

Busy Governor's Guide to Prevent

1. **Prevent** is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, preventing people from being involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism. To have 'due regard to' Prevent is now a **statutory duty** for all schools.
2. Prevent aims to raise awareness of the risks of individuals being drawn into violent extremism and provides a structure within which people can raise concerns and understand what will happen next.
3. In **Devon**, there are a number of ideologies that could lead to violence, including extreme far right, violent extremism associated with animal rights, ISIS. All of these can appeal to a range of individuals, some of whom will be vulnerable and open to harmful influences. It is tempting to assume that Prevent is not needed in Devon, but the 'Giraffe bombing' should assure us that people in the County are just as vulnerable to being influenced by extremist groups encouraging them to violence as anywhere else in the country. Experience would suggest that the influences are varied, but that there is a steady flow of individuals who are referred to the 'Channel' process see (6) below.
4. Prevent focuses on **safeguarding**. It encourages people to 'Notice, Check, Share' when they have concerns about an individual, which may be a pupil or student but could also be someone in their community. The 'signs' that someone might have been targeted by an extremist group are often the same as those that an individual is in need of a safeguarding intervention – they may be angry, disaffected, experiencing family upheaval, peer pressure, low self esteem – all factors that affect people in different ways, but it does leave them open to being encouraged to be part of a group that would make them feel as if they belong in a way that nothing else is doing for them at that time.
5. To assist implementation of the duty in section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, a [Prevent e-learning training package](#) is now available, with the first stage 'Awareness' likely to take 30 minutes to complete. This is introductory training. It provides a foundation on which to develop further knowledge around the risks of radicalisation and the roles involved in supporting those at risk. The training module is free and tailored to education professionals as well as specifically for governors.
6. Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training describes Prevent. It also describes the process that is put in place when concerns about an individual are raised, known as **Channel**. Channel involves a multi-agency panel meeting to discuss individuals who have been identified as being of concern, to provide help and support. The individuals are aware that this is happening. The make up of the Panel will depend on the circumstances of each case, and the type of intervention that is proposed will also vary depending on the type of influence that is causing concern.
7. **Interventions** could simply take the form of offering opportunities to get involved in activities that take them away from where the negative influence is coming from, or by arranging for an appropriate person to talk to them to give them some balance to what they are thinking. Other options could be existing local services, community groups or mentoring. Although there is no limit to what might be provided as each case is considered on its merits.

8. Keeping our communities safe is the responsibility of everyone and whilst all the key agencies now have a statutory duty to have due regard to Prevent, it is important that the message is understood as widely as possible. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#), especially paragraphs 57-76 which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: Risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies and was last updated in April 2021.
9. **Ofsted:** Ofsted will be assessing how schools are fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to the Prevent duty as part of inspections.