

# Prevent Strategy

Author	Vice Principal - Pastoral
Date last reviewed	September 2023
Approval route	College Leadership Team, Corporation
Date Approved	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Review cycle	Annually
Date Review Due	September 2024
Contractual or Non-Contractual	Contractual
Location of copies	College Website; on request by email
Policy version	Version 9

## Purpose

PREVENT is one of the four core elements of the Government's counter terrorism strategy known as CONTEST. It is built around four strands.

Four PREVENT strands.

### 1. Pursue

To stop terrorist attacks in this country and against our interests overseas. This means to:

- Detect and investigate threats at the earliest possible stage
- Disrupt terrorist activity before it can endanger the public
- And, wherever possible, prosecute those responsible.

### 2. Protect

To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against our interests overseas and so reduce our vulnerability.

### 3. Prepare

To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase our resilience so we can recover from its aftermath.

### 4. Prevent

To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

## Legislative Framework and Rationale

Section 21 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act), Schedule 3 to the Act, places a duty on local authorities and schools and colleges to have "*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*". The Act states that the authorities (including Further Education institutions) subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.

Preventing radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duty. We recognise that the College plays a significant part in the prevention of this type of harm. Education about PREVENT is through our ASPIRE programme and the encouragement of 'British Values' is included in the curriculum.

The College's PREVENT work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK and intervene where possible to prevent vulnerable students from being radicalised. The purpose of PREVENT is to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming radicalized, terrorists or supporting terrorist organisations. As part of our commitment to safeguarding and child protection we fully support the government's PREVENT Strategy.

Threats to safety and security originate from a range of extremist groups. Extremist groups pose a continued threat to our safety and security.

Extremism is defined by the UK Government as "*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*" (UK Government, 2015).

## **Prevent Strategy and Policy**

The College's PREVENT work depends on effective partnership. To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, the College has ensured productive co-operation with the Police and local authorities and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums such as North East Lincolnshire Multi Agency Prevent (MAP) Board. This strategy has been discussed with the Humberside Police Prevent Team. (Email: Prevent@Humberside.pnn.police.uk)

Critically, the College views PREVENT as an additional aspect of its already well-established Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The Safeguarding Team is appropriately trained and can offer advice, support and information to other staff. All staff have completed the PREVENT awareness training alongside statutory safeguarding training and regular updates on emerging themes and local risks.

### **PREVENT Duty Objectives**

To promote, implement and monitor the College's responsibilities under the PREVENT Duty to students, staff, governors, subcontractors and visitors to the College.

To uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

To exemplify British Values in governance, leadership, teaching and behaviours.

To identify and provide support to students and staff who may be at risk and develop appropriate sources of advice and guidance.

To ensure that staff and students are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing extremism and radicalisation.

To ensure safe internet filters are in place and ensure our students are educated on cyber safety.

### **Staff training**

The College recognises the need to provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty. Completion of PREVENT awareness training is compulsory for all staff before their employment commences and revisited when updated. All staff also receive regular PREVENT in-house training at least annually, placing the Prevent agenda within a local context and cascading information from the Multi-Agency Prevent (MAP) Board meetings.

The College Leadership Team and the Safeguarding Team have received training to understand the Government rationale for PREVENT and the channels for further action and referral (updated as required). The PREVENT Lead and DDSLs sit on the North East Lincolnshire Multi Agency Prevent (MAP) Board.

All College staff should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to it. They need to be aware of what we mean by the term "extremism" and the relationship between extremism and terrorism.

Staff should feel confident in identifying students at risk and act proportionately. Staff should know how

## Prevent Strategy and Policy

to report illegal or harmful information, articles, pictures, images, websites or videos that promote or encourage violence.

Staff need to know what measures are available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that can be associated with it. They need to understand how to obtain support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences or extremist organisations.

Channel is a multi agency safeguarding programme which works to support vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism and provides a range of support such as mentoring, counselling and assistance with education, employment and training. Channel focuses on early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being radicalised.

The College works with external partners to ensure that appropriate training programmes are delivered to staff and governors.

Staff training programmes will ensure that the following learning outcomes are addressed:

- All staff should understand the process and policies in place when vulnerability has been identified.
- All staff are aware of the internal referral systems if they have a concern.
- All staff should know when referrals should be made to the Channel programme, and how to use College processes to do this.
- All staff should know how and where to get additional advice and support.
- All staff are aware of the local context in terms of risk levels for radicalisation.
- All staff are aware of the threat of online radicalisation, particularly after lockdowns and social isolation.

## Information Sharing

The PREVENT programme must not involve any covert activity against people or communities. However, specified authorities may need to share personal information to ensure, for example, that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example on the Channel programme). Information sharing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, the College ensures that information-sharing agreements are in place at a local level.

When considering sharing personal information, the College should take account of the following:

- **Necessity and proportionality:** personal information should only be shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public.
- **Consent:** wherever possible the consent of the person concerned should be obtained before sharing any information about them.
- **Power to share:** the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
- **Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality (General Data Protection**

**Regulation GDPR):** in engaging with non-public bodies, the specified authority should ensure that they are aware of their own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act.

### Disclosure and Referrals

Where a member of staff has any concerns about a student, as a matter of urgency they should refer the matter to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads or a member of the Safeguarding Team or College Leadership Team**. There may be some circumstances where the College, in the course of PREVENT related work, identifies someone who may already be engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity. People suspected of being involved in such activity should be referred to the Police by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

### PREVENT Compliance

The College fully recognises its role in helping prevent people being drawn into terrorism, which includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views that terrorists exploit.

The College understands that radicalisation is usually a process not an event. During that process, behaviours as well as opinions are likely to change. These changes may be apparent to the friends, families and work colleagues of the person concerned.

It is a condition of funding that as a further education provider, the College must comply with relevant legislation and any statutory responsibilities associated with the delivery of education and safeguarding of children and young adults.

The *Prevent* Strategy is to be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based way ensuring that opportunities in the Further Education curriculum are used to promote the British values to learners. British values are defined as “*democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs*”. These values are clearly mapped in The ASPIRE programme.

The College will encourage young people to respect others with regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Young people will be taught about radicalisation and extremism as a part of the ASPIRE programme and informed of how to report any extremist content they may see online.

The PREVENT work undertaken at the College will be closely aligned with the existing Safeguarding procedures.

The College already has robust procedures both internally and externally for sharing information about vulnerable individuals. Any concerns about a student at risk of radicalisation should be made as a Safeguarding referral. This must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide upon whether a referral to an external agency is appropriate. Various information sharing agreements with agencies are in place. Where appropriate and legal to do so, the College will always share information with other institutions and key partners,

## ***Prevent Strategy and Policy***

such as the local *Prevent Silver* group.

The Corporation ensures that safeguarding arrangements consider the procedures and practice of the local authority as part of the multi-agency safeguarding procedures set up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The College has a Safeguarding and Child Protection policy (which includes the PREVENT duty) in accordance with government guidance and the College ensures that it abides by locally agreed multi-agency procedures put in place by the LSCB and *Prevent* coordinators across North East Lincolnshire.

The Corporation will ensure that the College's *Prevent* Strategy complies with the PREVENT duty as set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and will scrutinise practice in the College, making sure that the policies and procedures in place are followed to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

The Safeguarding Link Governor is fully aware of the PREVENT Strategy and holds the Designated Safeguarding Lead to account in this.

The Corporation receives training related to the PREVENT duty and the College's Strategy, and regular updates are provided to the board.

Governors must exemplify in their conduct the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Governors will ensure that they and the College actively engage with other sectors and partners to comply with and carry out the PREVENT duty.

### **PREVENT risk assessment and outside speakers**

The College takes seriously its responsibility to exclude those promoting extremist views that support or are conducive to terrorism. Outside speakers who are deemed to have extremist views will not be invited into the College.

The College has a robust system for assessing and rating risks associated with any planned events and visiting speakers, providing evidence to suggest whether an event should proceed, be cancelled or whether mitigating action is required (for example a member of staff alerting the further education *Prevent* coordinators to concerns in relation to a guest speaker).

All events and speakers are assessed and approved by the College Leadership Team (CLT).

CLT may ask to see the content of speaker's materials prior to the event, including an outline of the topics to be discussed and sight of any presentations, footage to be broadcast, etc.

All visiting speakers will be supervised by a member of the College's staff, who is expected to interject or stop an event if they feel that the speaker is promoting extremist views or inequality in any form. This is also in line with the College's Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and extremism, including non-violent extremism (point 12(d) in the Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy).

Staff are required to book events using FIS (Visitors) with sufficient notice to allow the College Leadership Team to **undertake** checks and for cancellation to take place if necessary.

### Cyber Safety

The College uses filtering as a means of restricting access to harmful content. The College filtering system is Sophos Web Filter. This ensures that websites promoting extremist views and encouraging the radicalisation of young people are automatically blocked. In addition to this, the Tech Team and the Learning Centre Manager continuously monitor activity and use a protective service called Janet Network Resolver to prevent access to malicious websites.

The College has policies relating to the use of IT on the premises. IT policies and procedures contain specific reference to the *Prevent* duty. As some young people and staff may be using IT during their learning, and this may involve research relating to terrorism and counterterrorism, the College has clear policies in place to identify and address instances where online materials are accessed for curriculum purposes.

### Prayer Facilities

The College has a Multi Faith Room. There are clear procedures set out to ensure the room is used respectfully and safely, and students are free to use it as and when required.

### Additional Links and Useful Information

Counter Terrorism Bill

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111123737/contents>

Government Counter Terrorism Strategy

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/716907/140618\\_CCS207\\_CCS0218929798-1\\_CONTEST\\_3.0\\_WEB.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/716907/140618_CCS207_CCS0218929798-1_CONTEST_3.0_WEB.pdf)

2011 Government *Prevent* Strategy (page 71 for HE & FE)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

National Channel Guidance

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf)

Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/729914/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)

FAST (Families against Stress and Trauma), a community organisation that supports vulnerable families and individuals, has launched the 'Families Matter' campaign.

[www.familiesmatter.org.uk](http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk)

North East Lincolnshire Terrorism and Prevent

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/keeping-our-area-clean-and-safe/terrorism-and-prevent/>