

# Suffolk Prevent Strategy 2021-2024

PREVENTING  
RADICALISATION:  
**SUFFOLK**



Norfolk & Suffolk  
Community Rehabilitation Company



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RADICALISATION:  
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 What is prevent?

**Prevent is about safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation.**

Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

- **Pursue**  
Is concerned with the apprehension and arrest of any persons suspected of being engaged in the planning, preparation or commission of a terrorist act.
- **Prevent**  
**Is concerned with working with partners to reduce support for terrorism of all kinds, challenging and isolating extremists whose views are shared by terrorist organisations and challenging and isolating extremists operating on the internet.**
- **Protect**  
Aims to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack and reduce our vulnerability to such attacks. This involves managing the risks to crowded places and the safeguarding of hazardous materials.
- **Prepare**  
Seeks to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This included work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase our resilience so we can recover from its aftermath.

## 1.2 What does Prevent Do?

The main aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding adults and children by providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated on the basis of threats to our national security.

1

Responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.

2

Provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.

3

Works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to deal with.



Prevent **operates in a pre-criminal space**, providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being radicalised into terrorist activities before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation could be comparable to other forms of harm and abuse; therefore it is considered a safeguarding issue which needs to be thought of alongside the wider safeguarding agenda.

International terrorism and a homegrown terrorist threat have meant an increased role for policing in recent years. This has led to some in our communities feeling uncomfortable with a sense of being under scrutiny. The perception from some is that there is a focus on Muslim communities as a whole rather than on the very small numbers that support an extremist ideology. It is essential that Prevent work in Suffolk does not stereotype communities and takes measures to counter this. It is important to have and maintain communication across communities and to make this work accountable to people within them.

To be successful in eliminating the threat from violent extremism we need to build trust with our communities and work in partnership with them. Our communities already do much to challenge and reduce the influence of extremists. Our role will be to continue to support and complement this role empowering those at risk to make positive life choices.



## 2. Statutory Responsibilities

### 2.1 The Prevent Duty

The **Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015** (CTSA) became statutory on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. Section 26 of the CTSA states that specified authorities must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is referred to as the Prevent Duty. The Duty applies to local authorities at the county and district/borough level, schools, colleges and universities, health and social care, criminal justice, and the police.

Home Office guidance on the Duty states that for all specified authorities those in leadership positions are expected to:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation



- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively

The full guidance document is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Whilst each specified authority has this Duty, the guidance does not expect organisations and institutions to tackle the issue alone. It clearly states that Prevent work depends on effective partnership working and expects coordination of this activity through a multi-agency forum.

## 2.2 Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group (PDG)

The Suffolk Prevent Delivery Group is a multiagency forum that co-ordinates a strategic, partnership approach to tackling extremism. It harnesses the knowledge, skills and resources of partner agencies across Suffolk and meets quarterly (See Appendix One for Terms of Reference).

The PDG develops and oversees the Suffolk Prevent Strategy and Action Plan. These are partnership documents supported by and contributed to, by all the specified authorities within Suffolk. Specified authorities are also expected to have their own local delivery plans which complement the wider county approach.

The Suffolk Prevent Action Plan has been designed to support the Prevent Strategy' 3 key objectives:

1. Respond to the **ideological** challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. Prevent **people** from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
3. Work with **sectors and institutions** where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Our approach is to consider these in delivering key pieces through the thematic work areas below:

- a) Governance, Leadership, and Accountability – to ensure strong, coordinated cohesive communities and partnership action which is accountable to the local community
- b) Supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation - establish appropriate support for those identified as vulnerable and their families
- c) Community Engagement and Cohesion – to prevent and challenge extremist narrative and behaviour from within communities.
- d) Awareness raising and training– across all sectors, public, private, community and voluntary

Evidence of activity/delivery of actions within the plan are updated quarterly.



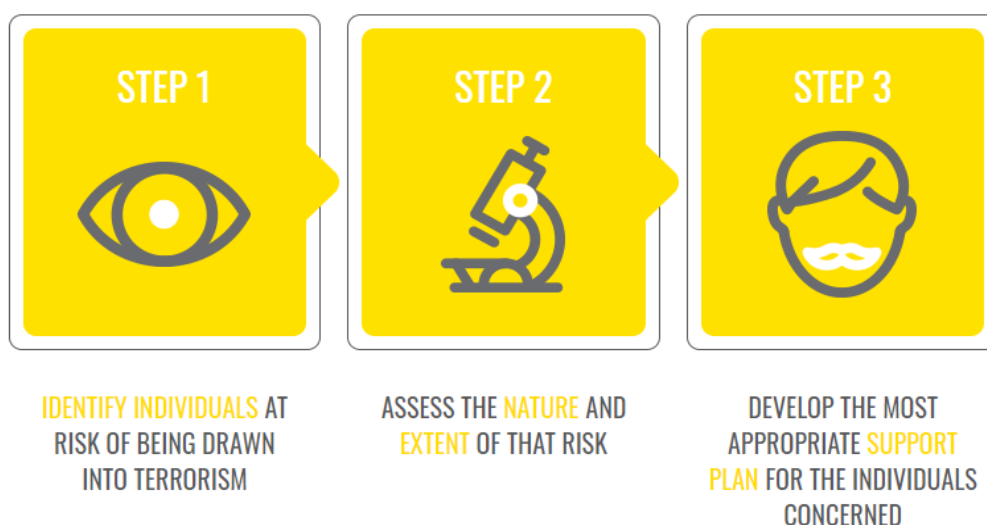
## 2.3 Channel Duty

In addition to the Prevent duty, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a new duty for local authorities to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. In England and Wales, this is achieved through Channel Panels.

Channel provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The overall aim of the programme is early intervention and diverting people away from the risk they may face and is a safeguarding programme aimed at supporting individuals identified as vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity. Participation in the Channel process is however voluntary, and consent of the individual is required before they take part.

In addition to other safeguarding practices, Channel is reliant on a multi-agency response and multi-disciplinary work to minimise and manage the risk to an individual by using a wide range of support and diversionary activities including access to education, housing and employment.

Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners and the local community and has three objectives:



## 2.4 Channel duty guidance

A refreshed Channel duty guidance was released by the Home Office in 2021 ([Channel Duty Guidance](#))

It requires Local Authorities to strengthen the governance arrangements for Channel so that its activity is overseen by a strategic multi agency body. From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the overall accountability for Channel will sit with the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) via the Prevent Delivery Group. See Appendix Three.

Functions of the governance arrangements may include assessing compliance with Channel duty requirements, overseeing implementation of development plans, and assessing referral data and anonymised case studies to monitor performance.

## 2.5 Suffolk Channel Panel

The Suffolk Channel Panel meets monthly in a secure environment to discuss cases of concern. It reports into the Prevent Delivery Group. Channel is about partnerships and communities working together to support vulnerable people at an early stage, it is not about reporting on individuals in order to prosecute them. See Appendix Two for the Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) Referral process.

## 3. Counter Terrorism Local Profile

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is a quarterly assessment that articulates key threats, risks and vulnerabilities across the Eastern Region in relation to extremism in all forms. The document focusses on individual counties where isolated or emerging incidents of note have occurred and allows Suffolk to view our own individual threat and risk in relation to bordering forces, providing context and encouraging information sharing across the region.

The CTLP is not designed to provide a complete assessment of extremist concerns but seeks to raise awareness of current issues, providing information from which to determine priorities and support local prevent delivery plans and partnership work in Suffolk. Recommendations made within the CTLP are attributed and actioned within the Suffolk Action Plan.

## 4. Threat Level

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack. The threat level for the UK from international terrorism is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) whilst MI5 is responsible for setting the threat levels from Irish and other domestic terrorism both in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain.





<b>LOW</b>	Attack is highly unlikely.
<b>MODERATE</b>	An attack is possible, but not likely
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b>	Means an attack is likely
<b>SEVERE</b>	Attack is highly likely
<b>CRITICAL</b>	An attack is highly likely in the near future

In reaching a judgement on the appropriate threat level, several factors are taken into account including available intelligence, terrorist capability, terrorist intentions and timescale. The threat level expresses the likelihood of an attack in the near term. Some attacks take years to plan, while others are put together more quickly. In the absence of specific intelligence, a judgement will need to be made about how close an attack might be to fruition. Threat levels do not have any set expiry date but are regularly subject to review in order to ensure that they remain current.

In July 2019, changes were made to the terrorism threat level system, to reflect the threat posed by all forms of terrorism, irrespective of ideology. There is now a single national threat level describing the threat to the UK, which includes Islamist, Northern Ireland, left-wing and right-wing terrorism.

At the time of writing this strategy, the current threat from terrorism is assessed to be at SUBSTANTIAL which means an attack is 'highly likely'. It was raised to CRITICAL twice in 2017 following the Manchester terrorist attack and the terrorist incident at Parsons Green station in London.

The most up to date assessment is available on: <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

## 5.0 Further information

Further information can be found at [Report terrorist or extremist content online – Action Counters Terrorism \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)



# Prevent Delivery Group

## Terms of Reference (Revised March 2021)

### Aim

To co-ordinate a strategic, system wide response to Preventing Radicalisation - fulfilling the Prevent Duty requirements contained in section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015:

The Prevent Duty requires that '*A specified authority<sup>1</sup> must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'. A specified authority is a person or body that is judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

### Role of the group

1. Share information about the threat and risk levels of counter terrorism in Suffolk.
2. Use information from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLTP) to inform the work of the partnership
3. Develop a partnership Prevent action plan incorporating activities from all of the partner organisations to demonstrate how each are meeting their Prevent Duty.
4. Monitor the impact and review progress made by each organisation for activities in the action plan.
5. Annually, develop / review a) a situational risk assessment  
b) partnership self assessment  
c) Channel Panel Assurance Statement.
6. Co-ordinate the delivery of training and awareness raising (such as the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and bespoke training)
7. Report progress quarterly and escalate concerns to Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

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<sup>1</sup> The specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are **those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security** Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)





## Frequency of Meetings

The group will quarterly or exception if required. The group may also establish “task & finish” groups to undertake particular pieces of work, which will then report back to the Prevent Delivery Group.

## Membership

Senior Representatives from specified authorities in Suffolk such as:

- Suffolk County Council – Chair
- West Suffolk Council
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Suffolk Constabulary
- NHS Suffolk
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Suffolk New College
- University of Suffolk
- Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- West Suffolk College
- East Coast College
- FE/HE Prevent Coordinator – Dept for Education
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU)
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership
- Civil Nuclear Constabulary





### Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) Referral Process

