

Lostock Hall Community Primary School
Prevent Plan

Prevent

Prevent is one of the four main strands of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST. The Prevent Strategy has three objectives:

- Objective 1: the ideological challenge
- Objective 2: supporting vulnerable people
- Objective 3: working with key sectors (including schools, colleges and universities)

Objective 1: the ideological challenge

Children and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. Children and young people are vulnerable to exposure to, or involvement with, groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end. Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include animal rights, the far right, internal terrorist and international terrorist organisations.

The extremist ideology can be influenced by family members, friends, contact with extremist groups and organisations, or increasingly through the internet. Extremist speakers may try to use schools, colleges or universities to platform their extremist views to young people. We need to check the credibility of speakers, their presentations and prohibit those who preach hate and extremism. This can put a child or young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm.

We need to create safe spaces to allow young people to discuss current affairs, politics and conflict in a controlled environment. Extremists try to accentuate division and difference. Education can equip young people with the knowledge, skills and reflex to think for themselves, to challenge and debate; and giving young people the opportunity to learn about different cultures and faiths, and crucially to gain an understanding of the values we share.

Objective 2: supporting vulnerable people

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. It is important that awareness, sensitivity and expertise are developed to recognise the signs and indications of radicalisation. **Channel** has been developed to support and protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism.

Research shows that indicators of vulnerability can include:

- **Identity Crisis** - Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- **Personal Crisis** – Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- **Personal Circumstances** – Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- **Unmet Aspirations** – Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.

- **Criminality** – Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/ reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups

Potential indicators identified by Channel Guidance include:

- use of inappropriate language
- possessing or accessing violent extremist literature
- changes in behaviour
- the expression of extremist views
- advocating violent actions and means
- articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders
- using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage
- joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

Channel is a national project covering all forms of violent extremism that has been put in place to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The multi agency approach to provide early intervention and support to people that are vulnerable and so they are not drawn into criminal activity.

Objective 3: working with key sectors (including schools, colleges, universities)

In 2015 the Counter Terrorism Bill became law which listed schools as one of the bodies that has a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We need to assess staff awareness, use existing referral safeguarding structures and promote through the curriculum to students.