

Prevent duty

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of their overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act, this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents/enacted

What is extremism?

‘Extremism’ is defined in the 2011 Prevent Strategy as ‘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’.

Channel

Channel is a programme whereby people who are assessed as being vulnerable to supporting violent extremism are provided with multi-agency support.

Staff could consider undertaking the Channel General Awareness Module, created by The College of Policing. The module helps staff gain an understanding of Channel and gives examples of when and when not someone should be referred to the Channel panel, who will then decide on the appropriate actions. Upon completion, there is the option of printing out a certificate with your name and your centre’s name.

Link: Channel Duty Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/96456/7/6.6271_HO_HMG_Channel_Duty_Guidance_v14_Web.pdf

Link: Channel General Awareness Module

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html

Who needs to comply with the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent duty applies to EFA and SFA funded colleges, adult education and independent learning providers. The duty also applies to private further education institutions, not in receipt of public funding, who may be on the UK Register of Learning Providers or have similar characteristics. These will have students who are undertaking courses in preparation for examinations which either receive public funding or are regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation or the Welsh Government.

Protecting learners from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of providers’ wider safeguarding duties.

What are Ofsted looking to see?

Where Ofsted finds a publicly-funded further education institution or independent training provider inadequate, intervention action would be taken. In the case of independent providers this is likely to result in their contract being terminated by the Skills Funding Agency.

Article 28 of the Ofsted common inspection framework states “Inspectors will make a judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management by evaluating the extent to which leaders, managers and governors make sure that safeguarding arrangements to protect children, young people and learners meet all statutory and other government requirements, promote their welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism.”

‘Equipping young people for life in modern Britain’ is a key Ofsted requirement.

For full details of what they expect to see, please refer to the following Ofsted guidance documents from Sept 2015:

- Ofsted Common Inspection Framework
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461767/The_common_inspection_framework_education_skills_and_early_years.pdf
- Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings
www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skillsfrom-september-2015
- Ofsted handbook for the Inspection of FE and Skills in England - www.gov.uk/changes-to-educationinspection-from-september-2015

Please note these documents are subject to change and it is worth checking for a later version before making any decisions based on the information contained within.

Implementing the Prevent Duty

Implementation of the Prevent Duty should be seen as an extension to existing safeguarding practices and procedures.

Practical steps for implementing the duty are:

1. Develop relationships – with police, local authority, your local Prevent coordinator
2. Carry out a risk assessment – what do you already do and what could you do to improve? (consult with staff and learners)
3. Develop an action plan – put these work areas into an action plan.

The Prevent for FE and Training website has been set up by the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) and contains a wealth of information and useful links to help understand and implement the Duty. The site contains sections for practitioners, support staff, leaders and managers, and governors and board members.

Link: www.preventforfeandtraining.org.uk/

The DfE have produced guidance for schools on implementing the duty.

Link: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers -

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-dutydepartmental-advice-v6.pdf

Prevent for Schools also contains lots of information for schools in particular. Link:
www.preventforschools.org/

The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) have also produced a guide to Good Practice for the Prevent Duty -
<http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/news/further-support-available-to-help-providers-meet-their-preventduties/>

The ETF's Foundation Online Learning website provides free Prevent training for staff at different levels of organisations.

Link: www.foundationonline.org.uk/

157 Group Prevent Toolkit – Includes case studies of several colleges who've already taken measures to implement the duty, alongside helpful checklists centres may use to help them implement the duty effectively.

For further information about NCFE's safeguarding qualifications please visit the NCFE website.

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