



**A short guide for parents
and carers if your son or
daughter has been
referred to *Prevent*.**



**Safer
East Sussex
Team**

www.safeineastsussex.org.uk

What is Prevent?

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity and is no different to safeguarding them from other forms of potential harm.

Sometimes young people do things they shouldn't do and instantly regret something they said or did but occasionally young people do develop unhealthy views about race, religion, beliefs, and other issues which need challenging especially if they are forms of extremism which could lead to terrorism.

If you have recently been informed that your son or daughter has been referred to Prevent as their parent or carer you will naturally be concerned - but also hopefully reassured that someone has noticed something worrying about their behaviour or maybe comments you may not have been aware of.

The police will talk to you about some of these concerns and may want to understand a bit more about your son and daughter and whether you have noticed anything yourself or have your own concerns.

It does not mean your son or daughter has committed any offences only that someone has noticed comments or behaviour which indicates they may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

For example: this could be websites they have visited and spoken to friends about which have extremist content, they may have shared extremist views online or with friends or they be in contact with extremist individuals or organisations.

There is no single factor that highlights someone is vulnerable to radicalisation. We go through various stages in our lives that can make us potentially vulnerable to outside influences .Our age, sex, race, religion, or nationality do not make us any less or any more susceptible to radicalisation.

What is Channel?

Channel is designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologies. The process is shaped around the circumstances of each person and can provide support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerabilities.

If Police believe your son or daughter is vulnerable and would benefit from support and intervention then they will discuss the case at Channel – which is a multi-agency meeting led by East Sussex County Council. If your son and daughter attends school a member of staff from the school will be at this meeting.

Channel is consensual and is about offering support to vulnerable people and not about spying on them. It works by professionals jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk, and where necessary providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs.

As their parent or carer, you will also need to provide consent for them to access support. Support and intervention is not provided if they do not wish to have it.

Examples of support provided through Channel could include mentoring, activities such as sport, or signposting to mainstream services such as education, employment, or housing.

Support is always tailored to the specific needs of the individual following assessment by the multi-agency panel. Individuals referred to Channel are not criminalised at any stage and will not end up with a criminal record (unless they commit a criminal offence).

When the multi-agency panel believe that risk has been reduced and the individual has been better protected through support and intervention they have received they will exit Channel. This could be after a couple of weeks or a few months depending on the support they receive.

Further reading & national support

- [Prevent Pocket Guide](#) – everything you need to know
- Messages of hate can take many forms. Extremist groups use them to recruit young people. Parents can find answers to common questions and resources to help protect your child [here](#).
- [Top tips](#) to help parents discuss radicalisation and extremism with young people
- Get support from the [NSPCC](#) helplines who provide help and support to adults worried about the radicalisation of a child.
- Online radicalisation - Parent/guardian [information](#) and support
- Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures - [Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism](#)
- East Sussex – [Open for Parents](#) provide information, advice and support for parents and carers who want to support their child's development and wellbeing, who may be experiencing some difficulty with managing their child's behaviour or who simply want some tips and strategies for dealing with common childhood and teen issues
- [Act Early](#) provides advice, guidance, and support for anyone who is concerned that someone they know may be at risk from being radicalised by terrorists or extremist content