



Safe in East Sussex

Safer East Sussex Team Newsletter

In focus – Preventing Violent Extremism
May 2015

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WHY THE COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT 2015 INTRODUCED NEW MEASURES TO TACKLE VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

The murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby was a sickening act of terrorism on our streets.

Following the murder, on 22 May 2013, the Intelligence and Security Committee investigated what MI5, SIS and GCHQ knew about the two men who carried out the attack to see whether it could have been prevented.

An Extremism Task Force (ETF) was established by the Prime Minister in June 2013 after the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich and subsequent attacks to mainly mosques in parts of the country to look at whether the government was doing all it could to confront extremism and radicalisation.



It was chaired by the Prime Minister and published its report including recommendations against a wide range of issues, including the local delivery of Prevent and tackling extremism in education, prisons, local communities, faith institutions and on the internet in December 2014

The Report highlighted a number of serious delays and potential missed

opportunities. The Prime Minister has been clear that the Committee rightly identified significant areas of concern and the Government is clear there have been important and valuable lessons to learn.

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In response, the Security Service, and the other Agencies have introduced a number of changes to their processes and procedures. These include, additional resources and training to ensure that applications to the Home Secretary for intrusive surveillance will be handled more efficiently; a new process for managing low level subjects of interest; better record keeping processes and training; and measures to improve co-ordination.

In addition the Government has made an extra £130 million available to strengthen our ability to combat terrorism. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced new measures to address specific gaps in our powers to detect and disrupt terrorist threats, particularly from British Citizens who travel to fight with terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq.

The Act also placed Prevent and the Channel safeguarding programme on a statutory footing, creating a new duty on all public bodies to tackle radicalisation.



The Counter Terrorism and Security Act is important because it introduces two new powers and one new duty.

The new powers enable the seizure and retention of the passport of a person suspected of leaving the UK for terrorism-related activity outside the UK, and enables the “temporary” exclusion (for up to two years) of individuals from the UK if they are believed to be involved in terrorism-related

activity outside the UK.

The new duty, imposed on certain authorities requires them to have “due regard” to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

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THE COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT 2015



The new duties apply to the following authorities – and are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people

- Local Authorities
- Police
- Prisons and Providers of Probation Services
- Schools and Registered Childcare Providers
- Colleges
- Universities
- Health Sector

These new duties have been introduced to ensure a consistent approach nationally to protecting and safeguarding people who may be vulnerable from being drawn into violent extremism or susceptible to radicalisation. The Act also introduces a statutory 'Channel' duty for local authorities to ensure that a multi-agency panel exists in their area, to chair the panel and to develop a support plan. Channel is the name for the process of identifying and referring a person for early intervention and support. Some of the new duties include:

- **Assess and agree risk and coordinate Prevent activity using multi-agency groups. If risks are identified, develop an action plan to reduce this risk**
- **Train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism and to provide appropriate capabilities to deal with it**
- **Establish referral mechanisms and refer people to Channel**
- **Chair the Channel / Local Panel and prepare a support plan to reduce an individual's vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism**
- **To have responsible booking policies to ensure that publicly funded venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists**
- **Online safety - IT equipment available to the general public should use filtering solutions**
- **Refrain from working with extremist organisations**

The Safer East Sussex Team are currently coordinating the establishment of a new Prevent Board, working with South East partners to ensure panel referral processes are sound, supporting the training of key professionals and preparing guidance for schools.

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EAST SUSSEX PREVENT BOARD

One of the new duties for local authorities is to establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate Prevent activity. The main purpose of the Prevent Board in East Sussex will be to:

- Assess local risk and develop a Prevent action plan where a risk is identified
- Reduce the risk of people living or working in East Sussex being drawn into violent extremism.
- To demonstrate effective compliance with the Prevent duty
- To demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation
- Effectively monitor the impact of Prevent work
- Effective communication and coordination with community based organisations

The Prevent Board will put in place arrangements that explain and communicate to the East Sussex Safer Communities Board and the public, the risk in the area and the type and scale of activities which will address the risk.

It will also cover the role that specified authorities and the community can play in achieving these arrangements which will run alongside local community safety partnership arrangements to protect the public, prevent crime and to promote strong, integrated communities.



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PREVENT – WHEN DID IT ALL START?

All the terrorist groups who are a threat to the UK look to radicalise and recruit people to their cause but the percentage of people who are prepared to support violent extremism in this country is very small. It is, however, significantly greater amongst young people.

We now have more information about the factors which encourage people to support terrorism and then to engage in terrorism-related activity. It is important to understand these factors if we are to prevent radicalisation and minimise the risks it poses. The Government unveiled its strategy to prevent people being drawn into terrorism in June 2011. The new strategy was published alongside a review of earlier Prevent activity and an assessment of the extent and causes of radicalisation.

The Prevent programme is an integral part of the wider counter terrorism strategy and aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by challenging extremist ideology, helping to protect institutions from extremists and tackling the radicalisation of vulnerable people.

More information on the PREVENT strategy is available online here:

www.homeoffice.gov/publications/counter-terrorism/prevent/prevent-strategy

<http://www.sussex.police.uk/events-and-community/counter-terrorism/>

Since 2011, not surprisingly, we have seen an increase in communities speaking out who have felt tainted by the violence and acts of hatred committed by certain violent extremist groups.

A group of young British Muslims have joined the fight back against Islamic State militants with a video and social media campaign <http://www.isisnotinmyname.com/>



Prevent was initially developed as a community focused programme and it is communities that can make a difference in rejecting and not tolerating discrimination, inequality and hatred. This is often where ideologies and views start to show and everyone has a responsibility to challenge this behaviour or report it.

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CHANNEL - SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

Any Prevent referrals received will be initially screened by the Police Prevent practitioners at Prevent Case Management (PCM) meetings also known as Gateway meetings.

The screening carried out by the South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU) is known as deconfliction. Part of deconfliction is to understand if the concerned individual is subject of any covert operations, if this is the case, the referral will not be accepted. The meeting also looks at the level of criminality in the counter terrorism (CT) sphere, as Channel relates to pre-criminal CT sphere (i.e. the person may have committed other crimes unrelated to terrorism or extremism).

A referral will not continue through the Channel process if: it is malicious or misguided; the person is being managed through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). In some cases, the PCM meeting may agree to draw from a range of tactical options menu to support the individual if the case is not suitable for the Channel.



If the PCM meeting agrees that the referral is suitable for the Channel then it returns back to the local authority Chair of the Channel Panel. If the referral is accepted, the multi-agency panel will identify support needs and develop a support package. The type of activities included in a support package will depend on risk, vulnerability and local resources.

The panel may choose some of the existing universal provisions or may suggest a specialist input from the Home Office and Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) accredited provider.

The Providers may often hold expertise about specific ideologies (for example, Al-Qaida and affiliated extremist narrative, very few on right-wing narrative) or may hold geographical areas expertise (i.e. Israel Palestine conflict, knowledge of the Arab world) or expertise with regard to gang violence or gang subculture etc. Some providers are themselves former extremists.

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David Wright Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre explores the dangers to children’s wellbeing posed by political extremists on social media and outlines the steps schools can take to protect students from indoctrination online

‘The threats we are seeing take many forms. There are the high-profile incidents of young people travelling to countries such as Syria and Iraq to fight, but there are less obvious but wide-ranging risks.

The Internet, and in particular social media, is being used as a channel, to not only promote and engage, but also, as Robert Hannigan, Director of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), the government security centre, has suggested, as a command structure. Shiraz Maher of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) has said in a report that the conflict in Syria ‘is the most socially mediated conflict in history’.

‘Often, this promotion glorifies violence, influencing and inspiring many people, including children and, in extreme cases, radicalising them. Research for Ofcom into children’s online behaviour concludes that children can be trusting and that ‘they thought, and knew, far less about how to determine which online sites and content they could trust or the possibility of encountering inaccurate or misleading content’.

The ICSR report has concluded that this ‘creates a new social environment in which otherwise unacceptable views and behaviour are normalised.

Surrounded by other radicals, the internet becomes a virtual “echo chamber” in which the most extreme ideas and suggestions receive the most encouragement and support’.

‘Social media is not just a tool of groups like Islamic State (ISIS) who operate internationally, of course. It can be employed as a propaganda platform by anyone, including organisations on the fringes of our own domestic political spectrum. Britain First, the far-right British nationalist political party, for example, recorded 690,251 likes on its official party Facebook page in March.’

‘It has highlighted a need for an open and ongoing dialogue in our communities – among children, young people, parents, carers, schools and wider – to ensure that young people have the skills to be critical thinkers online and are resilient to online extremism, whether from groups like Islamic State or from others.’

http://www.leadermagazine.co.uk/articles/extreme_measures/

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Schools will also need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism and have a number of new duties to comply with including making sure that staff has training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas.



The Association of School and College Leaders have produced guidance papers to help schools/colleges who may wish to evaluate their policies, processes and practices in relation to student safety, safeguarding, the promotion of British values and the duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum:

- Guidance Paper: Statutory duties related to safety and safeguarding, equalities, British values, the curriculum and governance. www.ascl.org.uk/guidanceonsafety
- Guidance Paper: An exploratory evaluation framework – safety and safeguarding, equalities, British values, the curriculum and governance. www.ascl.org.uk/evaluationonsafety
- Guidance Paper: Inspection, oversight of and intervention in schools: The role of Ofsted, regional school commissioners and local authorities. www.ascl.org.uk/roleofofsted



Sussex Police and their role within Prevent

Sussex Police has a dedicated Counter-Terrorist Intelligence Unit (CTIU) which works alongside the rest of the force in protecting and reassuring the public, and reducing the risk from terrorism. The Unit engages with all communities, local authorities, higher education and universities, as well as many other local bodies, in order to prevent violent extremism. The Unit also offers specialist protective security advice to locations deemed to be at a greater risk from terrorism.

CTIU are involved in the disruption and detection of terrorist activity and has close links between local police and the communities they serve.

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A Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT and How and When to Support Vulnerable Young People

- Tuesday 7th July 12.00 – 14.00 The Hastings Centre, Hastings
- Tuesday 6th October 14.30 – 16.30 BPE Business Connections (Old Print Works) – Wharf Road, Eastbourne

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Courses closing date: At least 2 weeks prior to the event running. All bookings must be made before the course closes.

Booking course places

You may book course places by emailing a complete application form to sis.training@eastsussex.gov.uk

You can search and view courses online via the learning zone - <https://learningzone.eastsussex.gov.uk/>

Learning Outcomes:

- How to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals and know when an intervention may be necessary to support them
- Gain an understanding on how to refer vulnerable young people to the Channel process
- An understanding of the PREVENT agenda and your role within it
- The ability to use your existing expertise and professional judgement to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals and know when an intervention may be necessary to support them
- Knowledge of when, how and where to refer concerns about vulnerable individuals

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**missing
people**

Registered Charity No. 1020419

The contract for working and advocating on behalf of Missing Children and Young People and conducting Return Home Interviews (RHI) in East Sussex for the year May 2015 - March 2016 has been awarded to the national charity Missing People.

As well as providing RHIs, the organisation will provide Police and Children's Services with rich intelligence and information about individual children, and trends and patterns from RHI data, which will feed into the overall intelligence picture related to CSE and other crimes, helping to keep missing and or exploited children safe from serious harm and organised crime.

The coordinators will be co-located in the main hub offices of Ocean House, St Mark's House and Sackville House depending on the areas they are covering at the time. The organisation's Helpline is 116000

An email address for 'text safe' will be provided shortly and you can contact the coordinator Erica directly on 07968917584



If you would like to find out more about what the team have been doing, then why not sign up to the new fortnightly e-bulletin which will be launched shortly.

This complements the current newsletter which will continue to provide an in depth focus on our priority areas.

To sign up please do so at: <http://eepurl.com/bfQM6H>

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