



## WARWICKSHIRE PREVENT REFERRALS

### **Making a Prevent Referral**

If you are concerned about a vulnerable individual that you know, being drawn into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, then you should consider making Prevent referral. This guide outlines what making a Prevent referral involves and some of the things you may wish to think about.

### **Prevent is a Safeguarding Matter**

Prevent is fundamentally concerned with safeguarding vulnerable individuals. It recognises that some people are drawn into a world linked to violent extremist beliefs and intent that can potentially lead them into criminal or harmful behaviours. Our aim is to support those individuals, to address any personal needs and vulnerabilities they may have and help them to be more resilient to violent extremism in the future.

### **Becoming aware of a concern**

The framework for referral is set out in the Government Prevent Duty and specifically the Statutory Guidance for Channel Panel. The full guidance is available and can be viewed [here](#). Within this guidance, the Government encourages agencies, communities, and individuals alike to be aware of the risk of radicalisation, and sets out three key steps:

#### **NOTICE**

There is no single pathway towards being radicalised. Every instance is unique to the individual. However, you may become concerned with changes or the behaviours of that person, be that Emotional, Physical, or Verbal. Some of these changes can be sudden, sometimes they may take place over a longer period. Of the behaviours that may cause concern, some may be quite blatant - especially when these are verbal; a change in language, obsession on a topic, being closed to debate, right through to declaring intent to commit violence. If you have concerns about these behaviours or other changes, for example exposure to harmful internet content and identification with extremist groups or ideologies, then you should discuss these concerns.

#### **CHECK**

If it's appropriate, you may wish to discuss your concerns about the well-being of the individual with someone, for example a line manager, or a safeguarding lead in your organisation. This can help clarify why you may have those concerns, and to consider if you or your organisation has the right information or can take actions to address any concerns. Be mindful of the Public Sector Equality Duty, follow your organisations confidentiality guidelines and draw on your knowledge and experience when discussing concerns with your colleagues.

#### **SHARE**

If you're concerned about the welfare of the individual and feel that the risk of radicalisation requires additional consideration and response, then you can make a Prevent Referral. The referral form is accessed from this [link](#). This can lead to a wider review of the circumstances of such concerns and consideration as to whether there are genuine risks of radicalisation present and therefore a need to offer support to the vulnerable person within the referral.



**More Information regarding Notice Check Share**

If you would like more information regarding recognising vulnerabilities to extremism and Notice Check Share, you can access an e-learning package produced by the Home Office [here](#). This discusses the different factors that can lead to vulnerability to radicalisation, some of the signs and behaviours to look for, and how to act on those concerns.

**Making a Prevent Referral**

To share your concerns, you can use the National Prevent Referral form available [here](#). The form is a confidential document and asks a series of questions designed to highlight the context and nature of your concerns. A copy of this is included at the end of this guide. If you want to discuss the need to make a referral, or any aspect of the Notice, Check, Share matters outlined above, you can contact Geoff Thomas the Prevent Officer at Warwickshire County Council via [geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Key Questions to Consider**

As you prepare to make the referral it is important to present the information in a clear and comprehensive manner. It may be helpful to have in mind the need to answer the following questions.

<b>Where</b>	On what occasion did you observe the concerning factors, where was it? Did you see it personally? Was it in person, or online?
<b>What</b>	What were the issues that concerned you? Was it verbal, endorsement of violence, changes in behaviour, links to violent extremist groups or ideologies, changes in behaviour, dress, friendships, social activities?
<b>Who</b>	Be specific about who is the focus for the referral, what do you know about the person, their family, friends, relationship with your service or agency? Is there any relevant contextual information regarding the individual that can assist in judging their vulnerabilities and possible encounter with extremist influences?
<b>When</b>	On what occasions and surroundings did you feel concerned? Has it been a singular occasion, or built up over several encounters? On what times, over what period have the concerns been evident?
<b>Why</b>	Is there any information regarding why you believe the person may become vulnerable to radicalisation? Has there been a change in their family or domestic circumstances? Have there been other factors which may have exacerbated their general vulnerabilities, or exposure to extremists or extremist ideology? If you are aware of any wider changes which have influenced the person, consider if these have any relevance.

## How

How concerned are you at the risks of radicalisation? Is it something you feel might be of **immediate** concern e.g. the risk of travel to support an extremist group, in which case you might consider contacting emergency services directly.

To reinforce the above advice, you are also encouraged to consider:

- Giving as much information on the **Context of the referral** as possible.
- Wherever possible try to include examples of **Direct Speech** made by the person subject to the referral.
- In relation to the risk - describe what **mitigating action** has been taken by your agency or organisation. When was this undertaken, what impact has it made? Have you involved any other agency e.g. Local Authority?
- Information on any **social media details** you may be aware of.
- Relevant information regarding **Family background** that you consider relates to the general or specific vulnerabilities of the individual.

However, if you do have concerns, but don't feel you have all the information outlined above to hand, **please make sure you send in the referral even if you can't cover everything. Don't put it off. A referral for a vulnerable person can be the first, essential step, that leads to the support they need being provided.**

### Do you need the Individuals Consent to make a referral?

There is no statutory requirement in the Channel Panel guidance for you to obtain the individuals consent to make a referral. There is, however, guidance regarding this matter specifically for health service providers. This can be found [here](#) and the general principles regarding obtaining consent and keeping the individual informed about a referral being made within this guidance are of general relevance. Critically if it is considered that it is not appropriate to advise the individual that a referral is being made, it is recommended that you record the basis for this decision and any advice you have received.

### What happens to a Prevent Referral?

All Prevent referrals are assessed in the first instance by specialist police officers and staff. These officers determine whether there is reasonable cause to suspect that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn towards any terrorism offences, and therefore appropriate for support through Prevent. This 'gateway assessment' draws upon a police review of several databases and other resources to determine the level of vulnerability and risk around the referred individual, and whether the referral/case will move into (or out of) Prevent.

After this gateway assessment, the primary route for individuals identified as having Prevent relevant vulnerabilities is support through local authority-led, multi-agency Channel panels (see below).

Individuals whom the police reasonably suspect pose a serious or imminent risk of terrorism offending, are unlikely to be signposted onwards for support through Channel. Depending upon the type and level of terrorism risk identified by police, these cases may be adopted for management in the police-led partnership. A schematic outlining the Prevent referral process is included below.



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### **The Warwickshire Channel Panel**

As outlined above, if the gateway assessment concludes that there is a belief that the individual may be at risk of vulnerability to radicalisation, this case will be presented to and reviewed by the Warwickshire Channel Panel, the multi-agency safeguarding group which meets regularly and is co-chaired by Rachel Watt and Becky Sumner at Warwickshire County Council. A guide to the work of the Channel Panel is outlined below.

### **Need more information?**

More information is available on the Safe In Warwickshire Prevent website available [here](#). If you have any further queries regarding Prevent matters, or making a Prevent referral you can contact:

### **Help and Support**

If you would like more information on Prevent, please contact the **Local Authority Prevent Officer** - Geoff Thomas, please phone [01926 412432](tel:01926412432). If you are unable to make contact with the Prevent Officer please phone [01926 412338](tel:01926412338) to contact the administrator for the Community Safety Team who will be able to help you.

Geoff Thomas

Prevent Officer

Warwickshire County Council

[geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk)

01926 412432



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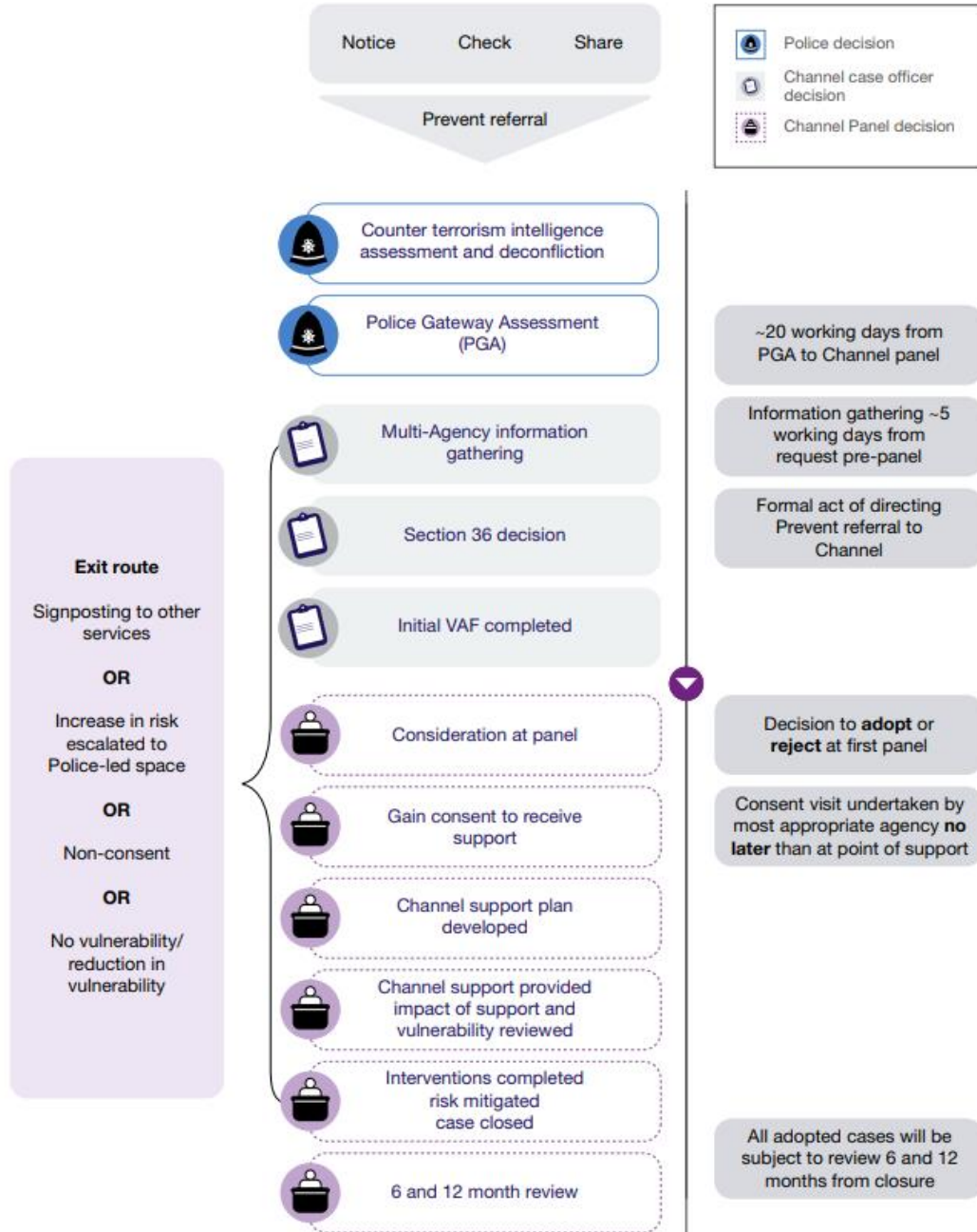
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**PREVENT REFERRAL PROCESS**

Diagram 1.0: Pathway Diagram







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## Warwickshire Channel Panel

### Keeping people in Warwickshire Safe

#### What is the Channel Panel?

The Channel Panel is a group of safeguarding staff drawn from different agencies, including Schools, Health, Social Care and Mental Health to consider how best to support individuals who may be vulnerable to being radicalised towards violent extremism activity. It is led by Warwickshire County Council and includes other local partner agencies from Health Services, Police Services, Probation and Education among others.

#### Why have I been referred to Warwickshire Channel Panel?

Local referrals are made where someone is considered to be at risk of being drawn into engaging with violent extremism in some way. There are many different possible behaviours that may lead to a referral and great care is taken to ensure that any referral that may be frivolous, or malicious or misdirected is excluded at the outset. We will only ask if you wish to work with the Channel Panel if we feel there is a risk of possible harm to you or others at some stage from links with violent extremism.

#### Do I have to take part in the Channel Panel referral?

No. Working with the Channel Panel requires informed consent. We aim to discuss possible vulnerabilities with you and any parent/carer you may have so that you understand why a referral has been considered. We will also outline the range of support you are entitled to receive. However, most people referred do want to engage with Channel as it can offer practical and varied help to local people. Almost 9 out of 10 people taking part in Channel leave the programme with a reduction in the risk of radicalisation and harm.

#### Will I have a criminal record from taking part in the Channel programme?

No. The work of the Channel Panel is intended to safeguard individuals. Any information we hold is part of our normal safeguarding arrangements and will not feature in any future police checks. All information we hold and share is subject to our confidential data sharing arrangements.

#### What will happen if I take part in Channel?

We will discuss with you those issues that may have made you potentially vulnerable to extremists and work out with you what will help you to keep safe. This might include having access to services for example health, substance misuse, domestic abuse. Or we might link you up to voluntary and community groups if you have local interests we can assist with. We might also offer a mentor; someone you can talk over issues and ideas with in a confidential and safe setting.

#### How long will I be involved with Channel?

We are here to work with individuals so we can get you the best possible help to keep you safe. The time this takes will vary from individual to individual. We will discuss this with you throughout your referral so that you feel fully involved and consulted on what is being proposed.

#### Where can I find out more about the Channel Panel?

The work of the Channel Panel is subject to national guidance and can be found [here](#). We also have more information about the Warwickshire Channel Panel on our website Safe In Warwickshire which can be found [here](#)