

LEEDS WEEKEND CARE ASSOCIATION

PREVENT POLICY

Introduction and Rationale

The purpose of the Prevent strategy is to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent is part of the UK's CONTEST Strategy. CONTEST Strategy aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism. The strategy addresses all forms of terrorism across the extremism spectrum, from extreme far right to Daesh or Al-Qaeda inspired groups and from domestic to international terrorism.

Prevent has the following objectives:

1. Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
2. Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support
3. Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Prevent Duty

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the **Prevent Duty**.

In March 2015, Parliament approved guidance issued under section 29 of the act about how specified authorities are to follow the Prevent Duty. All local authorities must have regard to this guidance when complying with the Prevent Duty.

Radicalisation and preventing extremism

As with other safeguarding issues, where a worker has any concerns that a person or their family may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the safeguarding lead, the Senior Play Leader.

If the concerns about the individual are not serious enough to be escalated or where there is no evidence that the individual is vulnerable to radicalisation the safeguarding lead may decide, in consultation with the service manager, that they can be addressed by action within Leeds Weekend Care Association.

Staff should be alert to the fact that some individuals have an increased vulnerability to influence by extreme causes and ideas and be aware of changes in how a person speaks, behaves or dresses, in the same way as they are

aware of changes that might cause concern about the person's welfare. Staff should raise concerns about possible extremism following the standard procedure.

The Prevent Strategy defines radicalisation as follows:

“Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.”

Radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will inevitably be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risk of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Indeed, some of the factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead individuals towards involvement with other activity such as gangs, drugs, sexual exploitation, etc.

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive an individual towards becoming radicalised. Therefore, the importance of staff using their skill, expertise, and professional judgement is crucial in not stigmatising individuals that may display some of these factors.

Within Leeds this is done by contacting the Prevent Coordinator, 0113 5350810 (Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.) or prevent@leeds.gov.uk. The Prevent Coordinator can also be contacted for support and guidance. There is also a designated office within the police: Police Prevent Team 0113 2413386.

Policy version information

<i>Policy created or last reviewed</i>	<i>August 2023</i>
<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>Liz Sunderland/Lisa Sheader</i>
<i>Policy approved by Board</i>	<i>August 2023</i>
<i>Policy due for review (yearly)</i>	<i>August 2026</i>