

WARWICKSHIRE PREVENT REFERRALS

Making a Prevent Referral

If you are concerned about a vulnerable individual that you know, being drawn into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, then you should consider making Prevent referral. This guide outlines what making a Prevent referral involves and some of the things you may wish to think about.

Prevent is a Safeguarding Matter

Prevent is fundamentally concerned with safeguarding vulnerable individuals. It recognises that some people are drawn into a world linked to violent extremist beliefs and intent that can potentially lead them into criminal or harmful behaviours. Our aim is to support those individuals, to address any personal needs and vulnerabilities they may have and help them to be more resilient to violent extremism in the future.

Becoming aware of a concern

The framework for referral is set out in the Government Prevent Duty and specifically the Statutory Guidance for Channel Panel. The full guidance is available and can be viewed [here](#). Within this guidance, the Government encourages agencies, communities, and individuals alike to be aware of the risk of radicalisation, and sets out three key steps:

NOTICE

There is no single pathway towards being radicalised. Every instance is unique to the individual. However, you may become concerned with changes or the behaviours of that person, be that Emotional, Physical, or Verbal. Some of these changes can be sudden, sometimes they may take place over a longer period. Of the behaviours that may cause concern, some may be quite blatant - especially when these are verbal; a change in language, obsession on a topic, being closed to debate, right through to declaring intent to commit violence. If you have concerns about these behaviours or other changes, for example exposure to harmful internet content and identification with extremist groups or ideologies, then you should discuss these concerns.

CHECK

If it's appropriate, you may wish to discuss your concerns about the well-being of the individual with someone, for example a line manager, or a safeguarding lead in your organisation. This can help clarify why you may have those concerns, and to consider if you or your organisation has the right information or can take actions to address any concerns. Be mindful of the Public Sector Equality Duty, follow your organisations confidentiality guidelines and draw on your knowledge and experience when discussing concerns with your colleagues.

SHARE

If you're concerned about the welfare of the individual and feel that the risk of radicalisation requires additional consideration and response, then you can make a Prevent Referral. The referral form is accessed from this [link](#). This can lead to a wider review of the circumstances of such concerns and consideration as to whether there are genuine risks of radicalisation present and therefore a need to offer support to the vulnerable person within the referral.

More Information regarding Notice Check Share

If you would like more information regarding recognising vulnerabilities to extremism and Notice Check Share, you can access an e-learning package produced by the Home Office [here](#). This discusses the different factors that can lead to vulnerability to radicalisation, some of the signs and behaviours to look for, and how to act on those concerns.

Making a Prevent Referral

To share your concerns, you can use the National Prevent Referral form available [here](#). The form is a confidential document and asks a series of questions designed to highlight the context and nature of your concerns. A copy of this is included at the end of this guide. If you want to discuss the need to make a referral, or any aspect of the Notice, Check, Share matters outlined above, you can contact Geoff Thomas the Prevent Officer at Warwickshire County Council via geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk

Key Questions to Consider

As you prepare to make the referral it is important to present the information in a clear and comprehensive manner. It may be helpful to have in mind the need to answer the following questions.

Where	On what occasion did you observe the concerning factors, where was it? Did you see it personally? Was it in person, or online?
What	What were the issues that concerned you? Was it verbal, endorsement of violence, changes in behaviour, links to violent extremist groups or ideologies, changes in behaviour, dress, friendships, social activities?
Who	Be specific about who is the focus for the referral, what do you know about the person, their family, friends, relationship with your service or agency? Is there any relevant contextual information regarding the individual that can assist in judging their vulnerabilities and possible encounter with extremist influences?
When	On what occasions and surroundings did you feel concerned? Has it been a singular occasion, or built up over several encounters? On what times, over what period have the concerns been evident?
Why	Is there any information regarding why you believe the person may become vulnerable to radicalisation? Has there been a change in their family or domestic circumstances? Have there been other factors which may have exacerbated their general vulnerabilities, or exposure to extremists or extremist ideology? If you are aware of any wider changes which have influenced the person, consider if these have any relevance.



How

How concerned are you at the risks of radicalisation? Is it something you feel might be of **immediate** concern e.g. the risk of travel to support an extremist group, in which case you might consider contacting emergency services directly.

To reinforce the above advice, you are also encouraged to consider:

- Giving as much information on the **Context of the referral** as possible.
- Wherever possible try to include examples of **Direct Speech** made by the person subject to the referral.
- In relation to the risk - describe what **mitigating action** has been taken by your agency or organisation. When was this undertaken, what impact has it made? Have you involved any other agency e.g. Local Authority?
- Information on any **social media details** you may be aware of.
- Relevant information regarding **Family background** that you consider relates to the general or specific vulnerabilities of the individual.

However, if you do have concerns, but don't feel you have all the information outlined above to hand, **please make sure you send in the referral even if you can't cover everything.** Don't put it off. A referral for a vulnerable person can be the first, essential step, that leads to the support they need being provided.

Do you need the Individuals Consent to make a referral?

There is no statutory requirement in the Channel Panel guidance for you to obtain the individuals consent to make a referral. There is, however, guidance regarding this matter specifically for health service providers. This can be found [here](#) and the general principles regarding obtaining consent and keeping the individual informed about a referral being made within this guidance are of general relevance. Critically if it is considered that it is not appropriate to advise the individual that a referral is being made, it is recommended that you record the basis for this decision and any advice you have received.

What happens to a Prevent Referral?

All Prevent referrals are assessed in the first instance by specialist police officers and staff. These officers determine whether there is reasonable cause to suspect that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn towards any terrorism offences, and therefore appropriate for support through Prevent. This 'gateway assessment' draws upon a police review of several databases and other resources to determine the level of vulnerability and risk around the referred individual, and whether the referral/case will move into (or out of) Prevent.

After this gateway assessment, the primary route for individuals identified as having Prevent relevant vulnerabilities is support through local authority-led, multi-agency Channel panels (see below).

Individuals whom the police reasonably suspect pose a serious or imminent risk of terrorism offending, are unlikely to be signposted onwards for support through Channel. Depending upon the type and level of terrorism risk identified by police, these cases may be adopted for management in the police-led partnership. A schematic outlining the Prevent referral process is included below.

The Warwickshire Channel Panel

As outlined above, if the gateway assessment concludes that there is a belief that the individual may be at risk of vulnerability to radicalisation, this case will be presented to and reviewed by the Warwickshire Channel Panel, the multi-agency safeguarding group which meets regularly and is chaired by Jonathon Toy, Service Manager at Warwickshire County Council. A guide to the work of the Channel Panel is outlined below.

Need more information?

More information is available on the Safe In Warwickshire Prevent website available [here](#). If you have any further queries regarding Prevent matters, or making a Prevent referral you can contact:

Help and Support

If you would like more information on Prevent, please contact the **Local Authority Prevent Officer** - Geoff Thomas, please phone [01926 412432](tel:01926412432). If you are unable to make contact with the Prevent Officer please phone [01926 412338](tel:01926412338) to contact the administrator for the Community Safety Team who will be able to help you.

Geoff Thomas

Prevent Officer

Warwickshire County Council

geoffthomas@warwickshire.gov.uk

01926 412432



NATIONAL PREVENT REFERRAL FORM

REFERRAL PROCESS

By sending this form you consent for it to arrive with both your dedicated Local Authority safeguarding team & Prevent policing team for a joint assessment. Wherever possible we aim to give you feedback on your referral, please be aware, however, that this is not always possible due to data-protection & other case sensitivities.

Once you have completed this form, please email it to: **CTU_GATEWAY@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk** and also to **triagehub@warwickshire.gov.uk** for under 18 year olds.

INDIVIDUAL'S BIOGRAPHICAL & CONTACT DETAILS

Forename(s):	First Name(s)
Surname:	Last Name
Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY):	D.O.B.
Approx. Age (if DoB unknown):	Please Enter
Gender:	Please Describe
Known Address(es):	Identify which address is the Individual's current residence
Nationality / Citizenship:	Stated nationality / citizenship documentation (if any)
Immigration / Asylum Status:	Immigration status? Refugee status? Asylum claimant? Please describe.
Primary Language:	Does the Individual speak / understand English? What is the Individual's first language?
Contact Number(s):	Telephone Number(s)
Email Address(es):	Email Address(es)
Any Other Family Details:	Family makeup? Who lives with the Individual? Anything relevant.

DESCRIBE CONCERNS

In as much detail as possible, please describe the specific concern(s) relevant to Prevent.

Please Describe

FOR EXAMPLE:

- How / why did the Individual come to your organisation's notice in this instance?
- Does it involve a specific event? What happened? Is it a combination of factors? Describe them.
- Has the Individual discussed personal travel plans to a warzone or countries with similar concerns? Where? When? How?
- Does the Individual have contact with groups or individuals that cause you concern? Who? Why are they concerning? How frequent is this contact?
- Is there something about the Individual's mobile phone, internet or social media use that is worrying to you? What exactly? How do you have access to this information?
- Has the Individual expressed a desire to cause physical harm, or threatened anyone with violence? Who? When? Can you remember what was said / expressed exactly?
- Has the Individual shown a concerning interest in hate crimes, or extremists, or terrorism? Consider *any* extremist ideology, group or cause, as well as support for "school-shooters" or public-massacres, or murders of public figures.
- Please describe any other concerns you may have that are not mentioned here.

COMPLEX NEEDS

Is there anything in the Individual's life that you think might be affecting their wellbeing or that might be making them vulnerable in any sense?

Please Describe



PERSON WHO FIRST IDENTIFIED THE CONCERNS	
Do they wish to remain anonymous?	Yes / No
Forename:	Referrers First Name(s)
Surname:	Referrers Last Name
Professional Role & Organisation:	Referrers Role / Organisation
Relationship to Individual:	Referrers Relationship To The Individual
Contact Telephone Number:	Referrers Telephone Number
Email Address:	Referrers Email Address
PERSON MAKING THIS REFERRAL (if different from above)	
Forename:	Contact First Name(s)
Surname:	Contact Last Name
Professional Role & Organisation:	Contact Role & Organisation
Relationship to Individual:	Contact Relationship to the Individual
Contact Telephone Number:	Contact Telephone Number
Email Address:	Contact Email Address

RELEVANT DATES	
Date the concern first came to light:	When were the concerns first identified?
Date referral made to Prevent:	Date this form was completed & sent off?
<p>FOR EXAMPLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim of crime, abuse or bullying. • Work, financial or housing problems. • Citizenship, asylum or immigration issues. • Personal problems, emotional difficulties, relationship problems, family issues, ongoing court proceedings. • On probation; any erratic, violent, self-destructive or risky behaviours, or alcohol / drug misuse or dependency. • Expressed feelings of injustice or grievance involving any racial, religious or political issue, or even conspiracy theories. • Educational issues, developmental or behavioural difficulties, mental ill health (see Safeguarding Considerations below). • Please describe any other need or potential vulnerability you think may be present but which is not mentioned here. 	
OTHER INFORMATION	Please provide any further information you think may be relevant, e.g. social media details, military service number, other agencies or professionals working with the Individual, etc..
Please Describe	

REFERRER'S ORGANISATIONAL PREVENT CONTACT (if different from above)	
Forename:	Referrers First Name(s)
Surname:	Referrers Last Name
Professional Role & Organisation:	Referrers Role / Organisation
Relationship to Individual:	Referrers Relationship To The Individual
Contact Telephone Number:	Referrers Telephone Number
Email Address:	Referrers Email Address

SAFEGUARDING CONSIDERATIONS	
Does the Individual have any stated or diagnosed disabilities, disorders or mental health issues?	Yes / No
Please describe, stating whether the concern has been diagnosed.	



Have you discussed this Individual with your organisations Safeguarding / Prevent lead?	Yes / No
What was the result of the discussion?	
Have you informed the Individual that you are making this referral?	Yes / No
What was the response?	
Have you taken any direct action with the Individual since receiving this information?	Yes / No
What was the action & the result?	
Have you discussed your concerns around the Individual with any other agencies?	Yes / No
What was the result of the discussion?	

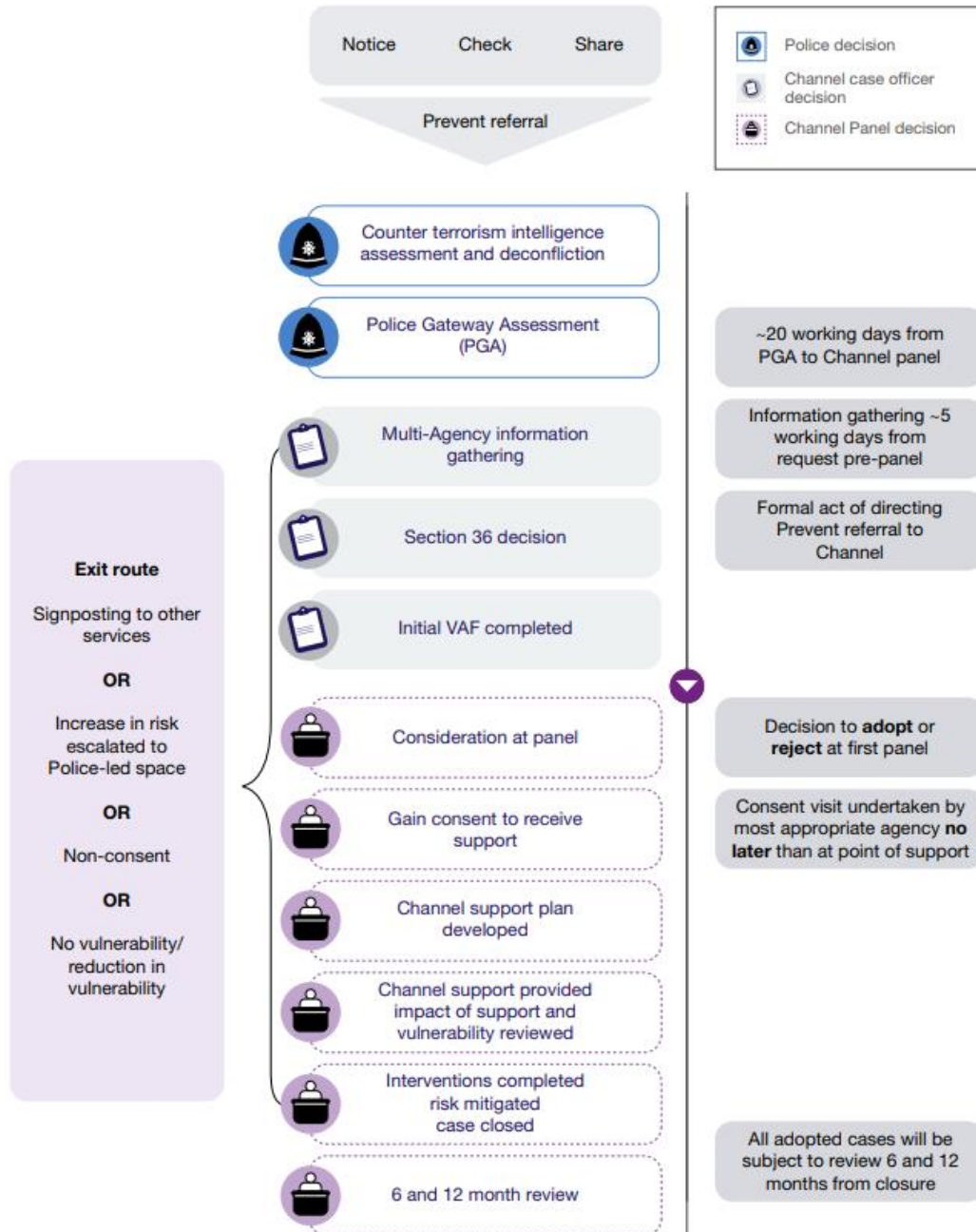
INDIVIDUAL'S EMPLOYMENT / EDUCATION DETAILS	
Current Occupation & Employer:	Current Occupation(s) & Employer(s)
Previous Occupation(s) & Employer(s):	Previous Occupation(s) & Employer(s)
Current School / College / University:	Current Educational Establishment(s)
Previous School / College / University:	Previous Educational Establishment(s)

THANK YOU
<p>Thank you for taking the time to make this referral. Information you provide is valuable and will always be assessed. If there is no Prevent concern but other safeguarding issues are present, this information will be sent to the relevant team or agency to provide the correct support for the individual(s) concerned.</p>



PREVENT REFERRAL PROCESS

Diagram 1.0: Pathway Diagram





COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING
WEST MIDLANDS CTU



Warwickshire
County Council



Warwickshire
POLICE

Warwickshire Channel Panel

Keeping people in Warwickshire Safe

What is the Channel Panel?

The Channel Panel is a group of safeguarding staff drawn from different agencies, including Schools, Health, Social Care and Mental Health to consider how best to support individuals who may be vulnerable to being radicalised towards violent extremism activity. It is led by Warwickshire County Council and includes other local partner agencies from Health Services, Police Services, Probation and Education among others.

Why have I been referred to Warwickshire Channel Panel?

Local referrals are made where someone is considered to be at risk of being drawn into engaging with violent extremism in some way. There are many different possible behaviours that may lead to a referral and great care is taken to ensure that any referral that may be frivolous, or malicious or misdirected is excluded at the outset. We will only ask if you wish to work with the Channel Panel if we feel there is a risk of possible harm to you or others at some stage from links with violent extremism.

Do I have to take part in the Channel Panel referral?

No. Working with the Channel Panel requires informed consent. We aim to discuss possible vulnerabilities with you and any parent/carer you may have so that you understand why a referral has been considered. We will also outline the range of support you are entitled to receive. However, most people referred do want to engage with Channel as it can offer practical and varied help to local people. Almost 9 out of 10 people taking part in Channel leave the programme with a reduction in the risk of radicalisation and harm.

Will I have a criminal record from taking part in the Channel programme?

No. The work of the Channel Panel is intended to safeguard individuals. Any information we hold is part of our normal safeguarding arrangements and will not feature in any future police checks. All information we hold and share is subject to our confidential data sharing arrangements.

What will happen if I take part in Channel?

We will discuss with you those issues that may have made you potentially vulnerable to extremists and work out with you what will help you to keep safe. This might include having access to services for example health, substance misuse, domestic abuse. Or we might link you up to voluntary and community groups if you have local interests we can assist with. We might also offer a mentor; someone you can talk over issues and ideas with in a confidential and safe setting.

How long will I be involved with Channel?

We are here to work with individuals so we can get you the best possible help to keep you safe. The time this takes will vary from individual to individual. We will discuss this with you throughout your referral so that you feel fully involved and consulted on what is being proposed.

Where can I find out more about the Channel Panel?

The work of the Channel Panel is subject to national guidance and can be found [here](#). We also have more information about the Warwickshire Channel Panel on our website Safe In Warwickshire which can be found [here](#)