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**CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS**

Working in partnership



Home Office

# Channel Factsheet

*Prevent Delivery Unit*

## Channel - A Partnership Approach to Protecting Vulnerable People From Being Drawn Into Terrorism.

### What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. The process, which operates across England and Wales, forms a key part of the Government's *Prevent* strategy which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting any form of terrorism.

Channel seeks to :

- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity;
- Ensure that individuals and communities have the ability to resist all forms of terrorism and violent extremist activity likely to lead to terrorism.

### How does Channel work?

The Channel process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation, and refers them via the police or local authority for assessment by a multi-agency panel. The panel, chaired by the local authority, considers how best to safeguard them and support their vulnerability through a support package tailored to individual needs.

This is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported.

Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support ranging from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

### What factors can put people at risk?

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable in this way. Factors may include: peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.

### Who is involved in Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency, early intervention process. Partnership and community involvement is vital to ensure that people most at risk are given support at an early stage. Partners include:

- Local authorities (Adult and Children's Services, etc);
- Education;
- Health;
- Probation, Youth Offending Teams and Prisons;

- Police Service and other emergency services;
- UK Border Agency;
- Community and Voluntary Services; and
- Local communities.

People working in neighbourhood and community safety roles, carrying out home visits, volunteering, working in safeguarding roles or those who are already supporting vulnerable people, may often be the first to see signs of concern.

### How do I make a referral or find out more about Channel?

Referrals to the Channel process are coordinated by the police but come from a wide range of sources, including members of the public, social services, youth offending teams and health and education practitioners.

If you work for a partner organisation and want to know more about Channel or have a concern about an individual and want to make a referral, contact your organisation's safeguarding lead.

If you are a community or family member and are concerned about someone please contact your local authority, the police or other trusted, local community organisations for further advice.

**For further enquiries about Channel or more information about the work of the ACPO *Prevent* Delivery Unit email [prevent@acpo.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@acpo.pnn.police.uk)**

## Case Study 1

An agency referred a middle-aged European man. There was concern that he had changed his religion having been an active member of a far right group in his youth with convictions for violence. It was not known whether he had a sinister motive for his conversion. He had Nazi tattoos on his body, was struggling with alcohol abuse and lived a chaotic lifestyle. It became apparent he was seeking faith as a means to help himself out of his situation. More suitable accommodation was found, he was assisted into some voluntary work in a charity shop and he returned to his local faith group, all of which he now feels has helped him to control his alcohol abuse.

## Case Study 2

A student with some apparent learning difficulties seemed keen to help at college but appeared to need a sense of belonging. He connected his laptop to WIFI in a college building and viewed a Youtube video suggesting violence towards people from the Jewish faith. He also discussed Palestine and other international conflicts. During the holidays his behaviour changed - he became unkempt, withdrawn and uninterested. His close friends were concerned about his behaviour. He had become more religious and changed his dress and appearance. He explained how he was seeing spirits and how he could speak with them. He told them he was being mentored by a religious holy man who had told him he was a pure soul and was different and above the rest of his peers. Given all the information the Panel arranged an evaluated peer mentoring course and put other support mechanisms in place. He later stopped talking about seeing spirits and became more like his normal self. His progress is still being monitored to ensure his ongoing well being.

## Examples of referrals we have received into Channel

### Case Study 3

A referral of a young boy was made by a primary school. He was falling asleep in class and reciting concerning verses to other children. He had low academic attainment but was very conversant about detailed aspects of a number of firearms. Investigation revealed that the boy was obsessed with a computer war game and was spending hours of unsupervised time on the Internet. Help with parental skills was provided together with more support in school. This timely support prevented the situation escalating. School staff now feel more confident in sharing any future concerns. Work is ongoing to repair relations with the boy's parents but all parties agree that the risk has reduced.

## Frequently asked questions

How do I make a referral/pass on information?

If you have any concerns about an individual and work for a partner organisation, please speak with your organisation's safeguarding lead. They will be able to advise and guide you about making a referral.

If you have any concerns about an individual and are a community or family member please refer to the contact details in this leaflet.

Is there an age limit?

No, Channel will accept referrals for any individual who displays a vulnerability to violent extremism, regardless of age.

Is the information I provide confidential?

Channel operates within a number of legal and statutory frameworks to ensure that data protection and human rights principles are adhered to. The exchange of any information must be necessary, proportionate and legal.

**To report information anonymously you can contact Crimestoppers.**

## Contact us

There are two teams of dedicated Police Community Engagement Officers that cover the whole of Lancashire and can deliver WRAP sessions. There is also a Channel Coordinator who is located at police HQ who coordinates all Channel referrals for Lancashire. They can be contacted on the details below:

### South West and North Lancashire areas

**PC Gary WYNNE – 01772 209830 / 07957 463 478**

**CEO Lindsay Frew – 01772 209733 / 07957 463 593**

**PC Richard Jarram – 01772 209822**

**CEO Medina Patel – 01772 209689 / 07432629060**

### East Lancashire

**Sgt Gordon McGeechan - 01254 353591**

**CEO Mateen Kamaluddin - 01254 353541**

**PC Amanda Gibbons 01254- 353510**

**CEO Naqui Syed 01254- 353509**

**Channel Coordinator for Lancashire: DS 1436 Maxine Monks**

**Telephone 01772 413029 or 07943050822 OR Email [Channelreferrals@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Channelreferrals@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)**

**The police non emergency number 101 Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**

**Anti-Terrorism Hotline 0800 789 321**

# Channel WRAP

## Working together to counter terrorism

Terrorism is a real and serious threat to us all and we have seen that terrorists can strike at any time and any place without warning. Lancashire's focus is to work with, for and on behalf of the communities we serve.

We need the support and confidence of communities to improve a two way flow of information in order to identify those most vulnerable and in need of support and interventions.

Our priority is to keep the public safe, by working together with key partner agencies and all our communities to tackle any extremism.

**IF YOU SUSPECT  
IT REPORT IT**

**CALL 0800 789 321**

**CONFIDENTIAL  
ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE**



# Our strategy - Contest

Since early 2003, the United Kingdom had had a long-term strategy for countering international terrorism known as Contest.

Contest aims to reduce the risk we face from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

It is made up of four areas of work known as the "four Ps"

- Protect – strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings and public spaces from an attack
- Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to reduce its impact by responding effectively
- Pursue – to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent has been described as the "only long term solution" to the threat we currently face from terrorism. Unlike the other Ps, Prevent is about taking action before any criminal activity has taken place.

It involves supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, ensuring that they are diverted away before any crime is committed.

The successful delivery of Contest, and in particular Prevent, is dependent on the engagement of national, regional and local partners across multiple sectors.

This leaflet explains two of the main ways partners can assist us – by taking part in a WRAP Workshop or by working with us on the Channel project.

- Local Authorities, Adult and Children's Services
- Housing, Education, Health, Probation and Prisons
- Emergency Services
- The Youth Justice Board through Youth Offending Teams
- The UK Border Agency
- Community and Voluntary Services

People working in neighbourhood and community safety roles, carrying out home visits, volunteering, working in safeguarding roles or those who are already supporting vulnerable people are often the first to see signs of concern.

The help of the general public and families is essential as they often recognise 'odd' or 'concerning' behaviours at an early stage. It is important to report concerns before the point of crisis.

# WRAP

## WORKSHOP TO RAISE AWARENESS OF PREVENT

Public sector frontline staff have been identified as a key group that can make an important contribution to the identification and referral of individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Wrap is a FREE specialist workshop that is designed to give colleagues:

- An understanding of the Prevent strategy and their role within it.
- The ability to use existing expertise and professional judgement to recognise the vulnerable individuals who may need support.
- Local safeguarding and referral mechanisms and people to contact for further help and advice.

### What does it involve?

The workshop takes 2 – 2.5 hours to deliver via DVD and a facilitator. It can be delivered in a team setting or training to groups of 15-30 multi-agency partners, allowing delegates to network and share expertise.

It is an introduction to Prevent and covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, extreme right-wing and Al-Qaeda case studies, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to terrorist ideology.

Feedback strongly illustrates that WRAP provides a practical understanding of Prevent, particularly for safeguarding practitioners. All WRAP facilitators have been accredited by the Home Office to ensure delivery is consistent and high quality. The package has been approved by the Pan Lancashire Counter Terrorism Board.

### How do I find out more?

If you would like to receive further information, to book a session for your team or to register your interest as an individual (once you have spoken to your line manager) please contact DS Maxine Monks on 01772 413029 or email Maxine.Monks@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.

Group sessions for individuals or small teams may be offered if there is sufficient interest in any one locality. Lancashire County Council colleagues will be receiving inputs organised through relevant service leads.

Training is provided without charge.

# Channel

Channel is a national project that has been put in place to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists.

The aim of the process is:

- To support and protect people who might be susceptible to radicalisation at a very early stage so that they are not drawn into criminal activity which may affect their prospects in later life.
- To ensure that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist all forms of violent extremism whether it be far right, Irish, Al-Qaeda inspired, animal rights, environmental or any other form.
- Channel is not about prosecuting or stigmatising individuals who have been referred.

### What can put people at risk?

There is no single profile of a terrorist or violent extremist. Factors which may make people more vulnerable include:

- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Peer pressure
- Influence from older people or via the Internet
- Bullying
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Domestic violence
- Family tensions
- Race/hate crime
- Lack of self esteem or identity
- Grievances (personal or political)
- Migration

### How does it work?

Channel assesses the nature and extent of the potential risk to an individual and, where necessary, provides an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. This decision is made by a multi-agency panel and may include diversionary activities and/or support from services such as education, housing, employment and mentoring designed to help them resist those who may be seeking to harm them or others.

Local community issues and tensions can sometimes contribute to an individual's behaviour. The context of a situation is always taken into account.

### Who can help?

Early intervention can help to keep all our communities safe. Both partnership and community involvement is needed to ensure that those who may be at risk are given early access to support.

Partners include:

- Local Authorities, Adult and Children's Services
- Housing, education, health, probation and prisons
- Emergency services
- The Youth Justice Board through youth offending teams
- The UK Border Agency
- Community and Voluntary services
- People working in neighbourhood and community safety roles, carrying out home visits, volunteering, working in safeguarding roles or those who are already supporting vulnerable people are often the first to see signs of concern. The help of the general public and families is essential as they often recognise 'odd' or 'concerning' behaviours at an early stage. It is important to report concerns before the point of crisis.