

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is comparable to other forms of exploitation, such as grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation. The aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media. People at particular risk are people with learning disabilities, autism or Asperger's syndrome, or mental health problems, who can otherwise function well.

There are a number of factors that may make the person susceptible to exploitation by violent extremists. None of these factors should be considered in isolation but in conjunction with the particular circumstances of the person.

PREVENT is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST and aims to provide support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activity before any crimes are committed.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The support available for individuals at risk of being radicalised is called CHANNEL.

Practitioner: If you suspect that someone may be susceptible to exploitation into violent extremism, then contact the Professional Standards and Safeguarding Team for advice. They are the lead for the Channel process, and will take the case to the Channel Panel.

The **Channel Panel** is a multi-agency panel chaired by the Local Authority. The role of the multi-agency panel is to develop an appropriate support package to safeguard individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism. The purpose of the panel is:

- to assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- to develop the most appropriate care and support plans for the individuals concerned.

The panel is responsible for managing the safeguarding risk which is in line with other multi-agency panels where risk is managed, such as the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Local safeguarding structures have a role to play for those eligible for adult safeguarding.