

Gateway Ref: 00410
(Prevent Letter for Commissioner
Organisations)

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To: CCG Clinical Leads

18th September 2013

Dear Clinical Leads,

The *Prevent* Strategy

I am writing to you in regard to the *Prevent* Strategy, in order to support commissioners in the delivery of this agenda; specifically commissioners will need assurance from provider organisations on the implementation of this government policy and the information below provides guidance and signposting for further support.

In your capacity as a Commissioner of NHS services, please could you coordinate the distribution of the attached template letter to all providers who you commission services from.

The *Prevent* Strategy is a cross-Government policy that forms one of the four strands of CONTEST – the Government’s counter terrorism strategy. With over 1 million contacts with patients every 36 hours, the NHS is key to the support and delivery of the Government’s *Prevent* Strategy and we will need to work hard to embed it fully into everyday safeguarding activity, including mandatory training.

You may be aware of the important ‘*Prevent*’ agenda as outlined in the Department of Health document *Building Partnerships, Staying Safe – The Healthcare Sector’s contribution to HM Government’s Prevent Strategy: For Healthcare Organisations*. *Prevent* delivery is now also a specified requirement within the NHS Standard Contract for 2013/14 for provider organisations.

The *Prevent* agenda requires healthcare organisations to work with partner organisations to contribute to the prevention of terrorism by safeguarding and protecting vulnerable individuals who may be at a greater risk of radicalisation and making safety a shared endeavour.

The *Prevent* programme in health has two key elements:

- 1) responsibility for *Prevent* policy/strategy and partnership representation with other Government departments; and
- 2) delivery of commitments made in the *Prevent* strategy (June 2011) across the healthcare sector.

Regional Prevent Coordinators

Since 2009 the Home Office has provided funding for Regional Prevent Coordinators (RPCs) in each Region via a Memorandum of Understanding agreed annually and have confirmed their commitment to continue funding the RPCs in 2013/14.

There are currently 9 RPC posts hosted by NHS England Area and Regional Teams; the RPCs within each area are responsible for promoting *Prevent* to providers and commissioners of NHS services, supporting organisations to embed *Prevent* into their policies and procedures, and delivering training. A directory of the RPCs, who can provide support to your organisation and the provider organisations you commission services from as required, is attached for your reference.

Prior to April 2013 the *Prevent* Strategy for Health was managed by a Central *Prevent* Team within the Department of Health; this team was transferred to NHS England from 1st April 2013 but was disbanded at the end of April 2013. At this time NHS England took the decision to accelerate the transition of the *Prevent* agenda into mainstream Safeguarding work.

***Prevent* in Safeguarding**

Prevent is central to the Safeguarding agenda and therefore needs to be a priority within Safeguarding policies, procedures and training. NHS England will therefore be accelerating *Prevent* awareness and training across staff providing services to NHS patients through the Safeguarding agenda. The Nursing Directorate in NHS England is responsible for the effective commissioning of Safeguarding, which includes training and policy development. The Directorate will maintain the overview and management of the embedding of *Prevent* into mainstream Safeguarding across the NHS.

Under the NHS England Accountability and Assurance Framework¹, all Area Teams are required to establish local Safeguarding Forums with local commissioners and providers of NHS Services, which will now need to include *Prevent* oversight and delivery.

NHS Standard Contract 2013-14

As commissioners, you will be aware that *Prevent* delivery for each provider organisation is now included within the NHS Standard Contract for 2013/14 within Service Conditions paragraph 32.

SC32 Safeguarding

32.5 The Provider must include in its policies and procedures and comply with the principles contained in:

32.5.1 Prevent; and

¹ NHS Commissioning Board. (2013). Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Reformed NHS – *Accountability and Assurance Framework*. Crown Copyright 21 March 2013.

32.5.2 *the Prevent Guidance and Toolkit.*

32.6 *The Provider must include in its policies and procedures a programme to deliver HealthWRAP and sufficiently resource that programme with accredited HealthWRAP facilitators.*

32.7 *The provider has appointed and must maintain a Prevent Lead. The Provider must ensure that at all times the Prevent Lead is appropriately authorised and resources to procure the full and effective performance of the Provider's obligations under Service Conditions 32.5 and 32.6*

32.8 *The provider must notify the Co-ordinating Commissioner in writing of any change to the identity of the Prevent Lead as soon as practicable, and in any event no later than 10 Operational Days after the change.*

This will be assured in line with your governance and contract management processes. Please note this is mandated for all providers who deliver NHS services including non-NHS organisations.

Organisational Self-Assessment Tool

There is no need for the provider organisations to return this centrally, but it should support internal assurance systems and any discussions you have with them as commissioners. We have advised providers, in the letter attached, to contact their commissioners and RPCs for further support if they require it.

I would like to thank you for your work so far in supporting the *Prevent Strategy*, but need to stress that there is still a journey ahead to embed it fully into mandatory safeguarding training and everyday business.

Please be advised that Area Team Directors have also been requested to send the same information on to providers of directly commissioned services and have been sent a link to this letter in the CCG Bulletin.

Yours faithfully,



Hilary Garratt
Director of Nursing - Commissioning & Health Improvement
NHS England

Cc: CCG Accountable Officers

Attachment:

1. RPC Directory
2. Provider pack - to be cascaded by CCGs to all commissioned providers
[Includes:
 - Provider letter

- Provider RPC Directory
- 'Building Partnerships, Staying Safe' publication
(*Prevent* Self-Assessment Tool pg.25)]