

PREVENT and Potential Incidents in Schools (School Shooters)

As safeguarding Leads are aware, PREVENT is about safeguarding individuals and communities from the threat of terrorism. It is delivered as part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

The PREVENT Duty includes those individuals who have a personal identification with, or fixation upon or demonstrable support for, known terrorists, mass-murderers (**this includes school shooters**) or political assassins, their actions or any of their unlawful stated-goals.

PREVENT notes that it is possible for a person to identify with and even fixate upon an extremist ideology without committing acts of terrorism or terrorism connected offences. Similarly, not all terrorists have been ideological "true believers". Some have been coerced into action, others have been nihilistic and self-destructive mass-shooters, or else seeking various forms of non-ideological excitement or self-gratification, or even suffering from mental health problems, for example.

Many terrorists have used ideology to explain and justify their actions after the fact, so ideology may not have flagged up as an issue with them prior to their attack – hence the reason PREVENT pays very careful consideration to all potential warning behaviours even more than the concept of "toxic" ideologies.

If someone is identified as being potentially vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, Prevent puts in place processes to help them.

CHANNEL is the multi-agency safeguarding programme working to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism and provides a range of support, including mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment etc. It is a confidential and voluntary process - it is up to an individual, or their parents/carers, where appropriate, to decide whether to take advantage of the support it offers. It is not any form of criminal or civil sanction.

Channel is about early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity and addresses all forms of extremism.

If you have concerns about a child under the age of 18 please contact the Children's Gateway on 01752 307160 or email Gateway@plymouth.gov.uk.

If you have concerns about a person aged 18 and over please contact the Community Connections team on 01752 304440 or email CommunityConnections@plymouth.gov.uk.