

Prevent Policy

Version 1.1

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Responsible Person: Chief Quality Assurer – Sunny Uddin

Policy Statement

The aim of this policy is to outline the College's approach to supporting the national 'Prevent' Agenda linked to the safeguarding of our students and staff.

This policy is written with reference to the Prevent Duty contained within Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the specific Prevent Duty Guidance for further education institutions in England and Wales.

The Duty states that specified authorities, including Further Education Colleges, in the exercise of their functions, must have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Whilst this policy is a standalone policy, it is integral to the College's Safeguarding Policy and should be applied as an extension to our current and established safeguarding procedures.

Who does this policy apply to?

The Prevent Policy applies to everyone working with, at or attending the College (staff, students, apprentices, volunteers, contractors, employers and visitors)

Why do we need this policy?

Prevent is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

The UK currently faces a range of terrorist threats; terrorist groups who pose a threat to the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause.

Therefore early intervention is at the heart of Prevent, and the aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Prevent happens before any criminal activity takes place by recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The national Prevent Duty confers mandatory duties and responsibilities on a range of public organisations and seeks to

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those that promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and violent extremism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support

- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, the internet and health.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-further-education-institutions-in-england-and-wales>

Definitions

The following are commonly agreed definitions with the Prevent agenda:

- **Radicalisation** is the process by which a person comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideologies. This can eventually result in condonation or support of terrorism
- **Extremism** is the holding of political, religious, ideological ideas or actions that are outside of the parameters of the moderate mainstream and not normal, reasonable or acceptable to most people. It is important to understand that extremism in itself is not illegal but it can act as a pathway to terrorism
- **Violent Extremism** is where people seek to justify or promote terrorism or encourage others to commit such acts
- **Terrorism** is the use of threat or action where the use of threat is designed to influence the government or intimidate the public or section of the public, and the use of threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause
- **Safeguarding** is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or from being drawn into terrorism-related activity

Roles and Responsibilities

The College will

- Adhere to our legal obligations to safeguard the health, well-being and safety of our students, apprentices, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors
- Actively work in partnership with other local agencies, including the Police to ensure the safety of our young people and to prevent them from being influenced by radical extremists
- Provide training and development for staff, governors, students and apprentices that builds confidence for them to recognise the signs of radicalisation or extremism, including new and emerging threats, and enables them to understand their responsibilities and our systems for reporting concerns; monitor mandatory staff training through HR CPD records, delivering training either face to face or online, and ensuring mandatory refresher training is completed every year
- Formally assess the risks posed to our students and apprentices in terms of radicalisation, allowing us to identify concerns in our area and in our provision; provide interventions and risk assessments that support the identification of

individuals who may be at risk of radicalisation and informs the actions that we take to support them

- Ensure our curriculum promotes and embeds British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance; that young people and adults are encouraged to share their views and to understand that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs but that these should not be used to influence others
- Through its activities and processes, champion democratic values, rule of law, equality of opportunities and freedom of speech; engage with our local communities to celebrate diversity, promote critical thinking, debate and challenge
- Recognise that young people and adults with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation; strive to equip all students and apprentices with resilience, confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves
- Ensure young people and adults are taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet; are encouraged to recognise that people do not always represent the image they portray online and may not be who they say they are; are taught to seek help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet
- Provide all students and apprentices with access to welfare and safeguarding support; ensure regular access to 1:1 progress tutorials that monitor students' academic, personal and social progress; ensure access to specialist, mandatory tutorials that explore controversial issues in ways that promotes critical analysis and pro-social values
- Prohibit access to extremist material and monitor the use of the College's ICT facilities
- Develop, update and implement the College's Prevent Duty Risk Assessment and Action Plan annually
- Provide space for use as prayer rooms and faith facilities, together with mechanisms for managing any issues arising from the use of the facilities

Reporting Concerns, Managing Risks and Responding to Events

The College will

- Ensure staff are aware that any concerns about young people or adults becoming radicalised or being drawn into extremism are reported to the Chief Quality Assurer, who will **not** speak to parents/carers or other family members at this stage but take prompt advice from the Police by calling 111 or 999.

- Ensure the Safeguarding Team are familiar with procedures for referring young people and adults to Channel; attend multi-agency Channel Panel meetings, which discuss individuals who have been referred by the Police as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, where young people of the College are being discussed.
- Understand the nature of threat from violent extremism and how this may directly/indirectly affect the College (recorded on the Prevent Duty Risk Assessment and Action Plan)
- Identify, understand and manage potential risks within the College from external influences (recorded on the Prevent Duty Risk Assessment Action Plan)
- Respond appropriately to events reported via local, national or internal news that may impact on students / apprentices or the College Community
- Ensuring plans and measures are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident, potential acts of violent or non-violent extremism within the College (recorded on the Prevent Duty Risk Assessment Action Plan)
- Continuously develop effective ICT security and responsible user policies; ensuring compliance with related policies

Useful training Resources:

Educate Against Hate: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Act Early: <https://actearly.uk/>

Let's Talk About It: <https://www.ltai.info/>

Since 9/11-Free education programme including articles on discussing controversial and sensitive topics: <https://since911.com/>

Extreme Dialogue: <https://extremedialogue.org/stories>