

Prevent

The Prevent programme works to stop individuals from becoming involved in terrorism or extremist activity and is designed to safeguard people in a similar way to other safeguarding processes that protect people from modern day slavery or sexual abuse. Working to a national model, each local authority area has referral arrangements that are aligned to or complement other local safeguarding referral processes.

Prevent works to safeguard people regardless of the ideology that may be drawing them to terrorism. More than a third of people who received support in 2016/17 were due to concerns about the extreme right wing and in many parts of the south that proportion was higher. After being referred through Prevent last year, 231 people in England and Wales were supported and are no longer at risk or present a risk to others. After an initial assessment of each referral, many others received support or signposting to other services and without entering the Prevent process.

The NHS has an important role in supporting people referred to Prevent and working with people who would benefit from the safeguarding support that a referral can provide. More information is available in e-learning aligned to safeguarding competency levels:

- Preventing Radicalisation-Basic Prevent Awareness (Levels 1&2)
- Preventing Radicalisation- Awareness of Prevent (Level 3)

Both packages are accessed through Health Education England's E-learning for Health platform <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk> and remember Prevent training can contribute to your level 3 safeguarding competency.

Extremism in itself is not illegal but all professionals are encouraged to be aware of potential signs of it because it can act as a 'pathway' to terrorism. Prevent does not aim to criminalise people for holding extreme views; instead, it seeks to stop individuals from encouraging or even committing violent activity.

We all have a role to play in Prevent within our organisations and communities by helping people understand what the strategy aims to achieve.

Any professional who considers making a Prevent referral should first discuss with their practice safeguarding lead, who may in turn then contact their CCG safeguarding lead for advice on whether and how a referral to the local Prevent process is made.

NHS England guidance and information on Prevent is online at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/safeguarding/our-work/prevent>