



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Prevent & Channel Referral Guidance

BARNSLEY

Introduction

This document has been developed to assist you in making a referral to Barnsley Prevent. It is intended to aid your decision making on whether to make a referral and provide you with guidance on what information should be included within the referral. It must be stressed that this document is for guidance and is not intended to be used as a definitive checklist. This guidance must be read, taken as a whole and used in line with your professional judgement, safeguarding training and Prevent policies.

Background

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory Prevent duty on specified authorities in the exercise of their functions, to have 'due regards to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This includes referring vulnerable individuals to Channel. Specified bodies outlined within this duty include

- Local Authorities,
- Police,
- Schools,
- Further and Higher Education,
- Health,
- Prisons
- Probation/ CRC.

More information on the Prevent duty for specific bodies can be found at the [Prevent duty guidance](#).

Prevent and Channel

Prevent is a national strategy to stop people getting drawn in extremist behaviour. In Barnsley, Prevent helps identify people at risk of being drawn to extremism and offers support to stop this happening.

Prevent tackles all forms of extremism (violent, non-violent, Islamist and right wing) and aims to prevent radicalisation by identifying risk at the earliest possible stage and by safeguarding individuals. Where concerns exist we meet to discuss these concerns as the Channel Panel. Channel is a national initiative and part of the Prevent programme.

The Barnsley Channel Panel seeks to prevent risk establishing itself at a more severe and / or harmful level. The panel is able to source specialist interventions to help people at risk of radicalisation and offers a coordinating role for agencies already working with people where concerns exist.

Channel referrals are considered by the Local Authority and panel partners as a safeguarding process and a part of their ongoing responsibility to safeguard vulnerable individuals. Key links have been established with social services and panel partners to ensure that an individual receives the most appropriate support available.

Vulnerability and Risk

Channel addresses all types of extremism and focusses on early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity .

The Barnsley Channel Panel recognises that the radicalisation process can be complex and that there is *no single factor or indicator* that identifies an individual at risk of radicalisation. There are no academically proven checklists that exist that will accurately identify a person who is becoming radicalised and may go on at a later time to commit acts of terrorism

If an individual is discussed at Channel and deemed vulnerable, participation is voluntary and it is up to the person, or their parents (for children aged 17 and under), to decide whether to take up the support the panel offers.

The Prevent / Channel referral system does not criminalise people for holding extreme views. It does not result in the person referred having a criminal record through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

A single comment or one off statement does not necessarily mean that an individual is at risk of radicalisation and those involved in extremism can come from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

The Channel process in Barnsley ensures that referrals made to Prevent are appropriate before they are discussed at the Channel panel and it is hoped that the information contained within this document will provide referrers with more support around the suitability of their prevent related concern.

Additional information on Channel can be found on the [Governments Channel Duty Guidance](#).

Terminology

Understanding the terminology associated with Prevent will assist you in your decision making process. The following definitions are commonly used within Prevent and Channel.

Radicalisation: “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.”

Extremism: “the vocal or active opposition to fundamental 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.”

Terrorism: "The use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public; made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes:

- serious violence against a person;
- serious damage to a property;
- a threat to a person's life;
- a serious risk to the health and safety of the public; or
- serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system.

Making a referral

Referrals made to Channel should contain concerns based on a person's vulnerability to radicalisation and should not be because of the person's faith or ethnic origin.

Ideally, the person considering making the referral will be the designated safeguarding officer for their organisation and have a good understanding of Safeguarding and Prevent. They should have attended the Home Office approved Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) or completed the approved [Home Office Online Training](#)

If the referring person or organisation have not completed the above training then it is highly recommended that they speak with the Local Authority Cohesion & Prevent Officer for further advise.

Referrals are made by completing the **NATIONAL REFERRAL FORM**.

Where to send referrals

Wherever possible, information should be shared in an appropriate, secure way. Practitioners must always follow their organisation's policy on security for handling personal information.

All referrals should be sent to the South Yorkshire Police Prevent Team
Prevent_Inbox@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Any referrals made through your normal safeguarding channels will in turn, be forwarded to the South Yorkshire Police Prevent Team for assessment.

For advice regarding making a referral please contact South Yorkshire Police Prevent Team on **0114 2523217**

Out of Hours - Emergency 999
Out of Hours - Non-emergency 101
Prevent Staff operate on call via 101 - 24/7 365 days a year
Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

What happens next?

Following a referral, the information received is assessed by the Police. Following this assessment a decision will be made on the suitability of the case for discussion at the Barnsley Channel Panel. If the case is not suitable for Channel the referrer will be notified of the outcome and if necessary a referral to another agency for support will be made.

Following assessment, if the case is deemed suitable for Channel support then the referrer will be invited to the next Channel Panel meeting. The referrer should continue to monitor the case and keep Prevent updated with any additional information which could lead to an increase in vulnerabilities to radicalisation.

Contacts

For further advice about Prevent please contact the Barnsley Cohesion and Prevent Officer on 01226 787733 or 07753430369. If no one is available to take your call please leave a message and someone will get back to you. Alternatively you can email: prevent@Barnsley.gov.uk

PREVENT: Referral Pathway for Children, Adults and Families



