

<b>Document Name:</b>	<b>Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT) Policy</b>
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<b>Document Information</b>
<p><b>Scope:</b> Preston Vocational Centre (PVC) is committed to providing a secure environment for all of our participants, employees, workers, and visitors. The current threat from terrorism extremism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.</p>
<p><b>Key Objectives:</b> Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat faced from those who promote it. Prevent participants from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Strive to eradicate myths and assumptions that may lead to some of our participants becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where extreme views expressed elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question radical influences.</p>

## Introduction

1. Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and there is a statutory duty for schools to report on extremists behaviours or act upon concerns they have related to extremism. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
2. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.
3. PVC values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society’s values. Participants, employees, workers, and visitors have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.
4. The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom includes the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of extremism and terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.
5. We are clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and this is noted with our Safeguarding Policy.

6. Our Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy draws upon the guidance contained in the “Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, March 2015”; DfE Guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2022” and “Working together to safeguard children, July 2018”.
7. Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are to be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **Ethos and Practice**

8. There is no place for extremist views of any kind at PVC, whether from internal sources – participants, employees, workers, visitors or Board members, or external sources – local community, external agencies or individuals.
9. It is imperative that our participants, employees, workers, visitors and parents see PVC as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way and where our employees encourage and facilitate this.
10. We recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our participants. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our participants, employees, workers and visitors.
11. Extremists aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping participants with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our participants are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

12. We are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times participants may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by participants, employees, workers and visitors will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with. Where misconduct by a tutor is proven the matter will be referred to Centre management and a full investigation is warranted.
  
13. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities Centre staff will be alert to:
  - Disclosures by participants of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of PVC, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where participants have not actively sought these out.
  - Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
  - Participants accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
  - Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
  - Local schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting participants in other settings
  - Participants voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
  - Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
  - Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
  - Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
  - Anti-Western or Anti-British views.

## Teaching and Practice

14. We ensure that all teaching approaches help participants build resilience to extremism and give participants a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.
15. We are flexible with adapting teaching approaches, as appropriate, to address specific issues for becoming relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.
16. This approach is embedded within the ethos of PVC so that participants know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation.
17. We also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our Centre understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our participant's experiences and horizons. We support participants who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a participant is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that the participant is offered mentoring.

Additionally in such instances we will refer the case to the Lancashire's Channel panel.

18. We promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We teach and encourage participants to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our participants safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

## Use of External Agencies and Speakers

19. PVC encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our participants and we positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our participants.

Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the PVC's values and ethos.

PVC will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to participants support fundamental British Values.
  - Any messages communicated to participants are consistent with the ethos of PVC and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals.
  - Any messages communicated to participants do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies.
  - Activities are matched to the needs of students.
20. The ethos of PVC is to encourage participants to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and PVC may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

## Risk Reduction

21. PVC's Centre Manager, Senior and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Board of Trustees Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the

Centre and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the Centre's curriculum, E Safety policy, visiting speakers, the use of Centre premises by external agencies, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the Centre's profile, community and values.

22. The risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual report to the Board of Trustees.

### **Response**

23. A Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) will be the lead within PVC for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described in **Appendix 2**. The SPOC at PVC is the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead and Centre Manager, Martin Grayston.
24. Staff at PVC is alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a participant may be at direct risk of harm or neglect.

For example; this could be a participant displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in, or the groups they are associated with, or staff may be aware of information about a participant's family that may equally place them at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive). Therefore everybody working at PVC is required to report instances where they believe a participant may be at risk of harm, neglect, radicalisation or involvement in terrorism.

Disclosures should be reported without delay in line with guidance in PVC's safeguarding policy.

## APPENDIX 1 - Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:  
  
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:  
  
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
  - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs.
  - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts.
  - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts.
  - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Participants may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors – it is known that violent extremists exploit



vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities.

6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – a participant is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- Personal Crisis – a participant may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal Circumstances – migration, local community tensions, and events affecting a participant country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- Unmet Aspirations – a participant may have perceptions of injustice, a feeling of failure, rejection of civic life.
- Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration, county line involvement (see Appendix 3).
- Special Educational Need – a participant may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

This list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

7. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.

- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour.
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

## **APPENDIX 2 - Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)**

1. The SPOC PVC is the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead and Centre Manager, Martin Grayston, who is responsible for:
  - Ensuring that Centre staff are aware who the SPOC is in relation to protecting participants from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
  - Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to.
  - Preventing participants from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism.
  - Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of PVC in relation to protecting participants from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
  - Promoting community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
  - Raising awareness about safeguarding processes relating to protecting participants from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
  - Acting as the first point of contact for case discussions relating to participants who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism.
  - Reporting progress on actions to the Channel coordinator.
  - Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

## APPENDIX 3 – County Lines Guidance

1. The UK Government defines county lines as: ‘County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.
2. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.’
3. Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.
4. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered.
5. Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:
  - can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years
  - can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years
  - can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual
  - can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence
  - can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults
  - is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including

gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

6. One of the key factors found in most cases of county lines exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (e.g. carrying drugs in return for something). Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or clothes) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived friendship or affection). It is important to remember the unequal power dynamic within which this exchange occurs and to remember that the receipt of something by a young person or vulnerable adult does not make them any less of a victim.
7. It is also important to note that the prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a young person who engages in county lines activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family.
8. Some of the factors that heighten a person's vulnerability include:
  - having prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse e.g. CP/CIN students
  - lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example)
  - social isolation or social difficulties
  - economic vulnerability
  - homelessness or insecure accommodation status e.g. LAC/privately fostered students
  - connections with other people involved in gangs
  - having a physical or learning disability e.g. EHCP learners, SEN Support learners
  - having mental health or substance misuse issues

- being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
- being excluded from mainstream education, in particular attending a Pupil Referral Unit.

**Signs to look out for:**

9. Some potential indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:
  - Persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area.
  - Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phone.
  - Excessive receipt of texts / phone calls and/or having multiple handsets.
  - Relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups.
  - Leaving home / care without explanation.
  - Suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries.
  - Parental concerns.
  - Carrying weapons.
  - Significant decline in school results / performance.
  - Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks.
  - Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.
10. Report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Deputy DSL (DDSL) immediately. If concerns are serious and in your opinion there is an immediate/imminent risk to the safety of an individual, speak to the DSL/DDSL immediately.