

115. Prevent Duty Policy

Background

The Prevent Duty requires specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent Duty is part of the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 and commenced with effect on 1st July 2015. The Prevent Strategy is seeking to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat that is faced from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health.

Under the Prevent Duty, all schools and childcare providers are considered specified authorities and therefore must have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

N.B: Extremism is 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. The definition of extremism for the purposes of ACT's interpretation of its responsibilities under the Prevent Duty also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Policy statement

ACT is committed to the protection and safeguarding of all children and adults at risk that utilise the services it offers. As such, ACT will have due regard to the Prevent Duty and will take the steps outlined in this Prevent Duty Policy as part of its commitment to child and adult at risk safeguarding. Therefore, this policy demonstrates ACT's intention to:

- Make every effort to identify children and adults at risk that may be vulnerable to radicalisation and take the appropriate actions to protect them.
- Promote fundamental British Values (where our interactions permit) to help build an individual's resilience to radicalisation and enable them to challenge extremist views.

The 4 core themes of prevent

ACT's approach to its responsibilities will focus on the following four key themes:

1: Risk Assessment

1.

- As part of its risk assessment processes, ACT will undertake a risk assessment of the children and adults that attend and utilise its services to identify any risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism - including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- Whilst ACT realises that there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology, as with managing our other safeguarding risks and responsibilities, ACT's staff members will be alert to changes in an individual's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. ACT accepts that children and adults that are at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.
- ACT's staff will use their professional judgement in identifying individuals who might be at risk of radicalisation and bring any concerns they have to ACT's **DSO** - who will ensure that any action taken is proportionate.
- ACT accepts that even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others - whether in the family or outside - and consequently display concerning behaviour. The **Prevent Duty** does not require ACT's staff members to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life, but as with any other safeguarding risk, ACT must take action if there is any behaviour that raises concerns.

Possible signs of radicalisation include:

- a. The individual's views become increasingly extreme regarding another section of society or government policy.
- b. The individual becomes increasingly intolerant of more moderate views.

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- c. The individual expresses a desire/intent to take part in or support extremist activity.
- d. They are observed downloading, viewing or sharing extremist propaganda from the web.
- e. They become withdrawn and focused on one ideology.
- f. The individual may change their appearance, their health may suffer (including mental health) and they may become isolated from family, friends, peers or social groups.

ACT staff should refer to ACT's Safeguarding Handbook relating to the Procedures for Responding to Signs or Suspicions of Abuse if they have any concerns relating to children or adults at risk of radicalisation. Where it is felt that there is a concern with regard to radicalisation, then ACT's DSO will make the referral to the Channel Programme.

The Channel Programme

The Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for organisations to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Further information relating to the Channel Programme is available at the end of this policy.

2: Working in Partnership

2.

- ACT will continue to work with and build upon its existing local partnership arrangements with the **Multi-Agency Partnership's** and **SAB's** who are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. ACT already takes in to account the relevant policies and procedures of the **Multi-Agency Partnership's** and **SAB** - which includes following the threshold guidance indicating when a person might be referred for support.
- Where ACT's local authority provides **Home Office** funded dedicated Prevent co-ordinators, the organisation will work in partnership with them. In addition, ACT will work with local **Police** and any other civil society organisations that may be able to provide advice and support to the organisation with regard to implementing the duty.
- Finally, ACT will continue to work closely with parents, carers and families who are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. Where concerns are raised, ACT will assist and advise families and point them to the right support mechanisms.

3: Staff Training

3.

- Where ACT's risk assessment identifies that there is a high risk of children or adults at risk who use its services being at risk of radicalisation, it will ensure that the appropriate staff participate in the Home Office's **Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)**. As a minimum, ACT's **DSO** will undertake the **WRAP** training to ensure that they are able to provide advice and support to other members of ACT's staff and volunteers on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- However, as part of ACT's commitment to raise awareness generally about the Prevent Duty and the associated responsibilities, all staff will be required to complete the **Home Office Prevent Awareness eLearning** on-line module and print out their **Certificate of Completion**.

The Home Office Prevent Awareness eLearning can be found here:

Access the Home Office Prevent Awareness eLearning Training

The Home Office Prevent Awareness eLearning offers an introduction to the Prevent duty and explains how it aims to safeguard vulnerable people from being radicalised to supporting terrorism, or becoming terrorists themselves. The Home Office Prevent Awareness eLearning on-line module is a free resource and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

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4: IT Policies

4.

- ACT acknowledges its duty to ensure that children and adults at risk are safe from terrorist and extremist material when using the internet whilst accessing the organisations services. To this end, ACT has in place suitable internet filtering which it will ensure is regularly updated.
- ACT will require every individual who accesses the internet via its computers (and other IT equipment that can access the internet) to sign its **Online Safety Agreement** which is available from ACT's **DSO**.

All of ACT's staff members will need to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and further guidance and advice will be provided by ACT's DSO.

Reviewed & Updated: April 2025

ACT will review this **Prevent Duty Policy** and best practice at least annually. In addition, more frequent reviews will be undertaken following a change in safeguarding legislation; following the implementation of a new activity or service which involves contact with children and/or adults at risk; following a safeguarding incident within the CCO (or one which directly concerns or affects the CCO); and/or following a significant organisational change.