

Each month we will be focusing on a different safeguarding theme to raise awareness and signpost to resources.

For September, our theme is **Prevent**

 **#ActEarly2Prevent**



Act Early to Prevent and Safeguard

Early action can make a real difference. By working together, we can identify risks, support individuals and build safe, resilient communities.



1. NOTICE

Be alert to changes in behaviour or concerns that could indicate vulnerability.



2. ENGAGE

Listen, build trust and have open, non-judgemental conversations.



3. SUPPORT

Provide information, advice and access to appropriate support services.



4. SAFEGUARD

Take proportionate action to protect individuals and reduce risk.



5. WORK TOGETHER

Share information appropriately and work in partnership to keep people safe.



Linking to the Prevent duty

The Prevent duty is a key part of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. It requires specified authorities and practitioners to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Acting early is everyone's responsibility.



Find out more about the Prevent duty
Guidance, resources and support:
www.gov.uk/prevent-duty

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What is Prevent?

- Prevent is one strand of the UK's wider counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST.
- Current national threat level is **SEVERE - an attack is highly likely**
- Strands of the strategy are:
 - **Prevent** – aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by safeguarding people and communities.
 - **Pursue** – is concerned with the apprehension and arrest of people suspected of being engaged in the planning, preparation or commissioning of terrorism.
 - **Protect** – seeks to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack and reduce our vulnerability to an attack.
 - **Prepare** – mitigates the impact of a terrorist attack where an attack cannot be stopped.

Further information can be found on:

- [7 – minute briefing Prevent Duty](#)
- [Factsheet CONTEST 2023 Factsheet – Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK](#)
- [Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK](#)

Purpose of Prevent is to...

Safeguard and support people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism of any form. It aims to:

- tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
- safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support
- enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

What is Extremism?

This definition was updated in March 2024 - [New definition of extremism \(2024\) - GOV.UK](#)

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

Types of behaviour on the next slides are indicative of the kind of promotion or advancement which may be relevant to the definition, and are an important guide to its application.

Further information and context to the definition and behaviour can be found on this webpage [New definition of extremism \(2024\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Aim 1 (negate or destroy fundamental rights and freedoms)

- Behaviour against a group, or members of it, that seeks to negate or destroy their rights to live equally under the law and free of fear, threat, violence, and discrimination. Including:
- Using, threatening, inciting, justifying, glorifying or excusing violence towards a group in order to dissuade them from using their legally defined rights and freedoms.

Aim 2 (undermine, overturn or replace liberal democracy)

- Attempts to undermine, overturn, or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights. Including:
- Advocating that the UK's parliamentary democracy and democratic values and rights are not compatible with their ideology, and seeking to challenge, overthrow, or change our political system outside of lawful means.
- Using, threatening, inciting, justifying, glorifying or excusing violence towards citizens, in order to dissuade them from participating freely in the democratic process.
- Subverting the way public or state institutions exercise their powers, in order to further ideological goals, for example through entryism, or by misusing powers or encouraging others to do so.
- Using, threatening, inciting, justifying, glorifying or excusing violence towards public officials including our armed forces, police forces and members of local, devolved or national legislatures, in order to dissuade them from conducting their obligations freely and fearlessly, without external interference.
- Establishing parallel governance structures which, whether or not they have formal legal underpinning, seek to supersede the lawful powers of existing institutions of state.

Aim 3 (enabling the spread of extremism)

- Intentionally creating a permissive environment for behaviour in aim 1 or aim 2. Including:
- Providing an uncritical platform for individuals or representatives of groups or organisations that have demonstrated behaviour in either aim 1 or aim 2.
- Facilitating activity of individuals or representatives of groups or organisations that have demonstrated behaviour in either aim 1 or aim 2, including through provision of endorsement, funding, or other forms of support.
- The dissemination of extremist propaganda and narratives that call for behaviour in either aim 1 or aim 2.
- Attempts to radicalise, indoctrinate and recruit others to an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, including young people.
- Consistent association with individuals or representatives of groups or organisations that have demonstrated behaviour in either aim 1 or aim 2 without providing critical challenge to their ideology or behaviour.
- If any behaviour listed in aim 1 or aim 2 has occurred previously, a refusal by the individual, group or organisation that conducted the behaviour to rescind, repudiate or distance themselves from the behaviour.

What is Radicalisation?

- Radicalisation is the word commonly used to describe the mental process the person is going through as they get drawn down a dangerous path.
- If someone is becoming radicalised it means they are displaying extreme views in support of extreme ideologies or beliefs, terrorist groups and activities.
- It can be hard to spot if someone is becoming radicalised, as some of the signs are indicators of other underlying issues, or challenges that are not connected to radicalisation.
- But we know friends and family are best placed to spot any changes in behaviour. If you're worried they are vulnerable then reach out and speak to someone. If you'd rather not talk directly to us, there are other people who can listen and who can help. This could be your GP, a faith or community leader, your local authority or a teacher.

Radicalisation as a four stage process

Radicalisation has been described as a four stage process:-

1

Pre-radical

The person joins or identifies with a group or organisation

2

Self-identify

The person believes and accepts the beliefs and views held by the group or organisation

3

Indoctrination

The person is groomed by the group or organisation pulling them further down the pathway

4

Terrorism

The person becomes involved in committing terrorist acts

Source: [What are the stages of radicalisation? | ACT Early](#)

Spot the Signs of Radicalisation

- Radicalisation can happen both in person or online.
- Everyone is different, and there is no checklist that can tell us if someone is being radicalised or becoming involved in terrorism. But these signs may mean someone is being radicalised:
 - accessing extremist content online or downloading propaganda material
 - justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
 - altering their style of dress or appearance to accord with an extremist group
 - being unwilling to engage with people who they see as different
 - using certain symbols associated with terrorist organisations
- Find out more: [Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK](#)

Spotting the Signs

There are many factors that could make someone susceptible to radicalisation including:

- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- A desire for political or moral change
- Struggling with a sense of identity, meaning and belonging or questioning their place in society
- A desire for status
- Being influenced or controlled by a group
- Experiencing racism or discrimination

Source: [What](#) to look for – ACT Early

Signs that can show a person may be a victim of online radicalisation

More important than any one sign is the feeling that something is not quite right. Parents and friends are best placed to spot any changes in behaviour. If you are worried then trust your instincts and reach out for help and advice. If you act early the person can receive support and choose a different pathway before it is too late.

Here are some signs to watch out for in the person you are worried about. You can find out more in our [section](#) on what to look out for, which explains how to spot the signs in more detail.

They are becoming increasingly intolerant of other people's views

They are being secretive of who they are talking to online

They are sharing or liking extremist posts on social media

They are reading, posting, watching or sharing hateful or extreme content and links

They appear to be expressing someone else's views

Frequently asked questions

What is religious extremism?

What is extreme far right radicalisation?

What is Incel?

What is meant by mixed or unclear ideology?

Can someone self-radicalise?

How can you protect someone from being radicalised?

Interactive webpage and FAQ's can be accessed via this link: [What is radicalisation? | ACT Early](#)

Prevent Radicalisation and Extremism by Acting Early

It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. Working with other organisations, the [police](#) protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists through a Home Office programme called [Prevent](#).

Act early and tell us your concerns in confidence. You won't be wasting our time and you won't ruin lives, but you might save them.

[How we help](#) →

[What you can do](#) →

Close this
website

Share a concern

Call the ACT Early Support Line on

0800 011 3764, in confidence, to share your concerns

with our specially trained officers. The Support Line is

open 9:00am – 5:00pm every day.

[Share a concern](#)

Visit this webpage for other useful information and resources: [ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#)



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PARTNERSHIP**



**Swindon
Safeguarding
Partnership**

What to do if you're worried about someone

Try to speak with them: If it's somebody that you know well, try talking to them about what you've noticed if you feel comfortable doing so.

- Find advice on how to do this:
 - talking to friends and family visit the [ACT Early website](#)
 - working in schools visit the [Educate Against Hate website](#)
- **Be aware** your concern might not be welcome at first, and the person may get angry or defensive. You could try talking to other family and friends to see if they have noticed anything similar before getting expert advice.

Ask for advice: If you are worried that someone you know is being radicalised, ask for advice as soon as possible.

Visit the [ACT Early website](#)

The earlier you ask for advice, the sooner you can help to stop that person becoming a danger to them self or others. Anything you share will always be in confidence.

After talking to someone about your worries, you may be asked to help create a referral to the Prevent programme.

If there is immediate danger, call 999.



Source: [Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK](#)





Professionals can complete the Prevent duty training to find out more.

Notice

- Those working in frontline support roles will often be the first to notice if someone displays concerning behaviour, like the signs of radicalisation.
- If you notice behaviours that cause you concern, then you may want to consider whether the person is susceptible to radicalisation.
- There could be many different reasons for these behaviours, not just radicalisation. It's important to understand the context, and why these changes are happening, before jumping to any conclusions.

Check

- You may wish to discuss your concern organisationally, with the person responsible for safeguarding, such as the designated safeguarding lead.
- Checking before sharing a concern is a way of making sure you have gathered as much relevant information as possible before making your referral.

Share

- Once you have gathered the relevant information, it is essential to share a concern and make a referral to the police using the Prevent national referral form. In some cases, you may do this directly.
- Sometimes, where appropriate, the organisational safeguarding lead or equivalent, or the local authority may do this on your behalf.

Working Together under the Prevent Duty



This short animation (2 minutes duration) illustrates how public sectors under the Prevent duty work together to stop radicalisation.

Click on this link to view: [Prevent duty animation - public sector staff working together to stop radicalisation](#)

Making a Prevent Referral

- Anyone can make a [Prevent Referral](#) if they have concerns that someone is at risk of radicalisation.
- An electronic form is available to complete on the Wiltshire Police [website](#)
- A referral is made to the local Counter Terrorism Police who will gather information to look at the context surrounding concerning behaviour changes and decide on the most appropriate course of action.
- In most cases, referrals are signposted to other services, but if it is recognised that there is an ideology present, capability or intent to act then they may be put forward for support from Channel.
If there are safeguarding concerns relating to a child or adult consideration should also be given to making a safeguarding referral.

Further guidance can be found:

Children:

- [Request for help and support guidelines and contact information](#)
- [The Right Help at Right Time guidance](#)

Adults:

- [Report a concern](#)
- [Adult safeguarding policy and procedures](#)

What is Channel and How Does it Support Prevent?

- Channel is the safeguarding panel which supports Prevent. It is led by the local authority and is a programme which focuses on supporting people at an early stage who are identified as susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.
- Channel ensures people are able to receive support before they are exploited by those wanting them to embrace terrorist related activity.
- Channel is a confidential and voluntary process where multi-agency safeguarding professionals meet to discuss support options. These support options encompass an array of different interventions, addressing educational, vocational, mental health, and other vulnerabilities.
- Ideological support is also common, which may include discussion with credible ideological experts and faith leaders.

Find out more:

[Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) guidance - GOV.UK](#)



Useful Resources

Children referred to the Prevent programme

August 2026

The Children's Commissioner's report on children referred to the Prevent programme highlights significant concerns regarding the effectiveness of the program in addressing the needs of children fixated on violence without a clear ideology.

The report reveals that:

- **71% of referrals** involving children had no specific extremist ideology identified.
- **79% of referrals** were closed without progressing through the Prevent programme.
- **65% of referrals** made by schools and colleges were returned to education settings, with **93% receiving no support**.

The report calls for a **stronger safeguarding response**, particularly for children fixated on violence but without adherence to a particular ideology. It emphasizes the need for a **joined-up approach** to safeguarding, including the involvement of Counter Terrorism Policing in the assessment and support of children referred to Prevent.

Read the report: [Children referred to the Prevent programme](#)

Swindon Community Safety Partnership Prevent Awareness Event

In September 2025, we hosted a Prevent and Channel webinar, where survivors from the Westminster Bridge Attack on 22nd March 2017, gave their personal accounts.

Health Warning Regarding the Content

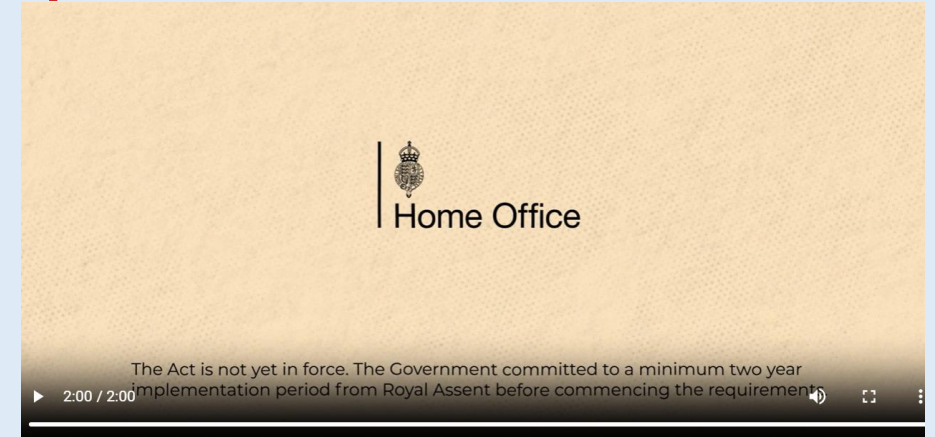
To watch the recording click on [this link](#)

(duration 2:24 minutes)



Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act, known as Martyn's Law.

- The legislation builds upon the Protect and Prepare strands of the Government's wider counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST.
- The new Act will ensure the public are better protected from terrorism by requiring certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep people safe in the event of an attack.
- Certain larger premises will be required to consider and, where appropriate, take steps to reduce their vulnerability to acts of terrorism.



Find out more by watching this short clip: [Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know | ProtectUK](#) (duration 2 minutes)

Additional resources:

[Martyn's Law Factsheet – Home Office in the media](#)

[Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know | ProtectUK](#)

[Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: factsheets - GOV.UK](#)

Useful National Resources

Home Office/Government Publications:

- [Prevent and Channel factsheet – 2023 – Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Making a referral to Prevent - GOV.UK](#)
- [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK](#)
- [Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2023 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- [Prevent and Channel factsheet – 2023 – Home Office in the media](#)
- [Independent Review of Prevent: One year on progress report \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)
- [Lessons for Prevent - GOV.UK](#)

Counter Terrorism Policing website:

- [Counter Terrorism Policing | Home](#)
- [Counter Terrorism Policing – YouTube](#)
- [Report possible terrorist or extremist activity | Action Counters Terrorism](#)



Additional Resources

- [Home Office Brand Portal](#) to access posters, social media explainers and an animation to support you in communicating about Prevent.
- [ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#) provides resources and information about what to do if you are worried someone you know is in danger of being radicalised. The site tells you some signs to look out for and who to go to for help.
- [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#) gives teachers, parents and school leaders practical advice and information on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.
- [Radicalisation and child protection | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [What is the Prevent Agenda? - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- [Radicalisation and Violent Extremism: Drivers, Trends, Solutions \(Calleva Centre Seminar\) \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Run, Hide, Tell [Firearms & Weapons Attack - Run, Hide, Tell – YouTube](#)

Local Swindon Resources:

- 7 minute brief: [Prevent duty](#)
- [Swindon Community Safety Partnership](#)



National Training

- [ACT Awareness E-Learning - Powered By Frog \(protectuk.police.uk\)](https://protectuk.police.uk)
- [Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training \(support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk\)](https://support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk)

List of courses

- [Course 1 - Awareness course](#)
- [Course 2 - Referrals course](#)
- [Course 3 - Channel or Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) course](#)

Information for Children, Parents and Carers

- [Advice For Young People | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)
- [What is radicalisation? Online safety advice for parents | Internet Matters \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)
- [ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#)
- [Radicalisation on the internet | ACT Early](#)
- Educate Against Hate: <https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/> Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publica...>
- [Internet Matters](#) - get online safety advice by age, apps and activity
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - parents and carers
- [NSPCC](#) - keeping children safe online
- [Childnet](#) - parents and carers toolkit

Previous Monthly Safeguarding Themes Resources

- [Safeguarding theme February - Staying safe online](#)
- [Safeguarding theme March - All age exploitation](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme April - Unborn babies and under 2s](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme May - Mental Health Awareness](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme June - Child neglect](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme July - Self-neglect](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme August - Think Family](#)

Email signature

If appropriate, please add the text below to your email signature

Safeguarding Theme for September 2026 is **Prevent**

#ActEarly2Prevent

Visit the SSP [Events](#) webpage
or follow us on 
@SwindonSafegua1





Act Early to Prevent and Safeguard

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And finally...

Please let us know if the information and resources have been helpful to you.

You can give us your feedback by clicking on the link below
[Feedback on SSP Monthly Safeguarding Theme 2026](#)
or scanning the QR code.



It will only take you two minutes!

Are you on our circulation list?

Do you want to be kept updated about SSP related matters such as training, learning resources and our newsletter?

You can sign up to our circulation list circulation list by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/f7CRNF6Wax>. Or using the QR code.



You can ask to be removed at any time by emailing safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk

