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Prevent Policy

The Prevent Duty

Foresight's Prevent Policy forms part of Foresight's Safeguarding Policy and should also be read in conjunction with our e-safety policy.

Introduction

From 1st July 2015, all schools, academies and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This duty stipulates that education providers (amongst other specified authorities), in the exercise of their functions, need to have "due regard to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism". This is commonly known as the Prevent duty. All education providers have a vital role to play in protecting children and adults from the risks of extremism and radicalisation.

Terrorism and Radicalisation in Context

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of our society, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Terrorist organisations such as ISIL (also referred to as ISIS), are trying to radicalise and recruit children and adults through extensive use of the internet and social media in general. ISIL is a violent terrorist group which has caused huge suffering to people in the name of Islamist extremist ideology. The typical demographic of ISIL targets are children of secondary school age. However, it is recognised by Foresight that any children, service users, volunteers, tutors and staff members are potential targets, and will take any proportionate measures to protect them in line with the Prevent duty.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child, service user, volunteer, tutor and/or staff member is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views which could include becoming distant or showing loss of interest in friends and activities or possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause. All staff members are expected to be vigilant in protecting children and adults from the threat of radicalisation and refer any concerns to our designated Safeguarding Officer. Staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to identify those at risk, challenge extremist ideas and know where and how to refer concerns.

We aim to identify the requirements placed upon Foresight in order to comply with the Prevent duty and will in particular, focus on the four general Prevent themes, namely; risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and ICT policies. None of this appendix alters guidance currently contained within the safeguarding or e-learning policy.

Risk Assessment

Foresight recognises that there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to terrorist ideology. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should monitor changes in children, service users, volunteers, tutors and staff member's behaviour which may indicate the need for help or protection. Any changes must be documented as soon as practicable and reported to the nominated Prevent Lead or deputy. The lead / deputy will then use their professional judgement and plan a proportionate response which will be thoroughly documented. Where appropriate a referral can be made to the local Channel Panel in line with current practice. This is a mechanism for organisations to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Risk can also be reduced by building individuals resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues. Personal, Social and Health Education can provide service users with the knowledge and skills to recognise threats to their own safety and how to report such. Appropriate inputs will enable them to recognise and report concerns prior to any observable change in behaviour and must be encouraged.

Working in Partnership

The Prevent duty compliments existing local partnership arrangements and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for coordinating safeguarding issues in their locality.

Consideration needs to be given as to effective engagement with parents/carers/families of service users as they are also instrumental in identifying early signs of radicalisation. The extent of this engagement needs careful consideration by the Prevent lead who must be satisfied that parents/carers/families feel empowered to raise concerns so as appropriate help can be sought.

As outlined above, Channel is a resource available for help and expert advice. If the Prevent Lead deems the matter of immediate concern, local police can be contacted on 101. If a person is perceived to be in immediate threat from radicalisation, the Anti-Terrorist Hotline can be contacted on 0800 789 321. Any engagement, including verbal conversation, with any party must be thoroughly documented.

Staff Training

As a minimum, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who may also be the Designated Prevent Lead (DPL) must undertake Prevent training and ensure that this is cascaded to the board, the senior leadership team and all relevant staff. Due to the ever evolving nature of the terrorist threat, the DSL must keep up to date with topical issues, and proactively encourage staff and trustees to do the same, in order to equip them with the skills to conduct risk assessments, identify issues and respond appropriately.

ICT Policies

Foresight must ensure that children and adults are safe from terrorist and extremist material whilst in Foresight, and with particular emphasis on the internet, must ensure suitable filtering is in place. Internet safety in general, should form part of the ICT curriculum and embedded in others, where appropriate, to educate service users in online safety.

Summary

It is the responsibility of Foresight to comply with the Prevent duty. All staff are responsible for the continuing risk assessment of children, service users, volunteers, tutors and staff members in respect of the terrorist threat and must bring concerns to the notice of the designated Prevent Lead (or deputy), who will instigate safeguarding procedures as appropriate. Compliance with this policy will show the "due regard to the need to prevent children and adults from being drawn into terrorism" and

will ensure (although will never eliminate), the harm that they may encounter online from the terrorist threat.

For further Guidance – See Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

This information is also available in other formats, languages and picture format upon request.