



North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

North Yorkshire Channel Panel

Prevent Strategy

HM Government

The Prevent strategy published by the Government in 2011, is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST, which was updated in June 2018.

Prevent

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- a) Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- b) Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support;
- c) Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Channel

Channel forms a key part of the Prevent strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

A clear distinction should be made between individuals who present with a '**terrorism vulnerability**' requiring Channel support and those who pose a 'terrorism risk', requiring management in the police-led space. The process for undertaking assessment of risk and vulnerability informs this determination and is kept under review.

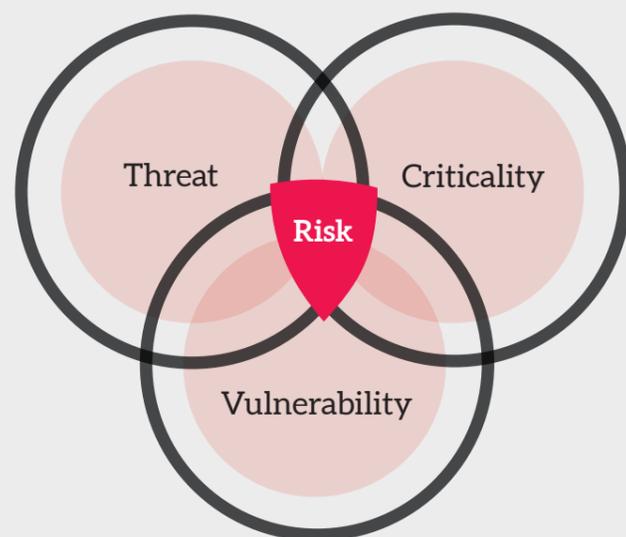
Channel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Channel uses a multi-agency approach to:

- a) Identify individuals at risk
- b) Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- c) Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel provides early support for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism or supporting terrorist organisations, regardless of age, faith, ethnicity or background. Individuals can receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Cases adopted onto Channel should have a vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism; cases should not be held in Channel where no such vulnerability exists. Success of Channel is very dependent on the co-operation and coordinated activity of partners. It works best when individuals and their families fully engage and are supported in a consistent manner.



Channel Panels

The North Yorkshire Channel Panel comprises key representatives of North Yorkshire County Council (Health and Adult Service and Children’s Early Help Service), North Yorkshire Police, National Probation Services, Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Harrogate and District Foundation NHS Trust, CCGs and meets the last Thursday of each month. The role of the Panel is to review referrals for Channel support, and oversee the provision of support for accepted individuals. Most of this support is provided by the Channel partner agencies themselves, but we can sometimes draw upon specialised services.

Professionals and service users should be reassured that this is a constructive and support-led approach aimed only at helping the individual to move forward positively in their lives, it is a voluntary programme which the individual must consent to. Individuals will be aware that information will be shared with multi-agency partners, including the police.

Identifying individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include peer pressure, influence from other people or via the internet, bullying, being a victim or perpetrator of crime, anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.

When assessing the risks of an individual being drawn into terrorism, consideration should be given to contextual safeguarding principles, and the full range of influencing factors and relationships which may impact upon an individual’s level of risk and vulnerability at any given time. This may include direct work with extremists, community, family influences or the influences of wider networks, such as materials sourced via online or social media platforms.

Referral stage (North Yorkshire)

Everyone has a role helping to Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This can be done by checking any Prevent concerns via the process of Notice- Check- Share.



Notice- a significant change in behaviour and use of language. Someone expressing extreme political views.



Check- your concern with your manager, Prevent SPOC or other relevant partner.



Share- by following the agreed multi-agency safeguarding procedures (Local Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board), as you would with any other safeguarding concerns, remembering to clearly highlight any radicalisation/ extremism concern.

Screening and information gathering stage

Safeguarding referrals, highlighting a Prevent concern, are shared with the Prevent Police. If the initial information received shows there is not a vulnerability that puts the individual at risk of being drawn into terrorism, then the case is not suitable for Channel and the individual will be signposted/ referred to other more appropriate support services.

All referrals that are deemed as ‘Prevent’ will first be subject to an assessment of risk and vulnerability by the Police. If at this stage they are considered appropriate for Channel support, a request for wider information sharing from Channel partners is made. A further vulnerability assessment is then made by police and this is circulated to Channel Panel members in advance of the meeting.

Subject consent

It is a statutory duty for local authorities and partners to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism so subject consent is not required prior to referral, or for initial assessment and discussion. This doesn’t stop a professional already supporting an individual discussing their concerns and their intention to make a referral, as long as this doesn’t incur an unreasonable delay in them doing so.

Subject consent is required for the provision of support through Channel, we do not force a vulnerable individual to cooperate with offered services. Professionals should understand, and reassure their service users, that Channel is only an offer of additional support which they can accept or refuse.

Support to address identified vulnerabilities

The involvement of the correct panel members ensures those at risk have access to a wide range of support, ranging from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist guidance from an Intervention Provider to increase theological understanding and/ or challenge the claims of violent ideologies.

The following kinds of support might be considered appropriate at Channel Panel.

- Theological/ ideological support- structured sessions using a Home Office approved Intervention Provider to understand and challenge ideological, theological or fixated thinking.
- Development of life skills
- Support with education, training and career advice
- Development of/ inclusion of family support
- Health awareness- work aimed at assessing or addressing any physical or mental health issues
- Housing support
- Drugs and alcohol awareness
- Mentoring.

Coordination with other services and plans

Acceptance under Channel does not replace or subordinate any other support or planning for the individual. The Channel Panel does not have the authority to do that, or the range of skills, services or resources which would be needed. What Channel does provide is a high-level co-ordinating function, making sure that everything possible is being done to support the individual and drawing upon additional resources in some cases.

Referring professionals will not be asked to 'step back', your judgement and insight will remain vital throughout. You may become the lead agency for managing Channel support, attending all reviews and planning discussions. In fact, we will often ask for additional input from your service and others.

Reviewing channel cases

All cases which have been adopted by the Channel Panel must be reviewed by the Panel at 6 months and 12 months from the point of closure.

Contact details for any further information on Channel:

North Yorkshire Channel Panel Chair: Odette.robson@northyorks.gov.uk

Prevent Team, North Yorkshire Police Prevent@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

You can request this information in another language or format at www.northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility