

Prevent Essentials

What do I need to do?

All public sector bodies, including local authorities, educational, childcare and health organisations amongst a number of others, have a legal duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. They must understand what radicalisation and extremism mean, why people might become vulnerable to this form of exploitation and what they should do if they think someone may be at risk of becoming radicalised.

What is “Prevent” and why do I need to know about it?

Southampton City Council has a statutory duty to raise awareness of the Prevent duty placed on public sector bodies under the Counter Terrorism Security Act 2015. It states that in our work we must:

“prevent vulnerable adults and children from being drawn into terrorism or being radicalised”

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Radicalisation

There are a number of factors that might make someone more vulnerable to becoming radicalised. Many people have to deal with one or more of these factors, but it doesn't mean they will necessarily be vulnerable to radicalisation. These factors can include peer pressure, racism or prejudice, influence of other people, bullying, mental health, family tensions or social isolation and loneliness.

What behaviours could give cause for concern?

There are many **emotional**, **verbal** and/or **physical** behaviours which might give cause for concern about a person's welfare. They do not necessarily indicate someone is being radicalised. They are just a broad guide to help identify someone who may be vulnerable.

Emotional

- Becoming Disrespectful
- Crying
- Quick to anger
- Having mood swings
- Becoming secretive or withdrawn
- Signs of stress

Verbal

- Could be seen as racist or prejudiced
- Scripted speech
- Asking inappropriate questions
- Pushing an ideology aggressively
- Challenging others on their beliefs
- Dehumanise other people

Physical

- Absenteeism
- Spending more time in online chatrooms
- Writing or displaying racist graffiti
- Change in friendship groups or behaviour
- Unhealthy use of the internet/ visiting extremist or radical websites
- Isolation from friends

Who should I contact if I have concerns?

- If you work for Southampton City Council, or another organisation, tell your line manager or designated safeguarding lead. If you are a member of the public, contact the council.
- If you, your manager, or the respective safeguarding lead, decide that the individual you are concerned about may require support you, should contact Southampton City Council.
- If you have concerns about your manager, or wish to make a referral out of hours, please go straight to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- However, if your concern is an emergency please contact the police immediately.

Adult Social Care Connect (ASCC)

(Adults over 18)

Tel: 02380 833303

Email: adultsocialcareconnect@southampton.gov.uk

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

(Children under 18)

Tel: 02380 833336

Email: mash@southampton.gov.uk

What happens to a referral once it is reported?

Information Sharing - The individual will only be informed of the identity of the person who made the referral if it is considered appropriate and that person is a professional or acting on behalf of a professional body (this is consistent with other types of safeguarding cases).

Referrals - All concerns reported are passed to the South East Police Prevent engagement team for a pre-assessment.

Pre-assessment - The pre-assessment will consider whether the individual is at risk of radicalisation.

Malicious intent - Each referral is thoroughly checked and the information has to be corroborated. If the referral is felt to be malicious or overly cautious, it won't progress any further.

Outcome and decision - If it is decided that the individual is at risk of radicalisation, they will be contacted to ask if they would like to engage with the Channel Panel process for support.

Glossary

Extremism: defined by the Government as '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'. Examples include right wing extremists, Islamic extremists, and animal rights extremists.

Radicalisation: refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. This can be a gradual process and happen over a long period of time. This makes it possible to intervene and steer vulnerable people away from being drawn into terrorist-related activities.

Terrorism: can be defined as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public.