

Preventing vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 was fast tracked through parliament amongst concerns over human rights and effectiveness. The Act includes a new duty in Section 26 placed on specified agencies to 'Prevent people being drawn into terrorism' which came into effect from July 2015.

Specified agencies include local authorities, all schools, organisations within the Early Years Foundation Framework, childminders and the NHS. As with other statutory duties, the prevent duty could apply to organisations with local authority or NHS service delivery contracts.

Sections 36 to 41 of the Act also include a duty for local authorities to ensure there are panels to support individuals identified as being at risk of being drawn into terrorism, known as the Channel programme and Channel panels.

What does this mean for you?

The duty may mean some changes for voluntary organisations that hold NHS and local authority contracts, for example:

- Include a response to the Prevent agenda in your policies and procedures such as safeguarding, confidentiality, and information sharing
- Designate a named person who is the Prevent lead (this could be the same person who is the safeguarding lead)
- Ensure staff, volunteers and management

committee members take up training

It is also important to champion inclusivity and equality, and to maintain robust anti-discrimination practice. This means making sure that your organisation's policies, wording or actions do not unintentionally discriminate against, marginalise or alienate clients who may already be stigmatised in the media, or whose communities feel under surveillance.

For government guidance on the Prevent duty, updated March 2016.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Resources

E-learning training

Free online 20 minute training that addresses terrorism and non-violent extremism including far right and Islamist extremism. www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk

Newcastle and Gateshead safeguarding training

Prevent training to enable staff, trustees and volunteers to understand the local risk for vulnerable people of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas, is covered in Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board and Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board training, and is offered through the Gateshead Multi-agency Safeguarding Training.

For the joint Newcastle programme and

booking courses.

www.nscb.org.uk/training-courses

For the Gateshead joint training directory and booking information.

www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/home.aspx

Inspire

An organisation working to counter extremism and gender inequality. Offers

information and support for Muslim women to safeguard children against radicalisation and grooming for violence. Includes an open letter to young Muslim girls considering leaving the UK and counter-narrative videos for young people.

www.wewillinspire.com

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