

PREVENT

COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY

What you need to know to
keep yourself and your family safe



What do you need to know about the PREVENT duty

The PREVENT duty is the duty in the Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, including schools, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Calderdale is a PREVENT priority area, this means that the government fund a PREVENT Coordinator for Calderdale and a number of projects are running in Calderdale to look at PREVENT issues. If you wish to contact The PREVENT Coordinator please email Prevent@calderdale.gov.uk or call 07702 656834.

Terminology

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activity. As we know that radicalisation is a process, through PREVENT, we aim to intervene as early as process where there are concerns that an individual is being/is at risk of radicalisation.

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to our shared values, this includes 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 the armed forces.

Some facts about PREVENT

- PREVENT is a government strategy which addresses safeguarding people and communities from the threat of extremism. It aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. PREVENT is about Early Intervention but we are also careful to ensure that people have safe spaces to express their views and opinions.
- Its ok to be passionate about and want to help people that are experiencing conflict but it is never ok to advocate or support violence against any individual, group or property. We want people to debate issues and want to create safe spaces for debate and challenge.
- All Specified Authorities, this includes schools, have a legal duty to prevent people being drawn into terrorism or extremist activity. This might be the kind of terrorism we see on TV and the news connected with Daesh (ISIS). It could be associated with right wing; or racist views promoted by groups such as the EDL (English Defence League) or National Action and sometimes it might be a lone individual who wants to hurt people. If we spot signs, we have to report them. Agencies are asked to use their existing safeguarding routes and your child's school will have their own safeguarding routes.
- If professionals, or you as parents, spot a person who seems to be expressing themselves in a way that shows he/she is vulnerable to extremism, it is a good idea to offer them our support early on rather than when it is too late, and they have already become involved in criminal activity. If you would like further details about the support available through PREVENT in Calderdale then please visit www.calderdale.gov.uk/prevent



What can you do as a parent?

The parent/child relationship is the foundation to keeping children safe and supporting their social development and educational attainment. Parenting can be a challenging task. Maintaining a positive relationship can sometimes be difficult as children grow and develop and seek an identity that may be different from that of their own family.

Children and young people have a natural curiosity which, as parents, we want to encourage. However, as our children grow up we have to take different steps to ensure their safety.

Currently, a number of young girls and boys have been persuaded to join violent extremist and terrorist organisations. Some have been encouraged to leave the country against the wishes of their families, or in secret, putting themselves in extreme danger, others have been convinced to commit crimes against groups of people.

This leaflet sets out information to help parents keep their children safe and explains how they should respond if they have a concern.

Why might a young person be drawn towards extremist ideologies?

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- They may be driven by the desire for 'adventure' and excitement
- They may be driven by a need to raise their self-esteem and promote their 'street cred'
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, They may be influenced by world events (such as the war in Syria or the migration crisis) and a sense of grievance resulting in a need to make a difference

How might this happen?

Online

The internet provides entertainment, connectivity and interaction. Children may need to spend a lot of time on the internet while studying and they use other social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Vine or Whatsapp. These can be useful tools but we need to be aware there are powerful programmes and networks that use these media to reach out to young people and can communicate extremist messages.

Peer interaction

You know your child better than anyone else and you will be able to judge if there is a concern around the network around your child, some things to think about are: has your child begun to display extrovert behaviour or become involved in criminal behaviour. Its important to note though that sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation parents may feel their child's behaviour seems to be improving: children may become quieter and withdrawn.

TV and media

The media provide a view on world affairs. However, this is often a very simple version of events which are in reality very complex.

Therefore children may not understand the situation fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some groups.



Recognising extremism – signs may include:

- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships
- Secretive behaviour
- Losing interest in friends and activities
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence
- Possessing illegal or extremist literature
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as Muslims Against Crusades or other non-proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League or National Action.

How can parents support children and young people to stay safe?

- Know where your child is, who they are with and check this for yourself
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Keep lines of communication open, listen to your child and talk to them about their interests
- Encourage them to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust Talk to your child about what they see on the TV or the internet and explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture
- Allow and encourage debate and questioning on local and world events and help them see different points of view
- Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds
- Help your child to understand the dangers of becoming involved in situations about which they may not have the full information
- Teach them that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine but they should not take violent action against others or support those that do
- Be aware of your child's online activity and update your own knowledge
- Know what social media and messaging sites your child uses
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true
- Explain that anyone who tells them to keep secrets from their family or teachers is likely to be trying to do them harm or put them in danger



Where to get help.

If you have any concerns that your child may be being influenced by others get help – talk to someone you can trust. This could be your faith leader, extended family members such as cousins who may be peers of your children, or outside help like a teacher in school.

Some useful telephone numbers/resources are below:



Information around PREVENT in Calderdale (including details of the PREVENT Coordinator) and links to resources: **www.calderdale.gov.uk/prevent**



The Active Change Foundation (ACF) provides a confidential helpline to prevent British nationals from travelling to conflict zones.

The ACF confidential helpline is **020 8539 2770**



You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously and for free on **0800 555 111**



NSPCC 24/7 helpline 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk



Imminent threat of harm to others contact:
Police 999 or Anti Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321

