


Basic Prevent Awareness eLearning slides taken from Safeguarding Adults Level 1 eLearning course. Published August 2024.

Prevent Strategy –
Reducing the risk of radicalisation and terrorism



Prevent is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST, which aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming involved and supporting terrorism. Prevent is a legal duty and is also part of the everyday safeguarding routine for NHS staff and those providing NHS services.

The health sector is involved in Objective 2 and 3:

- **Supporting Vulnerable People**
To prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- **Working with key sectors**
To work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.


Healthcare workers come into contact with numerous **patients and colleagues** every day and have the opportunity to identify and refer vulnerable individuals for support in a pre-criminal space by:

- ✓ Recognising vulnerable adults, children and young people who may be at risk of radicalisation;
- ✓ Working in partnership to reduce risk and protect the individual and
- ✓ Providing adequate and necessary support as part of a proportionate multi-agency response to any concerns

It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away before any criminal act has taken place.

Prevent is part of existing safeguarding responsibilities for the health sector, **not an additional job.**

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Prevent Strategy

Terrorism

“an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause” - Terrorism Act 2000

Radicalisation

This refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism

Extremism

This is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Vulnerability

This describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; or open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

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Prevent – Key Information

Do you know the UK Terror Threat Levels?

- Critical** – An attack is expected imminently
- Severe** – An attack is highly likely
- Substantial** – An attack is a string possibility
- Moderate** – An attack is possible but not likely
- Low** – An attack is unlikely

The rate of people who have been radicalised and drawn into terrorism **has increased** in recent years due to new technology such as social media, online forums, and gaming forums.

People may be **influenced** by family or friends, or by having direct contact with extremist groups and organisation whereby they are exposed to extreme ideology

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Prevent Strategy – Vulnerability Factors

There are many factors that can make someone vulnerable to radicalisation

- It should not be assumed that specific characteristics necessarily indicate that a person is either committed to terrorism or may become a terrorist
- Radicalisation is a process, **not a one-off event**
- There is **no single profile** of a terrorist – there is no checklist to measure someone against. There is no age group and people of any age can be radicalised, including children
- This is **not about race, religion or ethnicity** – the programme is to prevent the exploitation of susceptible people
- Having vulnerabilities may make it easier for a radical group to target a person and **influence them**
- **Vulnerabilities** may include; mental health, learning disability, personal difficult life experiences, drug and alcohol misuse, and people who are within the criminal justice system (this is not an exhaustive list)

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Prevent Strategy – Ideology

There are many factors that can make someone vulnerable to radicalisation

An ideology is a set of beliefs or narratives for the purpose of supporting a particular world view. Terrorist ideologies encompass a range of religious, political, nationalist or emerging ideologies that may contribute to making a person susceptible to radicalisation.

These can be categorised as;

- Left-wing, anarchist and single-issue ideologies
- Islamist terrorist ideology
- Extreme right-wing terrorist ideology

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Prevent: Assessment Framework

The assessment framework separates factors into 3 dimensions

Engagement	Intent	Capability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of grievance and injustice • Feeling under threat • A need for identity, meaning and belonging • A desire for status • A desire for excitement and adventure • A need to dominate and control others • Susceptibility to indoctrination • A desire for political or moral change • Opportunistic involvement • Family or friends involvement in extremism • Being at a transitional time of life • Being influenced or controlled by a group • Relevant mental health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-identification with a group or ideology • 'Them and Us' thinking • Dehumanisation of the enemy • Attitudes that justify offending • Harmful means to an end • Harmful objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual knowledge, skills and competencies • Access to networks, funding or equipment

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Prevent – how to report concerns

At any time if you suspect there is an immediate risk to life or threat to others

- Call 999 for police assistance
- Record your concerns and this action on the internal referral form

Where there is no immediate threat or risk to life;

In hours –

- Speak to your line manager
- Record your concerns on the internal Prevent referral form
- Your line manager must contact the Prevent Lead as soon as possible

Out of hours –

- Speak to your line manager
- Record your concerns on the internal Prevent referral form
- Referral will be reviewed by the Safeguarding team the next working day

All completed referral forms are to be emailed to Adult.SafeguardingTeam@uhn.nhs.uk

The Prevent Lead will then review the information and make a referral where necessary, working with senior managers and HR

Full process can be found in policies C36 (adult safeguarding) and C23 (child safeguarding)

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Prevent – what happens to your referral?

- The Prevent Lead for the trust will review the details and may make contact with you to discuss the concerns further. The Prevent lead will then make a formal referral into the police.
- The police will then conduct an assessment as to whether the referral needs to be discussed at a multi-agency meeting.
- A multi-agency meeting, called a Channel panel decides whether the person will be adopted as a case and how they will be supported. This is detailed in the action plan created at the meeting.

Channel panels

Channel panels are a **multi-agency process** that support and assess the vulnerability of individuals at risk of radicalisation and provide the most appropriate support plan tailored to their needs. Any initial concern may turn out to be unwarranted, but equally exploring a concern may find evidence that the person is being groomed for criminal activity.



Prevent

Recognise, Understand and Share Concerns

- You could reduce the risk of someone being exploited by radicalisers and subsequently drawn into terrorist-related activity
- This applies to patients and colleagues
- **Remember!** This is not an additional job. This is part of your role and duty to report safeguarding concerns
- Full process found in Safeguarding policies C36 and C23
- Report any Prevent related concerns to the Trust's Prevent lead - *Sarah Curran, Lead Nurse for Vulnerable Patients*



Prevent

Key challenges

- Correctly interpreting signs of radicalisation
- Being aware of the support that is available
- Being confident in referring the person for support

Further support and guidance available

- *Prevent* in WRAP and Safeguarding training
- The Department of Health has issued guidance for staff and organisations called '**Building Partnerships, Staying Safe**'

If you would like to read this you can download a copy by clicking the image on the right

