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Welcome to Prevent training

Prevent is an introductory training module around the risks of radicalisation. A very important subject for anyone working or volunteering in our educational environment.

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Which statement do you think describes the purpose of Prevent training?

1. Public information gathering to help identify terrorists and pursue their arrests.

2. A safeguarding strategy to prevent people becoming involved in terrorism, before any terror-related crime is committed.

3. A way to align mental health issues with criminal capability to deter someone from committing a crime.

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The correct answer is:

A safeguarding strategy to prevent people supporting terrorism or becoming involved in terrorism, before any terror-related crime is committed.

Prevent is a safeguarding duty and is part of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015). It means that specified authorities such as education, health, local authorities, police, prisons, probation and youth justice have a duty to help prevent people from being drawn into or supporting terrorism.

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Why is it important to know this information?

Prevent is part of your role as a volunteer because you work alongside others.

Prevent is not about getting people vulnerable to radicalisation into trouble, it's about supporting and safeguarding them.

If we all play our part, then we may be able to prevent a vulnerable person from being radicalised at the right time. To help people to make better choices and stay safe.

It is important to trust your instinct and know what to do if you spot a concern. This is all we ask.

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Which profile do you think is the most common for someone vulnerable to radicalisation?

1. There is no profile
2. Someone's ethnic minority background
3. A person with a criminal background or difficult family circumstances
4. Someone with mental illness

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Answer - There is no profile

There is no one thing that leads someone into becoming drawn into terrorism. Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group. It deals with all forms of extremism. However, for the purpose of this course we will focus on 2 forms, Islamist and extreme right-wing individuals, groups, and behaviour.

The greatest threat comes from Islamist terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh. Daesh (also known as ISIL, Islamic State, or ISIS) and Al Qaeda, continue to play an important role in driving the terrorist threat to the UK.

Daesh poses a threat to UK national security as it seeks to expand its terror network, using propaganda to radicalise and recruit citizens from the UK and across the world.

In some areas, there is a significant risk from extreme right-wing individuals, groups, and their behaviour. We would expect in those circumstances for Prevent activity to focus on the extreme right-wing terrorist threat. There are banned extremist groups and organisations in the UK, these include National Action, Sonnenkrieg Division and Feuerkrieg Division.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process that encourages a person to legitimise their use of violence. It's where terrorism begins and can include:-

- Grooming using social media and social networking groups.
- Graffiti, representing their ideology.
- Using icons and symbols suggesting they are bonding to a cause.
- Innocently meet up in a public park or at a local library, but a person is actually at risk.
- Using a range of means to promote their extreme ideologies such as a protest or handing out leaflets promoting hatred and division.
- Travelling to areas of conflict.

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What is extremism?

Extremism is the 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.

Extremist groups believe people who are not white are biologically inferior and frequently call for violence against them.

Islamist extremist can believe that people cannot be both Muslim and British, and that Muslims living in the UK should not participate in democracy.

What turns any type of extremism into terrorism, is the belief in using violence to further your cause.

What is terrorism?

Terrorism is an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

It's important to remember that not all extremist groups, whether Islamist, extreme right-wing or other groups, will commit terrorist or violent acts both online and offline.

We define Islamist terrorism as acts of terrorism perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society.

As the majority of cases involve young people vulnerable to radicalisation, most videos in this course focus on this group. However, the learning in the videos is applicable to anyone. Please watch this video for more information.
https://youtu.be/quPUZeGiJco

Why are people vulnerable to radicalisation?

One of the unique features of extremist groups is that they can connect to people feeling vulnerable.

The emotions involved when someone is at risk from radicalisation are common to all of us. This process of radicalisation feeds on emotions. People can be encouraged to act in extreme ways if the person feels strongly about something.

Please watch the video to find out more about vulnerabilities

https://youtu.be/AHTToBR-W5g

Summary on radicalisation

Radicalisation
The reasons why people are vulnerable to radicalisation are complex, unique and can be closely connected to emotions. Radicalisation feeds off these emotions and it is important to understand the full context of the situation.

Extremism
Extremism is not the same as terrorism as not all extremist groups will commit terrorist or violent acts. Instead, extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values.

Terrorism
Terrorism starts with radicalisation. The objective is to incite someone to support terrorism or become a terrorist themselves. It is more than an attack, below the surface is hidden activity that builds up leading to violence.

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Some examples of behaviours that cause concern

Online behaviours For example someone:
•having more than one online identity
•spending more time online and accessing extremist online content

Increasingly agitated or violent behaviour For example someone:
•becoming more argumentative in their viewpoints
•becoming abusive to others or justifying the use of violence

Changing associations For example someone:
•changing friends or isolating from friends and family
•changing style of dress or appearance to accord with an extremist group

Increasingly anti-social behaviours For example someone:
•unwilling to engage with people who are different
•being secretive and reluctant to discuss whereabouts
•adopting the use of certain symbols associated with terrorist organisations

Erhan's story

Erhan, a 14-year-old male being drawn into Islamist extremism.

Erhan, raised as a Muslim but didn't attend mosque. He moved from Turkey to the UK with his family. Soon after arriving his parents separated. With no friends, he started feeling increasingly isolated and began to spend a considerable amount of time on the internet.

Let's take a look at Erhan's story.

https://youtu.be/s4HbcPzAXGg

Matthew's story

Matthew, a 17-year-old being drawn into right-wing activity.

Matthew had learning difficulties, he had no friends and was bullied at school where he showed no interest in his classes. Matthew had previously been involved in racially motivated antisocial behaviour.

Take a look at Matthew's story.

https://youtu.be/Q5ROnPI-LM4

Then see how Matthew was supported

https://youtu.be/luM8L-iRgsY

Section summary

This exercise hopefully illustrated that the behaviours we might expect from a person being radicalised are often not as unpredictable or unrecognisable as we might have imagined. It is therefore likely that you would notice many signs of radicalisation as part of your day-to-day contact with children, staff and volunteer colleagues.

This is a complex and sensitive issue and every scenario is unique. The circumstances behind these behaviours may not be related to a safeguarding issue. And taken on their own, they may not be a cause for concern.

We need a broader view and information about their context.

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What should you do?

Prevent takes a team approach to decide on who should intervene where, when and how. Therefore, you should not discuss your concern with the person themselves, though you may want to have a conversation with the person about their behaviours to help inform the context of your concern.

Dorset Council have a Prevent policy and procedure plus designated people you can refer your concerns to.

Your designated safeguarding lead is Andy Stevens, but you can talk to any member of staff about your concerns.

Giving staff as much background knowledge as you can ensures a proportionated informed response.

Turning concerns into action by checking your information

As you can see, Safeguarding issues are sensitive and need to be handled with duty and care. Your aim is to protect the person and not cause any more concern.

When checking your information you're trying to work out:

•Who or what will help you see the bigger picture?
•Who will be able to explain what you have noticed?
•Who or what will be able to show you what you're missing?

Sharing that information

Share is the final stage of the **notice, check, share** procedure. It is an intrinsic part of any role within a local authority, when working with people at risk of radicalisation.

Why information sharing is valuable
It is essential to share information between practitioners, organisations, and Safeguarding Leads. This ensures we effectively identify, assess, and manage risk.

Each person must take responsibility for sharing the information they hold.

It's about making sure that people receive the right support at the right time.

Would you be concerned about reporting information?

Prevent safeguards people who are vulnerable to radicalisation in a similar way our safeguarding processes protect people from gangs, drug abuse, physical and sexual abuse.

Some people have fears over sharing information as they don't want to compromise people's rights to privacy. However, when it comes to Prevent, fear cannot stand in your way.

The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding of a person. You cannot get in trouble for sharing information with the right people under the Prevent duty.

Watch the video for advice on how to share information appropriately.
https://youtu.be/eEbzcg2Z84k

Should you tell the person first?

The GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) do not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information for the purposes of keeping children and vulnerable people safe.

Gaining consent when sharing information

Where possible, consent is encouraged. However, you do not need consent from the person to share their personal information if it puts that person's safety at risk.

When you do not need to get consent

There may be some circumstances where it is not appropriate to seek consent, either because the person cannot give consent, it is not reasonable to obtain consent, or because to gain consent would put the person's safety or well-being at risk.

Thank you for completing this valuable module. We hope that this information was helpful.

Please test your knowledge on the quiz link below.

https://forms.office.com/e/ZPXG5eFuSd