

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is the part of CONTEST that seeks to stop people becoming involved in terrorism. This includes countering terrorist ideologies, and challenging those who promote them; it also includes support for individuals who are vulnerable to being radicalised and working in areas where it is assessed that the risk of radicalisation is high.

What is the CONTEST Strategy?

This is the counter-terrorist strategy that was introduced in 2003 and has been revised a number of times over the years. It has four strands, known as the Four Ps. These are Pursue (the realm of the police and security service which seeks to apprehend those who would commit acts of terror or provide material support); Prepare (which addresses our coordinated emergency response to a terrorist incident and also deals with business continuity after an incident); Protect (which seeks to make it more difficult for attacks to take place and, if they do reduce the amount of damage caused); and Prevent (which seeks to stop people becoming active supporters of terrorism or committing acts of terrorism).

What do I do if I'm worried about someone's Behaviour?

If someone's behaviour has dramatically changed and you have concerns about how those changes are affecting their family life or their social life or their workplace life (e.g.; has a person's personality dramatically changed, becoming dogmatic, aggressive and proscriptive in their speech, or alternatively, have they become withdrawn, secretive and no longer seen in places that they regularly used to visit? Unfortunately there is no checklist for this) then, in the first instance, you should check with someone you trust and discuss what has changed and the reasons for your concern. Following this, you might wish to share with someone else who might be able to help. This could be a manager in the workplace, a leader in a community, a leader in a religious or faith community, or someone else. It might be something that can be worked out through local arrangements but it might be something that you would want to share and refer to a process such as Channel. [Home Office Guidance](#) If you have concerns about someone, please contact communitysafety@wakefield.gov.uk in the first instance, outlining the reasons for your concern. Please, do not, at this stage include any personal details about the person to whom you are referring. You will be contacted by someone from the Prevent Team who will obtain further information from you.

What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding process that aims to provide support for people who are at risk of moving toward either actively supporting terrorism, or going further and committing acts of terrorism. It does this through providing support to people identified as being vulnerable. It adopts a multi-agency approach. Once someone is identified as an individual at risk, that person is screened to assess the level of risk and, if deemed appropriate, a bespoke support plan will be put in place. The plan will be placed in the hands of the intervention provider. It can take the form of mentoring, of vocational training, of theological guidance or any other support deemed appropriate. The process is both consensual and voluntary. Most of those who are initially referred to Channel will be screened out of the process at an early stage as presenting as no risk.

What is the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015?

This is the current legislation governing how counter-terrorism matters are dealt with in England and Wales. It has a direct impact on the work of this council as it expects those in leadership positions to: 1) establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation; 2) ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it; 3) communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and 4) ensure staff implement the duty effectively. These duties apply not only to local authorities but to all sectors, such as education, the health service, the civil service and more.

Why is Wakefield Council involved in counter-terrorism? Shouldn't this be left to the police and security services?

Local authorities have been at the heart of the Prevent strategy since it was introduced. When the Prevent strategy was revised in 2011 three duties were put in place: 1) *respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it*; 2) *prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support*; and 3) *work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address*. The current role is governed by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This places an obligation on all public authorities (not just councils) to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The three duties above remain in place.

What is Extremism?

Broadly speaking, this is politically motivated behaviour that seeks to change the democratic process, overturn the rule of law and put in place alternative systems that would fundamentally change our way of life. In 2011, in the revised Prevent strategy, the Government defined extremism "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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces."

What is Far-Left terrorism?

This is terrorism that is heavily influenced by Marxist / Maoist / Trotskyist and other streams of thought. While there have been far-left groups that have engaged in terrorism in Europe (though there has been very little activity since the 1960s and 70s), Asia and South America, there have been no notable acts of terror committed in the UK associated with left-wing extremists.

What is Far-Right terrorism?

Right-wing terrorism is motivated by a variety of ideologies and beliefs, including neo-fascism, neo-Nazism, anti-communism, racism and xenophobia. Acts of terrorism by extreme right wingers in this country include the attacks by David Copeland in Brick Lane, Brixton and Old Compton Street in 1999. Others have been prosecuted for making bombs or the poison ricin. There are active extreme right-wing groups across Europe. In the United States, prior to 11 September 2001, the worst terrorist attack had been by Timothy McVeigh, a right-wing extremist, when he attacked the FBI building in Oklahoma City in April 1995 killing 168 people.

What is Islamism?

This is a politically inspired version of the religion of Islam. It emphasises the implementation of Sharia law and asserts that certain Muslim beliefs, doctrines and values should form the basis of a political state and denies the legitimacy of western forms of democracy. It is a distinct world view that should be distinguished from the religion of Islam. While it is an extreme ideology, holding or espousing Islamist views is not illegal.

What is Nationalist terrorism?

This is terrorism that seeks some form of self-determination, usually by a minority who see themselves beleaguered by a ruling majority. This may range from gaining greater autonomy, to establishing a completely independent, sovereign state.

Nationalist terrorism is linked to a national, ethnic, religious, or other identifying group, and the feeling among members of that group that they are oppressed or denied rights, especially rights accorded to others. The main nationalist threat in the UK has come from Irish terrorism.

What is Partnership working?

Local authorities have been working with the police and many other agencies and community-based organisations to reduce crime and disorder since the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The act introduced Community Safety Partnerships. Partnership work requires joint working and the sharing of information to succeed. For Prevent work to succeed, it depends on effective partnership working, especially with those organisations based within our local communities.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is a process in which an individual's sense of injustice or perceived grievances are exploited either by another individual, a group or online to move them from a position where they might hold extreme yet legitimate views (which may be social, political, religious or a combination thereof) to one where they will be prepared to perpetrate criminal, most likely violent, acts in pursuance of furthering those views.

Does anyone Review terrorism-related legislation?

Yes, this is carried out by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. This post is currently held by Jonathan Hall QC, who is independent of the machinery of government. He has the task of reviewing the operation of the United Kingdom's anti-terrorism laws. When critical of those laws, he makes recommendations for change.

What is SO15?

SO15 is the counter-terrorist branch of the Metropolitan Police. On one hand, while it is SO15's responsibility to bring to justice anyone engaged in terrorist, domestic extremist and related offences, it also includes among its duties, work on the Channel process where it works to try to ensure those engaged in the process do not get arrested but remain on the right side of the law.

What are the Terrorist Risks out there?

A number of risks exist, but Al Qaeda and Islamic State-inspired terrorism are recognised as the most significant current risks. But they are not the only ones. There is a risk from reactive right-wing extremism. There continues to be a small risk from Irish-related terror groups as well as a potential risk from animal rights, environmentalist, anarchist and extreme left-wing groups.

What is a TPIM?

It is a Terrorist Prevention and Investigation Measure. TPIMs were introduced by the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, replacing the controversial and unpopular Control Orders, which had been introduced under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. The later act allows the Home Secretary to impose restrictions on movement, financial activity and communication on an individual. There are very few TPIMs in place across the country. They are reserved for exceptional cases in which a credible terrorist threat cannot be dealt with by prosecution or deportation.

Is there any Training available?

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training is available to third-sector organisations, educational establishments and employers in the Wakefield District. Please contact communitysafety@wakefield.gov.uk for more information. WRAP, as its title suggests, explains what the Prevent strategy is and discusses vulnerabilities, radicalisation, safeguarding and the Channel process. Additionally, information about current and emerging risks can be obtained through contacting the same web address.

Key contact and further information

For further advice, information or training:

Email: communitysafety@wakefield.gov.uk

Tel: 01924 306645 or 01924 306776

National guidance:
The Prevent Strategy
The Prevent Duty
Channel Programme