

Prevent Level 2



LIVERPOOL HEART AND CHEST HOSPITAL
ENTRANCE

What you will learn in this session

1. Know the objectives of the Prevent strategy and the health sector contribution to the Prevent agenda
2. Know own professional responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, children and young people
3. Understand vulnerability factors that can make individuals susceptible to radicalisation or a risk to others
4. Know who to contact and where to seek advice if there are concerns a vulnerable adult is being groomed in to terrorist related activity
5. Be able to recognise potential indicators that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation or at risk of involvement in acts of terrorism
6. Understand the impact of influence on vulnerable individuals (direct or Internet)
7. Know what action to take if there are concerns, including where to refer concerns and from whom to seek advice
8. Understand the importance of sharing information (including the consequences of failing to do so)

- Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Prevent focuses on all forms of terrorism and operates in a pre-criminal space, providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed in to terrorist activity before any crimes are committed
- Radicalisation is comparable to other forms of exploitation; it is therefore a safeguarding issue staff working in the health sector must be aware of

- **CONTEST** is the UK Governments strategy for counter Terrorism. Within the Home Office of Central Government, The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism, (OSCT) is responsible for providing strategic direction and governance on **CONTEST**.
- **CONTEST** is primarily organised around four key principles. Work streams contribute to four programmes, each with a specific objective:-
 - **PURSUE**: to stop terrorist attacks, usually police led.
 - **PREVENT**: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
 - **PROTECT**: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
 - **PREPARE**: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
- The Health Service is a key partner in the delivery of the **Prevent** agenda and encompasses all parts of the NHS, charitable organisations and private sector bodies which deliver health services to NHS patients

- Workers in the health sector are well placed to identify individuals who may be groomed into criminal and terrorist activity.
- Prevent strategy amongst healthcare workers is crucial. Staff must be able to recognise signs of radicalisation and be confident in referring individuals who can then receive support in the pre-criminal space.
- The Prevent strategy involves working with partner agencies with an overarching principle to improve health and wellbeing through the delivery of health care services whilst safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

What are the aims of Prevent within the health care sector?

- The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Three national objectives have been identified for the Prevent strategy:
- **Objective 1: respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it**
- **Objective 2: prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support**
- **Objective 3: work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.**
- The health sector contribution to Prevent is primarily around Objectives 2 and 3.

Why is Prevent important to NHS staff?

- 1.3 million staff are employed by the NHS
- NHS England has 315,000 patient contact's each day
- Over 700,000 private and charitable staff has face to face contact with the public on a daily basis

- Prevent does not require you to do anything in addition to your normal duties however, if you are concerned that a vulnerable individual is being exploited in this way, you can raise these concerns in accordance with your organisation's policies and procedures.

- Healthcare services cannot meet all of the needs of a vulnerable person and in many cases the wider range of support and services available from other public sector bodies, charitable organisations and private sector bodies will be required.

What are my professional responsibilities in relation to Prevent?

- All healthcare staff have a duty of care to patients and, where necessary, to take action for safeguarding and crime prevention purposes.
- Through Prevent this will include taking preventive action and supporting those individuals who may be at risk of, or are being drawn into, terrorist-related activity.
- All staff must attend your employing organisations Prevent training and awareness programme.
- You must ensure you are:
 - aware of your professional responsibilities, particularly in relation to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children
 - familiar with your organisation's protocols, policies and procedures
 - aware of your organisations Prevent Lead and Safeguarding Team contact details are to hand
 - aware of the processes and support available when you raise a concern

What vulnerability factors make individuals susceptible to radicalisation or a risk to others?

- People can be drawn into violence or exposed to the messages of extremism by many means at any age. These can include the influence of family members or friends, direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet.
- Circumstances can make some people more vulnerable to being drawn into groups, extremism or being influenced by individuals. A range of factors can increase and influence those behaviours that are defined as extremism.
- Many factors that increase a person's likelihood of becoming radicalised are similar to other vulnerabilities that require individuals to be safeguarded.

Some factors that may cause Vulnerability

- Mental Health Issues or illness
- Isolation or exclusion
- Unemployment
- Links to crime
- Poverty
- Immigration, Migration and distance from cultural heritage
- Learning difficulties
- Anger
- Physical health needs (isolation)
- Bullied /bullying
- Feeling let down by others
- Substance Misuse
- Loss
- Need; Anger; Desire; Frustration; Grievance
- Peer Pressure
- Low self esteem
- Propaganda
- Fear
- Sense of debt/guilt
- Socially excluded
- Sense failure
- Family upheaval

Signs that an individual may be being groomed into extremism could be:

- Vulnerable individuals becoming withdrawn and stopping participating in their usual activities
- They may express feelings of anger
- Grievance
- Injustice
- Or go missing from their home, school or care setting
- A new group of friends who have an extremist ideology
- Using language that supports 'us and them' thinking
- Or possessing or searching for extremist literature online

What factors might make someone vulnerable to exploitation?

In terms of personal vulnerability, the following factors may make individuals susceptible to exploitation.

- **Personal crisis**
- **Personal circumstances**
- **Criminality**

It is important that judgement is applied in determining the significance of any unusual changes in behaviour, and where you have concerns you should raise these in accordance with your organisation's policies and procedures.

What is the impact of influence on vulnerable individuals in relation to Prevent?

A person does not become instantly 'radicalised' but instead are gradually exposed to influences which may accelerate their thought processes.

When working with vulnerable people, it is essential to be aware of the risks associated with radicalisation and, how to identify possible concerns

There are a number of signs to be aware of (although a lot of them are quite common for other reasons). Generally there may be increased instances of:

- A conviction that their religion, culture or beliefs are under threat and treated unjustly
- A tendency to look for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media
- The need for identity and belonging
- Being secretive about who they've been talking to online and what sites they visit
- Switching screens when you come near the phone, tablet or computer
- Possessing items – electronic devices or phones – you haven't given them
- Becoming emotionally volatile.

What is the impact of influence on vulnerable individuals in relation to Prevent?

There are a number of behaviours that may indicate the presence of these signs that may show radicalisation.

These have been identified in the CONTEST strategy. Possible signs that an individual is engaged with an extremist group, cause or ideology include some or all of the following:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Possession of materials, tattoo's or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups);
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology; or
- Communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology

The use of social media to attract and groom individuals by radicalisers is ever increasing. These are the platforms used to target people. Radicalisers are creative in their thinking and approach using many forms of social media including:

- Twitter
- Facebook,
- Tumblr,
- Ask.fm,
- Instagram,
- YouTube
- WhatsApp and many more

Often conversations begin on open social media sites and then move onto private messaging

Application encryption has recently been introduced to WhatsApp, this means that messages can't be intercepted as they travel between devices. This allows for more hidden ways of communication and could potentially make investigations and access to evidence more problematic.

For some people changes in their online profiles, including their profile image or name, can reflect the fact that they are beginning to associate with extremist ideas.

What actions need to be taken if there are concerns?

- Concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation, does not mean that you think the person is a terrorist, it means that you are concerned they are prone or at risk of being exploited/groomed by others.

Remember - The principles of safeguarding apply

- If a member of staff feels that they have a concern that their patient/service user is being radicalised, they should raise this with their line manager and follow their organisations safeguarding procedures.
- If a member of staff feels that they have a concern a colleague is being radicalised, then they should raise this with their line manager and contact their local Safeguarding Team.
- In the absence of any existing arrangements for raising concerns, The Department of Health have issued guidance for healthcare organisations

- **Concerns.** No different to noticing any other 'Safeguarding' issue.
- **Check concerns.** Speak with a colleague or your manager. Do they agree that your concerns are justified?
- **Share concerns.** Your organisational 'Prevent' or Safeguarding lead will assist with this.

Channel Panel is a multi -agency early intervention scheme that identifies and provides support to people who are at risk of radicalisation and provides practical support tailored to individual needs.

Channel assesses vulnerability using a consistently applied vulnerability assessment framework built around three criteria. The three criteria are:

- Engagement with a group, cause or ideology;
- Intent to cause harm; and
- Capability to cause harm

Channel Panel is a voluntary arrangement and with consent

How do I make a referral to the Channel panel?

If you are concerned about an individual being drawn into extremism or not sure about whether to make a referral and would like to have a discussion about your concerns you can discuss a potential referral with your Safeguarding Lead/Team within your organisation or contact your local Police or Local Authority.

Don't rely on others to refer, you have a duty and responsibility to report any concerns you have about an adult or child who you think may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism.

Information sharing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, it is important that information sharing agreements are in place at a local level.

Data Protection Act 1998 is not a barrier to sharing information but a framework to ensure that personal information is shared appropriately

Be open and honest with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) on whether information will be shared, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so

Seek advice if in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible

Share with consent where appropriate. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest

Consider safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by any actions

Share information where it is **necessary** that is **proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely** and **secure**

Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it

Information sharing at Channel should be with consent