



## INTRODUCTION

Prevent is part of a Government initiative to develop a robust counter terrorism programme – CONTEST.

## CONTEST

The United Kingdom's long term strategy for countering terrorism is called CONTEST. Published in 2011, its aim is 'to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence'. The four key elements of CONTEST are as follows:

- Pursue: to detect and disrupt the threat of terrorism
- Protect: to strengthen infrastructure from attack
- Prepare: to reduce the impact of an attack by ensuring an effective response
- Prevent: to tackle radicalisation and stop people becoming terrorists

## PREVENT

The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

Critical- an attack is expected imminently  
Severe – an attack is highly likely  
Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility  
Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely  
Low – an attack is unlikely

The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is 'severe' which means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

Further and Higher Education Colleges are major education and training providers for the 16 – 25 year age group, particularly young people from ethnically diverse, and socially and economically disadvantaged areas. Research has established a close link between vulnerability to abuse and risk of radicalisation and the Prevent initiative promotes welfare and safeguarding as a key element of its strategy. The age and profile of our students make it crucial to be involved in the Prevent strategy. Colleges have a part to play in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults from all types of abuse and in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Colleges should focus on the risks of violent extremism, which

represents the greatest threat at national level, while recognising that other forms of violence and extremism can and do manifest themselves within Colleges and other training settings.

Revised Ofsted guidance (July 2014) states:

*'Inspectors should take into account whether learners are suitably protected from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism.'*

For the purposes of this strategy, violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief is defined as violence, incitement to violence, terrorism, incitement to terrorism, or other activities that may result in violent behaviour or terrorist activity in the name of an ideology or a set of beliefs.

As a general principle, the College has a statutory responsibility to:

- i. At all times, and by all means, seek to create a safe environment for the entire College community.
- ii. Operate the policy to specifically encompass children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults who may be temporarily vulnerable.
- iii. Acknowledge that abuse may take many forms; physical, sexual, financial and material, emotional, neglect, FGM, forced marriage, hate crime, radicalisation and risk to self and/or others.
- iv. Work with external agencies, in particular, the police, the regional Prevent Co-ordinator, and the Local Authority Designated Officer, whilst always placing the welfare of the individual at the centre of any action taken.

This strategy should be used in conjunction with the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-terrorism and Security Bill
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (April 2014)
- College Safeguarding Policy and Guidance
- Code of Behaviour; Bullying & Harassment Guidance;
- Code of Conduct, Values and Behaviours
- Social Networking Policy and Procedures
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures

## **Values and Behaviours**

The College holds that all staff, students and volunteers should commit to and uphold the following values:

- We put learners first
- We support and challenge
- We aspire to excellence
- We respect each other and the environment

## **KEY OBJECTIVES**

This strategy has five key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen and support the learner voice.
2. To break down segregation among different student communities including supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role with wider engagement in society.
3. To ensure student safety and that the College is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
4. To provide support for students who may be at risk and develop appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
5. To ensure that students and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism and radicalization.

## **PRINCIPLES**

This strategy is not directed at any specific ideology, religion, religious group or religious faith, or at the proponents of any other sets of beliefs. Its principal aim is to ensure that the College is able to monitor, manage and deal effectively with the threat posed by any individual or group of individuals engaging in violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief.

The strategy commits the College to the promotion of cohesive and inclusive College community relations which do not allow any particular individual or group of individuals to be marginalized, stigmatized or excluded from College life. The strategy recognizes that those who are most vulnerable and at risk of suffering abuse can also be at risk of being radicalized. The College's commitment to the provision of rigorous safeguarding procedures will play an important part in reducing the risk of radicalization.

## **Leadership and Values**

We will aim to promote an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all students, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation.
- Building staff and student understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them.
- Deepening engagement with local communities.
- Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies.

## **Teaching and Learning**

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of students, by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner voice. This will be achieved through:

- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and tolerance, wellbeing and community cohesion.
- Promoting wider skills development, personal development and positive behaviour
- Adapting curriculum to recognise local needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights, including individual liberty.
- Implementing teaching and learning strategies which explore controversial issues in a way which promotes critical analysis and pro social values.
- Using of external programmes or groups to support learning while ensuring that the input supports College goals and values.
- Encouraging active citizenship, and learner voice, including participation in democracy, understanding of rights and responsibilities.

## **Student Support**

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- Maintaining strong and effective student support, Safeguarding and welfare services which have thorough understanding of the Prevent agenda.
- Maintaining robust external links with, Police and Regional Prevent Co-ordinator.
- Listening to what is happening in the College and the community and actively engaging in the Prevent strategy working groups.
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour.
- Helping students and staff know how to access support in College and or through community partners.
- Supporting problem solving and repair of harm.
- Supporting at risk students through safeguarding and crime prevention processes.
- Focussing on narrowing the attainment gap for all students.

## **Managing Risks and Responding to Events**

To ensure that the College monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the College.
- Understanding and managing potential internal risks and from external influences.
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on students and communities.
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within the College.
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College.
- Developing effective ICT security and responsible user policies.
- Promoting awareness across the whole College community.

- Responding swiftly to signals that a young person is At Risk.

## **REFERRAL PROCESS FOR CONCERNS INVOLVING TERRORISM OR RADICALISATION**

Please follow the College safeguarding referral process

