

### What is Channel?

#### What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, in all its forms. Prevent works at the pre-criminal stage by using early intervention to encourage individuals and communities to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

#### What is Channel?

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency panel designed to safeguard vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing multi-agency partnerships for vulnerable individuals. It is a voluntary process allowing the individual to withdraw from the programme at any time.

#### Who is Channel Aimed at?

Channel is for individuals of any age who are at risk of exploitation by extremist or terrorist ideologies. Early intervention can prevent individuals being drawn into terrorist-related activity in a similar way to criminal activity such as drugs, knife or gang crime.

#### How Does Channel Work?

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate individualised support package. Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support. The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel Panel.

#### Who Can Make a Referral?

Anyone can make a referral. Referrals have come from family members and wide range of partners: social services, children and adult services, youth offending teams, health, police, education establishments, places of worship and community organisations.

## What Happens With the Referral?

Each referral is screened for suitability via a preliminary assessment undertaken by the Police. Contact will be made with the referring person if further information is required, and if the referral is suitable the case is discussed with all relevant partners to decide if an intervention is necessary.

## Will the Individual be Informed About the Channel Referral?

Yes! If an individual is deemed to require a Channel intervention, then they must be told prior to receiving the intervention. The process will be carefully managed with the referring agency.

## Who Sits on the Channel Panel?

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority, Service Manager for Area Development and Community Cohesion, and, includes Police, statutory partners and non-statutory partners, where appropriate. Lead safeguarding professionals will be invited on a case by case basis.

## Who Delivers Channel?

Channel interventions are delivered through local partners and specialist agencies. Support could include mainstream health, education, employment or housing services through to specialist mentoring or appropriate faith guidance and wider diversionary activities such as sporting activities.

## Key contact and further information

For further advice, information or training:

Email: [communitysafety@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@wakefield.gov.uk)

Tel: 01924 306645 or 01924 306776

National guidance:  
The Prevent Strategy  
The Prevent Duty  
Channel Programme