Prevent Policy

Policy Statement

Graduately Developing Futures (GDF) understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalised or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations as detailed within this policy. This policy applies to all Directors, managers, staff and contractors and all are expected to read and abide by this policy.

Scope

Responsibility for ensuring Prevent Duty is met lies with the SLT, Governors and Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead (DSL/PL) who is Lisa O'Connor. GDF will undertake a risk assessment to identify the potential risks associated with its staff, learners and students being drawn into terrorism. On the basis of this risk assessment GDF will identify any actions which need to be taken to mitigate the risks and develop an appropriate action plan. Frontline staff who work directly with learners will have received training in understanding what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, with an understanding of the consequences. Staff are aware of how to make a referral if they have concern and the support mechanisms in place.

Terminology

- *Terrorism*: For the purposes of this policy, terrorism is defined as the use or threatened use of violence for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.
- *Radicalisation*: is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism, extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups
- *Extremism*: is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas" (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011)
- *Core British Values*: These include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.
- *CONTEST:* is the Government counter terrorist strategy; it aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism.
- *PREVENT:* is a key part of the CONTEST strategy, its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of "Prevent" in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. "Prevent" happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

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Strategy

The Prevent Strategy objectives are:

- Ideology: respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Individuals: prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Institutions: work in partnership with other agencies where there are risks of radicalisation.

CHANNEL is a key element of the Prevent strategy and is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs. Personal information of an individual may need to be shared between statutory partners to ensure that a person at risk of radicalisation is given the appropriate support; information sharing must be assessed on a case by case basis and in line with Data Protection legislation.

Understanding Risks of Extremism

Staff, students and other adults may engage with GDF having already held, or currently holding, extremist views or may be influenced by a range of factors including global events, peer pressure, media, extremist materials (hardcopy or online), inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed and social networks. People who are vulnerable are more likely to be influenced. Their vulnerability could stem from a range of causes, including loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination, and bereavement. For example:

- *Identity Crisis*: Distance from cultural or religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- *Personal Crisis*: Family tensions, sense of isolation, low self-esteem, disassociating from existing friendships.
- *Personal Circumstances*: Migration, local community tensions; events affecting country/region of origin, alienation from core British values, sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination.
- *Unmet Aspirations*: Perceptions of injustice, feeling of failure, rejection of civic life.
- *Criminality*: Experience of imprisonment, poor reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

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Behaviour Raising Concerns

The following signs may suggest concerns and should be raised with the GDF DSL/PL:

- Talking about exposure to extremist materials or views
- Changing attitude, e.g. suddenly intolerant of differences/having a closed mind
- Changing behaviour, e.g. becoming isolated
- Falling standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Asking questions about topics connected to extremism
- Offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- Attempting to impose one's own views/beliefs on others
- Using extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- Performing overt new religious practices
- Possessing drawings or posters showing extremist ideology / views / symbols
- Voicing concerns about anyone

Referral and intervention process

Any member of staff at GDF who has any concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately and no later than the end of the working day to the DSL/PL, Lisa O'Connor who can be contacted on 07971165588 or lisaoconnor@graduatelydevelopingfutures.co.uk. GDF will follow the recommended Channel guidance to assess vulnerability based upon:

- Engagement with a group, cause or ideology
- Intent to cause harm
- Capability to cause harm

In all cases we would liaise with the relevant Police force and other agencies identified within Channel for further advice and guidance. Where there is an identified risk or potential risk that a child or young person may be involved or potentially involved in supporting or following extremism, further investigation by the police will be required.

A referral judged to be misguided, misinformed or malicious will be returned with an explanation of why it has not been accepted. Where a threshold of Prevent is met, there will be an information collection period where as much information as possible about the child or young person and their family is gathered to inform the assessment and response. Consideration must be given regarding sharing the information with parents as to if it will increase the risk to the child or young person, in which case information sharing would not be appropriate. Responses should be proportionate, with the emphasis on supporting vulnerable children and young people, unless there is evidence of more active involvement in extremist activities. Protecting children and young people from radicalisation and extremism requires careful assessment and working collaboratively across agencies as initially concerns may be inconclusive and protecting the child or young person against a potential risk can

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be dependent on a wider range of factors. Sharing information effectively and keeping the child and young person in focus should be the main aim of any interventions and services.

Further guidance can be found in the Statutory guidance for Channel panel members and partners of local panels: **HM Government Channel Duty Guidance***: "Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism"2015.*

Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis as a minimum. Next review date 01.09.2027

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