

PREVENT/ Channel Referral Process

1. Background:

This document should be read in conjunction with the Information Sharing Policy and the Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

In September 2015 as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Government placed a duty on a range of public bodies to have 'due regard to the need to prevent individuals from drawn into terrorism in the exercise of their duties', known as the PREVENT duty.

The three broad objectives of the PREVENT strategy are:

- *respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it;*
 - *prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;*
 - *work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.*
- (Home Office, 2011)

2. Responsibilities of Higher Education Institutions

PREVENT guidance related to RHEBs (Relevant Higher Education Bodies) places an emphasis on the need to have robust, internal policies and processes to manage the risk of radicalisation within their institutions. A key area of this duty is to have strong welfare and pastoral policies in place which give clear and explicit guidance on what to do when an individual is identified as being at risk, and who to contact if individuals have a concern related to PREVENT about either a member of staff or a student, that may necessitate a referral to Channel. This paper clarifies the process for such referrals.

3. What is Channel?

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk

- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Involvement in the Channel programme is both voluntary and confidential. Individuals may opt out of the intervention process should they wish to. If the individual receives support through Channel, it will not give them a criminal record.

4. The referral process

If there is a concern that an individual may be at risk the following process should be followed:

