent, at an operational level.

- Establish an internal group to identify risk factors, agree appropriate responses, co-ordinate Prevent activity and effectively monitor the impact of Prevent work.
- Drive the development and delivery of the Operational Prevent Plan to comply with the duty to identify, prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects and activities to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism.
- Develop local processes to ensure the safeguarding of those at risk of extremism and radicalisation.
- Contribute to, and utilise the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles.
- Coordinate a Middlesbrough wide training package to raise awareness, identify champions and enable those with who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism to be identified at an earlier stage.
- Agree collaborative actions to achieve partnership objectives.

Comply with the legal requirements of

Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Local Government Act 1972 & 2000

National Health Service Act (NHSA) 2006 and Health and Social Care Act (HCSA) 2001

Offender Management Act 2007

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Threat Levels & Responses

National Threat & CONTEST

The UK faces continued threat from both domestic and international terrorism the UK. To counter this HM Government (2011) introduced the CONTEST strategy to address the issues of terrorism and structured responses around 4 principal strands to enable people in our communities to live their lives freely with confidence:

PREVENT-To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist activities by applying safeguarding to those vulnerable and at risk of radicalisation.

PROTECT- To strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks by protecting our infrastructures our aviation, marine, rail networks and increased border control security.

PURSUE – To stop terrorist attacks by the work of police and security services

PREPARE- When an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate the effects of its attack with emergency planning procedures

What is PREVENT?

PREVENT is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist activities.

The 3 objectives of PREVENT were introduced in June 2011 which aim to challenge terrorism and the risk of radicalisation:

Ideology

Challenging terrorist ideology by working closely with local and national partners and communities. Utilising social and non mainstream media to introduce counter narratives.

Individuals

Supporting and safeguarding vulnerable young people and adults at risk of radicalisation

Institutions

Ensure schools and colleges are equipped with the appropriate skills to identify PREVENT related risks. Work closely with institutions where the risk of radicalisation and extremism may occur such as faith venues, schools, colleges, health care settings.

You can read about the PREVENT strategy by clicking the link below

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

Safeguarding those at risk – Channel

Channel is a program designed to provide support for individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is entirely voluntary for the person being offered support, and is not a criminal sanction in any way.

Channel has existed in every local area in England and Wales since April 2012 (and in Scotland, where it is known as Prevent Professional Concerns). The Channel panel is administered through multi-agency panels at local level.

Channel Panels are chaired by local authorities and supported by police and have representatives from a number of agencies, including health, education, housing, social work

As well as providing an opportunity for individuals to receive statutory support they may be entitled to, Channel also can (uniquely) provide theological or ideological mentoring.

Channel Process

Identification: Normally by frontline public sector workers, who recognise the signs of radicalization

Assessment: Initially by the police.

information gathering stage: Malicious or misguided referral? Already under investigation? First use of the standard Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF):

- **Engagement** with a group, cause or ideology;
- **Intent** to cause harm; and
- **Capability** to cause harm

A person is then judged to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and therefore suitable for Channel; vulnerable in some other way, and therefore signposted to other support; or not vulnerable.

Panel meeting: Panel will confirm the assessment and consider kinds of support to be offered

Support provided

Appraisal and monitoring: Police practitioner regularly liaises with support providers and updates the VAF. All cases reviewed after 6 and 12 months of exiting the programme

How to report concerns

PREVENT is about **Safeguarding** those whom are vulnerable and at risk of radicalisation. Being mindful of a vulnerable persons behaviours and expressed viewpoints maybe an indicative factor to suggest they are being radicalised. Sometimes subtle changes or brief conversations about things they have seen and heard may lead to other issues.

PREVENT doesn't aim to cause panic only to raise awareness and be mindful that potentially those most vulnerable **MAY BE** exposed to the risk of radicalisation by extremist persons/material
PREVENT operates pre criminally so the young person is not a criminal they are at risk and require safeguarding.

You can report concerns to your local safeguarding team at Middlesbrough Council on **(01642) 726004** or directly to Cleveland Police on **101** in an emergency **999**

Alternatively you can contact the **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** on

0800 789 321

**IF YOU SUSPECT
IT REPORT IT**

CALL 0800 789 321

**CONFIDENTIAL
ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE**

The PREVENT strategy seeks to combat those who seek from those vulnerable in our communities ,support for terrorist acts-
lets work together to protect our vulnerable and our
communities